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17139 Oak Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48221
(313) 863-4677
gesuschool.udmercy.edu

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Top-Bottom: Students in the Gesu library. The playground gives the students a break from wearing a mask. Photos by Justin Milhouse.

Gesu All-School Reunion
July 30, 2022
GesuDetroit100.org

Dr. Jeffrey Boutain, son of Gesu preschool teacher Mrs. Boutain, brought pumpkins (645 and 850 lbs.) that he grew to show the students. Photo by Dr. Boutain.

GESU

FALL 2021

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Gesu Gears Up for 100-Year Reunion

By M.B. Dillon

Save the date! You're invited to what literally will go down in Gesu history as the block party of the century when the parish celebrates its centennial July 30, 2022.

"The parish will be 100 years old on the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19. That was the date of the first Mass in 1922. But we're going to celebrate the weekend of St. Ignatius' feast day with a parish reunion and centennial celebration," said Anita Sevier, Gesu's director of advancement. "We want people to come home and feel the love. That's our whole goal.

"The festival will be here at Gesu," she said. "We'll have tents, food trucks and beverages, school and church tours, music, photos and dancing in the streets. We'll also have a special Mass that day at 5 p.m." The reunion kicks off at two p.m. and ends at eight p.m.

Organizers are excited about the 2022 Cash Raffle. First prize will be $25,000; second prize $15,000; and third prize $10,000. An electric bike will be awarded to the fourth-prize winner. Tickets are $100 and go on sale Jan. 1. If 1,000 tickets aren't sold by July 15, the drawing will revert to a 50/50 raffle with the minimum prize of $10,000 and an electric bike as second prize.

"Gesu is such an active and vibrant parish, and we've enjoyed being parishioners for 40-some years," said Steve Matous, who is spearheading the raffle with his family and other fired-up volunteers. "We are looking forward to the centennial and thought, 'What can we do to help with the parish?' The folks involved came up with the idea of a raffle. We hope to sell 1,000 tickets and raise $100,000. We can give $50,000 away and give $50,000 to the parish."

Emmie Matous, Steve's wife of 47 years and Gesu volunteer extraordinaire, also brings lots of enthusiasm and fundraising expertise to the initiative. "Steve and I are really involved with trying to support Gesu in so many different ways," said Emmie. Emmie was born in Saipan, largest of the Northern Mariana Islands in the western Pacific but has lived here all her adult life. "Our hearts are really so much with Gesu. We are just trying to do as best we can, helping with physical, material and spiritual contributions."

A key reason the couple works so hard centers on Gesu School where the Matous children received their education years ago. "I'm always so proud of our four children who graduated from Gesu, but also the kids they went to Gesu with," said Steve. "Their friends are doctors, lawyers, architects, nurses, authors, politicians, judges, moms and dads. They're just top quality people. I get choked up I'm so proud. It's just a beautiful community."

"Just to see the caliber of children coming out of Gesu is really something. So many wonderful students graduate from Gesu and further their education," echoed Emmie. "Our daughter Susan got her master's in education at U of D. Victoria took her master's in architecture. Tomasa graduated from Michigan State, and went on to be a registered nurse. Our son Stephen works at the Chrysler plant. They're involved with the raffle, too. We told the kids, 'Even though you aren't eligible to win, you can all still help and give us $100 each for tickets, as alumni.' They are happy to."

Steve and Emmie are longtime residents of Green Acres and serve on the parish council, help with Gesu's catechesis program and C.S.A. drive, and volunteer as lectors.

Help from current school families is needed also, Steve said. "We're going to work with the school to see if we can get more parents involved. Things are difficult and people don't have a lot of money, but we need to make sure the school stays afloat," he said. "We're hoping to use the raffle money to increase the visibility of Gesu's grade school as well as Gesu Church. The school is very important. If we didn't have the school, Gesu wouldn't be the community parish it is."

Steve emphasizes the word community, pointing to the community green playground across from the school, built by Gesu and open to the neighborhood. "Gesu isn't just people who belong to our parish. It's the community all around us," he said. "We want everyone to show up for the reunion, including alumni who live outside the city of Detroit. We have a lot of alumni throughout Michigan and the country we're trying to reach."

"Our hope for this raffle is to help not only the school with the money, but the parish," said Emmie, who has donned sneakers and gone door-to-door seeking donations for Gesu. "We walked down Livernois from 6 Mile to 8 Mile, tapping on the business people and they contributed money. I don't mind doing that. We really need repairs for our church. Right now, we are trying to fundraise for the church roof, and there are walls that need replastering."

For the Matous family, helping Gesu is a labor of love. "God is so good. God is wonderful, all the time," Emmie said. "We see His beauty in one another. Celebrating that spirit is what we need."

To register for the
Gesu Reunion
go to
GesuDetroit100.org
When you register, you will have the opportunity to upload memories or a photo of your time at Gesu.
Please join all your Gesu friends and family
Saturday, July 30, 2022
2:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.
Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Pass it on!

