

Mack Messenger

MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS

No. 2 - 2024

MCDONELL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Building Our Future, One Step at a Time

Inside:

- Congratulations Class of 2024!
- 2030 Strategic Plan: 'A Beacon of Hope'
- 2023-24 Finance & Donor Report

Our Mission: Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.



MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882



Education for Life

McDonell Area Catholic Schools is proudly accredited through the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) and is a member of the Institute of Catholic Liberal Education.



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@TheMackWay



@McDonellAreaCatholicSchools

Share your photos and information with us!
MackMessenger@macs.k12.wi.us

The Mack Messenger is published twice a year by the McDonell Area Catholic Schools (MACS). Comments should be directed to: Advancement Office
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Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Molly Meinen Bushman '98, President
Olivia Knabel, Director of Strategic Communications
Amber Leibrandt, Advancement Director

McDonell Area Catholic Schools believe that all the information within this publication is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. Please contact us for any inaccuracies.



From the Front Cover,
The Andersen Family Children

From left to right: Tyler (Kindergarten), Hannah (Kindergarten), Aaron (Grade 2), Danielle (Grade 4), Luke (Grade 10), and David '25 (Grade 12). Special thank you to the Andersen family and congratulations to Aaron for making his First Communion, Luke for becoming Confirmed, and David for graduating from McDonell Central Catholic High School in May 2025!

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Chippewa Falls Parishes

St. Charles Borromeo

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman
Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Kren
Dcn. Dan Rider



The Church of Holy Ghost

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Associate Pastor Rev. David Nowicki
Dcn. Sean Hanson



The Church of Notre Dame

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Associate Pastor Rev. David Nowicki
Dcn. Kevin DeCook



Thank you to the area priests and parishioners for your support of Catholic education.

Chippewa Falls Deanery Supporting Parishes

Holy Cross, Cornell

The Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jim Falls

St. Anthony, Drywood

Rev. Eric Linzmaier, Dcn. Kurt Zakrzewski

St. Bridget, Springfield

Very Rev. Jesse Burish,
Associate Pastor Rev. David Nowicki

St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley

Rev. Victor Feltes,
Associate Pastor Rev. Chinnappan Pelavendran

St. Paul, Bloomer

Rev. Victor Feltes, Dcn. Dick Kostner
Associate Pastor Rev. Chinnappan Pelavendran

St. Peter the Apostle, Tilden

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman, Dcn. Dan Rider
Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Kren

All Saints Catholic Parish, Boyd, Cadott, Stanley

Rev. William Felix '73, Dcn. Ned Willkom

FROM THE DEAN & PRESIDENT



Fr. Jesse Burish, Dean

One thing is for sure about Fr. Charles F.X. Goldsmith: he excelled in the virtues of faith and hope. As you may know, Fr. Goldsmith was a pioneer priest of the upper Chippewa Valley who established many of our local parishes and the school that would develop into McDonell Area Catholic Schools. The challenges that faced the Church in the early days of Chippewa Falls must've seemed overwhelming to Fr. Goldsmith: a huge influx of immigrants from diverse countries with many working in logging camps, many families needing to be formed in the Faith, an insufficient parish and school structure, and lack of financial resources. Despite the great need and lack of resources, Fr. Goldsmith persevered in faith and hope with a vision to more firmly establish the Catholic Church in our area.

Today our parishes and schools face their own set of challenges: many people have wandered away from regular practice of the Faith or have never been evangelized at all, our school enrollment has grown significantly over the last few years and many of our parish and school facilities need updating, and we're also in significant need of resources. Just like Fr. Goldsmith, we too are called to make disciples, form people in the Faith, and

bring them into the family of the Church. May we be inspired by his witness and cultivate greater faith and hope in our own lives and community to build up the Church for our time.

In many ways we have made significant steps in this by the renewal of our parishes through recent major building projects, increasing our efforts in Christian Initiation for our city parishes, and by the establishment of the Rooted program to help connect new parishioners and MACS families to their parishes. Our schools, through our "Building Our Future" goals, will also move forward in great faith and hope. Mrs. Molly Bushman, our president will say more about this below.

"I am now thinking of building a new school, as the old church, which was converted into a new school, is too small for my three hundred children and their four teachers...I trust in God." So wrote our spiritual forebear, the pioneer priest Fr. Charles F.X. Goldsmith, in a letter dated June 3, 1874. In 1881, the new Notre Dame grade school opened its doors, an event we remember as the beginning of McDonell Area Catholic Schools. (A number of current MACS families and supporters can still trace their roots to these early years. See feature at pp. 10).

Since I began my role as President, and especially over recent years of extraordinary enrollment growth, it has become apparent and increasingly urgent that we need an updated capital improvement plan in order to serve the next generation of Catholic school students. Since 2020, our Catholic community has come together to adopt a pastoral plan (June 2021) and master facilities plan (October 2022). Both of these planning processes helped to springboard our MACS 2030 Strategic Plan: A Beacon of Hope (see full story at pp. 2, full plan available on our website).

"Building Our Future" is one of five focus areas of our Strategic Plan and includes goals related to financial sustainability, capital planning, and advancement. I am extraordinarily grateful to the members of the Building Our Future committee, composed of key stakeholders with expertise in these areas. We look forward to finalizing our capital improvement plan in the coming months, and ask for your prayers as we continue to discern God's plan for the future of our school facilities.

As Fr. Goldsmith did 150 years ago, we are "now thinking of building a new school." First, however, we must ensure a strong financial foundation through annual gifts to our A.B. McDonell Vision Fund and planned gifts through our Future of Hope Alliance (see pp. 13). Together, we can ensure a strong, financially stable Catholic school system with excellent teachers and facilities: a priceless gift to our children's children. Thank you for your support and may God bless our shared efforts.

In Christ our hope, Molly Meinen Bushman '98, President



Molly Meinen Bushman '98,
President

'A BEACON OF HOPE'

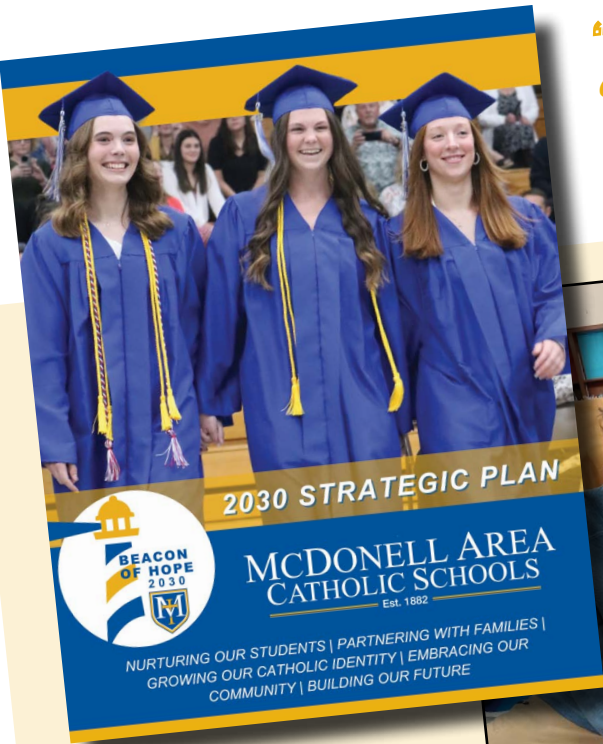
New 2030 Strategic Plan Publication Available

We are excited to share our new 2030 Strategic Plan: A Beacon of Hope. Our plan has been developed as a collaboration of MACS leadership and stakeholders, representing a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The plan sets forth ambitious goals and objectives in five focus areas, all aligned to our mission to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral formation through a Catholic liberal arts education.

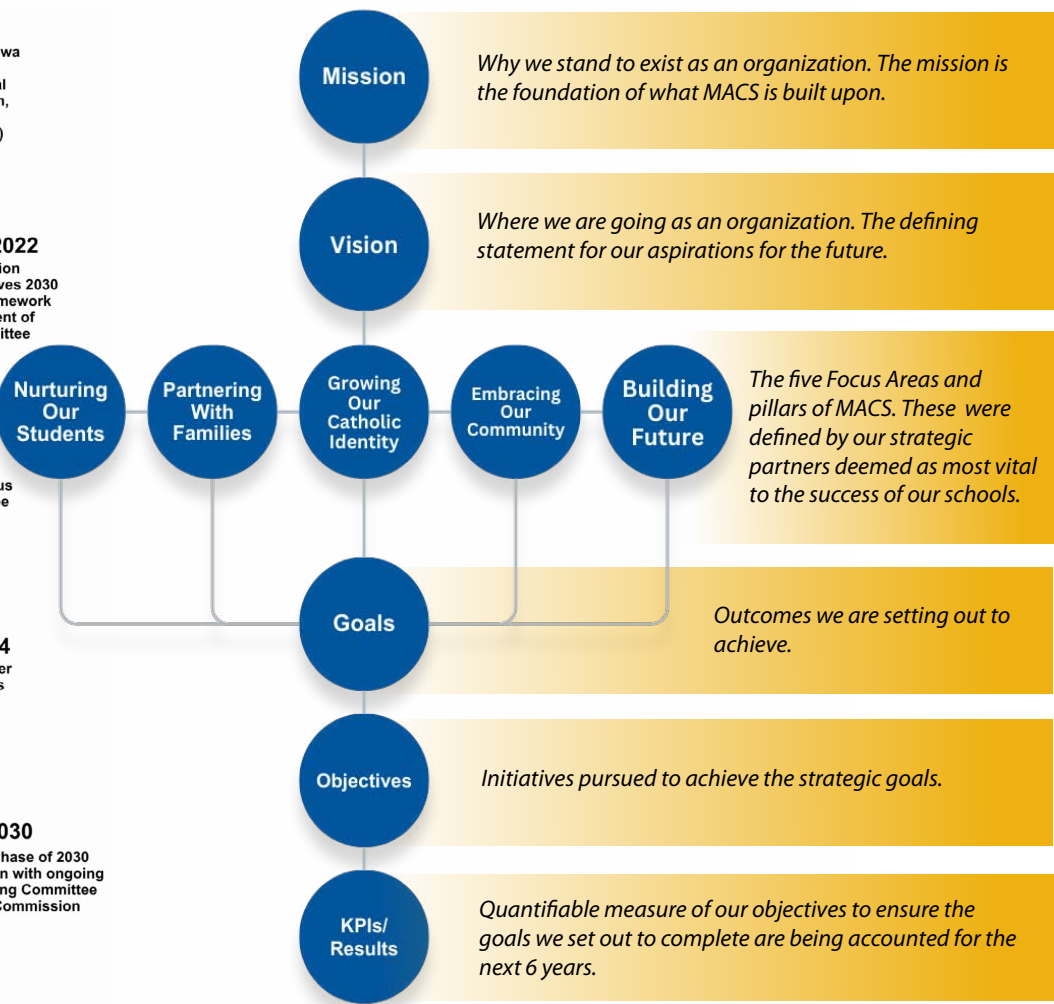
These goals and objectives were not set by a single person, but were developed by over 50 individuals serving on focus area subcommittees, along with many others who provided constructive comments and questions during feedback sessions last February. The steering committee continues to meet monthly to oversee implementation of the plan. Annual progress updates will be provided in the spring of each year.

