

SUMMER
2006

Volume 3
Number 1

Did You Know...

- The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is 30 years old.
- Fr. Horning and the original contributors established the Foundation with \$400,000 in seed money or pledges. Today, the Foundation's endowment funds total more than \$1.7 million.
- In 1983, the Foundation made its first gift to the parish. Just over \$30,000 was spent to replace and repair the church roof and the parking lot.
- The *St. Hilary Parish Foundation News* is a twice-yearly publication of the Foundation, not the parish itself. No parish funds, no offertory funds and no school funds are used to produce or mail this newsletter.
- A devoted, volunteer board of trustees oversees the foundation endowments, investments and spending. Six parishioners and the pastor sit on the board of trustees.



ST. HILARY PARISH

Foundation NEWS

Foundation Marks 30 Years

Celebrating Success, Mourning Loss, Looking Ahead

More than 30 years ago, Fr. Edward Horning, founding pastor of St. Hilary Parish, had a vision. "Fr. Horning had great foresight. He found a way to set money aside, recognizing the future needs of the church and school,"

according to Ed Carter, St. Hilary Parish Foundation President. Sparked by a need to meet the future financial requirements of a growing parish community without tapping into offertory collections, the St. Hilary Parish Foundation was founded in 1976.

Carter, current Foundation Board Member Fred Lombardi, and the late Bill Richards worked together to set up the fledgling entity. Carter recalls Bishop Pilla being so impressed by the manner in which the Foundation was established that he asked Carter and his co-founders to meet with leaders at other parishes in the Cleveland Diocese. The hope was that the Foundation could serve as a model for the establishment of other parish foundations.

Today, eight individuals, including Fr. Yahner, comprise the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Carter notes that the Foundation is headed by a bright group of people who keep a watchful eye on the Foundation's investments.

Over the years, the Foundation has made numerous grants to assist with church and school needs. Notable, according to Carter, were the \$250,000 given as a catalyst for construction of the spiritual center

30th
ANNIVERSARY

under Fr. Koegel, the \$450,000 given to jump-start the parish capital campaign under Fr. Yahner, and an additional \$500,000 given to match funds raised by the parish under Fr. Yahner.

From a meager beginning, Foundation funds have grown to their current value of over \$1.7 million. Carter says the goal of the Foundation is to increase funds to about \$3 million, which will allow the Foundation to "take care of St. Hilary into the distant future." He stressed the importance of parishioners recognizing their blessings and supporting the Foundation. "We all need to be thinking about St. Hilary 10 to 20 years from now. We need to look toward maintaining a vibrant church and school. If St. Hilary has been good to you, give back," he says.

continued on page 5

Director's Message

Board of Trustees

Edward F. Carter
President

Frederick M. Lombardi
Vice President

Stephen M. Hammersmith
Secretary

Stephen L. Strayer
Treasurer

Kathryn W. Dindo

Matthew A. Shannon

Rev. Gordon A. Yahner
Pastor

Diane G. Sarkis
Development Director



Diane Sarkis
Development Director

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord; the goodness of the Lord." Sometimes we hear that responsorial psalm at Mass and sing it by rote. But thinking about those words makes me think about the ways our Lord has been good to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

For 30 years this Foundation has served our church and school, and in that time the Foundation has grown strong and successful. That achievement is a blessing.

From Fr. Horning's straightforward concept of a Foundation to supplement the needs of a growing parish, the Foundation has grown to 20 different funds. The Foundation was created with some of Fr. Horning's own money and initial contributions or pledges totaling \$400,000. Now the funds total more than \$1.7 million.

Foundation money is separate from the offertory collection and the parish budget. The Foundation does not receive funding from tuition or the

school Parents' Association or other parish ministries. All Foundation funds come from donors, benefactors and interest on investment of the capital.

Early on, the Foundation trustees permitted only a percentage of the interest on the Unrestricted Endowment Fund to be spent, investing the principal for long-term growth. But when the Fund reached \$1 million, the trustees were willing and able to use the entire interest income to help the church and the school.

The Foundation considers many requests each year from the church and the school. This past year, the Foundation was able to distribute \$42,000, and trustees were pleased to use it to improve and upgrade the acoustics in Horning Hall and to repair the school roof. In addition, \$7,100 was distributed from designated funds such as the Kevin Thomas Neff Scholarship Fund, Multi-Child Tuition Assistance Fund and Sandy Carlson Scholarship Fund, for scholarships and tuition assistance for qualifying St. Hilary students. In so many ways, the Lord has been good to the Foundation and the Foundation has been good to, and for, the Parish.