New Principal at Gesu

Brian O'Rourke Takes the Helm as Gesu Principal

Continued from page 10

By M.B. Dillon

Step into the office of Gesu's new principal Brian O'Rourke, and prominently displayed you'll see his favorite quote from George MacDonald, a 19th century writer and father of fantasy fiction: "You must throw yourself in: There is no other way." MacDonald's words have informed the life of this Illinois-born accountant-turned-teacher-turned-principal.

"Looking at things I've done in my life, I'm attracted to different things, but the common denominator is trying to do good work," said O'Rourke, who comes to Gesu with 12 years of classroom experience and 8 years in school administration.

Raised in River Forest, IL, a west suburb of Chicago, O'Rourke graduated from St. Luke Catholic School and Fenwick High School. He attended Marquette University and earned his accounting degree from Dominican University in River Forest, where he also received a master's degree in business. "In my family, there are seven children, and five of us are accountants. My father was an accountant, and I kind of just got in line and did what made sense," said O'Rourke.

A period of discernment took him to South America. "I was working with the Maryknoll missionaries. I had some friends who were Jesuits and they'd gone through the Spanish school the Maryknolls offer down in Bolivia," O'Rourke said. "They generally instruct those who have a vocation -- priests and sisters who go out to serve. But given my connections with the Jesuits, I was able to go down there as a lay person and be a part of that program. In conjunction with that school, I ended up volunteering at an orphanage. That was wonderful. It allowed me to understand what I wanted to do with my life."

O'Rourke then "threw himself in," working for the late Fr. Don McNeill C.S.C. in inner-city Chicago. "Father McNeill was connected with St. Ann's, a parish school nearby. He said, 'Go over to the school, because Sister Michael, the principal (who'd been there for 25 years) needs some help.'

"I went over there, interviewed, and was hired on the spot to teach a combined 6th- and 7th grade that had in excess of 30 students," O'Rourke said. "St. Ann's School is in Pilsen, right in the inner city and is predominantly Mexican-American, though it's gentrified a great deal in the last few years. Working there, I realized I really wanted to pursue teaching and being an educator. Counting widgets and thinking in a cubicle is not how I wanted to experience life."

O'Rourke enrolled in a masters in education program for career changers at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. "I always felt the call to be a teacher, and I'm glad I made that jump," he said. After three years at St. Ann's, O'Rourke moved on to St. Procopius, also in Pilsen. "I taught 8th grade for five years and then served as principal for five years. St. Procopius' distinction is that it is the only dual-language Catholic school in the state of Illinois. Students receive half their instruction in English and half in Spanish."

While in Chicago, O'Rourke met and married his wife, Heidi, also an educator. The couple has four children: Cecilia, 11, Oliver, 9, Joseph, 7, and Elizabeth, 5. "We always said if we were blessed enough to have children, we'd like to go somewhere overseas to have an experience; an adventure. So we moved to Mexico and lived there for three years," he said. "It was wonderful. We were in the Yucatan peninsula. I was the middle-school principal of an international school. Heidi taught 4th grade. My children went to school where both Heidi and I worked as educators."

When Covid hit, the family planned to return to the States. "Instead of going to Chicago where some of my network is, we thought, 'For the kids' benefit, we're going to make a run at staying in Michigan,'" O'Rourke said. "My wife is originally from Ypsilanti. She's a farm girl."

Photo by Justin Milhouse

The O'Rourkes settled on the family farm in Chelsea. "We have horses, sheep, ducks, nine cats, a bunch of other critters running around, and a garden. My mother-in-law appreciates all the help, because there's a lot of work. But I'm excited. I'm glad we made that decision.

"When I learned about this job (at Gesu) I was very interested in it and in renewing my commitment to Catholic education and doing good service work on behalf of students. In my parting letter to St. Procopius, I said 'I don't think I'll ever be able to find work that has as much purpose and meaning as I've experienced here.' But certainly, there is a lot of purpose and meaning in the work I am doing here now," said the principal. "And I'm back in a Jesuit parish. St. Procopius was formerly a Jesuit parish."

O'Rourke said his mission at Gesu is "to get to

Continued on page 3

Paying Tribute

In memory of Mary Ellen McCormick (cont.)
M. Eileen McCormick & K. Ching Man
Peter McCormick & Karen McCormick
Mrs. Priscilla McCormick
Robert & Margaret Brennan-Neaton
Ms. Margaret Ogden
Hon. Barbara Reno
George & Bridget McCormick Reno
Dorothy Vaughn & Benjamin Vaughn
Colleen & Joseph Wagner
Mrs. Elizabeth Lagrou Walivaara
Dorothy Wayman
Ms. Dawn Zelenka-Joshowitz

In memory of Charles & Virginia McElhone
Ms. Beth McElhone

In memory of Michael McNamee
Edward & Cynthia Shumaker

In memory of Elsie Miller
Edward Stuckey & Elizabeth Miller

In memory of R.S. Montana
Mr. Robert Smith

In memory of Maria Montbriand
Ms. Diane Dillard
Ms. Ellen Sauer
Anita Sevier & Terry Berg

