



About the Luminary

The Luminary is a publication of the St. Catherine's High School Foundation, Inc. Established in 1981, the Foundation has successfully managed and grown the school's endowment for over thirty years thanks to the dedication of dozens of volunteer Board members.

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The Luminary

A publication of the St. Catherine's High School Foundation

Mary Weir: Beneficiary to Dedicated Volunteer

A donation to a scholarship fund blossoms in the life of the recipient.

By Stephanie J. May

We talk a lot about the idea that donations given to the St. Catherine's High School Foundation for scholarships live in perpetuity because the funds grow and support the school and students forever. However, the funds alone aren't the only way this type of gift lives on forever. The reality is a donation toward a scholarship also keeps giving in the timelessness of a person living the faith, the sense of community and giving back based on lessons taught at 12th and Park. A St. Catherine's education isn't always financially possible for some families, but through generous donations to the Foundation for scholarships, many have been able to benefit from all that St. Cat's offers. Mary Weir is an excellent example of how a scholarship can help prepare a student to give beyond themselves for years to come.

Mary was featured in the Luminary in 2013 as one of the students who received the Donna L. Beauchamp 62' Student Leadership Scholarship, and she clearly made the most of her opportunity. While in school, Mary was a member of 10 different organizations, participated in 2 sports, and went on the STLF mission trip for all three years. One might suppose all of this is why she was voted Homecoming Queen her Senior year. There seemed to be no end to her energy and drive for giving to her school community as well volunteering at parish festivals, meal programs, and education centers. When reflecting on her formative years at St. Catherine's, Mary believes she was enveloped in an environment where there was a distinct willingness to make things happen, a spirit of service and a dedication to providing an exceptional education. "I think I got involved in so much because I wanted to be an active part of the community, make a difference in the lives of others, learn new things, make new friends, all while having a lot of fun," says Mary of her level of involvement.



Sevilla, Spain 2016



Interest Group, Madrid, 2016

Since her graduation from St. Catherine's, Mary is actively studying English, Literature and Spanish at Carthage College and she continues to fill her dance card at Carthage in the same way she did in high school. "I just love being involved in the community and taking advantage of opportunities as they come. It is so much fun to learn and do new things together with other people," says Mary. So far during her college career, she has earned the titles of, President and student advisor for Alpha Lambda Delta, Vice President of Catholics at Carthage, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, and most recently the Spanish Club, as well as Secretary of Honors Council and Staff editor for The Carthage Vanguard. "Striving for excellence comes from my faith in God and in the goodness of people. These ideas were instilled in me from a young age through my parents and through my Catholic upbringing," acknowledges Mary. Leadership is a quality that Mary believes is both innate and an acquired role. She believes being a good leader means "striving to do what's best for others, thinking through things, being positive and encouraging people to pursue their goals. I do my best to model a good example." Mary studied abroad in Seville, Spain, as part of her Language program at Carthage. "It was truly amazing to be able to live in another country and learn the Spanish language and culture first hand. I continued the trend of getting involved in as much as I could, and encouraged others to do the same." Mary's schedule in Spain sounds equally as energetic, as her schedules in both high school and college. In Spain, she was involved in classes, excursions, a tutoring program, and also helped staff an after school care program. She even did a research project on cell phone use in the classroom with students in the U.S. while overseas.

Mary believes her Catholic upbringing and education at St. Catherine's has helped her realize, "The world is so much bigger than me, but somehow I can take part in it to do good. Jesus tells us to love one another and we have the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes as guidelines for putting that into effect. The loving and supportive community of St. Catherine's and a Catholic education helped me see my responsibility to the local and global communities to help create a more united and loving world." Mary plans to teach English abroad after graduation, but in January, she will be headed to a rural community in Guatemala. This trip will be very different than Spain. "We will be living on a farm with no cell phones or Internet and will be taking cold showers! Nonetheless, it will be a rewarding experience and a way to pay it forward and give back to others."