As the Foundation celebrates 30 years of service to St. Hilary Church and School, it would be easy to nod approval and think about other things. Instead, I prefer to see and honor all the ways the Foundation has been enriched by the "goodness of the Lord."

During this 30th Anniversary year, have you considered an anniversary donation to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation?

Consider this:

- If 30 people give \$30 each, \$900 will be added to the Foundation funds.
- If 30 people give \$100 each, \$3,000 will be added to the Foundation funds.
- If 30 people give \$300 each, \$9,000 will be added to the Foundation funds.
- No gift is too small.

Matthew Schwenning Receives Neff Memorial Scholarship, Carries on Legacy

When 16-year-old Kevin Neff died of an inoperable brain tumor in 2003, Fr. Jim King issued a challenge to those attending Kevin's funeral. "What are you going to do about Kevin's death? What are you going to do about his unfinished masterpiece? ... Can you build on his courage, his faith, his unrealized dreams?"

Kevin, a 2000 St. Hilary School graduate, was a junior at Walsh Jesuit High School at the time of his death. Today, his legacy lives on in Matthew Schwenning, this year's recipient of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation scholarship named in Kevin's honor. Matthew, the son of Mark and Jean Schwenning of Richfield, will be an eighth grade student at St. Hilary School in the fall. The \$500 award will be applied to Matthew's tuition.

The Kevin Thomas Neff Memorial Scholarship was established to recognize one St. Hilary student each year who exemplifies the characteristics Kevin demonstrated during his short life. The student selected for the award must meet certain academic, spiritual and social criteria. In awarding the scholarship, St. Hilary School Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent noted many parallels between the lives of Matthew and Kevin.

Dr. Nugent presented the scholarship at the school's May Crowning Mass on May 17. Kevin's mother, Peggy Neff, said her family requested that the scholarship be awarded at the May Crowning Mass each year, in tribute to Kevin's deep devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Dr. Nugent stated that it is "very important that the good Kevin did on earth be continued, and that he continue to touch lives." Kevin's father, Mike Neff, estimates that the lives Kevin touched number in the tens of thousands. By all accounts, Matthew Schwenning was this year's obvious choice to continue Kevin's good work.

Matthew is an honor roll student who recently performed in the school musical, *Oklahoma!*, and loves math and computers. His mother, Jean Schwenning, noted that Matthew has worked very hard to earn and retain membership in his advanced math class. His father, Mark Schwenning, added that his son has a logical mind and a knack for troubleshooting. "He's the one the teachers always call on when they need help with the computers at school," Mr. Schwenning said.

Matthew plans to attend high school at either St. Vincent-St. Mary or Walsh Jesuit. He is not yet leaning toward any particular college, but intends to pursue a career in network programming.

Currently a Star Boy Scout, Matthew will earn his Life Scout rank this summer. That will put him only one rank away from becoming an Eagle Scout. Mrs. Schwenning characterizes her son as kind and helpful and says he is surrounded by many friends. Mr. Schwenning said, "Matthew thinks way beyond what you'd expect him to be thinking. He wants to do things above and beyond what most people would do."



From left, St. Hilary School Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent presents the 2006 Kevin Thomas Neff Memorial Scholarship award to St. Hilary student Matthew Schwenning. At right are Matthew's parents, Jean and Mark Schwenning.

Mrs. Schwenning described the presentation of the scholarship award to Matthew as a "bittersweet moment." She said her family is honored that Matthew was chosen to carry on Kevin's legacy.

Matthew's name will join that of last year's recipient, Nancy Joyce, on a plaque that hangs in the school foyer.

continued on page 8

Horning Hall Acoustic Treatment Improves Sound Quality

Teaching physical education at St. Hilary School used to be a complicated affair for Tami Stamets. "I would have to literally stop whatever activity I was doing with the students, and pull them all close to me in the center of the floor so they could hear my instructions," said Mrs. Stamets, who teaches physical education to roughly 700 St. Hilary students. "It was extremely frustrating." Poor acoustics in the Horning Hall gymnasium caused an echo that made it difficult for students to hear clearly. Mrs. Stamets daily strained her voice trying to communicate verbal cues to her students. "It really limited what I could teach," she said.

With the help of St. Hilary School parent Mark Schwenning and the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, the gym now boasts acoustic treatment that has vastly improved sound quality. Mr. Schwenning, a telecommunications engineer who is passionate about physics and acoustics, oversaw the project, of which just over \$29,000 was underwritten by the Foundation.