In memory of Ita, Bill, Tom & Dan Moss
Mrs. Maureen Read
Peggy Moss & Jim Schram

In memory of Terrence Nagle '49
Colleen Nagle & Jim Nagle

In memory of Paul O'Hara
Joanne Thompson O'Hara

In memory of Paul O'Hara '38
Colleen Nagle & Jim Nagle

In memory of Colleen Ryan O'Hara '42
Colleen Nagle & Jim Nagle

In memory of Anne & Louis Offer
Anne Marie Offer

In memory of Thomas Ignatius Offer
Louis Offer & Melinda Offer
Ms. Luanne Offer
Mr. Carl Schmidt

In memory of Hermine (Mo) Oswald
Ms. Sarah Chang
Tom Coates & Kristine Ann Bobier
Jane Divinski & John Alexander
Maureen Dooley
Anne Marie Offer
George & Bridget McCormick Reno

In memory of James & Maggie Oswald
Ms. Mary Oswald

In memory of Mo, Jim & Maggie Oswald
Ms. Anne Offer
Ms. Mary Oswald
Hon. Barbara Reno

In memory of Angelique Penn
Julia Penn

In memory of Eugene & Olga Pettis
Ms. Erica Pettis

In memory of Peggy Fellrath Prentice
Mr. Dale Prentice

In memory of Sr. Stella Rabaut
John & Georgianna Hughes

In memory of Frederick Rease
Mrs. Karen Clark

In memory of Dr. Judith Rease-Mackey
Mrs. Karen Clark

In memory of Tom Roach
Mrs. Patricia Palmer

In memory of Jack & Betty Rothwell
James & Emanel Rothwell

In memory of Mrs. Roy
Mr. Harold LeDuc

In memory of Mrs. Ella Roy
Mrs. Pauline Brennan

In memory of Barbara & Frank Schowalter
Ms. Barbara Tourangeau

In memory of Barbara Cohan Schowalter
Ms. Barbara Tourangeau

In memory of Robert C Schultz
DiAnne Patterson Schultz

In memory of Patricia Sheehan '61
Jeremiah & Anne Tabone Sheehan

In memory of Larry Smith
Mary Jane & Elbert Williams

In memory of Jim Snyder
Maureen Dooley
Ms. Carol Hermes

In memory of Patricia Snyder
Maureen Dooley

In memory of Sr. Stella
Ronald & Kathleen Samul

In memory of Katherine Storen
Dr. Thomas Storen

In memory of Gloria Tedesco DeLaura
Mr. Thomas DeLaura

In memory of Dorothy Wait
Mrs. Mary Schreck

In memory of Kelli T. Weatherly
Kimberly Parks

In memory of Regina Williams
Ms. Shirletha Binion

In memory of Fred Winhusen
Ms. Louise Thibodeau Winhusen

In memory of Jason Wright
Dennis & Elizabeth Wright

In memory of Deidre Young Vesnaugh '59
Mr. Patrick Vesnaugh

In memory of Marilyn Jeanette Zink '64
Mr. William Patrick Colombo

In honor of I.H.M. Sisters
Mr. Harold LeDuc

In honor of Sr. Mary Ellen
Dr. Charles Schewe

In honor of Doris McQueen Byrne
Ms. Melissa Byrne

In honor of Fr. Phil Cooke S.J.
Mrs. Barbara Donahue

In honor of Francine Creer
William & Billie Hickey

In honor of Elliot Family
Ms. Mary Elliott

In honor of Robert and Marie Handley
Ms. Catherine Handley
Ms. Claire Handley Suggs

In honor of the Jones Family
Ms. Mary Rita Jones

In honor of David & Marty Jones
Thaddeus & Rita Jones

In honor of Lorraine Hawkins McLaughlin '40 for her 95th Birthday
Colleen Armstrong & John Quinney
Janice E. Armstrong
Robert Thomas Armstrong
William & Teresa Armstrong
Lisa and Keith Carpentier
Brita Montes Sanders
Morgan Montes
Nancy & Dennis Montes
Mary Westcott