A Beacon of Hope is not just our publication, it's also a publication of our students, staff, families, grandparents, donors, volunteers, and, most importantly, you. Guided by the Holy Spirit, MACS will become a beacon of faith, hope, and love. We invite our readers to pick up a copy of the plan today to learn more about how MACS plans to educate students to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good.

"McDonell Area Catholic Schools not only educates minds but also shapes hearts, preparing students to become intellectual, compassionate, and ethical leaders in our ever-changing world. - MACS Parent"



Scan the QR code to view the full plan!



Thank You!

TO OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEES:



NURTURING OUR STUDENTS:

- Mary Huffcutt 'H16
- Michelle Farrow
- Debbie Baier
- Jamie Dodge
- Eric Wedemeyer '92
- Mary Wermund Jacobson '78
- Matthew Rider '14
- Ashley Meinen Rubenzer '08
- Kelsey Jimenez
- Olivia Clark '24

GROWING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY:

- Andy Shakal
- Erin Brick
- Matt Elstran
- Mary Beth Amelse Pfeifer '87
- Greg Gilbertson
- Tracy Taylor-Bormann
- Fr. Alex Kren
- Paula Hanson
- John Shakal



EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY:

- Alumni/Mirco-Marketing Focus:
- Reggie Geissler '91
 - Kathleen Adams
 - Jayne Armstrong Brannen '03
 - Cathy Greenseth 'H14
 - Rolly Enderes '96

Affiliate Schools/ Parishes Focus:

- Fr. William Felix '73
- Alysia Bowe '98
- Jackie Peterson
- Janelle Dachel
- Annette Hunt
- Gina Smiskey
- Brian Eslinger
- Russ Jensen
- Kendra Conley

PARTNER WITH FAMILIES:

- Abby Talajkowski
- Casey Rozowski
- Gwen Doyle
- Sarah Bowe Hartjes '01
- Jenny Schafer
- Cindy Boggess
- Brittany Steiger Sykora '11
- Danielle Havenor

BUILDING OUR FUTURE:

- Libby Leinenkugel '94
- Scott Sokup '88
- Amber Leibrandt
- Molly Meinen Bushman '98
- Rusty Volk
- Scott Siegenthaler
- Ryan Stelter '96
- Lori Lubs Geissler '89
- Dcn. Kevin DeCook
- TJ Proue '02
- Jake Hepfler '00



Celebrating Fine Art Students at McDonell

Finding artistic talent isn't hard at McDonell Central Catholic High School. From theatrical performances to serenading audiences with beautiful orchestral sounds, Fine Arts Night is truly a one of a kind experience. The evening opened with Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Band Director Deacon Sean Hanson performing *Living for the City* by Stevie Wonder and *Sing, Sing, Sing* by Louis Prima.

The evening continued with Choir Concert performance of *Bonse Aba* by Victor C. Johnson led by Choir Director Annette Hunt. The stage was transformed for Concert Band with a performance of *The Planets* by Gustave Holst, featuring the senior class: Flute: Gretta Sompok, Maria Herron, Katie Rubenzer; Clarinet: Prudence Maloney; Saxophone: Micaela Moucha, Anna Thaler, Wyatt Pelkey; Trumpet: Tommy Cushman; guest Junior Percussionist: Eva Van Den Heuvel. The evening concluded with a comical performance from the Speech/Forensics Team performing *Bad Auditions by Bad Actors* by Ian McWethy.

◀Micaela Moucha '24 recipient of the John Phillip Sousa award, and Tommy Cushman '24 recipient of the Louis Armstrong award.



Arthur Miller's The Crucible Performed at McDonell

Set to the stage this past school year was the spine-chilling performance of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Presented by McDonell and Notre Dame students, this rendition of the highly-renowned playwright had audiences captivated from the start. Show Director Frank Rineck said he was impressed with students' performance right from the start, "The students delivered. I got chills at one point during rehearsal because the students were so good, so invested in the character."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPEECH/FORENSICS TEAM FOR QUALIFYING FOR STATE!

The Speech/Forensics team competed at the Wisconsin Interactive Speech and Dramatic Arts Association State event in DeForest, Wisconsin this past April. Students competed against competitors from schools around the entire state. Both play acting groups received gold with perfect scores! Ryan Roach, Lily Edison, Fred Blair, Jaidyn Brady, Angelo Enderes, Liam Irwin, and Jack Kasper received a bronze medal in the impromptu category, the hardest category for competing. Congratulations Speech/Forensics Team and Coach Kelsey Jimenez for your excellent season!



St. Charles Borromeo Preschool & Primary School Spring Hymn Festival

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church was filled with the sound of angelic voices during the St. Charles Borromeo Spring Hymn Festival. Students in kindergarten through second grade sang hymns on stage in front of family and friends. *Here I am Lord* and *Though the Mountains May Fall* were beautifully sung by the kindergarten class. First grade students sang *Amazing Grace* and *Lead Me Lord*, and the second grade students sang *Immaculate Mary* and *Change Our Hearts*. At the end of the performance, St. Charles faculty got up on stage to sing one last song, *Hail Holy Queen*!



Holy Ghost Elementary School Spring Talent Show

The annual Holy Ghost Elementary talent show took place this past spring on Thursday, May 16 and there was a lot of talent to be had throughout the program! Students played various instruments like the piano and saxophone, gave vocal performances, performed magic tricks, choreographed dances, comedy skits and more!





CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!

Frederick Blair, Andrew Bormann, Abigail Bresina, Harrison Bullard, Nicola Chessa, Jonah Christopherson, Olivia Clark, Emily Cooper, Thomas Cushman Jr., Alayna Crawford, Aeryn Crisp, Junia Le Thanh Truc Dinh, Aubrey Dorn, Wesley Eddy, Miles Flanagan, Madeline Geissler, Kali Goulet, Isabel Hartman, Domenic Hazelton, Lincoln Herman, Kasandra Herr, Maria Herron, Corbin Holm, Lily Hunter, Liam Irwin, Kylee Jenson, Jack Kasper, Kaylee Krueger, Kinley Laux, Joseph Leibrandt, Alexis Lewis, Prudence Maloney, Ellen Matott, Joseph McBride, Shane McDonald, Micaela Moucha, Jenna Murphy, Wyatt Pelkey, Calvin Rineck, Micaela Moucha, Katie Rubenzer, Katie Ruf, Kenneth Schafer, Gretta Sokup, Colton Swoboda, DoriAnn Tallman, Andrew Thaler, Anna Thaler, Alex Tokarski, Judith Villemin, Morgan Wirtz, and Nathakorn Wongweerawut.

positively impact the world and create ripples that will forever change humanity for the better just by loving those around us," Maria said during her speech.

Following Maria's speech was the introduction of Valedictorian Abigail Bresina '24. Abigail spoke on how memories shape us into who we are today, and how those memories were shared together as a class. "It's important to look back at the moments that shaped us into the people we are today. Therefore I hope we never lose sight of the present moment, but especially never forget the memories that brought us to this point," said Abigail.

The class of 2024 had two valedictorians who shared the honor of having the highest overall GPA. Frederick Blair '24 was introduced, and spoke to each senior on stage about a memory that was shared at some point during their time at MACS, and ending his speech with a word of advice for the entire class of 2024: "A rose has two sides, pain and beauty. Pick the life you wish to live, a life of pain or a life of beauty," Frederick stated, speaking to his peers on how it's now up to them to decide how they will live their lives from this moment on.



Seniors during the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.



Andrew Thaler '24 receiving the Holy Eucharist.

39th Annual Excellence in Education

The 39th Annual Excellence in Education is a banquet held once a year to honor students in the top 5% of their graduating class from Chippewa Falls Senior High School and McDonell Central Catholic High School. The following students are the top ranked in their class for overall GPA, and were accompanied by their most influential educator which is selected by the student. This year's keynote speaker was honorary alumnus, and former faculty member Steve Roesler 'H19.