Mr. Schwenning described the problem behind the poor sound quality as a high "reverb time." "The problem wasn't with volume," said Mr. Schwenning. "It was a problem of sound and speech intelligibility. You couldn't understand what was being said. You would hear the same sound again and again."

Mr. Schwenning collaborated with two acoustical consultants to conduct tests in the gym and determine how to best treat the acoustic problem. M.B.I., a Cleveland company that specializes in acoustic treatment, installed special panels on the walls and in the ceiling of the gym. The project was completed over four days at the end of December, 2005, while the school was closed for Christmas break.

Four-foot-square, two-inch-thick fiberglass panels were covered with special cloth and applied to the walls. Four-inch thick fiberglass panels measuring four feet by 20 feet, and covered with rip-stop nylon, were installed in the ceiling. According to

Mr. Schwenning, the ceiling panels "do most of the work." The "reverb time" in the gym has been reduced to an acceptable level, and sound quality improves further when people are in the room.

The formerly poor acoustic conditions in the gym also caused problems during school assemblies and performances. LuAnne Toth, St. Hilary School music teacher and choir director, and Marilyn Miller, St. Hilary School librarian and drama club adviser, produce the school's spring musical performances each year. Mrs. Toth also directs other

musical performances in the gym during the school year. They commented that the garbled sound made it difficult for student performers to be heard clearly, especially in the back of the gym. The two recently oversaw the school production of *Oklahoma!*, and found that there is a noticeable improvement in sound quality, thanks to the new acoustic treatment.

Mrs. Stamets said the treatment has made a world of difference both in what she can teach and in students' behavior, because they can now clearly understand her instructions. "It is such an improvement," she said. "I am just so grateful, because it has made my job much more enjoyable, and the kids get more out of my classes now."

"It is such an improvement. I am just so grateful, because it has made my job much more enjoyable, and the kids get more out of my classes now."

Mrs. Tami Stamets

St. Hilary Parish
FOUNDATION

Two St. Hilary Graduates Receive Carlson Scholarships

"See the good in everyone you meet, be a compassionate friend, and always take time to share laughter."



St. Hilary School Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent (center) with Sandra Carlson Memorial Scholarship recipients Sara Felden (left) and Jennifer Semans (right).

A simple philosophy, these were the words by which former St. Hilary faculty member Sandy Carlson lived. Miss Carlson died in 2004, but her legacy continues via a scholarship bearing her name. The Sandra Lee Carlson Scholarship Fund is part of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation family of funds.

Miss Carlson wanted to award scholarships to graduating St. Hilary eighth graders to assist with their Catholic high school tuition. Donations the Foundation received following her death were earmarked for the Carlson Scholarship Fund, from which the first scholarships were awarded last spring.

To qualify for a Carlson scholarship, an applicant must be a St. Hilary eighth grader accepted at a Catholic high school in the Cleveland diocese. Applicants must have an A or B average in all major academic areas, and must exhibit good conduct, leadership skills, and Catholic values and morals. They must also answer in writing three questions: What is your simple philosophy? How can this impact

your life and the lives of others you meet? How has your Catholic education helped you to develop this simple philosophy?

This year, St. Hilary School Principal Dr. Patricia Nugent presented Carlson scholarships to two St. Hilary graduates. The \$500 scholarships were announced at the eighth grade awards luncheon held on May 31.

The recipients of this year's Carlson scholarships are Sara Felden and Jennifer Semans. Sara is the daughter of Rob and Joanne Felden. Jennifer is the daughter of Tom and

JoAnn Semans. Both girls will attend Archbishop Hoban High School in the fall, and their awards will be applied to their tuition.

30 Years (continued)

Carter also spoke of the recent loss of founding member Bill Richards, who he described as "a topnotch businessman and a person with a wonderful Catholic attitude." Richards had filled various roles on the Foundation, including heading the finance committee, overseeing promotional activities and, most recently, serving as Vice President. "He was a great friend," Carter said, "and his loss is a real loss to the Foundation." Carter said the Board of Trustees has voted not to fill Richards' seat at this time.

