



# Blue Hawk Alumni CONNECTION



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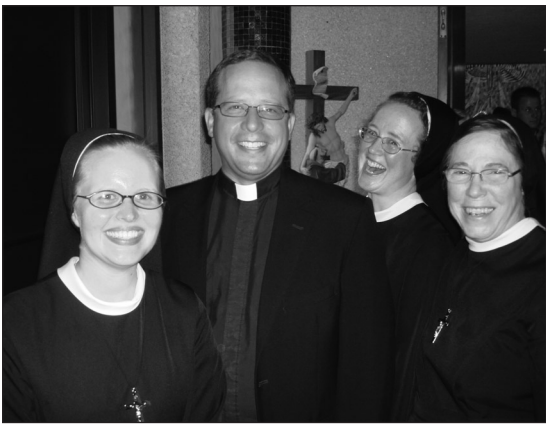
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Volume 12 • Issue 1

Winter 2011

## Sr. M. (Liz) Chiara Sondag '03, FSGM



Sr. Chiara, Fr. Troy Schweiger, Superintendent of the Hastings Catholic Schools, Sr. Immaculata and Sr. Bernard, former Principal of St. Michael's School in Hastings.



Sr. Bernard, (unknown), Sr. Chiara, Bishop Thomas Papropki.



Family members, Sue Uridil, Sr. Chiara, Fr. Troy Schweiger, Mike Uridil, Sr. Bernard, Sr. Immaculata.



Sr. Bernard, Sr. Chiara, Sr. Gabrialla.

On August 15, 2010 Liz Sondag, Class of 2003, became Sr. M. Chiara (St. Clare) and was officially received into the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. At this point she made her first profession of vows. Final vows are professed at

the third ceremony, three years following her initial acceptance ceremony. This happy occasion can be seen on the faces of those present. Bishop Thomas Papropki, Bishop of Springfield, performed the blessing

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# NOTES from STC ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT


**Special Note of Gratitude** - We are doing our best to keep up in the Alumni Office as **Carol Brouillette '64 Poppe** retired in November and is enjoying more time with family and friends after 20 years dedicated to the Hastings Catholic Schools - 12 of those years starting and maintaining the BlueHawks Alumni Office. THANK YOU CAROL!


**Office Location** - We are moving - and incorporating the B.L.U.E. office into current operations. Phone numbers, email, and the website will remain the same as we move to the corner of 5th and St. Joseph's in the upper level of the Werner Whelan Plaza building:

Hastings Catholic Schools  
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## ALUMNI NEWS

Every February/March, this office sends a **Phone-a-thon** letter supporting the Alumni Office and the St. Cecilia Endowment Fund. In 2010 we have received over \$27,800. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts - they are truly appreciated. This year our goal is \$35,000 with 25% going to the STC Alumni Office for expenses and 75% will go to the Hastings Catholic Schools Teachers Matching Gift.

**The 4 Person Scramble** is June 24, 2011 at  Southern Hills - will this be the exciting year for the \$20,000 hole-in-one prize winner?

 **'The Grand Bag' Ladies Night Out** is August 11, 2011 at Lochland Country Club. We are already receiving handbags, monetary donations, and reservations. We have a name brand bag for the Treasure Chest - only 60 keys available. Wine and hors d'oeuvres, 10 tables of fun, unique and gorgeous hand bags, totes and gifts for silent and live auctions - \$20 advance reservations, \$25 at the door. 402-462-6566.

**Reunion 2011 - honor years end in 1 and 6.**

Plan for September 16th & 17th, 2011 - with so much always going on - plan NOW for the Reunion. 

## WEDDINGS

**Kayla Howsden '06** to Jacob Frerichs, August 7, 2010. 

**Kelsey Cook '06** to Joshua King, August 13, 2010.

**Daniel Perry '04** to Amanda Hemberger, August 14, 2010.

**Kelli Young '07** to Bryce Fitzke, October 2, 2010.

**Karen Jarzynka '81** to Ron Hernandez, October 16, 2010.

## FACEBOOK



Find us on Facebook - "St. Cecilia Alumni"

## BIRTHS



Landon Ray Kumke, baby boy born March 22, 2010 to **Paul '96 & Tosha Zubrod '97** Kumke.