Frederick Blair '24 & Mr. Matthew Rider '14, Social Studies Teacher

"As a former City Teaching Alliance educator, Matthew Rider is uniquely skilled at engaging a classroom with any topic. He doesn't just teach the material; he finds ways to connect it to our everyday lives. From economics to psychology, he is able to bring the subject matter off the textbook pages and vivify it in our minds through metaphors, stories, and classroom discussions." - Frederick Blair '24, Excellence in Education Inductee

Maria Herron '24 & Deacon Sean Hanson, Band Director

"I have been in Mr. Hanson's band class for eight years, and he has never failed to encourage me in my musical endeavors. He makes playing music fun, and band has become one of the highlights of my day. Mr. Hanson goes out of his way to help us become the best musicians we are able to be, from getting us started with new instruments to helping us pick out music for solos." - Maria Herron '24, Excellence in Education Inductee

"Maria Herron has been an inspiration to me. She makes me want to be a better teacher each and every day. Maria's love for God and her neighbor are evident in her every action and I am very proud to see her reach this high honor as a student. Maria started taking band with me as a 5th grader at St. Peter School in Tilden. She has developed into a great flute section leader at McDonell and I hope she continues in college. Keep up the great work, Maria!" - Deacon Sean Hanson, Most Influential Educator



Abigail Bresina '24 & Mrs. Carrie Rozowski, Math Teacher

"Mrs. Rozowski is a very positive and welcoming teacher, and she truly knows how to connect with her students. With a smile on her face every day, it is clear that she loves math and cares about what she teaches her students. She is an inspirational teacher and person who is a great role model for balancing hard work, dedication, and little bit of fun." - Abigail Bresina '24, Excellence in Education Inductee

"Abby Bresina is intelligent, hard working and a wonderful student. She is often one of the quieter students in class, and her soft demeanor creates a calm presence in class that any teacher would appreciate. I have come to greatly enjoy Abby's sense of humor and her positive outlook on life. She always has a smile on her face, and if she makes a mistake or misses a point on a test, she takes it as a learning opportunity and keeps plugging along. Abby has truly been a joy to teach and a blessing in my classroom!" - Mrs. Carrie Rozowski, Most Influential Educator



"Listen to the words of the teachers you selected, the words that you used to describe those teachers and reflect on the lives of your parents. I believe you will find the words about success and living a fulfilled life are modeled by those people seated at your table." - Steve Roesler 'H19, Keynote Speaker



SPRING VARSITY SPORTS

ATHLETICS AND

ACTIVITIES AT MACS



McDonell girls track and field team



McDonell boys track and field team

The girls softball team made it to sectional semifinals in the WIAA tournament, and obtained a 20-3 win-loss record overall during their season. ▶



McDonell softball team

The boys baseball team made it to the regional semifinals during the WIAA tournament, winning their regional game against Boyceville 12-8. ▶



McDonell baseball team

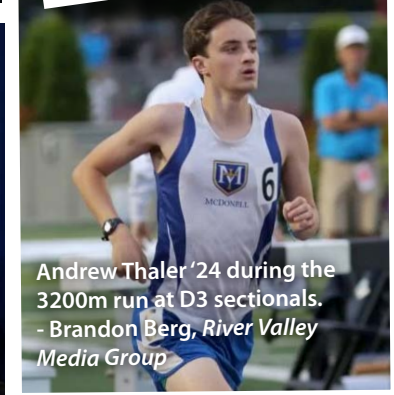
RACE TO THE FINISH LINE!

The McDonell track and field team had an excellent season this past spring, and had multiple state qualifiers!

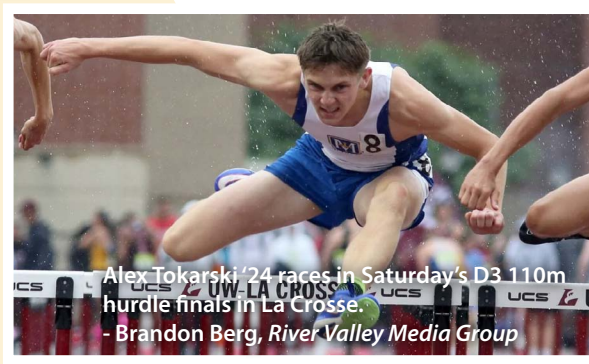
State qualifiers for girls track and field during D3 sectionals was Elyse Bushman who placed fourth for the 100m hurdle and first in the 300m hurdles, Anna Thaler who took second in triple jump, and Erin Siegenthaler, Anne Siegenthaler, Kali Goulet, and Anna Thaler placed second in the 4x1, qualifying for state. Additionally, Erin Siegenthaler, Anne Siegenthaler, Elyse Bushman, and Anna Thaler placed third in the 4x400.



Anna Thaler '24 competing in the triple jump.



Andrew Thaler '24 during the 3200m run at D3 sectionals.
- Brandon Berg, River Valley Media Group



Alex Tokarski '24 races in Saturday's D3 110m hurdle finals in La Crosse.
- Brandon Berg, River Valley Media Group



Anne and Erin Siegenthaler and Anna Thaler '24 celebrate after finishing fifth in the D3 1600m relay.
- Brandon Berg, River Valley Media Group



Andy Bormann '24 jumping hurdles during a track and field meet.



Elyse Bushman running in the 4x400 relay.

For the boys, Alex Tokarski won the 110m hurdle and placed second in the 300m hurdle. Andrew Thaler took fifth in 3200m run and was an extra qualifier for having the sixth fastest time. Finally, Alex Tokarski, Andy Bormann, Calvin Rineck, and Ben Siegenthaler placed fourth in the 4x400.

At state, Tokarski was third in the 300m and sixth in the 110m for hurdles. Anna Thaler was sixth in the triple jump and the girls 4x400 placed fifth with a new school record of 4:02:57. During the season, girls track and field broke school records for the 100m hurdles, 300m hurdles, 4x100, 4x400, and the triple jump. For the boys, school records for the 100m hurdles and 300m hurdles were broken. What an excellent season for the McDonell track and field team!



Regis/McDonell girls soccer team

◀The Regis/McDonell girls soccer team were sectional champions this past school year during an overtime game against River Valley, and obtained a 18-1 win-loss record overall during their season.



Regis/McDonell boys golf team

◀The Regis/McDonell boys golf team finished fifth in the cloverbelt conference championship tournament.

SPIRIT OF THE MACKS!



Scan the QR code to listen to Greg Misfeldt talk about Spirit of the Macks with student-athlete Grant Smiskey on the Mack Chat podcast!

The Spirit of the Macks took place on October 5, 2024, and is McDonell Athletic Booster Club's (MABC) largest fundraiser that benefits all student-athletes at MACS! The evening is shared among family, friends, alumni, donors, and the community inside the McDonell gymnasium where the fun begins. Professional auctioneers and announcers go from booth to booth to share all the amazing baskets that are being silent auctioned, along with the live auction happening at the same time. Thank you to the wonderful community organizations and volunteers that donated items and their time for this event.

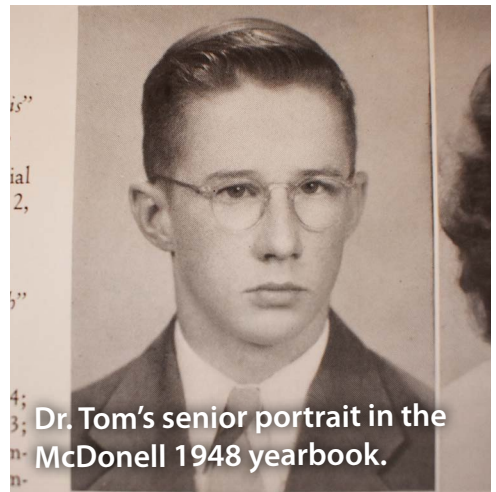


The Chisholm family during their visit to McDonell Central Catholic High School, September 13, 2024.

153 YEARS OF HISTORY: The Chisholm Family Legacy

It has been 143 years since McDonell Area Catholic Schools first opened its doors to provide excellent Catholic education to the Chippewa Valley region. One alumnus traces his family history back to those early days.

Thomas Patrick Chisholm M.D. graduated from McDonell Memorial High School in 1948 as a second generation graduate, son of David R. Chisholm II (Class of 1910) and grandson of David R. Chisholm I (1845-1912), who immigrated to Chippewa Falls from Cornwall Ontario in 1872. David I assisted Father Charles F.X. Goldsmith in raising funds to build Notre Dame Church and grotto. He

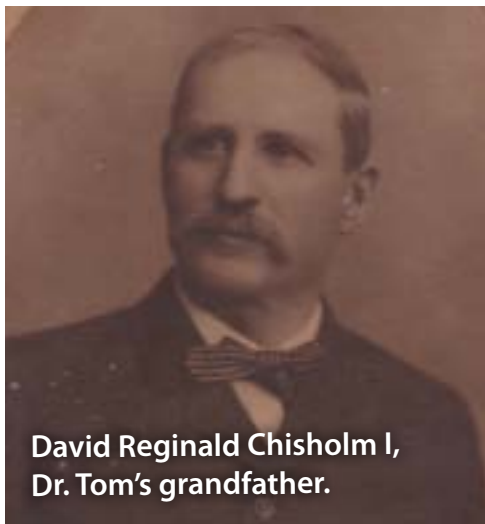


Dr. Tom's senior portrait in the McDonell 1948 yearbook.

also accompanied Father Goldsmith on his extended visits to New York City, Egypt and The Holy Land, including a visit to Rome with a private audience from Pope Leo XXIII.

In 1892, David married Mary Leonard (1854-1936) at the Cathedral in St. Paul. Mary, an Irish immigrant, was one of several teachers in the early Notre Dame schools, before the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Milwaukee arrived in 1881. David and Mary had five children, three of whom survived childhood: Charles (1885-1916), Marie (1889-1962, class of 1908) and David Reginald Chisholm II, Dr. Tom's father (1892-1977, class of 1910). Charles sadly died of appendicitis, a condition not easily diagnosed or treated correctly by operation and controlled anesthesia during the time. Isabelle and Bernard are buried with their siblings and parents in Hope Cemetery in Chippewa Falls.