In honor of Andrew Maurer
Mr. Joseph Maurer

In honor of Christopher Joe Maurer
Mr. Joseph Maurer

In honor of Anita Sevier
Cheryl & John Kreger
Art Tarnow & Jacqueline Tarnow

In honor of Thomas Sowell
Ms. Susan Swanson

In honor of Fr. Nathan Wendt, S.J.
Charles & Andrea Wendt

In honor of Nicole Williams '82
Ms. Genevieve Williams

Paying Tribute

In memory of Sr. Ann Joseph, I.H.M.
Art Tarnow & Jacqueline Tarnow
In memory of Sr. Helen Ann I.H.M.
Mr. Daniel Thompson
In memory of Catherine Coughlin Anhut '37
Kristine & James Moravek
In memory of John Anhut
Kristine & James Moravek
In memory of Reginald Ayala
Mr. Kevin Ayala
In memory of Thomas Barry '65
Mrs. Mary Barry
In memory of Constance Grace Bernardi
Francis & Annette Bernardi
In memory of Armeshia Blacksheare
Donna Washington
In memory of John & Georgialee Breen
Tracey Breen
Mrs. Teresa Dooley
Frederick & Janet Kiechle
Ms. Dorothy Lagrou
Mr. Joseph Palm
James Slowik & Amy Kessler
Mrs. Elizabeth Lagrou Walivaara
Ms. Julie Wenstrup Brady
Mr. Daniel Wenstrup
In memory of Suzi Brickley
Gerald Brickley & Meghan Sickler
In memory of Don Bridenstine
Mr. Dan Bridenstine
James & Sheila Bridenstine
Mark & Michelle Bridenstine
Sr. Angela Hibbard
Mr. Robert Kroha
In memory of Earnice Bright
Ms. Tamara L. Perrin
In memory of George Brooks
Mr. Richard Gercken
Ms. Gladys Scott
In memory of Rose Bush
Ms. Rose Bush Hepner
In memory of Larry Butcher
Dennis Lakomy & Darlene Frederick
In memory of Lauren Byrne
Joseph & Doris Byrne
In memory of William & Roseanne Cahalan
Ms. Ann Cahalan Ward
In memory of Mike Caton '52
Ms. Virginia Acheson
In memory of Jean Forte Ceru
Mr. John Ceru
Mr. Joseph Ceru
In memory of Colin Family
Mrs. Lorna Colin Braxton
In memory of William & Mary Catherine Cooney
Ms. Julia Cooney
In memory of Richard & Pauline Cunningham
Mr. Richard Cunningham
In memory of Anne Devine
Ms. Julia Devine-Peil
In memory of John P Devlin '55
Mrs. Patricia Lee
In memory of Rosemary Doherty
Ms. Mary Celeste Riley
In memory of Gabrielle Dooley
Maureen Dooley
In memory of Michael Dooley '71
George & Bridget McCormick Reno
In memory of Debbi Duggan
Mr. Patrick Duggan
In memory of Edna Enderby
Mrs. Anne Enderby Harrell
In memory of Montagne-Canar Family
Mrs. Germaine Montagne Canar
In memory of the Ambler Family
Thaddeus Jones & Rita Jones
In memory of Jane Martin Feely
Mr. Emmett P. Feely
In memory of Tom Feely '49
Mr. Emmett P. Feely
In memory of Nancy Ferrer
Dennis Lakomy & Darlene Frederick
In memory of Sr. Helen Gaffney I.H.M.
Miss Gabrielle Downs
In memory of Sr. Elizabeth Giradot,I.H.M.
Mrs. Mary Gallant
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Golata
Marybeth Dillon-Butler & Patrick Butler
In memory of Alice Hagerty
Mr. Michael Hagerty
In memory of Tanya Heidelberg
Ms. Maria Woodruff-Wright
In memory of Beverly & George Heintz
Ms. Judy Heintz
In memory of Bob Henold
Mrs. Barbara Donahue
In memory of Catreea Heslip
Ms. Shirletha Binion
Ms. Anne Cooper
Ms. Tamara L. Perrin
Miss Kathleen Mary Rogers
In memory of Rita & Wally Hilker
Ms. Mary Jane Hilker
In memory of Eric Holiday
Ms. Stephanie Tanguay
In memory of Helen Ann Horgan
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Dennis Lakomy & Darlene Frederick
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Mr. James Keathley
In memory of Helen & Walter Kelly
Mr. George Kelly
In memory of Mike Kerwin
Terrence Berg & Anita Sevier
Anne Marie Offer
In memory of Naomi King
Ms. Tamara L. Perrin
In memory of Vincent & Virginia Koehler
Ms. Virginia Riederer
In memory of Michael Kolinski '58
Mr. James Kolinski
In memory of Marilyn Krot Dillworth
Mr. Gregory Krot
In memory of Hilaire & Irene Leger
Ms. Mary Leger Chavanak
In memory of Billy Don Lucas
Ms. Rose Marie Lucas
In memory of Rick McCarthy '65
Mr. Lawrence Sullivan
In memory of Mary Ellen McCormick
Ms. Rosalind A. Barrett
Richard & Marie Beauchamp
Tracey Breen
Ms. Mary Ann Carroll
Mr. Tim Carroll
Jerry & Cindy Cassano
Ms. Kristina Clouse
Megan & Sean Clouse
Maureen Dooley
Mrs. Teresa Dooley
Mary Emerson
Ms. Catherine Kaiser
Mrs. Ann Love
Joseph Mariani

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(Principal O'Rourke cont. from page 2)

know and understand the community, and to develop relationships with the community, which includes teachers, staff, students and the parents -- not exclusively, but those four are my focus. I really believe sincerely in Catholic education and things it can and does do for students who come through a program like this. There are lots of challenges, but many opportunities to do some good work and serve some students who really deserve to be served in this way. I'm pretty honored and humbled to be a part of it in the way that I am."