Foundation Distributions

| | | |
|------|--|--------------------|
| 1983 | Replacement/Repair of Gym Roof and Parking Lot | \$ 30,000 |
| 1985 | Church Roof Repairs | \$ 43,000 |
| 1987 | School Roof Maintenance | \$ 17,500 |
| 1989 | Spiritual Center Building | \$ 200,000 |
| 1992 | Computers for School | \$ 33,563 |
| 1993 | Spiritual Center Elevator | \$ 20,500 |
| 1994 | Rectory Renovation | \$ 40,000 |
| 1994 | Church Roof Repair | \$ 17,400 |
| 1997 | Capital Campaign – School & Church | \$ 450,000 |
| 1999 | Capital Campaign – Matching Grant – Gym | \$ 500,000 |
| 2003 | Mobile Laptop Computers – School | \$ 25,153 |
| 2004 | Community Outreach | \$ 300 |
| 2004 | Spiritual Center Roof Repair | \$ 40,200 |
| 2005 | Scholarships/Tuition Assistance | \$ 7,100 |
| 2005 | Acoustical Installation – Gym | \$ 29,208 |
| 2005 | School Roof Repair | \$ 11,792 |
| | | \$1,465,716 |

Donors

This list of benefactors reflects gifts received from November 1, 2005 – June 5, 2006.

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

Unrestricted Endowment Fund

Elizabeth Buell
Mary Buell
Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Carter
Kathryn & Thomas Dindo
John and Julie Randall
William W. Lowery

In Honor of Martha Batich's 100th Birthday

Dr. Zouhair & Carol Yassine

In Honor of Kathryn Dindo

Howland Memorial Fund

In Memory of Mildred Berchette

Leslie & Bill Gatie
Charles & Esther Roope

In Memory of John Fragale

Francis & Rachel Harbold

In Memory of Donald Lee Knight, Sr.

Ronald Yaist

In Memory of Charles Lamb

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bologna

In Memory of Michael V. Markel

Norma A. Markel

In Memory of Anna Mae Price

Daniel & Ginger Marchetta

In Memory of William C. Richards

Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Carter
Joan & Jim Johnson
Joan & John D. Kelley
Louis A. & Mary Jean Maglione
Mr. & Mrs. George Mamas
Barbara O'Neil
Florence Phillips
George W. Rooney, Sr.

In Memory of George W. Rooney

Stephen B. Thompson

In Memory of Jack Wise

Jim & Marie Henry

St. Hilary School Endowment Fund

Doug & Kelley Behrens
Eileen M. Dube
Steve & Cathy Hammersmith
Jeffrey & Sandra Kornick
John E. & Joan Kramer
James & Joel LaRose
Phillip & Abby Lewandowski
Rick & Sonya May
Gary & Linda Minorik
The Standard – Matching Grant
of Patrick Miller
Steve & Barb Strayer

In Memory of George Sarkis

Doug & Kelley Behrens
Walter & Teresa McGee

In Memory of Maureen Scanlon

John Scanlon

In Memory of Vicki Spoonster

Dr. Zouhair & Carol Yassine

In Memory of Burton Woldorf

Betty Jean Ross

St. Hilary Parents' Teacher Salary Fund

Anonymous
Terry & Teri Brennan
Karen & John Burke
Warren & Diane Husk
Kurt & Lisa Lutz
Chris & Karyn Martin
Joe & Diana McShannic
Bill & Marilyn Miller
George & Diane Sarkis
Drs. Thomas & JoAnn Semans
Vito & Debbie Sinopoli
Michael & Sharon Stock
Vince & Melissa Tersigni
David Wiedie & Beth
Hemmelgarn

In Memory of Deborah L. Ciraldo

Al Ciraldo

In Memory of George Sarkis

David & Mary Bacha
Fred & Diane Chopko
Jill & Geoff Eicher
Jeff & Lisa Hale
Lisa & Kurt Lutz
Jim & Mary Lyons
Debbie & Vito Sinopoli

In Memory of Frank Sinopoli

Dan Marchetta

St. Hilary School Technology Fund

Anthony & Leila Vespoli

St. Hilary School Tuition Assistance/Scholarship Fund

Anthony & Carol Tricomi
Grant & Kathy Yoakum Family

In Memory of Mike & Julia Kelley

Michael Thomas Kelley

In Memory of William C. Richards

Rod & Beth Brewer

Kevin Thomas Neff Scholarship Fund

Anonymous
KTN Volleyball Tournament –
St. Hilary School
St. Hilary School 3rd Grade Class

In Memory of Vickie & Terry Spoonster

Rebecca Bracken Marley
& Robert Marley

St. Hilary School Musical Theatre/Arts Fund

City of Fairlawn
Cathy & Gary Horning

In Memory of Carol Horning Sherwood

Jill & Geoff Eicher
Jon & Peggy, Lara, Dan
& Diane Rokete
The Hale Family
Paul & Suzanne Horning