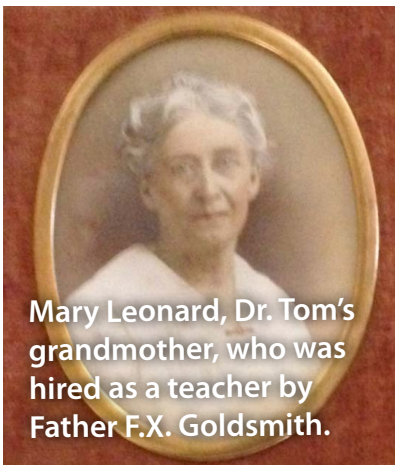
David worked alongside his friend and timber-business colleague, A.B. McDonell, to support the construction of both the Goldsmith Memorial Chapel (1894) and the McDonell Memorial High School (1907). These important historical landmarks still



David Reginald Chisholm I, Dr. Tom's grandfather.

serve the Chippewa Falls community as a perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel and the Heyde Center for the Arts.

Dr. Tom's mother, Eleanor Donnellan Chisholm, (1894-1990), was one of five children and the only daughter of Daniel Hennessy Donnellan and Anna Goldin O'Conner Donnellan. She had four brothers. Daniel, Henry, Raymond and Pete or Arthur Newman Donnellan named for St. John Henry Cardinal Newman. In 1922, Dr. Tom's parents were married in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Eau Claire. They had six children: Dave-David Reginald III (1923-2024), Anne Eleanor (1925-1989), Jean Marie (1926-2017), Catherine Virginia 'Kitty' (1928-2023), Joseph Daniel (1934-2017), and Thomas Patrick (1930---). Dr. Tom and his siblings graduated from McDonell



Mary Leonard, Dr. Tom's grandmother, who was hired as a teacher by Father F.X. Goldsmith.

stints as a country doctor in places like Arcadia, Wisconsin and Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The Chisholms experienced many adventures along the way, always placing a high priority on their Catholic faith, as recounted in Nancy's memoir *A Blessed Life* (2023).

in 1942, 1943, 1946, and 1948.

Dr. Tom went on to attend Marquette University and marry Nancy LeVasseur Chisholm (1933-2023) of White Bear Lake in 1958. Over 65 years of marriage, they raised seven children, while Dr. Tom became an accomplished surgeon in the Army, as well as



Dr. Tom's parents and siblings family taken around 1980. Above left to right: Kitty, Joe and Dave. Bottom left to right: Eleanor, Dr. Tom, Anne, and Jean.

Editor's Note:

On September 13, 2024, Dr. Tom and many of his family members gathered in Chippewa Falls for the interment of his brother and sister, David and Kitty, presided over by Fr. Goldsmith's current successor, Father Jesse Burish. During this visit, many members of the family visited our high school, where they were provided a brief tour by President Molly Bushman and entertained by the McDonell concert choir's rendition of the Alma Mater. Dr. Tom, a highly proficient vocalist, moved our hearts as he sang the original version of the Alma Mater:



Dr. Tom singing the Alma Mater to students and staff.



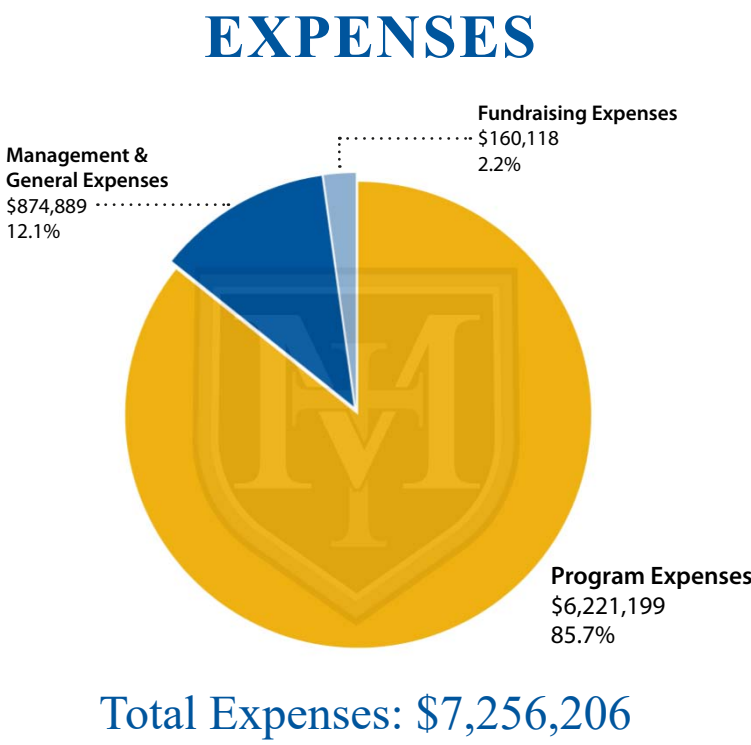
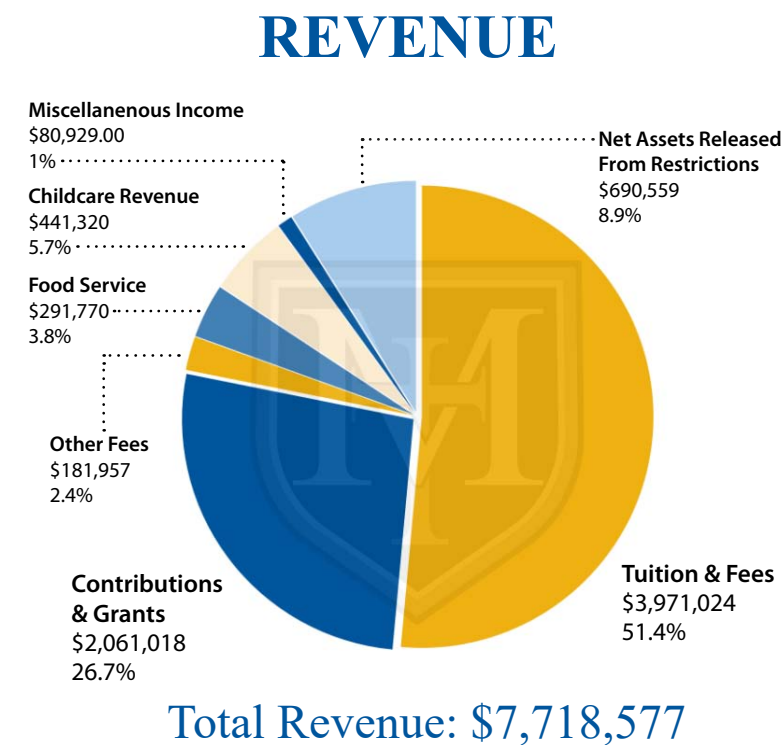
McDonell choir students singing the Alma Mater in honor of Dr. Tom and his family.

*Enthroned above the lofty hills
Above old Chippewa's stream
Behold our Alma Mater, dear
As thru the trees she gleams.
Her fame her study girls and boys
proclaim
With honest pride each day,
From Massachusetts rocky strand
To San Francisco Bay
All Hail Our Alma Mater fair
All Hail to thy loved name
We proudly flaunt the colors true,
For dear old Notre Dame!
Chippewa vaunts her crimson hue
Eau Claire her purple bright
We only ask to see and cheer
Our colors Blue and White
One's color of the lily fair
The other tints the sky
And for these colors beautiful
Each one of us would die!*

Dr. Tom is one of the last of the Chisholm family to have a direct personal connection to McDonell High School and Chippewa Falls. He is a true friend to MACS through his prayers, wisdom, and generosity. He is a 37-year donor, supporting educational programs through the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund and investing in the future of MACS through planned giving. Thank you, Dr. Tom.



Student Ambassador Ben Siegenthaler '25 and Dr. Tom '48 discussing books in the McDonell library.



The Financial Report reflects MACS's audited financials for the 2023-24 Fiscal year. The pie charts show what was received and expensed in the various categories for the 2023-24 year. MACS finished the year with operating revenues of \$7,718,577 and operating expenses of \$7,256,206.

2023-24 STUDENT TUITION COST

Grade Level	Parish Member Rate	Non-Parish Member Rate	Average Cost to Educate
5K	\$3,264	\$4,616	\$11,500
1 - 5	\$3,329	\$4,710	\$11,500
6 - 8	\$3,362	\$4,756	\$11,500
9 - 12	\$4,779	\$6,744	\$14,800
Family Cap	\$12,000	\$16,800	

MACS had an average tuition increase of 6% for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Thank you to all alumni, parishioners and businesses that supported MACS in 2023-24, your generosity has enabled MACS to keep tuition affordable.

Families who belong to a supporting parish and meet the criteria for active supporting parish member, qualify for the supporting parish assisted tuition. Financial assistance is available for active parish members based on need. MACS participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) and the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP).

Scan the QR code to make an online donation to the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund to help keep tuition affordable for all MACS students!



FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Finance and Facilities Committee works to ensure that MACS is strategic in their resource management to ensure quality education and a safe learning environment. Committee members are appointed by their parish.

The committee meets regularly to review financial results, the budget, investments and facility and maintenance projects. In addition, they discuss news and trends that may impact Catholic education. Committee members include the parish representatives, the President, and Controller/Business Manager at MACS.

PARISH REPS ON COMMITTEE

Jamie Leibrandt	Chair/St. Charles Borromeo
Michele O'Connor	St. Charles Borromeo
Tom Eder '85	St. Charles Borromeo
Mike Dubiel	Church of the Holy Ghost
Barry Bremness	Church of the Holy Ghost
Robert Konop	Church of the Holy Ghost
Skip August	Church of the Holy Ghost
Chad Brady	Church of the Holy Ghost
Diane Schmidt	St. Paul, Bloomer
Mike Crawford '88	Vice-Chair/Notre Dame
Deacon DeCook	The Church of Notre Dame
Bruce Mlsna	The Church of Notre Dame

EX-OFFICIO

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Msgr. Michael Gorman, Deanery Elected Pastor
Andy Shakal
Edu. Commission Chair,
Scott Sokup '88, Controller
Molly Meinen Bushman '98, President



Donor Acknowledgement includes the sum of all gifts received through donations. These include annual fund, tuition assistance, memorials, matching employer gifts, in-kind, and restricted gifts. McDonell Area Catholic Schools' fiscal reporting year is July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Any gifts received July 1, 2024 or after will be recognized in the next annual report.