The principal wants to see Gesu graduates enter high school with "a solid academic foundation. To say it more plainly, I want the kids to be clever and kind. It goes before me; Gesu has had this in place. You can't have all the education without the understanding and the relationships, and just being nice to other people. For me, it's tightening up and really re-thinking: how are we going to get our students to that level where they have the know-how, but also the empathy and sympathy to work with others?"

Enrollment at Gesu is 248, up from 188 last year. "It's the hard work of (director of advancement) Anita Sevier that has made this possible; to bring on so many students," O'Rourke said. "It just points to the fact that many families really want and desire to have their children in this Catholic environment. Looking to next year, we're going to try to find more students and families who want this education for their children. They may not have the means to pay for it, yet we want to be able to help them out. We do have some resources, namely the Angel Fund."

O'Rourke also credits the dedication of Gesu's long-serving teachers and staff; assistant principal Shawn Kaley, newcomers from the Alliance for Catholic Education (*see related story*) and Sam Riede of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, as well as the University of Detroit Jesuit High School seniors who volunteer weekly, helping with robotics, classroom duties and grounds-keeping.

Covid continues to present hurdles. "It's not behind us. In fact, in some ways it's a little bit more challenging than last year because a lot of people have doffed the masks and gotten into a different mode," O'Rourke said. "Last year, half our students were home and half were here. Now everyone is here. We're trying to hold it together making sure everyone stays. We have a wonderful teaching staff who are committed to making it happen for their students. I have to continually find ways to let them know how much I appreciate their work, commitment and dedication to the kids."

You can't help but admire the work ethic of O'Rourke, who rises at 4 a.m. to do farm chores and arrives at Gesu before 6 a.m. It's a 2-hour drive home to Chelsea, west of Ann Arbor. He passes the time by telephoning Gesu teachers and listening to his Bible app. "It allows me to have some unwinding time. I just made it into the New Testament and the Gospel of Matthew. When I get home I work with my family," he said. "We need to do chores. We have all these animals. The walnut tree rains down walnuts that have to be picked up. Last Saturday, we picked up five wheelbarrows full. Then a storm came through. My son Oliver, who is resistant to work, said, 'Did we even pick up any walnuts?' We picked up five more wheelbarrows' full. The tree yields about 30 wheelbarrows over the course of a year. There's a lot of work to be done."

The upside? "It's really nice living on the farm and having that closeness to animals and nature," O'Rourke said. "We have a bunch of corn. It's great going on our little walks through the corn. I love it. I'm a city guy; I lived in Chicago for 25 years. It's definitely different for me."

An autumn highlight was Gesu's first school Mass. "Due to the pandemic, we celebrated no all-school Masses last school year," O'Rourke said. "Our 8th-graders, led by our A.C.E. teacher Sean James, took care of the readings and Mass responsibilities. Our music teacher, Mr. Ashton helped us with songs and our 4th-grade choir. It was so awesome. It was great, just to be in church, celebrating with Fr. Phil and Fr. Jeff. The kids were excited about it. It is so nice to be able to go to church, gather and pray together and understand that we are all in it together. That's especially evident at Mass. Our student body is not Catholic. However, everyone is going to get something out of the Mass. It just reinforces what we're attempting to do here."

Gesu can be glad Brian O'Rourke threw himself in.

Hover your cell phone camera over this QR code and you can get to the GESUDETROIT100 website to register for the reunion!

Gesu connects with Notre Dame in more ways than one

NOTRE DAME'S FR. JOE CAREY DOES GESU PROUD

By M.B. Dillon

If she could see him now, surely Sr. Mary Emily I.H.M. would be delighted with her former student, Joseph Carey '54. Not only did he do well in the classroom, going on to University of Detroit High School and the University of Notre Dame, but he was ordained a Holy Cross priest and is helping Gesu Catholic School in a special way.

In August, Fr. Carey C.S.C. visited Gesu for the first time in many years, meeting the staff over lunch in the principal's office, touring the school and cruising the neighborhood. "There was one nun, Sr. Mary Emily, who had a nephew who played for Notre Dame," Father recalled. "That was a big deal. He was a really good football player, and every time he did something and there was a story in the paper, Sister would put it on the bulletin board. She really pushed Notre Dame a lot."

As chaplain for the Alliance for Catholic Education, a master's in education program based at Notre Dame, Fr. Carey plays a key role in placing teaching fellows at urban schools, including his alma mater. This year, Gesu has two A.C.E. teachers. Sean James of Maryland is instructing 8th-graders, and Pennsylvania native Lia Acri teaches 3rd grade.

For 28 years, A.C.E. has sent teachers to under-resourced Catholic schools across the U.S. "Our founder (of the Congregation of the Holy Cross) Blessed Basil Moreau thought when he was forming our community that we would collaborate with lay men and women, and that we'd be available to help in dioceses where there is a need," said Fr. Carey, a former teacher himself. "Fr. Moreau said as a community, we are about educating the mind and the heart. That is how Notre Dame is run, and that is how other Holy Cross schools are run.