**St. Hilary School Alumni Fund
Class of 1979**

Ed Buehrle
Alex Guira
Paul & Suzanne Horning
Peter & Margaret Reagan

In Memory of Carol Horning Sherwood
Terri Schell

**Mary & Charles Booth
Community Outreach Fund**

Mary & Charles Booth
Jill & Geoff Eicher

**Mary Jean Carroll School
Endowment Fund**

Mary Jean Carroll
Walter & Teresa McGee

Salma & Sam Gibara Fund

Salma & Sam Gibara

Hamlin Family Fund

Earl & Melissa Hamlin

Kyle Family Fund

Dr. & Mrs. John Kyle

**St. Hilary Church
Endowment Fund**

Gordon & Annette Wenner

St. Hilary PSR Fund

Mark & Teresa Davey Family

Designated Fund

Doug & Kelley Behrens
Greg and Jean Foust
The Kuppusamy Family

**Contemporary Choir
Designated Fund**

In Honor of LuAnne Toth

Cheryle & Kenneth Dochat
Michael & Diane Fresh
Anna Hall
Dawn Hosick
Daniel & Ginger Marchetta

Marilyn & Bill Miller
Tim & Deborah Miller
John & Anne Santin
Diane Sarkis
James Schulte
Michael & Mary Beth Waickman
Tom & Diane Wolski

**St. Hilary Foundation
Development Fund**

The Lehner Family Foundation

**St. Hilary Parish
Foundation Newsletter**

Jan Leach
Lisa Lutz
Debbie Sinopoli

Many Ways to Support the Foundation

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation recognizes that many worthwhile charitable organizations are in need of your financial support. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we are especially grateful for the gifts we have received. Our continued success and growth, as well as our ability to support the needs of our parish, depend upon your generosity. Many opportunities for giving to the Foundation are available, such as:

- Gifts in memory of a loved one
- Gifts in tribute to a special person or honoring a special occasion
- Gifts to the Foundation's Unrestricted Fund
- Family named funds
- The St. Hilary Church Endowment Fund
- The St. Hilary PSR Fund
- The St. Hilary School Endowment Fund
- The St. Hilary School Technology Fund
- The St. Hilary School Tuition Assistance/Scholarship Fund
- The St. Hilary School Musical Theater/Arts Fund
- The St. Hilary School Multiple Child Tuition Assistance Fund
- The St. Hilary School Teachers' Salary Fund
- The St. Hilary School Alumni Fund

You may also make contributions by naming the St. Hilary Parish Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, trust or insurance policy. You can donate in the form of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, cash, and checks. Consult your financial adviser to determine the means of donation most advantageous to you, your family and the Foundation. Gifts of any kind and in any amount are appreciated. As you contemplate giving, please remember that the parish includes both the church and the school, and your support of the Foundation can be earmarked for a particular use by either entity, if you so choose.

To learn more about a particular fund or to make a contribution, please contact Development Director Diane Sarkis at 330-608-4787 or 330-867-1055, ext. 218.



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.

Neff Memorial Scholarship *(continued)*

The plaque features a photo of Kevin, and the inscription, "Strength and Honor." Kevin drew the motto from his Latin classes at Walsh, and based his life on it.

Following the awarding of the scholarship, the Neff family presented Matthew with a music box from Lourdes, France, where Kevin visited the renowned shrine before his death. Mrs. Neff said the music box plays *Ave Maria* and contains a rosary. She said the family also gave Matthew WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelets like the ones Kevin and his friends wore, and vinyl wristbands embossed with the phrase "Strength and Honor."

The Kevin Thomas Neff Memorial Scholarship was established in 2004 by Robert and Rebecca Marley. It has

grown to over \$14,000 through numerous donations. The fund is also supported by the annual Kevin Neff Memorial Volleyball Tournament, held at St. Hilary School under the direction of St. Hilary physical education teacher, Tami Stamets. This year's tournament was held May 22, and raised over \$1,000, according to Mrs. Stamets. About 175 students and adults participated. The Neff family operated a concession stand and played in the tournament, wearing T-shirts emblazoned with Kevin's motto, "Strength and Honor."

For more information about the Kevin Thomas Neff Memorial Scholarship or to make a donation, please contact Development Director Diane Sarkis at 330-608-4787 or 330-867-1055 ext. 218.

St. Hilary Parish
FOUNDATION

2750 West Market Street
Fairlawn, Ohio 44333

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Akron, OH
Permit No. 373