- 1940's**
- 1940
Rudy & Joyce Ursic Trust (JC) 2
- 1941
Helen Zutter 2
- 1942
Dr. David Chisholm, Jr. (HC) 1
- 1946
James & Patricia Bembnister (GC) 1
- 1947
Joanne Cote 1
Mary Pat & Catherine McDowell Estate 1
Robert Miller (HC) 1
Gene Mower (HC) 2
Gyda Nadreau 1
- 1948
James & Patricia Bembnister (GC) 1
Dr. Thomas Chisholm (JC) 1
Ramona Zumbrock 1
- 1949
Cecilia Nelson 2
Frances & Henry Ruff

- Stephen Steinmetz (EC) 1
Charles Wilbur 1
- 1953
Betty Bischel
Dorothy and Glenard Lieder 4
LaVonne Marquie 1
- 1954
William Janc 1
Carolyn McGrath
- 1955
Larry & Maryann Muldoon (GC) 1
Lawrence H. & Patricia J. Nicolai 3
Jon Rubenzer (JC) 3
Joseph & Betty Ryan 2
School Sisters of Notre Dame
- 1956
Evelyn & James Bandoli
Francis & Doris Gaier 1

- Richard Porn
Vernon Steinmetz 3
William Zumbrock & Julie Nelson 1
- 1957
David Hebert 1
Ellen O'Neil (EC) 1
Gary Meade
Richard & Barbara Rooney (GC)
- 1958
Kenneth & Yvonne Butak 3
Irvin Geissler 1
Ronald & Barbara Lambert 4
James Maloney 1
Stephen & Sue Meinen 1
Joseph Oberweis (HC)
- 1959
LaVonne & Thomas Dejno 1
Judy Gaier (JC) 1
Don & Claudia Hable 1
Dick & Judy Monarski (JC) 1
Arlene Taylor 1

- Robert Jenneman 1
William Klaes
Howard Ludwigson
Sharon Rowan 1
- 1962
Jerome & Jacque Daniel (JC) 3
Bob & Bonita Gelina (PC)
Charlene & Victor Kervina
Robert & Monica Penzenstadler 4
John & Barbara Rasmus 1
- 1963
Steve & Carol Bohl 1
Ted & Anna Bowe 1
William & Mary Doucette
Karen & Dennis Elstran
John & Gail Hanson (JC) 2
John Janc (GC) 1
Larry & Mary Lanners
Arnold Ritzinger 3
Richard & Donna Schneider

- 1950's**
- 1950
Susan De Long 1
John & Barbara Hughes 1
Carol & John Konerik 1
Alice & Alfred Marshall 2
Mary Pat & Catherine McDowell Estate 1
Donal & Estelle Rada 2
Alice Seitz (XC)
- 1952
Mary & Peter Matthews 1
Patricia Peloquin 2
Lorenz Schreier (JC) 1
Margaret & Ken Schoenberg
Winnifred Shakal



- 1960's**
- 1960
Carol Akan 2
John Hillery 1
Larry & Mary Lanners
Stephen & Sue Meinen 1
William Piotrowski 1
Stephen Price
John & Barbara Rasmus 1
Clarence & Diane Stoffel (JC) 4

Annual Fund Symbols

2 Year Consecutive Donor
3 Year Consecutive Donor
4 Year Consecutive Donor

Alumni Giving Competition Donor
First-Time Donation

Planned Giving Symbols

Legacy of Hope Member
Future of Hope Alliance Member



1964
Patricia Bertrand (3)
Betty Bohl (★)
Judy Bowe (4)
Linda & John Brantmeier (JC) (2)
Kathleen Furtado
Robert & Robin Hassemer (3) (★)
Jean Krumenauer
Michael & Joanne McAleer (2)
Terry & Cheryl Wedemeyer (★)

1965
Michael & Pam Baker
Ronald Donaldson (★)
Maria & Joseph Hauser
Kristen Koiles (JC) (3)
Jane & Carl Leveck (★)
John Lubs (GC) (★)
Stephen & Debra Porn
Tom Scheidler (★)



1966
Harold & Kathleen Dahel (★)
Suzanne & Patrick Hammond
Paulette & Larry Popp
Pat & Sue Smith (HC) (★)
Thomas & Rita Sullivan
James Tannler (2)

1967
Jim & Jackie Bernier (JC) (★)
Terry & Mary Kay Bodeen
Harold & Kathleen Dahel (★)
Curtis Frazier (JC) (★)
Robert & Robin Hassemer (3) (★)
Cindy & Kenneth Johnson (2)
Ron & Rosemary Keefer (XC) (3)
Daniel Minahan (GC)
Marcia & Steve Moner (HC)
Susan & Pat Quinn (HC) (★)

Deborah Ritzinger (JC)
Leroy & Susan Schamberger (JC) (★)
James & Katherine Smola (★)
Tom Voith (HC) (★) (★)
Jane & Dan Von Feldt

1968
Mary Kay Fox (JC) (★)
Edmund & Lynda Grzegozewski
Mary & Gregory Holub (HC) (★)
Jane Lefler (2)
Chuck & Carolyn Peloquin (H)
Carol Shepard (4)

1969
Jerome & Jacque Daniel (JC) (3)
Janet Hahn (★)
Jack & Susan Kelly (★)
Mary & Ronald King (3)
Mary Jo & Dale Meredith (HC) (2)
Jackie See (3)

1970's

1970
Patrick Bischel & Joy Bergeron (GC) (4)
Robert and Susan Konop (★)
Ann Loeffel (★)
Joyce Schneider (HC) (★)
Jack & Mary Jo Stelter (EC) (2) (★)

1971
Gordy Meinen & Nancy Nelson Meinen (DC) (2)
Richard & Mary Rose Willi
Nancy Schuh

1972
Paul & Mary Anne Bembnister (HC) (★)
Suzanne Eder (4)
James Larson (4)
Sandy & William Schumacher (3)

1973
Wayne & Teri Boos (HC) (2)
David & Julie Clark (4)
Sandra & Mark Gobler (2)
Michael & Karen Lutz
Debra & Gary West (2)

1974
Robert and Susan Konop (★)
Sharon & Jeff Martin (4)
Catherine Peck (2)

Tony & Sue Reiter
Paula Sedlacek (HC) (★)
Nancy Smith

1975
Mike & Christine Peterson
Bill & Jean Wenzel (★)
Steve Wermund
Tom Zutter

1976
Theodore & Janice Blum (DC) (★)
John & Julie Hibbard (★)
Dave & Theresa Meinen (JC) (★)
Michael & Jeanne Sedlacek (JC) (★)

1977
David Amelse (★)
Dave & Donna Jacobs (2)
Bruce & Colleen Krejci (★)
Pete & Kathy Sokup

1978
Joe Bembnister (JC)
Gerald & Mary Jacobson (PC) (★) (★)
Julia & Bryan McGann (DC) (3) (★)
Dave & Theresa Meinen (JC) (★)
Dick & Karen Hebert
Pete & Kathy Sokup

1979
Laurie Francis (2)
Gary & Carol Gindt (2)
Mary Jo & David Mayer (★)
Wesley Moskal (DC) (★)

1980's

1980
Jeffrey & Karen Harings (DC) (★)
Joe Maurer (JC) (4)
Dan & Debra Dahl
Michael & Karen Lutz

1981
Tom & Mary Huffcutt (★)
Bob & Wanda Martell (★)
Jim & Rolanda Rada
Connie Riemenschneider

1982
Wayne & Pam Franz (2)
David Geissler
Patrick Lutz (★) (★)
Bob & Wanda Martell (★)
Jim & Rolanda Rada
Chuck & Jennifer Schafer (HC)

1983
Liz Gaier

1984
Elmer & Barbara Eckwright (★) (★)
Peter & Lisa Haley
Debra & Todd Schemenauer (2) (★)

1985
Tom & Beth Eder
Michelle & Scott Retzlaff (2)

1986
Dennis & Annette Hunt (EC)

1987
Laurie Keene
Mary Beth & Steve Pfeifer

1988
Fr. John Potaczek (★)
Kim Wogernese (GC) (3)

1989
Michael & Mary Ellen Akan (HC) (★)
Tod Bowe (3)
Reggie & Lori Geissler (★)
Jason & Tricia Janc
Michael Lembezeder

Annual Giving Categories			
(GC)			
Father Charles F.X. Goldsmith Circle			
Annual Gift \$15,000+			
(PC)	(EC)		
Father Eugene Phelan Circle	Sister M. Estelle Circle		
Annual Gift of \$10,000 - 14,999			
(XC)	(JC)		
Sister Mary Francis Xavier Circle	Mary and Lizzie Jennings Circle		
Annual Gift of \$2,500 - 4,999			
(DC)	(HC)		
School Sisters of Notre Dame Club	Rev. Theodore Hegemann Club		
Annual Gift of \$750 – 999		Annual Gift of \$500 – 749	
Rev. Edmund Sturm Club		Christian Brothers Club	
Annual Gift of \$250 – 499		Annual Gift up to \$250	

311 donors contributed 433 gifts to the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year!