"There is a huge need, primarily in the South where we began. Over the years we've expanded to New York City, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago, Indianapolis, the Midwest, Texas, and Florida. We are in 31 dioceses. There are always a lot of dioceses that are seeking us out to send people. I was so excited that we were asked to come to Detroit. And I was elated when Gesu wanted teachers," added Father, whose dad, Joe Carey, graduated from Notre Dame in 1932.

"Our teachers live in intentional Christian communities in which they are expected to live a simple lifestyle. They pray together and they share. They don't get paid much," Fr. Carey said. "The three pillars of A.C.E. are becoming a professional educator, living in community, and spirituality." A.C.E. fellows attend classes on campus during the summer and online during the school year. Detroit's A.C.E. teachers reside in St. Josaphat's Rectory in Detroit. They include -- in addition to Acri and James -- Lindsay Baca and Grant Mantooth who teach at Holy Redeemer; Nick Hughes, on staff at St. Clare of Montefalco; and Kristin Cullinan at Most Holy Trinity in Corktown.

"When Lia found out she was going to Detroit and she'd be at Gesu and that I went there, it was pretty amazing for her," said Fr. Carey. "I said, 'Lia, I can tell you, you are going to love it.' I was pretty confident that Lia Acri will be a great teacher. She learned a lot this summer."

Instead of giving Christmas gifts to his 14 nieces and nephews and 25 great-nieces and great-nephews, Fr. Carey sets aside $400-$500 and buys books in their names for A.C.E. teachers. He makes sure they are culturally appropriate for students and their grade levels. "I'm doing that for Lia now," said Father. "She sent me a list. I just tell all my relatives I want them to learn how to give. They'll get a reward in heaven. They're pretty honored and feel really good about it, at least that's what they tell me to my face," he said.

Fr. Joe Carey at Gesu on his visit in 2021.

Sean James said that while the pandemic has created obstacles, "I've enjoyed my nearly year-and-a-half at Gesu, because the students and their families have embraced me. Teaching at Gesu gives me the chance to work in a great city like Detroit, where there is a rich history that permeates through Gesu. "A.C.E. teachers are challenged to teach and learn at the same time, which often presents difficult moments and chances to grow," added James. "I can honestly say that each of the faculty and staff members from the front office to the various classrooms have helped guide me towards becoming a better educator. It's special to work at a school where the students want to be in the classroom each day and work with teachers to prepare for the next level. With teacher and family support, we are starting to create a Christ-centered education in the middle school at Gesu."

MEMORIES

Walking Gesu's halls 67 years after graduating, Fr. Carey re-lived his days as a student, growing up on Briarcliff with sisters Kathleen, Bette and Patti. "Being here reminds you of a lot of people," said Father. "I think there was only one lay teacher, Mrs. Roy. She was a legend. All the rest

Continued on page 5

Alumni Comments

for giving us the "Gesu experience!"

Patricia Devlin Lee '61: In this era of constant change, I cherish watching our grandchildren embrace the Holy Spirit through their sacraments as I did years ago at Gesu.

Thomas Barry '65: Donation in memory of Tom Barry who attended Gesu '64-'65. Thanks to the unnamed nun who inspired him and helped him get into Catholic Central. Graduated in '69.

Kristine Anhut Moravek '66: In appreciation and love to my dad, John Anhut, who recently passed away at the age of 98, and who gave me the gift of a Gesu education .

Paul A. Hathaway '66: Debbie and I moved north this past year while keeping a presence in Ann Arbor for the colder months! Enjoying semi-retirement. Go Giants! A reunion is a great idea too.

Mary Leger Chavanak '67: Both my parents Hilaire and Irene Leger and most of my 24 aunts and uncles attended Gesu. I'm thrilled that Gesu will be celebrating 100 years next year. Thank you for your continued dedication.

Maureen (Mo) Dooley '68: In Memory of Gabrielle Dooley. Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for Gesu, Mom! Sending all the best to you!

Maureen (Mo) Dooley '68: In memory of Patricia Snyder from the Dooley Family.

Steve Miranda '71: We recently moved to Seattle and would love connecting with any Gesu alumni.

Dan Bridenstine '77: Proud graduate, class of 1977. Keep up all the good work!

Doris & Joe Byrne (parents of alumni): Just moved from Naples to Ft. Lauderdale and celebrating 90th birthdays.

Edward Marable (parent of alumni): I love the new parking lots and landscaping. Big improvement and great look for the church and school. Keep up the good work!

Dear Gesu,

I am writing to express my thanks for sending me your Spring 2021 Alumni and Friends Newsletter. I also received one of your newsletters a while back and I was shocked that after all these years you were able to find me in Hawaii. My brother and I graduated from Gesu in 1978 and 1980 respectively. After Gesu I attended Cass Technical High School and graduated from there in 1984. While in high school I was enrolled in the JROTC program for four years. This laid the foundation for my future in the military.