Corbin Stanton Shaw, baby boy born April 5, 2010 to Rylee & **Jeremy Shaw '96**.

Alexis Marie Palmer, baby girl born April 27, 2010 to James and **Tracy Schik '98** Palmer.

Whitney Margaret Mertens, baby girl born July 10, 2010 to Denise & **A.J. Mertens '01**.

Charles Joseph Sullivan, baby boy born September 2, 2010 to Kelly & **Joe Sullivan '99**, grandson to Mike & **Trish Guilfoyle '69** Sullivan.

Ava Marie Sorensen, baby girl born September 3, 2010 to Ryan & **Michelle Brouillette '97** Sorensen, granddaughter to Ethel & **Larry Brouillette '57**.

Issac Joseph Schultes, baby boy born September 29, 2010 to Michelle & **Michael Schultes '99**.

Oliver Oswald, baby boy born October 30, 2010 to Aaron and **Zach Oswald '00**.

Jameson Robert Sullivan, baby boy born November 3, 2010 to Carrie & **Ryan Sullivan '95**, grandson to **Mike & Trish Guilfoyle '69** Sullivan.

Jordan Betty Luther, baby girl born November 6, 2010 to Sarah & **Jeff Luther '02** and granddaughter to **Linda Miller '71** Luther.

Blake Edward Pavelka, baby boy born November 15, 2010 to James and **Gina Olnes '97** Pavelka.

Lucy Ann Svoboda, baby girl born December 7, 2010 to Wes & **Ashleigh Orr '02** Svoboda, granddaughter to Don & **Peg Konen '76** Orr.

Zelie Therese Krebsbach, baby girl born December 30, 2010 to Rachael & **Jon Krebsbach '00**, granddaughter to **Jim & Cathy Krebsbach '67**.

Charlie Xavier Vertin, baby boy born January 17, 2011 to Betty & **Jason Vertin '97**.

Ava Corinne Snook, baby girl born January 28, 2011 to Perry & **Michelle Menke '97** Snook.

Harper Grace Fish, baby girl born February 26, 2011 to Jill & **Tom Fish '93**.

Twins, Maxx Joseph & Madisyn Claire Skradski, baby boy & baby girl, born March 2, 2011 to Mark & **Cara Anderson '95 Skradski '69** Sullivan.

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

**Ron Ernst, '76** is the head football coach at Ripon College, Wisconsin (a private college). He was named Football Coach of the Year 2010 - third time recipient.

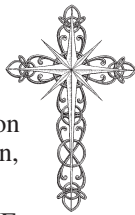
**John Roth, '80** - Stratford, CT appointed Executive Assistant to the President of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.


**Mary Jacobi, '85** Sherman - Denver, CO 2007 Southern Living Magazine Cook-Off winner.


**Kritine Dykeman, '85** Schoening - Lincoln, NE was named Executive Director of Continuum.

## ALUMNI DEATHS

**Janet Hohlfeld Higgins '50** of Arlington, TX passed to eternal life February 8, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Gene; daughters, Maribeth Meta of Arlington TX, Gena Richards of Dallas, TX; son, Thomas Higgins of Arlington TX; sister, **Joan Hohlfeld '49** Empson of Clinton, IA and three grandchildren.




 **Robert Ley '41** of Grand Island, NE passed to eternal life May 26, 2010. Services were at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Grand Island, NE with Rev. Charles L. Torpey officiating. He was the son of John and Georgia (Hellman) Ley. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he served in the military as a pilot in World War II, flying in the Mediterranean, Europe, Africa and South America. Bob graduated from Hastings College where he set the single-season scoring record in basketball, later receiving his Masters in Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He married Peggy Jones in 1948. Bob taught and was a coach at Lawrence High School and Grand Island Central Catholic High School. In 1969 he was a broker for First Mid-America/Paine Webber until he retired in 1989. Survivors are his wife, Margaret (Peggy); son Robert of Brookfield, WI and two grandsons. He was preceded in death by one sister and his brother, **John Ley '38**.