1990's

1991
Reggie & Lori Geissler (★)

1992
Sarah Stoffel
Luann Williams (HC) (★)

1994
Alyssa and Brock Cooley (HC) (2) (★)

1995
Travis Cherier (★)
Josh & Amy Meinen (★) (★)
Jonathan & Jennifer Willi (★)

1996
Andrew & April Holty (★)

1997
Laura & Michael Zach (JC)

1998
Molly & Patrick Bushman (4) (★)

2000's

2000
Nate & Kari Stepp (★)
Bobby Swoboda

2002
TJ & Julia Proue

2003
Hiep & Mary Phung (JC) (★)
Kathryn & DeWayne Hanson
Kelli A. Schmitz (★) (★)

2007
Alicia Davis (★)
Sam & Ashley Rubenzer (HC)

2008
Joseph Rider (2) (★)
Sam & Ashley Rubenzer (HC)

2009
Christopher Eckes (★) (★)



2010's

2011
Marcus & Bev Walden (★)

2014
Cathy Greenseth (H) (★)
Chuck & Carolyn Peloquin (H)
Steve Roesler (H) (JC)

2016
Tom & Mary Huffcutt (H) (★)

2017
Kennedy Eslinger

2018
John Francis III (★) (★)
Andre LeDuc (★)

2019
Sam Youngquist



MACS Friends
John & Stephanie Abbe (DC)

Kathleen Adams (★)
Jon & Karen Andersen
Nicole Andersen (HC) (★)
Anonymous (HC)
Skip & Rose August (HC)
Ronald & Jolene Berg
Erica Boehm
Jon & Tamara Bohaty (EC) (2)
Lori & Barry Bremness
Charles Brion (2)
Michael & Wendy Buchmann
Fr. Jesse Burish (JC) (2)
William & Jennifer Buescher
William & Shelley Burrier
Justice & Amanda Busse (JC) (★)
Roderick Cameron (JC)
Sandy Chamberlain (HC)
Robert Chapman (HC) (★)
Steven & Virginia Dachel
Wayne & Teresa Dachel (★)
Rosemary Davis (GC) (★)

MacKenzie Dawson (JC)
Jessica & Jason Doty
Michelle Endvick (★)
Brian & Kendra Eslinger (★)
Tony & Amanda Fanetti
Michelle Farrow (PC) (★)
Dr. Jeffrey & Nancy Field (★)
Christopher & Tracy Fischer (HC) (3)
Dave & Tracey Flanagan (DC)
Chris Galvez
Barbara Gendreau
Matt & Casey Gerber
Steven Gerrish
Pat & Gary Gray (PC)
Todd & Patricia Gray (★)
Carl Green
Kenneth & Kristen Hackett (★)
Darci Heath
Betty Hedington (4)
Kevin & Andrea Hess (DC)
John Higgins (★)
Kaylie Honaker
Christopher & Shannon Jaeger
Jancie Janc (JC) (★)
Leroy & Patty Jansky (2)
Carrie Jones (★)
Vicki & Michael Kahn (★)
Jane Kellen
Charlene Klief (★)
Michael J. & Victoria A. Korger
Nicholas & Denise Krajewski (HC)
Jerry & Mary Kuehl (HC) (★)
Jamie Leibrandt
Carrie Leis (HC) (★)
George & Johanna Lobos (HC) (★)
Chris & Kathy Longbella (EC)
Rick & Sharyl Manhoff (★)
Cynthia Manhoff Bruno (★)
Robert & Chris Maslonkowski
James & Janet Michaud
Greg & Kelly Misfeldt
Rick & Linda Misfeldt (★)
Troy & Jenn Moen
Tim Molak
Dr. Joe & Julie Monarski (2)
Scott Murphy (★)
Tom & Karen Olson (★)
Jon & Anna Palm (★)
Pat Pecha (2)
Lynn Peterson (★)
Christina Petranovich
Ann Plendl (JC)
Julie Pomietlo (★)
Donald Porn (4)
Jeanette Prince (HC) (4)
Alison Prochaska (2)
Buckley & Loree Rawhouser (★)
Jill Ritchie (★)
Constance Roach (HC) (★)
Brian & Denise Roesler (HC) (2)
Rick & Jennifer Rubenzer (★)
David & Christina Rush
Christie Schmock
Father John Schultz
Sarah Schultz & Charlie Wirtz (JC) (4)
Donald & Rizza Schulze (★)
Nancy Scobie (HC)
Andrew & Rita Shakal (EC) (3)



Paul & Darlene Sieg (JC)
Seth & Tracey Smiskey
John & Pauline Spiegel (★)
Glenn & Judith St. Arnault (2)
Diane Stepp
Dan Sullivan
Lauren Sullivan
Michael & Rita Sullivan
Nick & Vanessa Talford
Scott & Anne Wahl
Peter & Gretchen Weeks
Paul & Mary Wiley (2)
Ned & Lou Ann Willkom (2)
Steve & Maggie Wojan (2)

The A.B. McDonell Vision Fund raised \$512,500 for the 2023-24 fiscal year!

Business & Community Friends
Anonymous (GC)
AnnMarie Foundation (PC)
Badgerland Printing USA, Inc. (JC)
Bohl & Proulx Plumbing, Inc. (DC)
Calm & Collected Cannabis, LLC
Canvas Town Hospitality, LLC (DC)
Catholic Women's Club (JC) (3)
CHEMCEED, LLC CF PRODUCTS (XC) (3)
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund at the Chicago Community Foundation (HC) (★)
Chippewa Falls Lions Club (HC)
Chippewa Falls Rotary Foundation (JC) (★)
Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (★)
Chippewa Valley Financial Services (JC)
Diocese of La Crosse (XC)
Fries Financial (EC) (★)
Fusion Marketing Group Nordson Tech Time (JC)
Gemini One Homes, LLC (EC)
H&R Electric, Inc. (EC) (★)
Harold and Marian Hunt Family Endowment Fund (JC)
Horan Funeral Home (JC) (★)



J&S Sales (GC) 🏆
James & Margaret Kern Memorial (XC)
John R. & Ellen A. O'Neil Endowment 🏆
Joseph W Joas Designated Endowment Fund (XC)
Knights of Columbus (XC) 🏆
La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DC)
Mason Companies, Inc. (EC) 🏆
Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (JC)
McDonell High School Foundation (GC)
Nordson Corporation Foundation (PC)
Northwestern Bank (PC) 🏆
Notre Dame Children's Endowment Trust (DC)
OakLeaf Clinics The Counseling Room (XC) 🏆
Oktoberfest
Pablo Business Directed Giving Foundation (JC)
PREVEA Health (JC)
Religious Care Foundation (GC)
Royal Credit Union
Rubenzner Wealth Management Northwestern Mutual (EC) 🏆
Scoreboard (HC)
Senn Blacktop, Inc. (PC) 🏆
Skip and Jill Thaler Family Endowment Fund (PC)
Spring Street Sports (JC)
Sue Decker Theatre Endowment Fund
Thaler Oil Company (EC) 🏆
Toyce Ford (XC) 🏆
Von Briesen & Roper, s.c. (JC)
WHG Companies, LLC (EC) 🏆
WI Lions District 27-E1 International Assn of Lions Clubs (HC)

In-Kind Donations

1st & Goal
ABC Balloon & Basket Company
Alpha-Lit Chippewa Valley
Andrew & Rita Shakal
B&G Liquor
Bargain City & Country Treasures
Bohl & Proulx Plumbing, Inc.
Brent & Barb Wicken
BUCHIP FARMS, LLC Matt & Bill Buescher
Burly's Bar
Chippewa Store
Calm and Collected Cannabis Co
Chippewa Valley YMCA
Cloverleaf Farm Supply

Chippewa Valley Raptors Softball
Dairy Queen
Drewmark Boutique & Unique Decor
Economy Storage/LWS
Elite Cuts Barber Salon
Elm Acres Farm
Envy Wellness
Family Fare
Fantasy Ink
Festival Foods
Fill Inn Station
Gary & Chris Nelson
Gator Garb
Great Northern Corp.
H&R Electric, Inc.
Heart Breakers Bar & Grill
IFD Food Service Distributor
Iris Boutique
Keller Williams & Rural Mutual
JNE Meats
Jacobson's Meat Market & ACE Hardware
Jake's Place
Josef's Cheesecake
Justin Watley
KWIK Trip Store
Lee Beverage, Matt & Nicole Benish
Loopy's Saloon & Grill
Marcon Shooting
Mason Company
Matt & Casey Gerber
McNaughton Correctional Center
Micon Cinemas
Mouldy's Archery & Tackle
Noodles & Company
Mystic Bar
NWSF
ONE Fest
On the Rocks Bar
Pop's Mart f/k/a DJ's Mart & FS Fuel Service
Premium Waters
Riverbend Winery
River Country Co-Op and 29 Pines
Sandbar
Sarah Schultz and Charlie Wirtz
Scheels
Sokups Market
Stanley Theater
Stelter, Inc.
Tessy's Gourmet Popcorn
The Ritz Saloon
The Snout Saloon
Tilden Gun
Troppo Band

Ultimate Authentics
WB Manufacturing, LLC
Wayside Bar & Grill
West Hill Bar
Wisconsin Veterans Farm & Winery
WOGO SPORTS RADIO
Wrap Guys

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

Steve Bischel, Class of 1971
Class of 1972
Pat & Gary Gray
Ruth, Tom, Nick Larson
Richard Petroske
Dr. David Chisholm, Jr.
Roger Gendreau
Norbert Anthony Sedlacek
Les Davis
Mary Thornton
James & Joan Sinette
Patricia Bembnister
Allen Gehl
James Rydlund
Nick Larson '72
Tim Leis
Dave Wermund '73
Father Dan Farley
Charles Peterson
Rosemary Meinen Schemenauer
Carolyn Paul
Rita Oberweis
Steve Plendl
Carol Loiselle Porn
Liza Willkom
George Perrenoud
Russell Rowan '58



Matching Gifts

AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund
Hiep Phung
Caterpillar
Andy Shakal
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Sam Rubenzner
Sam's Club Wal-Mart
Jessica Doty
US Bank Foundation Employee Match
Todd Bowe

A special THANK YOU to our 'Witness the Difference' fulfilled campaign pledges totaling \$174,546.08!

