

## *Board Member Steve Hammersmith Leads by Example*

Our St. Hilary Parish Foundation has been blessed with many dedicated board members who oversee the operations of the foundation. Steve Hammersmith has been one of those blessings for the past three years.

Hammersmith has been a parishioner at St. Hilary since 1985. He and his wife Cathy, one of our dedicated school nurses, have three children. Two graduated from St. Hilary School and Hoban High School and are now in college. Their youngest child is in the sixth grade at St. Hilary School.

As an attorney and partner at Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, Hammersmith is a very busy guy, but he still finds the time to serve as Chairman of the Hoban Trust Fund Board, a member of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Board (Akron-Canton Branch Chairman), a member of the St. Hilary Finance Council, and a Little League baseball coach.

When Fred Lombardi and the foundation board were looking for new members Hammersmith was willing to give his expertise. He serves as a board member and secretary.

Asked why the Foundation is so important to St. Hilary Parish, Hammersmith says, "The

Foundation provides supplemental funding for parish needs that could not be funded from the offertory. The Foundation has provided substantial support for church and school capital projects that would have never been possible without Foundation support. The Foundation also provides parishioners the opportunity to support specific capital projects and parish programs that may be of special interest to them."

Hammersmith believes that as a parish we need to establish a substantial endowment for the school to help defray the increasing costs. He has witnessed how the local Catholic high schools have realized this need for years and how many would not exist without their endowments. He sees that there is a limit to how much support can be generated from the offertory collection, and knows a school endowment is the best way to ensure the continuing support necessary to keep Catholic education both high-quality and affordable.

Hammersmith reflected "Many of us benefited from Catholic primary education that was virtually free to families because of the sacrifices of the religious who taught in the schools. An endowment program is a good way to repay that kindness and help fulfill our responsibility to teach the Catholic faith."



Steve Hammersmith

"We as a parish should remember that the Foundation's sole mission is to support the parish and help fund parish projects and initiatives," notes Hammersmith. "All parishioners have a duty to support the operation of our Parish, and this is done primarily through the offertory collection. Gifts to the Foundation are special donations to the Parish that should not replace the ongoing support made through the Offertory collection."

It is the people that have made the community of St. Hilary a parish of Faith in Action. As long as we have people like Steve Hammersmith who continue to exercise their Faith in Action, the future of our parish is bright.

### DID YOU KNOW:

*St. Hilary School graduates from the Class of 1979 have now established an "Alumni Fund" as part of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation. You can donate to the alumni fund if you're a St. Hilary School graduate or in honor of a St. Hilary grad?*

*A donor to the Foundation paid for the new carillon for our church?*

*The St. Hilary Parish Foundation was established in 1976 by founding pastor, Fr. Edward Horning. Initial fund-raising for the Foundation netted \$400,000?*

*All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible?*

*You can make donations to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation to honor someone or to mark a special occasion or as a memorial tribute?*

*The St. Hilary Parish Foundation News is a publication of the Foundation and is underwritten by a grant from The Lehner Family Foundation?*

*The purpose of the Foundation is to help secure the long-term strength and stability of our Parish?*





Fr. Steve Brunovsky

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

### *Fr. Steve Brunovsky sees the future in our present*

In March, St. Hilary Parish welcomed Fr. Steven Brunovsky as our new pastor. While new to our parish, Fr. Steve is not new to the concepts and benefits of supporting a parish foundation.

"To have a parish Foundation is a rarity, we at St. Hilary are fortunate to have our Foundation as a part of our story," Fr. Steve said.

"The fact is the longevity of our Foundation is cutting-edge in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is one of the oldest foundations in the diocese," continued Fr. Steve.

While many parishes are in the beginning stages of establishing a parish foundation, St. Hilary Parish Foundation is thriving, growing, and giving but the challenge to continue this cycle is in front of us. As costs increase, the need to rely on funding from the Foundation is greater. A healthy endow-

ment fund will secure the future of our school and church.

Fr. Steve shared his experience from his first assignment at St. Paul's parish in Firestone Park, "The parish relied on income from their bingo operations, but it became increasingly unprofitable and eventually failed. They worked hard to build a parish endowment fund to replace the lost bingo income. Within 10 years they raised one million dollars. The endowment has allowed the parish to remain viable."