 **Maximillian Roth '48** of Loveland, CO passed to eternal life August 8, 2010. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Jude Catholic Church in Lakewood, CO. Max was the son of Harold and Margaret Roth of Hastings, NE. He received a degree in Floral Culture and Ornamental Horticulture from Kansas State University. Max was then drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He married Ardis Gaunt in 1955. He worked for Interstate Nurseries in Ottuma, IA later moving to Colorado Springs, CO. He was Chief Florist at the Broadmoor Hotel. In 1960 he became a broker in the floral industry for the Fred Gloeckner Company in New York, NY. He retired in 1995 in Denver, CO. Survivors are his wife, Ardis; children, Kathryn Roth of Santa Fe, NM, Jeanne Meyer of Greeley, CO and Daniel Roth of Fort Collins, CO; and three grandchildren

**Anna Marie Helmann '39** Daevel passed to eternal life August 14, 2010 in Wauwatosa, WI. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Therese Roman Catholic Church in Milwaukee, WI. She was the daughter of the late George and Louise Helmann. After graduation, Anna lived in Milwaukee, Oconomowoc, and Wauwatosa, WI for 65 years. Survivors are children, Kenneth Daevel, Kathy Hubrich and Richard Daevel; eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Preceded in death by her husband Alfred "Bud," and son, Michael; sisters, **Patricia Helmann '41**, Sister Mary Louise, O.P.; brothers, **Brother Ricardo Helmann, C.S.C. '36**, **Joseph Helmann '43**, George Helmann Jr. and Rev. Monsignor Maurice Helmann.

**Mary Jo Mullen '46** Connely passed to eternal life August 24, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Cecilia Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Walsh and **Msgr. Ivan Vap '46** officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery. She was the daughter of the late Neil and Ruth Pierce Mullen. Mary Jo was a member of the P.E.O. Chapter GK and was an active member of St. Cecilia Church and community volunteer. Survivors are husband, Vaughn Connely; daughters Kellee Reinhart of Tuscaloosa, AL, Jayne Taylor of Vermillion, SD and Lynn Marvel of Juneau, AK; brothers, **Pierce '52** of Bozeman, MT, **Dennis '55** of Hastings and **Tom '59** of Riverside, CA; seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

**Vincent Gergen '56** passed to eternal life August 25, 2010 in Central City, NE. Memorial services were held at the chapel of Solt Funeral Home in Central City, NE.  Vincent was born to the late Joseph and Thelma (LaBrie) Gergen in Huron, SD. His early years were spent in South and North Dakota before moving with his family to Nebraska. He lived in McCook, NE before moving to Hastings. After graduation, Vince served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. Returning to Hastings, he worked in advertising for 30 years with KHAS-TV Station, Outdoor Advertising, Grand Island Independent and Wheelers. In 1990 he moved to Central City and worked and operated the Independent Club. He is survived by friend, Marge Kelley; son Michael of Omaha; daughters Kendra of Omaha, Kerra Howze of Reading, PA and Deborah Prosocki of Casa Grande, AZ; sisters Janet Gergen of St. Louis, MO, **Ruth Ann '56** Tonkin of San Louis Obispo, CA and **Yvonne Gergen '66** of Portland, OR; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Joe Theis '74** passed to eternal life November 28, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Services were held at the All Saints Chapel, Good Samaritan Society in Hastings with Rev. Joseph Walsh officiating. Joe was the son of Donald and Jeanne (Kost) Theis. He worked for Burlington Northern Railroad then sold insurance for American General Life and later the Theis Financial in Hastings, NE. Joe married Pamela Adams in 1977. He was the president for the local chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation. Survivors are children, Adam of Hastings and Niki Theis of Lincoln; his mother; two grandchildren; brothers **Steven '70**, **Michael '73** and **Todd '78** all of Hastings, NE; sisters, Becky Vidal of St. Louis, MO and **Caroline Adams '79** of Gibbon, NE. He was preceded in death by his wife Pamela (Feb. 2010) and his father.