While attending Central Michigan University (CMU) I was enrolled in the Senior ROTC program and received my commission as a Second Lieutenant in May 1988. I graduated from CMU in December 1988. In August 1990 my Reserve unit was deployed to Fort McCoy Wisconsin for 18 months during Operation Desert Storm/Shield. I entered Active Duty in August of 1995 and served 20 years on active duty in the Active Guard/Reserve program. During that 20 year span I did tours in Birmingham, AL, St. Louis, MO, Hawaii (2 tours), Iraq, and Fort Lee, VA. I retired on June 1, 2013. After retirement I used my Post 911 GI Bill benefits to get a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. My years as a Cadet in JROTC came full circle as now I am the JROTC Senior Army Instructor at Waianae High School in Waianae, HI.

As I was reading the Gesu newsletter I started to see some of the names of the teachers and the principal that was there when I attended Gesu. St. Norine, Sr. Pat and Sr. Stella were the names I remembered and they were all really caring people. It's great to hear and see all the great things that the students are doing today and that they are continuing the legacy of that fine institution. COVID-19 really tested our resolve as educators but we have endured the worst of it and I look forward to starting the new school year back to the normal everyday routine of seeing faces every day.

My travels do not bring me back to Detroit that much these days so I want to wish you all the success in the 100th anniversary of Gesu!

Regards,
Anthony S. Hafner '80
Lt. Colonel, US Army (retired)

Dear Ones,

I enjoy reading about the experiences of other Gesu alumni. I think of it as revealing other facets of a valuable gem.

Amongst the many things I appreciated about Gesu was attending an integrated school. It seemed pretty simple for most of us to tell by looking, what color someone's skin is, such as me being white. But coming up at Gesu if it was my turn to pick sides for a softball game, or participants in a group project, skin color and ethnicity just were not factors in the equation. The choice was based on whether the person would be a good teammate in achieving the objective.

Decades later I was an area rehab manager in northern Alabama and south-central Tennessee. Although it was a diverse crew many of my team were clinicians both black and white that were born and raised in the deep South. Of this demographic many reported to me sentiments such as, "I never imagined black people and white people could work so well together." I give much credit to Gesu that I never imagined otherwise.

While working in that role there were cross burnings in my county of residence. I am enclosing a poem that came to me as I pondered what a guy like me could possibly offer when asked to speak at a large gathering honoring Black History Month. (see https://www.school.gesudetroit.org/ for the poem.)

Most of my years at Gesu were in the late 1960's, a time when racial inequity was a prominent issue in this nation. Now some 50 years later, it is prominent once again. If you are like me perhaps you feel sometimes that your efforts are insignificant compared to the magnitude of the problem. One way I derive comfort is to remind myself that the great oceans of this planet are comprised of tiny little droplets, that a journey of ten thousand miles is taken one stride at a time. This helps inspire me to take the next right step, to do the next right thing, however insignificant it seems.

So speaking of insignificance compared to magnitude I would like to humbly offer up my thanks to each member of the Gesu family for your role in initiating thoughts, words and actions in the past, present and future that help make this crazy world a better place.

Godspeed in all your noble endeavors,
Peter Smith '71

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For more information, please contact Anita Sevier at 313-863-4677 or Sevier.a@gesudetroit.org

GESU All-School Reunion
July 30, 2022

Alumni Comments (We love to hear from our alumni)

Emmett (Bud) Feely '47: Keep up the great work of educating children in the Catholic faith! I went to Gesu for 3 months in the 1st grade (Sister Agnes Therese) and my family transferred grade 2nd to 8th grade to I.H.M. in Scarsdale, N.Y., then onto U of D High and John Carroll University.

Rowland Hill '49: I had two upset stomach incidents while at Gesu, one in the first grade and one in the eighth. I almost made it to the lavatory during the eighth-grade incident but the bell came too soon and all the evidence of my illness was on the second-floor corridor north to south. I was not very popular with the janitorial team that day.

Joanne Thompson O'Hara '49: Wonderful education and memories. Met best girlfriends at Gesu. We still are best friends.

Thomas (Tad) Dunne '53: I currently teach courses in humanities at Sienna Heights University. My teachers at Gesu: Sr. Patin, Sr. Mary Borgin, Sr. Marius, Sr. Felicita, Sr. Johnita, Mrs. Roy, and Sr. Grace Ellen.

Harold LeDuc '53: I am 82 years old and still working full time. I have my own small company as a manufacturer's sales representative. I am selling precision springs to automotive. My wife Helena and I are blessed to have four wonderful children and eight wonderful grandchildren who are doing a pretty good job raising us!

Eileen MacMichael Behmer '56: I loved my three years at Gesu and I am very grateful to the sisters: Sr. Jonathon, Sr. Sharon and Sr. Grace Ellen.

John Paul Ceru '57: Great memories! Playing marbles in the parking lot between the school and rectory; altar boy serving early morning Mass in the school chapel; formal ballroom dancing class in eighth grade!