The St. Hilary Foundation should be the centerpiece of the future. There are many opportunities to support the Foundation whether it is at the time of death of a loved one, for a holiday gift, commemorating special occasions such as receiving sacraments or graduations, or a variety of other events. No gift is too small. 50 years from now we will look back and recognize the vision we had and the legacy we developed.

### *The Boys of '79*

Ed Buehrle, Paul Horning and Pete Reagan probably gave the teachers at St. Hilary School more than they asked for when they were grade school students in the '70's. Now as St. Hilary alumni they are giving again through the St. Hilary School Class of 1979 Alumni Fund.

All three men looked back and realized some of their best school memories came from those days at St. Hilary. "Over the years, I found from college, high school and grade school, the relationships I was tending were the ones from St. Hilary," Horning said.

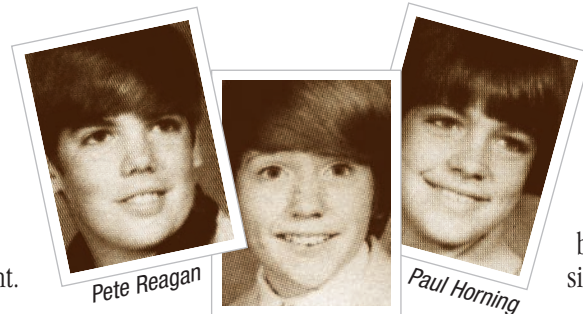
Discussion of a class get-together came up about three years ago from a conversation on the sidelines at a baseball game. Although it was not an official reunion year, the group came together to celebrate their history and continued friendships. Recruiting Molly (Kramer) Scantling and Nicole (Peter) Redle, also classmates, they held a night out for about 40 fellow alumni.

After that fun evening, the classmates decided it was time to support their school. "The timing was right. Now it was our

turn to help out the school. After 20 years it would be a good idea to generate alumni support," Buehrle explained. Again with the help of their classmates, the core group sent out letters to encourage the Class of '79 to commit to a donation to the St. Hilary Foundation.

"Those times, especially sixth, seventh and eighth grade were special. We wanted to recreate that experience for as many students as possible," Reagan said.

Buehrle, Horning and Reagan are actively involved in the parish with multiple children in the school. The Buehrle family has three sons at St. Hilary, the Hornings have two St. Hilary graduates and four students currently at St. Hilary. The Reagans have



Pete Reagan

Ed Buehrle

Paul Horning

three students at St. Hilary. All three families have children at home soon to follow in their brothers' and sisters' footsteps.

The gifts these alums received from St. Hilary are reflected in their friendships and generous natures. It is not surprising that they are the first class to establish an alumni fund with St. Hilary Parish Foundation. They encourage all St. Hilary alumni to use this 50th anniversary year as a catalyst to come together. An alumni social event is in the planning stages and is tentatively scheduled for February. A representative from each class is needed to help get word out. Anyone willing to be a class representative or willing to help with the alumni event should email Diane Sarkis at: [dgsarkis@neo.rr.com](mailto:dgsarkis@neo.rr.com).

The Class of '79 challenges you to put your alumni "Faith in Action."



Diane Sarkis

#### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

### *Have you ever heard the expression "Give 'til it hurts"?*

ated with pleasure. The team, made up of economists and psychologists at the University of Oregon, reported that a "warm glow" occurs when people make voluntary donations that increase the public good. The Oregon researchers reported their findings in the June 2007 issue of Science magazine. Their study sought to determine how the brain directs the way people handle money.

Whatever the personal consequences, I know that as people direct money to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, the Foundation accomplishes a great deal. In recent years, the Foundation has been able to meet extraordinary needs of St. Hilary Parish and School — needs that might otherwise have been unfilled.

An anonymous donor, for example, paid for the cushions in the church pews and helped finance refurbishing the Mary and Joseph statues, among other things.

Donors, whose brains may experience a "warm glow" from giving, have helped strengthen the Foundation. In turn the Foundation has helped strengthen and maintain a vibrant parish and an excellent school.

The Foundation provided a new roof for the Spiritual Center, new tables for the Gathering Area and sidewalk repairs outside the church.

Foundation resources also paid for a new sound system in Horning Hall, a mobile computer lab, air conditioning in the technology lab, plus renovations to school bathrooms. The Foundation also offers scholarships and tuition assistance so that young parishioners can experience a faith-based elementary education.