**Anna (Ann) Langdon Nowak '36** passed to eternal life January 2, 2011 in Hastings, NE. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Michael Houlihan officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery. Ann was born to William and Johanna (Bergin) Langdon in Friend, NE later moving with her family to Hastings where she graduated from St. Cecilia High School. In 1954, Ann married Leander Nowak at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. They lived in St. Paul, NE. In 1970, they moved back to Hastings where she worked as a homemaker, a bookkeeper for LT & T Telephone Company and A.J. August Men's Clothing. Anna was preceded in death by her husband; brothers, **Rev. Dennis Langdon '37**, **John Langdon '40**, **Joseph Langdon '49**; and a sister, **Mary Langdon '41** LeCuyer. Survivors are daughters, Denise Krueger and Nancy Gleason, both of Hastings, NE; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren; sister, **Frances Langdon '40** Feis of Lincoln, NE.

**Megan Shreve '00** passed to eternal life January 21, 2011 in Austell, GA. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Cecilia Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Walsh officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery. Megan was born August 1, 1981 to Ken and Elaine (Fielder) Shreve in Hastings, NE. She attended Dana College and graduated from Hastings College in 2004 with her Bachelor's Degree in Biology. Megan received her Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from Life Chiropractic College in Marietta, GA. She coached and taught at Trinity Home School in Hiram, GA. Survivors are her parents of Hiram, GA; sisters, **Liz Shreve '01** Tillemans of Hastings, NE and Kelly Shreve Erikson of Macon GA.; six nieces and nephews, many aunts and uncles and cousins.

## OTHER DEATHS

**Lucille Oxley** passed to eternal life July 23, 2010 in Hastings, NE. She is survived by **Diane Oxley '60** Fritz of Ayr, NE, **Linda Oxley '67** of Holland, NE and **Richard '64** of Lincoln, NE; ten grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; four sisters and one brother.

**Elaine Pohlmeier** passed to eternal life September 24, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are daughters, **Jolene Phillips '66** Kline of Lenexa, KS, **Brenda Phillips '71** Janda of Lawrence, NE and Julie Michelson of Eau Claire, WI; sons, Dan Phillips of Hastings, NE, Don Phillips of Lincoln, NE; stepchildren, **Diane Pohlmeier '72** Phillips, **Debra Pohlmeier '72** Buccholz, **Phyllis Pohlmeier '74** Ziemba all of Hastings, NE, Linda Pohlmeier Link of Kearney, NE, **Bonnie Pohlmeier '79** Engelhardt of Kenesaw, NE and **Wayne Pohlmeier '77**; thirteen grandchildren, eleven step-grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren.

**Curt Zubrod** passed to eternal life September 23, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are his wife **MaVon Parr '64** Zubrod; sons, Kevin of Lincoln, NE, Troy of Hastings, NE and Joel of Roseland, NE; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter Robin Zubrod and his brother **Daniel Zubrod '64**.

**Donna Goedert** passed to eternal life October 1, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are **Paula '69** Johnson, **Jody '72** Johnson, **Kim '83** Anderson, **Jamie '85** Schmidt all of Hastings, NE, **Joe '78** of Ottawa, KS and **Tom '80** of Hastings, NE; nineteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul and son, Ed and a sister.

**Peter Jenks** passed to eternal life October 1, 2010 in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Lynch '50** Jenks, and children, Patrick, Julie and Kami. He was preceded in death by daughter Cynthia.

**Jim Pittz** passed to eternal life October 4, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are son, **Dennis '70** and wife Bonnie; grandsons **Jason '92** and **Justin '95**; and a great granddaughter.

**Agnes Kolbet** passed to eternal life November 2, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are husband, Jerome; children, **Denise Kolbet '73** of Boulder, CO, **Eva Kolbet '76** Roberts of Lexington, NE, **LeAnn Kolbet '81** of New Meadows, ID and **Gary Kolbet '86** of High Point, NE; seven grand and two step-grandchildren.

**Althea Anderson** passed to eternal life November 7, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are children, **Catherine '67** Henry of Fremont, NE, **Darrell '68** of Blue Hill, NE, **Eugenia '72** Aulner of Hastings, NE, **Patricia '73** Sifuentez of Lincoln, NE, **Paulette '74** Chrisman of Idaho Springs, CO, **Marcie '75** Erickson of Highlands Ranch, CO, **Greg '78** of Juniata, NE, **Goeffrey '79** of Minden, NE, **Thomas '81** of Denton, NE, **Susan '82** Caniglia of St. George, UT, **Jeanette '83** Soto of Wood River, NE and **Steven '88** of Hastings, NE; 27 grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

**Dustin Kinney** passed to eternal life November 12, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are his wife, **Angie Ward '95** Kinney; two sons, parents, two sisters and a brother.

