

St. Hilary Parish Foundation News

November 2004

Vol. 1, Number 2

Message from the President—Ed Carter

Did You Know...

- *Tax exempt does not necessarily mean that contributions are tax deductible. Tax exempt simply means the organization does not have to pay taxes. Tax deductible means the donor can deduct contributions to the organization on his or her federal income tax return.*
- *The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is both tax exempt and contributions are tax deductible. For information contact Diane Sarkis, development director, at 330-608-4787.*

"We stand ready to listen."

That's the message I want to send to every parishioner and parish organization about the St. Hilary Parish Foundation. We stand ready to listen to your needs and make recommendations or grants from the Foundation's funds to help with your projects. It's a simple message and a



Ed Carter
President—Foundation Board

significant promise. And it is in keeping with the original intent of the Foundation when it was launched nearly 30 years ago.

As president of the board of directors, I want to do

everything in my power to continue the vision of the Foundation's organizers. They took a little seed money and raised more than \$400,000 at the start. The goal was to look into the future so the growing parish and the then-new school would always be on a safe "foundation."

As with most foundation endowments, the money was invested and only the interest earned is used for grants. The St. Hilary Foundation made its first grant to the parish in 1983. At the time, \$30,000 was spent to replace and repair the gym roof and the parking lot. Much has been done for

the church and school since then. In 1985, for example, \$43,000 was spent to repair the church roof and in 1987, \$17,500 was spent for school roof repairs. In 1989, the Foundation granted \$200,000 to build the Spiritual Center. In 1992, the Foundation gave more than \$33,000 to the school for new computers. In 1993, \$20,500 was granted to install the elevator in the Spiritual Center and in 1994, \$40,000 was granted for renovations to the Rectory. In 1999 and 2000, the Foundation granted \$950,000 to the Parish for the school, church, and gymnasium additions. Last year more than \$25,000 was spent on the school's mobile computer lab and this year more than \$40,000 was granted for the Spiritual Center roof. Still, we know there are needs, and we stand ready to listen.

You can be sure the St. Hilary Parish Foundation board understands its responsibility to handle parishioners' money and report on how it's being spent. We want to take care of today's needs and prepare for the future. To me, personally, the Foundation is the perfect tax-free vehicle to ensure the viability of St. Hilary Church and School.

Everything new has costs and we stand ready to

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St. Hilary Parish
FOUNDATION

Director's Message—Diane Sarkis

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Director of Development

It's November already and for many, if not most, of us that means the start of a whirlwind season. From now until after the first of next year, we'll be consumed with errands and obligations, cooking and shopping, visiting and parties and a calendar that seems unrelenting.

Is there any time left for reflection about the purpose of the upcoming holidays? All that we are thankful for and all that we've been given? Or the birth of Christ and the joy He brings to our lives and our faith?

Before the whirlwind sweeps me up, I'm going to take some time for giving thanks. As director of the St. Hilary Foundation, my job is to help grow



Diane Sarkis
Development Director

and develop the Foundation's various funds and to secure the endowments. I work closely with the Foundation Board and others to explain and promote the Foundation and its many benefits to the School and the Church.

I couldn't fulfill my mission without the help and support of many other people. These include: Jan Leach, creative writer and the editor of our

newsletters; Lisa Lutz, the artistic designer for the newsletters, creator of the Foundation logo, and instrumental in the production of our brochure; Patti Satterfield, writing assistance; Dave Paternite, photography services; Linda Ulinski, attorney for our first "Write A Will Week"; the Foundation Board, Dr. Nugent, Fr. Yahner, the parish staff, and especially our donors. My sincere thanks to all of you for giving of your time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of St. Hilary Church and School.

As for giving, we've been bombarded with gift suggestions since the leaves started to turn. Whatever happened to enjoying the fall holidays one at a time? Part of the gift-giving "assault" will be numerous requests for donations. I hope you'll keep the St. Hilary Foundation in your thoughts and prayers at this time of year. If you're able, please consider a holiday gift to the endowment. Any contribution in any amount will be gratefully received and carefully distributed toward improvements for the church or the school.

Remember that if you choose, you can direct donations exactly where you want to have an impact. For example, if you're interested in scholarships for St. Hilary students, you can specify your gift for the scholarship fund.