The Foundation is growing thanks to altruistic givers. Current assets total nearly \$2 million. In 2006, \$52,305 was disbursed from the endowment and designated funds. In 2007, \$33,933 from the Unrestricted Endowment Fund and \$71,391 from designated funds went to church and school projects. Contributions from donors total just under \$196,000 from Nov. 1, 2006 through Nov. 1, 2007.

One of the authors of the University of Oregon neuroeconomics study, William T. Harbaugh, is an economics professor. He explained the "warm glow" response in a story in the Chicago Tribune this past June. "People feel good knowing that they're a charitable giver."

If you need a reason to consider a gift to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, consider that it won't hurt a bit. Your donation will not only do good, it will feel good.

And we'll all benefit from your generosity!

### *How the St. Hilary Foundation Works*

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation includes the Unrestricted Endowment Fund, St. Hilary School Endowment Fund, 10 family named funds and 15 designated funds.

The Foundation seeks and accepts donations in any amount at any time of year. Foundation programs support only St. Hilary Church, St. Hilary School and St. Hilary Parish Outreach.

If a contribution is designated for a specific purpose, the gift is added to that fund. Undesignated donations are added to the Unrestricted Endowment Fund. The endowment funds are permanent; that is, the original contribution is added to the permanent fund and only interest on the funds is spent.

A board of trustees, made up of parish volunteers and including Fr. Steve Brunovsky, oversees the Foundation endowment, investments and spending.





# Foundation Models ‘Faith in Action’

*Faith in Action. Just three words to define our 50 years as a Parish.*

Our theme as a Foundation is also represented in those three words. Your generosity and active giving provide gifts that continue to cultivate and grow our Faith in Action.

As our Parish and our School enrollment grow, additions of staff, space, equipment and technology are necessary. The St. Hilary Parish Foundation has been a key component of growth on all of these fronts. The days of free or easily affordable Catholic education are fond memories of days long gone. Parents must make difficult choices when deciding the educational goals for their children. One of the founding goals of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation was to provide funds to keep St. Hilary School competitive in the search for quality educators. Our excellent staff makes financial sacrifices to teach at a Catholic school. Their Faith in Action is reflected every day in our exceptional students. St. Hilary School graduates are not only academically ready for high school and strong in their faith, but they are a reflection of Christ in their actions.

**“...the wonderfully supportive families at St. Hilary, the passion for teaching that emanates from my co-workers, and the positive daily feedback from my students have left me feeling privileged to work in such a place as St. Hilary School.”**

Our teachers’ salaries directly affect the cost of tuition. Local school districts actively recruit teachers from Catholic schools because they know the value of these educators. St. Hilary teachers CHOOSE to teach at significantly less than what they could make elsewhere because they believe in Faith in Action. Mrs. Judy Piekarski, kindergarten teacher at St. Hilary School since 1986, recently reflected, “After com-



**“I truly love my job.”**  
— Mrs. Judy Piekarski,  
Kindergarten Teacher

pleting my Master’s degree, I always planned to return to the public school system where I began my teaching career. However, the wonderfully supportive families at St. Hilary, the passion for teaching that emanates from my co-workers, and the positive daily feedback from my students have left me feeling privileged to work in such a place as St. Hilary School. I truly love my job.”

As Mrs. Piekarski shared, the community of St. Hilary is what makes our school special. The St. Hilary Foundation offers us all the



opportunity to support our staff through our St. Hilary Parents’ Teacher Salary Fund. The fund was able to subsidize the salary pool for the 2007-2008 school year and help provide a small increase to our teachers’ salaries.

The St. Hilary Parents’ Teacher Salary Fund is just one way the Foundation has an impact on tuition costs. A variety of scholarship opportunities is available to students at St. Hilary School. Matt Reinke, a St. Hilary 8th grade student was awarded the Kevin Thomas Neff scholarship for the 2007-2008 school year. This \$500 scholarship is awarded to one St. Hilary student who exemplifies the principles of “Strength and Honor,” the words that Kevin Neff chose by which to live. At the age of 16, Kevin’s journey on earth was cut short. The memorial scholarship that bears his name is funded through generous donations and the proceeds of the Kevin Thomas Neff Memorial Volleyball Tournament.

Other students benefiting from the Foundation scholarship funds are Jenna



Decker, Michael Strayer and Anna Straus. These 2007 graduates of St. Hilary School were awarded Sandra Lee Carlson Scholarships to assist with tuition to a Catholic high school.