At the time of her graduation, Mary knew she wanted to somehow repay what the Foundation had given her. She spoke of a bright future, which included Carthage College, a place where she felt she could continue to blossom and apply the solid principles instilled by her faith, family and school community. She has done just that and now is returning to St. Catherine's as a guest speaker in the class of her former Language teacher, Mrs. Cheryl Mooney. Mary will speak with a language class about her experiences studying abroad, not only to encourage them to continue

to study language, but also to "encourage them to develop ideas about the world and our place in it." She continues to be an inspiration to current Angels and those around her.

A scholarship that was provided so many years ago will surely continue to flourish, blossom and bring honor in the life's work of this faith-filled, talented and energetic young woman. Perhaps we can be encouraged to think of contributing to scholarships as less than giving to a fund, but more as a gift of an education to a person which encourages care for the community and the world. We know from Mary Weir that the gift of a St. Catherine's education will spread far and wide and will live on long after the graduation cap was thrown.



Volunteer Certificate from Asociación ALEF

A Door Opens for K-12 Catholic Education

How St. John Nepomuk extended its legacy

By Tim Weiss

Change can be a difficult process for a school, especially one with 100 years of history. In 2007, St. John Nepomuk School merged with Sacred Heart to form John Paul II Academy. While parishioners no doubt wished the circumstances were different, they wanted to continue their efforts to support Catholic education. With one door closing, they found a way to open another that helps families experience a K-12 Catholic education in Racine.

For decades, St. John Nepomuk was successful in raising money for the parish school. A group of motivated volunteers wished to keep the activities going and ensure St. John Nepomuk students would have the opportunity for a Catholic education through high school. A committee formed and decided to create an endowed scholarship at the St. Catherine's High School Foundation to award active parish families who attended Catholic schools through 8th grade.

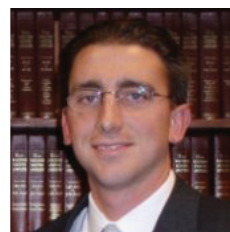
With support from the parish director, the committee began sharing the plan with the rest of the church community. They avoided the challenge of having parishioners give less to the parish to support the Foundation by utilizing a combination of fundraisers and employee matching gifts program to raise \$25,000 for the named scholarship. About 2/3 of the money raised came through fundraising activities that draw support from non-parishioners.

With the fund now exceeding \$25,000, the St. John Nepomuk Scholarship provides over \$1,000 award each year to a St. John Nepomuk parishioner and St. Catherine's student. The parish receives updates on the scholarship winners each year and still receives additional support for the scholarship. Thanks to the leadership at St. John Nepomuk parish, their legacy of Catholic education from grade school to high school continues in Racine.

Luminary New Board Member Bios



Mike Boticki, PhD '86, is the Executive Director with The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Racine County where he works to provide education, support and advocacy for all whose lives are affected by mental illness. Mike earned a Doctorate in Counseling and Educational Psychology from Marquette University. He has been working with children and families for over 20 years, mostly in the role of therapist specializing in trauma. For the past year, he has been on the Board of Directors at HALO and on the Jane Cremer Foundation for three years. Mike has also had the pleasure of volunteering as a coach and helper for Coach Letsch since 2008.



Gregory A. Pitts '96, an attorney with Schoone, Leuck, Kelley, Pitts & Pitts, S.C. since becoming a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin in 2003 and the State Bar of Illinois in 2004. Greg represents injured and disabled persons, and businesses for damages caused by the conduct of other parties. He has been on the Alumni Association Board since the early 2000's and the V.P. of the Friends of Angels since its inception in 2006. Greg is an author, speaker, and programmer in the areas of Workers Compensation, Social Security Disability, and Computation of SSDI Values.