**Rita Hiber** passed to eternal life January 3, 2011 in Carroll, IA. Survivors are daughters, **Susan '65** Colgan of Rapid city, SD, **Cathy '67** Greteman of Carroll, IA and **Patti '68** Hawkins of Omaha, NE.

**Elmer Jackson** passed to eternal life January 23, 2011 in Omaha, NE. Survivors are his wife, Mary; children, **Mary '65** Reeb of Olathe, KS, **Theresa Jackson '66** of Papillion, NE, **Cecilia '67** Shadlu of Chicago, IL, **Joseph '69** of Papillion, **Jean '69** Riggins of Nebraska City, NE, **James '70** of Omaha, NE and **Liz '76** Ema of Denver, CO; twelve grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren; one brother and three sisters.

**Glen Hartman** passed to eternal life January 28, 2011 in Grand Island, NE. Survivors are his wife, Claire, of Hastings, NE; children, Kevin Hartman and Suzanne Morehead of Hastings, NE, James Morehead of Beatrice, NE, Terese Anderson of Lincoln, NE, **Roxanne Hartman '91** VanSkiver of Hastings, NE, **Brian Hartman '92** of Denver, CO, and **Joseph Hartman '97** of Omaha, NE; 20 grandchildren and six great grandchildren; three brothers.

**Rosemary G. Roth** passed to eternal life March 4, 2010 in Hastings, NE. Survivors are daughters, **Linda Felps '61** Heidemann of Port Huron, MI, **Stephanie Felps '64** Newman of Carefree, AZ and **Marsha Felps '70** Nihill of Wheaton, IL.

*the latest...*

# DEVELOPMENTS

by  
Roy DeMars



## Good Day From Our New Office Location!!

Though it may have appeared quiet to you, our alums & friends, it has been anything but over the last few months. The Hastings Catholic Schools and that of your Alumni / Development Office have been undergoing a structural & operational change. In addition, we have moved office locations in the dead of winter and during a very busy time of the year. 'Hectic' might not be the word we wish to use, 'confusion' would be more appropriate. Fortunately, we only had to send one apology for a lost check but have yet to find the garbage sacks. Following 10 years in the same location, it's amazing the paper that piles up as well as the things being saved for a rainy day. Well, that day came and went with items being trashed as they should have been from the beginning. Only now are we getting our feet replanted.

'Re-structuring' means that we are taking a very close look at every facet within our school, examining the way we operate and the effectiveness of these operations. For example, my right arm for the last 10 years has been Carol Brouillette '64 Poppe. Carol has elected to take on a lesser role, wishing to spend time at home and with grandchildren. In addition our BLUE coordinator, Becky Anderson, will be occupying some of the additional space that we now have. Combining efforts into part-time positions might work but we continue to struggle with details and coordination. This might take a bit before things run smoothly once again.

Few really know what takes place within our offices, both Carol & mine. Our activities are not focused directly at our students & teachers. Rather, they are focused more directly at you, our alumni & supporters of our Catholic school system. Through communications, letters, events, and appeals, our main purpose is to continue and build upon that relationship that you possess with the Hastings Catholic Schools. Our secondary purpose is to demonstrate how you might best serve and assist our schools with their present needs. We also attempt to demonstrate how much an estate gift means to our churches, schools, endowments, and trust. We are here to assist with any and all plans of that nature.

To do this costs money. Each mailing represents about a \$4,000 cost to the office. Obviously, this has nothing to do with rent, utilities, supplies, equipment, phone / internet services, etc. So various fundraising events take place throughout the year to pay for these expenses. During Carol's tenure here, we have seen the Annual Alumni Reunion, the Alumni Basketball/Volleyball Tournament, the Phon-a-thon, the Teacher's Matching Gift, the Grand Bag – Ladies Night Out, Christmas Poinsettias, and the Alumni Golf Tournament. Other sales and fundraisers include Alumni cookbooks, inkjet recycling and sales of other miscellaneous items.