In addition to these scholarship programs, families with more than three children attending St. Hilary School are eligible for the Multiple Child Tuition Assistance grant. The grant is directly applied to tuition and was made possible through donations to this fund.

Technology is arguably one of the most difficult needs to fund through a school budget but is one of the most necessary items

schools need to prepare students to be successful in the future. The St. Hilary Foundation has been active in providing new, state of the art technology to the school with the addition of the large screen in Horning Hall and smartboards in several of our classrooms. St. Hilary Foundation has historically been of great assistance by funding computers in the media center, the classrooms and the wireless laptop lab.

The need to upgrade the HVAC in our school media center became apparent. With over 30 computers operating in one space adjacent to our library maintaining an acceptable temperature was not only beneficial to the staff and students using the media center but crucial to protect our technology investment. “The air conditioning has been a huge lifesaver in the computer lab. The uncomfortable temperatures made learning difficult for our students and put additional stress on our hardware,” explained Miss Casey McCluskey, computer teacher. The Foundation funded this improvement that was completed and ready for the start of the 2007-2008 school year.

Our Faith in Action is our gift. As the motto suggests it is not just the story of our past or the status of our present, but it is our continued journey as a parish to live the gospel.





Benefactors

This list of benefactors reflects gifts received from November 1, 2006 through November 1, 2007

UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND

Ed and June Carter  
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Every effort has been made to accurately record our list of donors. We truly apologize for any omission.

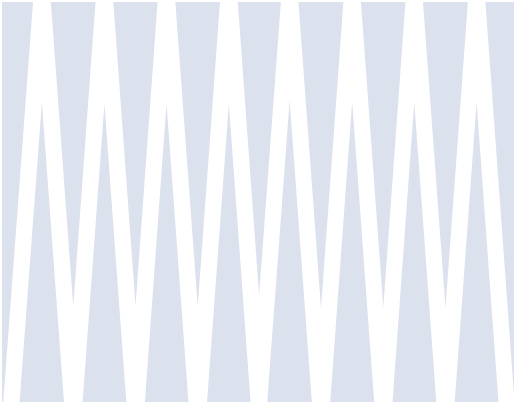
2007 Foundation Distributions

Church Technology	\$ 908
Community Outreach	5,273
Designated Fund Distribution	19,233
Horning Hall Screen	5,285
Media Center and Computer Lab A/C	33,933
Musical Theatre	925
Smart Boards	5,887
Scholarship Distributions	16,380
Teacher Salaries	17,500
Total Distributions	\$105,324

How to donate to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation

Donations of any kind and in any amount can be made to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation in care of the Development Office, 2150 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44398-3301. For information on giving to the Foundation, contact Development Director Diane Sarkis at 330-608-4787 or 330-867-1055, ext. 218.

You can make contributions by naming the St. Hilary Parish Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy or as a memorial to a loved one. You can also donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, cash and checks. Consult your financial adviser to determine the most advantageous means of donation for you, your family and for the Foundation.



*Give something  
unique.*

*Make a tribute gift  
this Christmas.*

Do you have someone on your Christmas list who has everything, needs nothing, and is impossible to buy for? Why not make a tribute gift to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation in that person's name?

It's the time to celebrate our Lord's birth; yet some of us spend so much time looking for the perfect gift that we have little time for reflection and celebration of the "holy" season.

You can make your life a little simpler, avoid parking, wrapping and (ugh!) returning presents by making a contribution to the Foundation. Gifts of any amount are welcome

and can be made to mark special occasions, as tributes or as memorials. In fact, one donation can be made in honor of several people.

This kind of gift will please any recipient and it has a lasting effect. The Foundation will use your contribution to help St. Hilary Parish and School.

So, simplify your shopping and help strengthen the Foundation by calling Diane Sarkis at 330-608-4787 or 330-867-1055, ext. 218 to make a Christmas gift this season. She'll take care of the details and you can relax.

*The mission of  
the St. Hilary Parish Foundation  
is to ensure a vibrant parish life  
and the highest standards  
of excellence in Catholic education  
by raising, safeguarding, and  
granting funds that support  
the operating and capital needs  
of St. Hilary Church and School.*

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**St. Hilary Parish**  
FOUNDATION

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