Kevin Orth '88, is the V.P. of Customer Experience for Cree, a global lighting innovation company, where he has worked for 22 years in a variety of roles such as Sales, Marketing, and Operations. Kevin earned a BA from The University of Madison and an MBA from UW-Milwaukee. He serves as Vice Chairman on the St. Richard's endowment and investment committee and has been serving this committee for 7 years. He was previously on the St. Richard's Parish Council for 3 years and on the Board of Directors for the YMCA for 3 years. Kevin was a member of the Corporate Board from 1998 to 2005 and most recently has been helping out as a committee member on the Racine Catholic School Collaboration.

New Legislation Provides Special Giving Opportunity

Last December, the Federal government passed the Taxpayers Relief Act that made permanent a special provision for gifts made from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Donors that are 70 ½ or older can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 to qualified charities like the St. Catherine's High School Foundation. The distribution from your IRA is tax-free and counts toward your required minimum distribution. This is a great way to make an extra or increased gift to the Foundation (or school) while reducing your taxable income. If you'd like further information on giving through IRAs or other non-cash assets, please contact Vice President of Advancement, Tim Weiss at tweiss@saintcats.org or (262) 833-5521.

Dear Friends:

The 2015-16 fiscal year continued a positive trend in the growth of the St. Catherine's High School Foundation. Thanks to the generous contributions from past and present benefactors, the Foundation provided \$286,000 in support of the school! This contribution provided 44 scholarships totaling nearly \$50,000 to high school students and 76 tuition grants totaling nearly \$145,000 to 6th – 12th grade students. Additionally, the Foundation contributed to the operating support of the school's Advancement, Music and Drama Departments.

Our efforts to raise awareness of the Foundation and its role in supporting, strengthening and sustaining St. Catherine's are paying off. Last fall, an anonymous donor initiated the Holy Spirit Challenge – a \$100,000 challenge spanning 2016 and 2017. This special matching initiative has already generated over \$25,000 in new gifts and resulted in 100 new donors. We also saw the creation of three new named funds last year and received over \$320,000 in charitable contributions nearly doubling the total from the prior year.

The Foundation Board looks forward to strengthening our partnership with the school and working to meet the objectives of the strategic plan developed in 2015. We are anxious to share with donors opportunities to support the short- and long-term efforts of St. Catherine's so Angels of today and tomorrow will benefit from an exceptional Catholic education.

Thank you for investing in our young men and women's faith journey!

Sincerely,



John Busey
St. Catherine's High School Foundation President

The Value of a Perpetual Gift

How an endowment gift to St. Catherine's High School Foundation works

The St. Catherine's High School Foundation was established in 1981 to create perpetual support for St. Catherine's through an endowment. But what exactly is an endowment and how does it work?

Simply put, an endowment is a fund or group of funds that are invested and the income generated provides a stream of revenue to a supported organization. With a sound investment and distribution policy, an endowment like the St. Catherine's High School Foundation offers a sustainable source of income that is beneficial in the short- and long-term to the school.

A gift to the Foundation is either added to one of the Foundation's 77 named funds or to the General Endowment Fund. Over 90% of the named funds support tuition assistance, but endowments can be created for other purposes including departmental support or faculty positions. Named funds can be established with a \$25,000 commitment to the Foundation, but the Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes.

As an example, if a donor makes a gift of \$50 to the Holy Spirit Educational Fund, rather than using the dollars to cover immediate operational expenses for the school, instead, the gift is added to the Foundation's overall pool of investments, or portfolio. This is a balanced mix of stocks and bonds (roughly 50% of each). Each year, the Foundation Board determines the amount to distribute to the school, which is calculated by applying a percentage ranging from 4.0% - 5.5% of net assets based on a 12-quarter rolling average. Instead of exhausting this hypothetical \$50 gift in the year it is given, the earnings from this invested contribution will provide perpetual annual support for the school's operating costs. In short, endowment gifts to the Foundation help to ensure St. Catherine's future.

If you would like to learn more about endowment giving or have questions about establishing a new named fund at the St. Catherine's High School Foundation, please contact Vice President of Advancement Tim Weiss at (262) 833-5521 or tweiss@saintcats.org.

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