If you have questions about the St. Hilary Foundation, its finances, its grants or opportunities for giving, call me. I welcome the opportunity to talk about the Foundation, and any interruption in the whirlwind to come will be appreciated.

May the blessings of the season fill your hearts with joy.

A Note from the Principal—Dr. Patricia Nugent

It's been my pleasure to lead St. Hilary School these past 12 years. The school has seen significant growth in various areas including a 45% increase in student enrollment.

Anticipating growth in the total parish community, Fr. Yahner initiated the St. Hilary Growth Committee 10 years ago. The committee recommended a \$5.5 million, three-phase building project that concluded in March 2000. Then, during the summer of 2001 a meeting room for advanced math and foreign language classes, a new faculty lounge and staff office space were added.

In September 1998, St. Hilary School began a study of self-improvement through the Diocese of Cleveland's Catholic Schools Futuring Process. The study resulted in a self-improvement plan, which served as a vehicle through which the state again endorsed accreditation to St. Hilary School. Next year a new futuring process will begin and it will take us through 2010.

Of course, we're all proud that in 2000 the school was recognized by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. St. Hilary was one of only 214 schools nationwide to receive the Blue Ribbon School award that year.

With the collaboration of a strong leadership team and dedicated faculty and staff, our curriculum has been strengthened. We apply research and innovation in learning and teaching practices. Standardized test scores remain high.

More than 98% of students graduating from St. Hilary School continue their studies at one of the four local Catholic high schools. The students are well prepared for their high school years, excelling in the classroom and taking active leadership roles in extra-curricular activities.

The many successes at St. Hilary School would not be possible without the generous support of many people. You, the parishioners of

St. Hilary Parish, have ensured that all of the children of St. Hilary Parish are afforded this quality learning experience. Thank you very much for your continued generosity and for making a Catholic education a priority here at St. Hilary.

As I look to the future I am encouraged by the continued growth and the desire for Catholic education at St. Hilary Parish. With three classes at each grade level, kindergarten through Grade 8, enrollment is 730 students. Of 129 elementary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland, ours is one of only 34 schools that saw an increase in enrollment during the last school year.

I know that with your commitment and dedication St. Hilary School will remain financially viable and it will continue to provide an exemplary Catholic education. The challenges that we face together are:

- *Providing competitive salaries for the faculty and staff.*
- *Updating the lunchroom and restroom facilities.*
- *Equipping technology learning labs and fully integrating technology in every subject area.*
- *Maintaining a safe and secure learning environment.*
- *Preparing our students to recognize their common oneness with others and to become active messengers of God's unconditional love.*

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to share the joy in bringing Gospel values to the hearts of all of our young people.

The curriculum has expanded to include:

- *Two foreign languages (French and Spanish).*
- *An Enrichment program designed by Sr. Carol Joy specifically for St. Hilary School which encompasses the arts, literature, music and history.*
- *Computer instruction with 31 state-of-the art PCs.*
- *Digital cameras, scanners, LCD projectors, star boards.*
- *Thirty mobile laptop computers.*
- *The Great Books Program.*
- *Advanced level math program in Grades 4-8.*
- *Challenging science lab activities.*

Make a Difference in the Lives that Follow

LEAVE A LEGACY...

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is proud to partner with LEAVE A LEGACY®, a program that works to create awareness and motivate individuals to make planned gifts to the charity of their choice.

More than 80 percent of Americans contribute to non-profit groups throughout their lifetimes. According to research conducted in 2000, only around 8 percent of people who have wills choose to continue this support through a charitable bequest. Planned giving has become a meaningful way for parishioners, parents, relatives, and friends to support their favorite charity and religious institutions. By making these "planned gifts", you can continue to help St. Hilary Parish.

Charitable decisions can be made at almost any age or stage of life and there are no established

asset requirements for those who wish to participate. If you have a professional you're working with such as a financial planner, lawyer, accountant, or insurance agent, please talk with him or her about tax benefits of planned gifts. Proper planning will ensure that your planned gift will be used according to your wishes.

We would like to encourage you to consider the impact that St. Hilary Church and School have had in your life. By leaving a legacy through a gift in your will to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, you can help make a difference for the future of our Parish and the lives that follow.

For more information, contact Diane Sarkis, Development Director at 330-608-4787 or 330-867-1055.