Witness the Difference

(**Denotes Fulfilled Pledge Payment)

B.A. Mason Trust **
Randy and Debbie Baier **
William Bischel
James and Nancy Bischel **
William and Jennifer Buescher
Molly and Patrick Bushman **
Steve and Linda Cyr **
Thomas and Pamela Davis
Dave and Tracy Flanagan
Fries Financial Group **
Marge Geissler
Kurt and Chris Geissler **
James and Diane Herron
Hideaway Resort
Adam and Danielle Jacobson
Donald and Marilyn Kademan **
Charlene and Victor Kervina
James and Kathleen LeCleir **
Jackie and Julius Lee **
Joanne Leonard
Tom and Karen Olson
Peter and Cheryl Pokrzywinski **
TJ and Julia Proue
Karen Reiter
Thomas and Joan Schwartz
Michael and Lisa Stoffel
Richard and Mary Rose Willj **
William & Gertrude Casper Foundation **
Jeff and Margaret Zander

A special THANK YOU to our supporting parishes who contributed \$945,737 to help keep tuition affordable!

Supporting Parishes

St. Charles Borromeo Church
Church of the Holy Ghost
The Church of Notre Dame
St. Peter the Apostle Church
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
Holy Cross Church
St. Bridget Church
St. Paul's Church
All Saints Church
St. John the Baptist Church

****We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omission and ask that you contact the Advancement Department at Advancement@macs.k12.wi.us so that your record may be corrected.**

NEWS FROM ADVANCEMENT



Amber Leibrandt,
Advancement
Director

A Legacy of Hope: The Impact of Planned Giving at McDonell Area Catholic Schools

As alumni, you may be familiar with the various giving opportunities at McDonell Area Catholic Schools (MACS), such as the A. B. McDonell Vision Fund, our popular fundraising events like Spaghetti Spectacular, and our capital campaigns. However, you might not know that we also have a Planned Giving Society, a program that holds the potential to transform the future of MACS in profound ways.

A planned gift is often the most transformative contribution an individual can make to an organization. At MACS, we welcome a variety of planned gifts, including testamentary estate gifts, appreciated stocks or bonds, life income gifts, life insurance policies, real estate, charitable lead trusts, bequests, trusts, annuities, and retained life estate plans. A gift made to the McDonell High School Foundation endowment not only honors the spirit of giving but also ensures that your generosity continues to impact future generations.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the Future of Hope Alliance, where your planned gift can create a lasting legacy.

A Family Legacy: Ellie O'Neil's Story

Ellie O'Neil, a proud alumna from the class of 1957, shares a poignant family story that underscores the importance of having a will or estate plan. Both her brother, John O'Neil (class of '51), and her cousin, Leonard Hart, exemplify how planned giving can leave an enduring mark on the community, thanks in part to Ellie's encouragement.



Leonard Hart's senior portrait in Chi-Hi's 1951 yearbook.

Leonard, a graduate of Chi-Hi, served in a medical unit during the Korean War. Like many veterans, he faced the challenges of PTSD upon returning home. With the support of family, he developed a savings plan and led a frugal yet fulfilling life, enjoying simple pleasures like long bike rides and reading. However, when his health began to decline, he moved into a care facility. Initially hesitant to ask for help, he eventually allowed Ellie to assist him in organizing his affairs.

To their surprise, they discovered that Leonard had not set up a will, despite having a significant estate. Through patient discussions and visual aids, Ellie helped Leonard understand the implications of leaving his estate unplanned. Ultimately, he chose to allocate a portion of his estate to three charities, including MACS, in memory of his mother, Ruth E. Hart, a dedicated teacher.

This generous gift established the Teacher's Professional Development Fund, originally named the St. Mary's Fund.

John's journey was similarly impactful. Unmarried and without direct heirs, he relied on his Catholic values and made his

decision based on who will benefit from his gift: all MACS students, staff and teachers. Leonard distribute his estate in a way that reflected his passions, and likewise made a gift that will impact the present and future of MACS. Like Leonard, John chose to include MACS in his legacy, making a substantial gift to the McDonell High School Foundation. His contribution continues to play a critical role in supporting MACS's mission.

The Power of Planned Giving

The stories of Ellie, Leonard, and John are powerful reminders of the importance of planning for the future. They illustrate



John O'Neil '51, a McDonell graduate and Ellie's brother.

how thoughtful estate planning can lead to transformative gifts that benefit not only the donors but also the communities and institutions they hold dear.

At MACS, we are grateful for the generous contributions from our alumni and community members, and we encourage you to consider how your legacy could shape the future of our schools. Your planned gift can create a lasting impact, ensuring that the spirit of MACS thrives for generations to come.

For more information about the Future of Hope Alliance, please contact the MACS Advancement office at (715) 723-0538 ext. 3307 or advancement@macs.k12.wi.us. Together, we can build a future of hope for our students and the entire MACS community.



Scan the QR code to listen to Advancement Director Amber Leibrandt and Mike Stoffel '86 discuss planned giving and the impact of your gift on the Mack Chat podcast!

FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY & THE EDUCATION COMMISSION



Fr. Alex Kren, Chaplain

During my short period of time as the Chaplain of McDonell, I knew there was something special about this place. Not just McDonell, but the Chippewa Falls area in general. The Holy Spirit is truly at work and many things are beginning to unfold. By the grace of God we have been blessed to witness one of our very own here at McDonell follow Jesus' call to the order of Diaconate, Deacon Sean Hanson! This is a testament to not just our school but to the Catholic culture that has been built up here in Chippewa Falls. As I stated earlier, many things are beginning to unfold, and it is an exciting time to be Catholic. Looking ahead to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us here at McDonell, I cannot help but smile.

When people are inflamed with the love of the Holy Spirit things change, hearts change. I have witnessed here at McDonell a desire in people's hearts to follow Jesus. Anyone who engages in a strategic plan knows how daunting this task can be. There are a lot of moving parts in preparing for the future, but amidst

the heavy burden of such a task we must always keep our eyes fixated on Christ. Ultimately, He is the light that will lead our every step. Even with the decisions we make in forming the future generations Christ must show us the way. Please continue to pray for all of us in leadership roles here at McDonell. Please also pray for our students. May the Lord who has begun the good work here at McDonell, bring it to fulfillment. - In Christ, Fr. Alex Kren, Chaplain

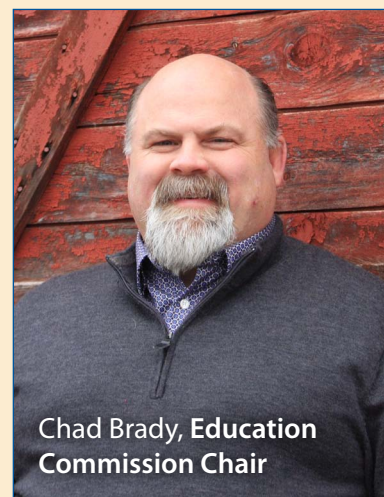


Deacon Sean Hanson with Bishop Callahan on June 1, 2024 after becoming ordained.

Building our future requires us to embrace our faith. Satan uses Lies, Temptation, and Manipulation to distract us from loving God, and worse yet, to get us to sin which keeps God at a distance and prevents us from inviting Him into our daily lives. We are in the midst of a spiritual war; it seems keeping God at the center of our lives gets more difficult every year. You may have noticed the attacks have gotten extreme. But the attacks on our children, now that's at a level that seems insurmountable.

So, what can we do? It is really simple actually, TURN TO GOD! Pray, and pray hard, to counteract the attacks and steer the hearts of our children to invite God in to their daily lives. The school has been doing their part. They've made significant improvements to the curriculum to draw our students into relationship with God. Additional opportunities for regular prayer, confession, and adoration has been provided for our students. Athletic schedules have been adjusted to allow student athletes time for faith formation activities. MACS is also growing by leaps and bounds, so improvements to the facilities are planned. But, all of this will only be successful if our students take advantage of the opportunities and invite God in.

This is where we adults come in, pray and pray hard. I have struggled in this area for a long time, and I still struggle with it today, so reminders help me do my part. Fathers, you own this, you are ultimately responsible and have the most impact through prayer. Mothers, you own this too, get after our fathers and hold them accountable, be their accountability partner. Grandparents, Godparents, friends, teachers, administrators, all can contribute, prayer has no limitations. Pray for our children, pray for us all! - In Christ, Chad Brady, Education Commission Chair



Chad Brady, Education Commission Chair

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS



"What I heard from the review teams at each school is they felt the presences of The Spirit here."
- Mary Huffcutt 'H16, Dean of Academics

Becoming a re-accredited Catholic school is no easy undertaking, especially when the entire process from start to end takes three years to complete. Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt 'H16 was tasked with orchestrating the re-accreditation process from Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WRISA), a non-profit organization that provides accreditation procedures for schools according to the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools. "Accreditation isn't anything new to us," Mrs. Huffcutt said. "We have been doing it since the 1800s."

Accreditation allows a school to reflect on the quality of their organization as it relates to mission, governance, education excellence, and operational practices. It has the organization look at best practices through standards by gathering

evidence, in addition to allowing an organization to celebrate what it has done well and work on areas that can be improved upon. Accreditation also allows us to participate in the Wisconsin Parent School Choice program and opens the doors to many international student programs.

"The idea of accreditation is that it helps to carry on our story of excellence," stated Mrs. Huffcutt. "Are we carrying on the mission and vision and always reaching for excellence? It is our responsibility." While Mrs. Huffcutt had a huge responsibility of pulling together evidence in preparation for WRISA's visit to the schools, the entire school system was involved in providing evidence. The Education Commission, staff, teachers, parishes, priests, and parents were involved throughout the three year process to ensure there was sufficient evidence submitted for accreditation.

There are many reasons as to why we continue to go through the accreditation process, like how accreditation allows for our system schools to be Choice Schools, or for allowing international students to come to our schools. As Mary said it best, we are dealing with human souls, and it's our responsibility as a school system to make sure we are providing the most authentic Catholic education. "We're not just talking about scores and data, we're talking about teaching humans with souls." Going through the accreditation process helps us understand where we can grow stronger in our mission.

After careful consideration, McDonell Area Catholic Schools has officially been fully accredited for grades 3K-12 for the 2024-25 school year! Special thank you to all the MACS families who provided meals to the accreditation teams during this important time for MACS!



