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ST. HILARY PARISH

Foundation NEWS

Did You Know...

- The St. Hilary Parish Foundation has given over \$1 million to the parish and the school for improvements ranging from building renovations to computers, and including contributions to the capital campaigns?
- All donations to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation are tax-deductible? The Foundation itself is tax-exempt.
- There are 11 different funds within the St. Hilary Parish Foundation? Five of these funds are held, or managed, at the Akron Community Foundation.
- You can set up a fund for a specific church or school need within the Foundation?
- 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 Foundation will mark its 30th anniversary next year? It was established in 1976 by Fr. Edward Horning.

Lombardi's Commitment to Foundation Still Strong After 30 Years



Fred Lombardi

In 1966, Fred Lombardi became a member of St. Hilary Parish before the church building was even completed. He was the chairman of the steering committee that formed the Parish Council, and he was the first president of Parish Council. He also served on and was chairman of the school board. It should come as no surprise that 10 years later, in 1976, Fr. Horning asked Lombardi to help form the St. Hilary Parish Foundation. What is surprising perhaps is that Lombardi, still a Foundation board member, is as active and passionate about the Foundation as he was nearly 30 years ago.

Lombardi says Fr. Horning saw great needs for the growing parish and he wanted to be able to meet those needs without short-changing the weekly collections. With seed money from Fr. Horning and generous contributions, more than \$400,000 was raised to start the Foundation. Lombardi, a lawyer, helped draw up a charter and write a code of regulations. Since then, he has attended dozens of meetings, met with Bishop Pilla about the Foundation on several occasions, considered numerous requests, and helped distribute Foundation grants for various church and school projects. Through it all, he has never lost his commitment, nor has he lost sight of the Foundation's original goals.

Lombardi says Fr. Horning's main concern was to ensure that the school could compete for lay teachers in terms of salaries. He knew that the number of nuns was declining and the school would need to attract lay

teachers to replace them. Lombardi says all the original organizers of the Foundation agreed that a Catholic education was important.

Today, Lombardi says the Foundation should strive to build up the endowment "so that the income can carry a good part of the increasing costs of the school." He says that while the Foundation has assisted both the parish and the school for many years, it's time to focus primarily on the school.

To do that, Lombardi says, the unrestricted fund will have to increase. This is the largest part of the Foundation's endowment; named funds make up the rest. Lombardi says the unrestricted fund, which is at \$1.5 million, must grow to \$3 million so that the income that is placed in investments can create a fund annually to address the needs of the school and the parish.

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Director's Message

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Diane Sarkis
Development Director

I'm always proud to tell people I work for the St. Hilary Parish Foundation because there's so much about the church, the school and the Foundation to be proud of.

There is the faith-filled community we are as a parish, including the outreach we offer and the service we accomplish through various church ministries. There is our nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School with its strong curriculum, dedicated staff and energetic parent volunteers. There is our strong and stable Foundation with its endowment funds and designated funds of more than \$1.6 million and its commitment to support the church and the school.

Many parishioners, especially newcomers, are surprised when they learn about the St. Hilary Parish Foundation. Even though the Foundation has been in existence nearly 30 years, its work until lately, has been "quiet." There have been donations to capital campaigns and money for church building repairs.

There have been purchases for the school, including computers and a mobile computer lab. There have been scholarships and tuition assistance.

The Foundation and Foundation board members make a huge impact on the overall success of the church and the school and reinforce the pride we can take in them.

I'd like all of you to be proud of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, too. Be proud that our assets have grown to \$1.64 million, including more than \$84,000 since just last year. Be proud that a portion of the Foundation money this year will pay for acoustical treatment in Horning Hall. Last year, Foundation money paid for a new roof for the Spiritual Center.

Be proud, but don't be content.

The Foundation's work has been important but it isn't finished. We still need your prayers and support. With your commitment, the unrestricted funds and the various named funds can support many current and future needs. And all of your contributions are used right here at St. Hilary.

The Foundation endowment has seen steady growth, and our named funds are increasing. Endowment money is invested carefully and the interest on the investment is distributed to parish projects each year. The more we have invested, the larger our interest income and the more we'll be able to give back.

Your prayers and contributions will help make the St. Hilary Parish a success. And that is something we can all be proud of!

“The Foundation and Foundation board members make a huge impact on the overall success of the church and the school and reinforce the pride we can take in them.”

Generous Support Helps Fund School Needs

St. Hilary School is proud of its reputation of excellence. Obviously, the school staff plays a huge role in building and maintaining that reputation. But Dr. Nugent, Principal of St. Hilary School, also attributes many of the school's successes to the generous support of the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

"We would not be a Blue Ribbon School without the dedicated efforts of so many parishioners and Foundation members," Dr. Nugent said, referring to the award bestowed upon the school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2000. St. Hilary was one of only 214 schools nationwide to receive the Blue Ribbon School award that year.