Understanding the Foundation's Funds

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation includes the Unrestricted Endowment Fund, school endowment funds, and designated funds.

Like many charitable giving programs, the St. Hilary Parish Foundation seeks and accepts donations in any amount at any time of year. Foundation programs support only St. Hilary parish, church, and school.

If a contribution is designated for a specific purpose, for example, for school scholarships or teacher salaries, the gift is added to that endowment 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 fund or funds is spent.

For example, the Unrestricted Endowment

Fund currently has a balance of \$1.3 million, but just 3 percent is spent each year. This year that meant the Foundation was able to give more than \$40,000 for the Spiritual Center roof.

A board of trustees oversees the Foundation endowment, investments and spending. Some of the St. Hilary Foundation funds are held at the Akron Community Foundation and the Unrestricted Endowment Fund is held at Merrill Lynch.

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation enhances all aspects of the parish, both church and school. We are the future of St. Hilary and the success of our parish community depends on you. Please consider a contribution to the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

For more information about the St. Hilary Parish Foundation, call Development Director Diane Sarkis at 330-867-1055 or 330-608-4787.

Mobile Computer Lab Takes Students into the Future

Two carts, 4 feet tall and about 4 feet wide, roll down the halls at St. Hilary School nearly every day. Each cart holds 15 new computers with Windows XP software and wireless Internet capability.



Students use the mobile computer lab to create graphs for math presentations.

Second graders use the mobile lab to look up information on constellations as part of their science class. Third graders use the computers as part of their election unit in social studies. Sixth and eighth graders use the lab at least once a week, in addition to their regular computer lab classes in the computer classroom.

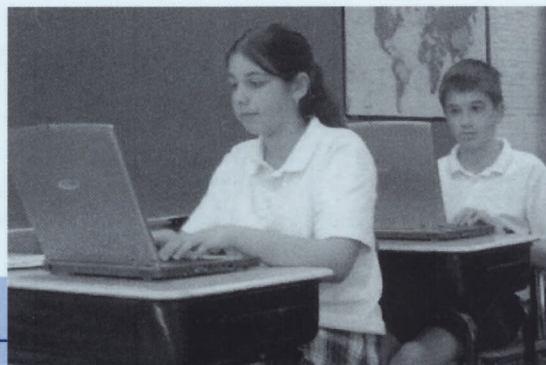
The mobile computer lab is an example of the way the St. Hilary Parish Foundation helps St. Hilary School. The mobile computer lab was purchased last year with a major gift from Ralph Bernard, and generous gifts from Jean (Mrs. Joseph) Hauser, Dan and Helen Marchetta, Tony and Leonora Petrarca, and Americhem – Rick and Sharon Juve. Parishioners and parents Sam and M.J. Parri spearheaded a successful fundraising breakfast, with the help of the Bill Owen family and computer teacher Lori Wallace, to augment funds for this purchase.

Now, Miss Casey McCluskey, computer

teacher and technology coordinator for the school, says the lab enables students and teachers to enhance their lessons and move forward with technology. For example, the 2004 graduating class did an integrated project on the mobile lab involving music, religion, and computers for Confirmation. Each student chose a song, images, and phrases that spoke to his or her faith and then put it all together as a PowerPoint presentation for their class. "That was the biggest project undertaken on the mobile lab so far," Miss McCluskey says. But it won't be the last.

The mobile lab enhances students' computer experiences and learning. "It gives teachers the ability to supplement 'flat' information and make it come alive," Miss McCluskey says. "It goes from being just words in a book to an actual live feed they can interact with."

Just like the desktop computer room, the mobile lab is in use all day, every day. Miss McCluskey says her goal is that by the end of this school year every student will have used it and become comfortable with it.



The Internet is accessed by students for research using the mobile laptop computers.

"It gives teachers the ability to supplement 'flat' information and make it come alive."