St. Charles Primary School student praying the Living Rosary before Mass.



Notre Dame Middle School students receiving the Holy Eucharist.



Scan the QR code to listen to Mrs. Huffcutt and Principal Eric Wedemeyer '92 on the Mack Chat podcast talk about Catholic liberal arts programming at MACS!



Class Notes

1940s

Marjorie Pevan Dodge '42 celebrated her 100th birthday April 19, 2024. She had a nice birthday dinner with family on the 20th of April at Royal Buffet.

Thomas P. Chisholm M.D. '48 and his family visted McDonell Central Catholic High School on September 13, 2024. They were able to tour the school and talk with current McDonell students. ▼



1970s

Joyce Schneider '70 and Pat Bischel '70 are members of the St. Charles Funeral Choir. Pat says a good singing voice must be optional.

Nancy Flesch Campbell '70 is celebrating 50 years of marriage to Don Campbell. They will be celebrating with their son's family in Sao Paulo.

Rose Hunt '79 was selected as the National Executive Officer for Civil Air Patrol.

1980s

Robert Kinnick '84 married Cory Abalos Kinnick on September 17, 2024 in Chippewa Falls. ►



Mike Stoffel '86 and Lisa Goettl Stoffel were announced as the 2024 Festmeister and Festmeisterin at the Chippewa Falls Oktoberfest. ▼



We want to hear about YOU!

From the womb to the tomb and life's blessings in between, we want to know what's new with you! Send in your life updates to mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us, so we can add your story to the Class Notes.

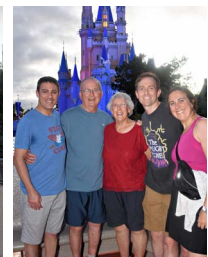
1990s

Sarabeth Gale Bowe '99 and Bob Bowe '99 along with their children, Leah, Vonell, DesMariya, Khloe, Jeremiah and Isabella welcomed Lillian Eva to their family on August 5, 2024. Grandparents are Barb and Steve Gale of Jim Falls and Kathy and Jim Bowe of Chippewa Falls. ▼



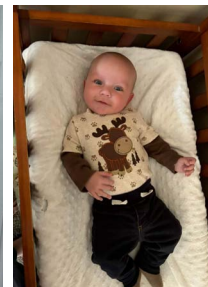
2000s

Michael and Rita Sullivan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29. Michael was CACS/MACS President from 1990 - 2004. Rita taught at Notre Dame for 10+ years. **Colin Sullivan '02** (wife Brittney), **Kelli Sullivan Schmitz '03** (husband Bill), and **Kevin Sullivan '04** (wife Leslie) are pictured with the grandchildren. They celebrated the anniversary with a trip to Florida and a day at Disney World in mid-June. ▼



2010s

Seth 'Yogi' Gale '06 with his wife Kayla, and children, Sawyer and Kinslee, welcomed Kaden William to the family on June 5, 2024. Grandparents are Barb and Steve Gale of Jim Falls, and Dawn and Kenny Schmitt of Cadott. ▼



2010s

Jian Teng '14 recently earned a PhD degree in engineering from Brown University in Rhode Island. His focus area is Fluid and Thermal Sciences.

MACS teacher **Matthew Rider '14** and Kendra Rider, with big brother Felix, welcomed baby Leo Roger Rider into the world on June 6, 2024. ►



MACS teacher **Jenna Larson Hoglund '16 and Nathan Hoglund '17** married on July 12, 2024 at Lilydale. They met at McDonell Central Catholic High School, and started dating Jenna's senior year and Nathan's junior year. ▼



◄**Alex Ohde '17** and Haley Wozniak Ohde married on June 28, 2024.

2020s

Elizabeth Wedemeyer '21 graduated from CVTC in May 2024, and is working as a nurse in Marshfield, WI. ►



SAVE THE DATE!

The class of 1970 class reunion will be held on August 9, 2025 from 5-10 p.m. at The Ritz in downtown Chippewa Falls.

MEMORIAM

Please join the MACS community in prayerful memory of deceased alumni, parents, and friends.

Helen M. Anderl Zutter '41
July 14, 2024, Chippewa Falls, WI

David R. Chisholm, Jr. '42
April 14, 2024, Baldwinsville, NY

Barbara J. Lindstrom O'Connor '48
April 24, 2024, Centreville, MD

John T. O'Connor '48
June 29, 2024, Centreville, MD

Elizabeth 'Betty' L. Rank Price '53
July 2, 2024, Lake Hallie, WI

Bruce S. Peloquin '54
October 2, 2024, Eau Claire, WI

Armand 'Armie' Pierre Vaudreuil '56
August 31, 2024, Chippewa Falls, WI

Mary I. Duss '58
March 18, 2024, Waunakee, WI

Stephen J. Price '60
March 14, 2024, Crystal, MN

Keith 'Butch' T. Plombon '63
September 21, 2024, Stanley, WI

Susan M. Peterson Sharp '66
August 26, 2024, Eau Claire, WI

Paul W. Nicolai '66
July 13, 2024, Eagle Point, WI

Steven 'Steve' M. Bruley '74
March 27, 2024, Houston, TX

MEMORIAM FRIENDS

John F. Schneider
September 1, 2024, Eau Claire, WI

Gordon V. Hetchler
July 15, 2024, Bloomer, WI

Dorene A. Goswitz
July 13, 2024, Chippewa Falls, WI

WALL OF RECOGNITION

We need your help! We are working on creating a wall of recognition for all McDonell graduates who have moved on to vocations of priesthood or religious life. Below is a preliminary list based on our current alumni directory.

Please email us with any additional names, corrected spellings, or other biographical information or photos you may have. We want to have as much information on file as possible so we can share these stories, honoring the persons and inspiring current and future generations of McDonell students.



▲**Class of 1959** had their 65th class reunion on September 29, 2024 at Goldsmith Coffee Bar after Mass at Notre Dame Catholic Church.

1900
Sister Mary (Eugene) Coleman

1910
Sister Marie Coleman

1911
Sister Mary Felice
Sister Felice Annette, SSN

1914
Sister Mary (Immanuel) Baulne
Sister Kathleen Ruth SSND

Sister M. Kathleen

1915
Sister M. Virginia Marie

1917
Sister Mary (Ellen), Cameron
Annie ?

1921
Sister Christine Gauthier

1926
Sister Mary Agnes ?
Sister Mary Arthur Bresina

Sister Agnes Connell

1927
Sister Theodore Stoffel
Sister Margaret (De Sales) Sugar

1928
Rt. Reverend Stephen Anderl
Reverend Dayton Kirby

Sister M. Charitas Prince

1929
Sister Mary (Clement), Viola
Bresina

Sister Mary (Pierre) Hebert
Reverend John Rondeau

Sister Loretta Schmidmayr

1930
Reverend Ralph Geissler
Reverend Vianney Thibedeau

1931
Sister Miriam (Bresina), Elizabeth
Bresina

Sister M. (Remy), Esther Revor
Sister Lorraine (Lorraine), Frenette

1932
Mother Mary (Gabriel), Catherine
Anderl

1934
Brother John Anderl
Reverend Lloyd Geissler

1937
Sister Mary (Madeleva), Postl

1938
Reverend Francis Rushman

1940
Sister Arliss, Sheeley

1943
Sister Gregor, Bergerson

1947
Sister M. (Petrine), Adrienne
Amelse

Brother Charles Bibeau

1949
Sister Mary (Corda), Muriel
Glodosky

Sister Mary (Roseria), Elizabeth
Mayer

1953
Sister Dorothy, Schneider

1954
Sister Margaret, Gaier
Bot. p. 88 Sister Sharee, Hurtgen

1955
Sister Yvonne Hiess

1957
Brother Robert Seidling

1958
Reverend John A. Schultz

1969
Brother Richard Calkins

1973
Reverend William Felix

1976
Reverend Daniel Farley

1980
Deacon Tom Kinnick

1988
Reverend John Potaczek

2006
Reverend Joseph Baker

2012
Sister Mary Veronica Kopp

THROUGH THE YEARS, CLASS REUNIONS

Do you have an upcoming class reunion? Let us know! Email mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us with your event details!



▲**Class of 1964** had their 60th class reunion on July 11, 2024 at Rally House Sports Bar & Grill.



▲**Class of 1969** had their 55th class reunion on September 21, 2024 at the Loyal Order of the Moose.



▲**Class of 1974** had their 50th class reunion on August 10, 2024 at Ritz on the River.



▲**Class of 1979** had their 45th class reunion on August 3, 2024 at McDonell Central Catholic High School.



▲**Class of 1984** had their 40th class reunion on August 24, 2024 at Sherry Joe's Wayside Bar and Grill.



▲**Class of 2004** had their 20th class reunion on September 20, 2024 at Chippewa River Distillery.

PARENTS: IF THIS ISSUE IS ADDRESSED TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WHO NO LONGER LIVES AT HOME, PLEASE CALL THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE WITH CORRECT ADDRESS: 715.723.0538 OR GO ONLINE: www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/alumni/

If you have updated contact information or would prefer to receive the Mack Messenger in a different form (digital or physical) please contact the Advancement office at 715.723.0538 or advancement@macs.k12.wi.us

You're Invited to

 **MACS**

Spaghetti Spectacular & Kids Winter Carnival!

McDonell Central Catholic High School Gymnasium

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

SUPPORT MACS STUDENTS & EAT DELICIOUS SPAGHETTI...

WHILE ENJOYING THE KIDS WINTER CARNIVAL!

McDonnell Area Catholic School's

SPRING GALA

An Evening in the Garden

Saturday, March 29, 2025

McDonell Central Catholic High School

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

A denim and diamonds affair



**MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Est. 1882

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THANK YOU TO OUR PROMOTERS



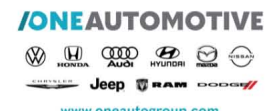
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