The Foundation assists the school by funding large projects that exceed the school budget and are outside the scope of what the St. Hilary Parents' Association is able to fund. Foundation funds are earmarked to assist the school with specific needs, such as fine arts,

technology, capital improvements, and teachers' salaries. Dr. Nugent noted that "by offering donors the ability to specify where their dollars will go, the Foundation has enhanced its credibility and encouraged donations."

Foundation funds have already helped to meet numerous school needs. Challenges the Foundation may be called upon for assistance in the future include renovation of school restrooms, acoustic enhancements in Horning Hall, replacement of windows, purchase of additional laptop computers, and a host of other capital improvements. Equally as important as funding for "bricks and mortar" expenses are the funds in the teachers' salaries account that will help to ensure that St. Hilary is able to retain quality staff members.

"In order to ensure that our Catholic school continues, we need the support of all the members of the parish and



Dr. Nugent
Principal

the Foundation. For Catholic schools to stay viable today, they have to plan long-range for financial stability," noted Dr. Nugent. At St. Hilary, part of this planning includes reliance on the Foundation to help meet the needs of the school. "As a parish, we have an interest in maintaining a quality school, and we are fortunate that the Foundation has made St. Hilary School a priority," Dr. Nugent said.



Bishop Amos recently spoke on the topic of Catholic education at a reception held to raise funds for the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

Pictured from left to right are Patrick Grace of the Cleveland Diocese Foundation, Bishop Amos, and Dan Marchetta, sharing a moment following the Bishop's presentation.

How Can I Donate to the Foundation?

Donations of any kind and in any amount can be made to:
St. Hilary Parish Foundation
2150 W. Market St.
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.

Foundation Eases Parish Growing Pains



Fr. Yahner
Pastor

“The more endowments we have for the future, the greater will be our ability to respond to the rising costs we encounter every day, especially those of Catholic education.”

“The St. Hilary Parish Foundation has been a huge help to the parish in achieving the status of the St. Hilary campus as it is today,” according to the Fr. Yahner. “Donations from the Foundation take pressure off of our annual parish budget,” Fr. Yahner said.

Fr. Yahner noted that the Foundation was especially helpful during the capital campaign of the church, contributing \$950,000 to a campaign package that totaled roughly \$6 million. Since that time, the Foundation has committed to give at least \$40,000 annually to fund capital improvements in the school.

“Because the parish and the school are essentially one fiscal unit, the stronger the parish is financially, the greater the level of support the parish can offer to the school,” Fr. Yahner said.

Fr. Yahner stated that a long-range goal of the parish is to better control

increases in school tuition. He noted that this is difficult, due to the economy and to the fact that the parish has spent nearly all of its resources on the expansion of parish and school facilities. The parish will look to the Foundation for help in underwriting this and other goals in years to come.

Instrumental in the Foundation’s ability to assist the parish are donations from parishioners and others. Fr. Yahner underscored the importance of continued financial support of the Foundation as it works to subsidize the needs of our parish.

“The more endowments we have for the future, the greater will be our ability to respond to the rising costs we encounter every day, especially those of Catholic education,” said Fr. Yahner. “By investing in our future, we will be in a very strong position.”

Alumni Fund Offers a Way to Give Back to St. Hilary School

As we grow older, we often reminisce about our childhood. Some of the fondest memories we have may be of our elementary school days: the friends we made, the teachers who guided us, and the school which was our second home for many years. For those fortunate enough to have graduated from St. Hilary School, there is now a way to give back to the community that played such a pivotal role in their youth.

A group of forward-thinking alumni from the St. Hilary class of 1979 has established the St. Hilary Alumni Fund through the St. Hilary Parish Foundation. Still in its fledgling stages, this fund has the potential to grow exponentially through the generosity of the numerous graduates who have passed through the doors of St. Hilary School in the almost 50 years since the school was founded.

To lend your support – financial, creative, or otherwise – to the growth of the St. Hilary Alumni Fund, please contact Diane Sarkis at 330-869-8731.

Several ideas are being considered to foster the growth of this fund. Among them are the development of a St. Hilary School alumni directory, newsletters and other communications targeted specifically at St. Hilary alumni, and possibly even an alumni reunion to celebrate the parish’s 50th anniversary in 2008.

As you go about your work today, think back to that moment when an elementary teacher made a difference in your life. Perhaps you wouldn’t be where you are today without him or her. The St. Hilary Alumni Fund is the perfect way to express your gratitude, in tribute to or in memory of your favorite teacher, whether from St. Hilary School or not.



Faust Cheers Parish Foundation on to Victory

Most of us know Gerry Faust as a legendary football coach – first at Cincinnati’s Moeller High School, then at the University of Notre Dame, and later at the University of Akron. These days, Faust has a different role. He is the biggest cheerleader for St. Hilary and the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

Since moving to Akron in 1985, Faust has been a member of the parish. He’s active in parish work including the evangelical committee, and he volunteers to help coach the school’s combined 7th-8th grade football team.