Those events listed have nothing to do with the day-to-day business of thousands of 'thank you' notes, accounting financially for each and every contribution, tracking memorial gifts directed by families of deceased members and even tracking alumni which can be a full-time job in itself.

The net result of this has been an increasing awareness by our alumni of our needs, personal relationships that are invaluable and too numerous to mention, a financial picture that has allowed for some very specific purchases for our schools, contributions to our matching gift in the \$10,000 range, a \$20 - \$30,000 annual contribution to our Endowment and a healthy checkbook balance that allows for some leaner years. Endowment contributions have amounted to over \$300,000.

Finally, when permitted, you have been informed of the many estate gifts that are born through the office as a result of those lasting friendships. Gifts such as property, assets, insurance policies, estate gifts and scholarships are received, tracked and directed to the entity intended. Many of these donors wish to remain anonymous so much of this information is held in strict confidence.

All of this was a result of Carol's efforts and your many sacrifices. Our job remains to assist our schools and assisting you in directing your gifts as you see fit. Naturally, Carol has provided an accurate accounting of these gifts while expressing the gratitude of our system. Thanks Carol and Thank You!

*"Giving is a mysterious activity that, when practiced, will transform your life. Giving away part of what you own is the antidote for that wretched trend toward self-indulgence."*

## Congratulations to Our High School Football Team

*Originally published December 5, 2010*

Congratulations to Coach Tesmer and his staff, to parents, administrators and to our young people on winning the 2010 Class C-2 State Football Championship at Memorial Stadium on November 23, 2010. This was a great achievement, and brings honor to our young people and to Hastings Catholic Schools.

I watched the highlights of the game on KHAS television on Tuesday night which included an interview with Coach Tesmer and some of the players following the contest. Cody Jackson commented that the Blue Hawks had great respect for the Fremont Bergan Knights. Zack Sterup said that the victory was a team effort, from the freshmen to seniors. The boys' comments were edifying. They were not braggadocios but respectful, and reflected what their coach told them and what they experienced. That a senior would honor the contributions of freshmen was particularly generous and I believe expressed an important value the young people have discovered: none of us achieves anything on our own.

Of particular note was the work of Father Brouillette, who noticed some weeks ago that many of our young people are not receiving communion at school Mass, including Mass with the team before important athletic competitions. In a homily during the Mass with the young men before the semi-final game against North Platte St. Patrick, Fr. Brouillette told them that they needed to go to communion, which meant that if sin was the problem, confession was the answer. On the night before the championship game, he offered confessions before Mass, and 28 young people took advantage of the sacrament. Unity, Fr. Brouillette explained to them later, is not just about the team. It is about our unity with Christ. In this unity is our salvation, and from it flows our unity with each other.

The father of Riley Gross, Fremont Bergan's quarterback, called Coach Tesmer the day following the championship game and told him that according to his son Riley, the kids from St. Cecilia were fair, clean and respectful in their play, unlike any team they had played.

These events, along with the heroism displayed during the contest by sophomore Joel Grafel, underscore the fact that the young men under Coach Tesmer and St. Cecilia are forming young men to excel in the virtues necessary for Christian manhood. Congratulations young men, Coach Tesmer, parents, Father Schweiger, Father Brouillette, and the Hastings Catholic School community.

*Fr. Joseph Walsh*

## Blue Hawks Bring Home State Title

### *Fremont Bergan Latest C-2 Victim*

The STC Blue Hawks, winner of last year's C-1 state football championship, overcame a strong showing from Fremont Bergan to win the Class C-2 State Championship 17-14.

Though Bergan led in total yards, first downs and the third down battle, the Hawks forced two fumbles and two interceptions that sealed the win. Fremont also committed seven penalties for 52 yards. These were the deciding factors that sealed the victory for the Blue Hawks. "We just found a way!" Coach Carl Tesmer said.

Cody Jackson led the Hawks in rushing with 117 yards and 21 carries.