Richard Cunningham '57: I have recovered from my fall at the Y pool. I rehabbed at the I.H.M. motherhouse. I told an elderly nun that she could whack me for all the times I was bad at Gesu! I got in contact with my old buddy from Gesu—Jerome Kukula. We reminisced about Gesu, our old neighborhood etc. How the years have flown.

Jerome Nadolski '57: Our brother **Richard Nadolski '60** recently had successful surgery for stage -our lung cancer-small cell. Richard had a distinguished career as a journalist for the Springfield MA. Republic.

Louise Thibodeau Winheusen '57: I will be returning from New York to the Detroit area in the next year or so. I attended an Immaculata reunion in early October. Of course I was delighted to greet a number of Gesu grads.

Maureen Moss Read '59: So grateful to our mom and dad

Continued on page 9

were I.H.M.'s. The nuns were sort of a mystery to everyone. You had no clue what they did when they went over to the convent."

Father recalled that in 1954, there were two 8th-grade classes, each with 48 students. Big classes, but "the nuns took care of you. You didn't have to go to the principal's office. And you felt you got a really good education. I remember the Sisters covering up the drinking fountains the day before we made our First Communion so we wouldn't break our fast," he added.

Going to Mass in Gesu Church "was a unique thing. With four side altars, all these priests from U of D would come to say Masses here," Father said. "The parish priests would do the Mass at the main altar. The funny thing was people would be attending side-altar Masses, but when the regular Mass started, they would give out Communion first, which was really weird. There were always a lot of people around."

Fr. Carey found himself in his 8th-grade class picture, displayed in the social hall amongst numerous others. Students were photographed in the gym that year -- a first, as it had just been built.

April 19, 1969 marked an unforgettable day for Fr. Carey. "It was a Saturday. I said my first Mass at Gesu, and we had the reception here," said Father, gazing around the gym. "My father belonged to Oakland Hills Country Club. He wanted to invite the family of a man who worked with him at Kelsey-Hayes. This man, Jimmy Curry, was a chauffeur for the company and close to our family. He would do handiwork around our house. I wanted him to be able to come, and he wouldn't have been able to go to Oakland Hills (because he was black.) That's why we had it here. So it was really special to me. The amazing thing is that this man and his wife became Catholic because of my mother (Peg) and father."

Father vividly remembers 1967. "When I was a seminarian, I worked at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. That was the time of the riots. They were very close. We could smell stuff burning. It was really scary," he said. "It's great to see Detroit is doing better."

Fr. Carey also serves as chaplain for the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team and steward for Corby Hall, home to the Holy Cross priests. He's the priest-in-residence at Ryan Hall, a women's dorm. If you ever happen to be nearby on a Tuesday, you're welcome at Ryan. "I have a lot of helpers, and we bake about 20 dozen cookies every Tuesday," Fr. Carey said. "I had this idea -- 'We're going to do this to develop community in the hall.'"

It's clearly caught on. "We might have 150-200 people come by on Tuesdays," said Father, who specializes in sugar cookies with sprinkles and chocolate chip cookies with an Oreo inside. "Building community. That's what it's all about."

GESU ALUMNA TAPPED AS NOTRE DAME PROVOST

One of Gesu's own, Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, is serving as the new provost at the University of Notre Dame, making the 1977 graduate the institution's second-ranking officer. Elected by the Board of Trustees, Miranda exercises overall responsibility for academics at the direction of the president. Formerly Rice University provost from 2015-19, she began her tenure July 1, 2020.

Miranda has accomplished much since her Gesu days on Warrington where she grew up as the youngest child of Constancio and Joan Miranda with three older brothers: Steven, Christopher and Kenneth. Miranda is also a professor of applied and computational mathematics and statistics at Notre Dame. Well-known for her research in the field of children's health, Miranda served as dean of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment from 2012-2015. She graduated from Duke University and earned her master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard University.

Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, Gesu grad and provost of Notre Dame

"As the first American-born member of an immigrant family, I have benefited tremendously from the transformative power of education," said Miranda.

A favorite teacher at Gesu was Mrs. Leidlein. "Mrs. Leidlein was my algebra teacher. She was an excellent mathematics teacher, but even more importantly, made a point of connecting with her students in personal and important ways," Miranda said. "She made me feel that I was a child of God -- that all of us were children of God. That gave me a deep sense of being both supported and loved."

Another grade-school highlight took place outside the classroom with renowned Motown recording star and Gesu parent Gladys Knight. "One of my favorite memories is the talent show that Mama Knight organized -- a wonderful display of the varied talents of Gesu students that celebrated cultural differences and at the same time, found common cause in the way that everyone supported each other -- every practice and the performance itself were joyful," said Miranda, who attended high school at Birmingham Marian.

"I'm grateful on a daily basis for the opportunity that Notre Dame made available to my father, and consequently to my entire family, when he was invited to undertake graduate studies at the university many years ago," Miranda said. "I am both deeply honored and excited to serve the Notre Dame community."

Miranda and her husband Chris Geron are the parents of three children. She succeeds longtime Notre Dame Provost Tom Burish.

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