Lately, Faust is enthusiastic about the St. Hilary Parish Foundation because, he says, it does so much for parishioners and school parents.

The Foundation helps the parish meet its growing demands such as building repairs, emergency expenses and tuition assistance. “The people who founded it had great wisdom and great insight,” Faust says. “The parish wouldn’t be in such good shape without the Foundation.”

Like a good coach, Faust cites the Foundation’s achievements as examples of a winning outcome. He counts refurbishing the parish and setting aside money for school tuition as triumphs for the Foundation.

And like a good cheerleader, Faust wants to motivate others to help the Foundation.

“If they’ve got the money or the resources to help, and feel in their heart that this would help out a lot, I would ask (people) to really think about giving to the Foundation,” Faust says.

Faust says he learned about different ways of giving when he visited Lourdes, France, in 1989. He met a man while waiting for a Mass to begin. The man

said he had cancer and he was going to visit the spring in Lourdes the next day. Faust asked whether the man was seeking a miracle.

The man told Faust that he had lived his life and that if a miracle were to happen he wished it would happen to one of the sick children instead of to him.

Faust says he thought he was sitting next to a saint. “I know I can’t give up my life for someone else. I pondered what that man said for a long time. The Holy Spirit had that man there for a reason: to tell me there are many ways to give.”

Now, Faust says, he knows what to do. “Give what you can to help. If your talent is speaking, then speak. If you’re a painter, then paint. Give your talents to help. People who are blessed with money should give to the Foundation... If you have wealth, give some of that to the poor and to the parish to help others.”

Faust says he hopes the Foundation will be able to continue to help the school because Catholic education should be for everyone who wants it.

Faust is the product of dedicated Catholic parents and a Catholic education. He says his parents “didn’t have much money but they had great love of God.” And, Faust says, he has great appreciation for young people. “I fit in with those who are mischievous because I was mischievous myself as a kid.”

How does this once-mischievous kid-turned-coach hope to inspire givers? “The Foundation is like football,” Faust says. “You have a lot of wins and a lot of losses and you’ve got to try to keep winning.” Helping the Foundation is key to victory.



Gerry Faust

Thinking About Giving?

When you evaluate your legacy or giving plans, consider the following questions:

- How do I wish to be remembered?
- What kind of legacy do I want to leave my family?
- What values would I like to pass on to my children?
- What charitable causes do I support?
- Are there other interests I would like to support?
- Would I like the interests I support now to continue after I’m gone?
- Should I consider using a family charitable fund to impart my values and financial skills to my children and grandchildren?

(Used with permission of the Akron Community Foundation.)

Donors

This list of benefactors reflects gifts received from May 1 – November 1, 2005.

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

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Class of 1979

Paul Horning

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In-kind Gifts to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation

Excelsior Marking

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Debbie Sinopoli

Foundation Sunday Hospitality:

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Betsy Clark
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Jane, Claire & Sarah Hardman
Clark Hoisek
Darcy & Todd Houser
Maggie Jabor
Polly Kennedy
Barb Mesek
Jillian & David Pelland
Earlene Szeles

Foundation Opportunities for Giving

There are many worthwhile charitable organizations in need of your support. The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is truly thankful for the gifts that we have received. Your generosity is essential to our continued success and growth. There are many opportunities for giving within the Foundation such as:

- Gifts in memory of a loved one
- Gifts in honor of a special occasion or person
- Gifts to the Unrestricted Fund of the Foundation
- Family named funds
- St. Hilary School Endowment Fund
- St. Hilary School Technology Fund
- St. Hilary School Tuition Assistance/Scholarship Fund
- St. Hilary School Musical Theater/Arts Fund
- St. Hilary School Multiple Child Tuition Assistance Fund



Lombardi's Commitment to Foundation Still Strong After 30 Years *(continued)*

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.

"Right now, the income is not sufficient to enable us to make significant grants without diminishing the fund," he says.

People can be sure the St. Hilary Parish Foundation has good, qualified people running it, Lombardi says, and that 100 percent of the money stays at St. Hilary. "It's been reliable; it's grown. It's been devoted to the church and the school."

He explains that board members take their responsibilities seriously and consider the business issues of the parish and the school. Younger people with children at the school recently have come onto the board to add their perspective, he says.

Lombardi, a partner at Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs LLP, has several other volunteer commitments in addition to the St. Hilary Foundation, among them Summa Foundation. What keeps Lombardi so dedicated?

"I've always felt that giving back to the community is important," Lombardi says. "One of the most important communities in my life is the church. Part of the lawyer's life is to serve the client first and give back to the community. It's that kind of idealist thing that keeps me involved."

St. Hilary Parish
FOUNDATION

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