## On The Air w/Mike & Jim



Still left wondering how the Blue Hawks do it each year, radio commentators Mike Will and Jim Purcell have been faithfully following and announcing Blue Hawk/Hawkette sporting events for many years. Far from the glass-enclosed booths of modern day announcers, these two provide an enjoyable commentary throughout each event, bringing the play-by-play to those unable to attend. Thanks, Mike & Jim, for the service you have provided and in the manner that you have to the Blue Hawks, as well as the other area teams!!

## CALLING IT QUITS!



Flanked by **Sue Faber '70** Abraham, Carol greets well-wishers at a retirement reception hosted by the STC Alumni Association, held at St. Cecilia's Centennial Hall. Carol blessed our schools and the alumni office with over 20 years of dedicated service. She established the first alumni database and assisted with the first series of alumni Connections newsletters. Through fundraising efforts, Carol leaves the office in good financial condition to continue future operations.

## SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER



I can't help but think most of you are aware of the financial difficulties education is having these days. The Feds, State & Local governments are being squeezed financially with the remainder of us being caught in the middle. Education and social programs are really facing difficult times as we attempt to pay for the many services we have enjoyed over the years. I don't see any heads of state winning any popularity contests. Even our North African and Middle Eastern friends are experiencing chaos, countries & nation/states who do not normally see the kind of turmoil which exists.

Here in Hastings and at the Hastings Catholic Schools, things are much the same. Though we have virtually been bi-passed by the recession (4% unemployment rate and unheard of farm income) our schools are pinched, pinched to the point of a \$250,000 budget deficit. This school year, 2010 - 2011, is the third deficit year. Frankly, it's looking bleak as declining enrollment, increased expenses & waning charitable gifts have passed the 'serious stage'. At this time, a 'Reduction-In-Force' appears to be the only answer, certainly it being the only quick fix.

This dilemma has caused me some restless evenings (and I thought all of those left with my children). As I spent some 'quiet time' perusing over this situation, I keep coming back to the question "What is the REAL value of a Catholic school education." What dollar amount can I apply to the lessons being taught at the Hastings Catholic Schools and other Catholic schools like it? Interesting question!!

To further muddy the water, Catholic universities have record-setting tuition charges; a \$40 - \$50,000 annual tuition charge is not uncommon. Remembering that mine was about \$2,400 (1966) produces additional stomach cramps.

Over the years, I have attempted to explain what it is about a Catholic education that makes it so special. I have spoken to our students about this, our parents and yes, our alumni. Sometimes, being so close to the subject as we are, we lose sight of the importance of an object. We tend to 'overlook', 'take for granted' those persons/places or things that mean the most. Catholic schools can certainly fall into that category. For example, last spring our seniors were presented with this very picture. They were reminded that their days at STC were more than just spiritual. Rather that spirituality surrounded all the other aspects that were taught. Tough love, hard work, order, sacrifice, dedication, self-control, attitude, the ability to overcome obstacles, living up to one's potential were just some of the components that were instilled in them, each one being further graced by a Presence.

Last week I entered the school for a brief visit with our school secretary. Stopping me in my tracks were a set of posters displayed throughout the stairwell and landing areas; posters stating the exact same thing declared to our senior class a few months previous; the Six Pillars of Character.

So, once again the question! What kind of REAL value can you put on a Catholic education? What is the actual dollar amount? What is your role as a parent, a Catholic, a parishioner, an alumnus, as a person, a human being to assist with this education? Have you done 'your share'? Have you done anything? Can you do more? Should you do more?

Obviously, the answer to the question is simple. Catholic education is PRICELESS. You simply cannot put a price tag on the values taught and the lessons received at the Hastings Catholic Schools.

Trouble X 4 !!



STC grads and brothers, **Ryan '95** and **Joe '99 Sullivan**, fathers to baby boys just two months apart! Joe's son, Charles Joseph, was born on September 2, 2010 and Ryan's son, Jameson Robert, was born on November 3, 2010.

*Congratulations –  
St. Cecilia Girls  
C-1 Basketball Champions!*



*STC Hawkettes Win C-2 State Title  
64 - 61 Win*

Change Service Requested

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*Blue Hawk Alumni*



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