Donors

The St. Hilary Parish Foundation is truly grateful for the following gifts received from donors from October 15, 2003 through October 30, 2004

Unrestricted Endowment Fund

Eleanor Berardi
Edward & June Carter
Joseph Clapp
Kathryn & Thomas Dindo
Nitza Lammers
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Lombardi
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St. Hilary School Endowment Fund

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Athletic Association Fund

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Roetzel & Andress
Brennan, Manna & Diamond

Community Outreach Fund

Bill & Debby Bauman
Dr. Robert & Marcella Wyers

Memorial gifts to the St. Hilary School Fund For The Arts for Alfred "Bud" Ross by:

Norma & Martin Carney
Edward & June Carter
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Parents Guild
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Willam & Sara Davis
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Rev. Gordon Yahner
Barbara Ann Yott
Ed Zamiska

St. Hilary School Designated Fund

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St. Hilary School Technology Fund

Ralph Bernard
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Jean Hauser (Mrs. Joseph)
Rick Juve/Americhem
The Lehner Family Foundation

Donors

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**Memorial gifts to the
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 for John Montasana by:**

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 Robert & Martha Enabnit
 Robert & Lois Holler
 Jerry & Helen Jenkins
 Autumn Kahwaji & Family
 Becky Kosco
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 Robert & Stella Watt
 Valerie Zmijewski

**St. Hilary Foundation
 Development Fund**

The Lehner Family Foundation

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**Memorial gifts to the
 Sandy Carlson Scholarship Fund
 for Sandy Carlson by:**

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 Earl & Debra Betz
 Doris M. Bowarsky & Family
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 Matthew & Susan Shannon
 Barbie & Larry Taylor
 Patricia Pacenti & John Wilson

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

MEMORIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN FOR:

Reese Alexander
 Tommy Bell
 Jean Berardi
 Sandy Carlson
 Jeanne Clarke
 Carol Lehman
 Michael V. Markel
 Frank Martucci
 Peter Milano
 John Montasana
 Kevin Neff
 Dr. Arne Peter
 Alfred "Bud" Ross
 Maureen Scanlon
 Karema Shannon
 Alvin & Margaret Seeman
 Urban Wellman

GIFTS WERE MADE IN TRIBUTE TO:

Ralph Berardi

Tips for Giving

1. Do not give cash; always make contributions by check and make your check payable to the charity, not to the individual collecting the donation.
2. Keep records of your donations (receipts, canceled checks, and bank statements) so you can document your charitable giving at tax time.
3. Don't be fooled by names that look impressive or that closely resemble the name of a well-known organization.
4. Check out the organization with the local charity registration office (usually a division of the state attorney general's office) and with your Better Business Bureau.
5. Mail appeals should clearly identify the charity and describe its programs in clear and specific language. Beware of appeals that bring tears to your eyes but tell you nothing of the charity or what it's doing about the problem it describes so well.
6. Appeals should not be disguised as bills or invoices. It is illegal to mail a bill, invoice, or statement of account due that is in fact an appeal for funds, unless it bears a clear and
7. noticeable disclaimer stating that it is an appeal and that you are under no obligation to pay unless you accept the offer. Deceptive invoices are most often aimed at business firms rather than individuals. Contact your local BBB for detailed guidelines on how to handle appeals disguised as bills or invoices.
7. It is against the law to demand payment for unordered merchandise. If unordered items such as key rings, stamps, greeting cards, or pens are enclosed with an appeal letter, remember you are under no obligation to pay for or return the merchandise. If payment is requested, inform your local BBB. In the BBB's experience, unordered merchandise can mean high fund-raising costs.
8. Appeals that include sweepstakes promotions should disclose that you do not have to contribute to be eligible for the prizes offered. To require a contribution would make the sweepstakes a lottery through the mail, and it is illegal to operate a lottery through the mail.

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Message from the President—cont'd

continued from page 1

listen, as we did for the Spiritual Center, the additional school classrooms, the new gymnasium and the church expansion.

I'd ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to



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.

the Foundation, today or down the road. There are many ways to make a difference, by giving for either a specific purpose or cause, or by giving to the general unrestricted endowment fund for the church and school, or to one of the restricted or named funds.

Our founding pastor had the foresight to take a few dollars, set it aside, and invest it. We are all benefiting today from his wisdom and foresight. We should call him up in heaven and thank him. But since we can't, we can think well of what he did for us and continue to support the growth of our Foundation. Call us about various opportunities available for gift giving to the Foundation.

Rest assured, the board is grateful and we stand ready to listen and invest in the future of St. Hilary Church and School.

St. Hilary Parish
FOUNDATION

2750 West Market Street
Fairlawn, OH 44333