

# THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance to students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School



## Dollar-for-Dollar Match Now!

Help us get to 100% of our goal for tuition assistance by June 30th.

See page 2 for details.



Past COS students pictured with current graduating 8th graders (L-R): Lisette Horne ('14), Mari Tressell ('18), Bella Ramos ('18) and Aliah Lopez ('14).

PHOTO BY PEG LINDLOF

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## High School Grads Share Plans and Advice As They Head to College

Congratulations to Community of Saints Class of 2014 who graduated from high school this year. We caught up with three alums to find out what their plans are for next year.

### Lisette Horne

Lisette graduated from Henry Sibley High School with honors and will be attending the University of Minnesota in the Fall. She received acceptance letters from all seven Universities she applied to, including Penn State and Purdue. Lisette is a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the honor roll all four years of high school. She played volleyball for two years and was voted best defensive player sophomore and junior years. She also helped start and was co-captain of a boxing club at Sibley. In her senior year she served on the Link Crew, a student leadership team. In addition to her school activities, Lisette worked a part-time job at Boca Chica's Taco House during the school year.



Lisette Horne

The University of Minnesota is providing Lisette with a generous scholarship package. Lisette currently plans to earn a degree in Psychology and then a Masters in Cognitive Science. Her ultimate goal is to provide counseling services to youth in low-income communities. She will graduate high school with several college credits

— Continued on page 7



## MESSAGE FROM **father steve**

### Dear Alums, Friends and Families of Community of Saints:

As I write, Community of Saints comes to the close of a successful school year. It was a great Spring concert. Students performed Broadway show tunes. Alum Weekend was uplifting, grads were able to reconnect and remember. The 50th anniversary class was present in good numbers.

In the next two weeks we wind up the year with an activity day and 8th grade graduation.

This year we graduate 17 students. It is bittersweet. They don't want to leave each other, they have bonded so well; and yet they know that high school is the next step and they will maintain contact with each other and make new friends.

There are students to replace those graduates and many more. This morning as I was at school, Doug Lieser, Advancement Director, was giving a tour to yet another family. During Christmas break seven students sought to enroll at Community of Saints. Our enrollment grows. I expect another 10% or more growth for school year 2018-2019.

Because of your generosity we have reached 80% of our A&F&F goal for tuition assistance this year.

You are the ones who make it possible for Community of Saints to be a vital and vibrant Catholic school; a growing school that never turns a family away for financial reasons.

As the COS enrollment grows we need more help to provide tuition assistance to low and moderate-income families. We know that our students succeed; help us welcome more West Side and West Saint Paul students to share in opportunities of a COS education.

You are great! You make it all possible. Our students depend on you.

With gratitude,

Fr. Stephen Adrian, Canonical Administrator, COS



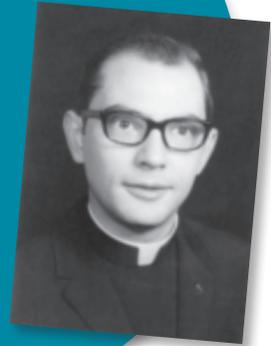
### Save the Date

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

### Celebrate Fr. Steve's 50th Ordination Anniversary

Please mark your  
calendars and plan  
to join us for 4 p.m.  
Mass at St. Matt's.

Watch for details.



## DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCHING UNTIL JUNE 30

Your contribution to our students' tuition program is needed now more than ever. We're getting close to our goal! Won't you help?

Our fundraising year ends June 30 and all donations received by that date will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a grant from several dedicated alums and supporters.

Please be generous! Our students are depending on you.

Please use the enclosed envelope or contribute online at [www.communityofsaints.org/aff](http://www.communityofsaints.org/aff).

If you have questions about estate gifts or gifts from stock or IRAs, please call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510.

"I always tell students 'You can totally do this. You've got this.' I can see them believe more in themselves."



## Music Teacher Makes Fundamentals Fun

Having a conversation with Community of Saints' music teacher, Kristina Guiffre, is equal parts engaging and aerobic; she is bursting with energy and ideas — you just need to keep up. But there's no doubt that her hyperkinetic enthusiasm is an asset in the classroom where her creativity masks a style that stresses the fundamentals along with a heavy dose of fun.

Ms. Guiffre joined the COS faculty in the Fall of 2016, and in the same way she encourages her students to call her Ms. G. (her last name is pronounced Ju-Fray), she works to make her lessons accessible and relevant. "If you come into my classroom, you'll see color everywhere," Ms. Guiffre said. "I want it to be warm and inviting — a happy place." It's also a place that embraces rigor. "If the foundation is shaky, we don't get anywhere. So we hit it hard in the beginning and review, so we can elevate, reach and exceed our expectations."

That confidence was on full display at the school's Spring concert in May which featured a review of Broadway music. The middle school students performed excerpts from *Stomp!*, where performers use ordinary objects and even the human body as percussion instruments. Each class developed their own unique rhythms. "6th grade did body percussion, 7th grade used buckets and 8th grade had stick percussion," explained Ms. Guiffre. "Then we staged a surprise ending where all the other classes joined in so the people in the audience were surrounded by a wall of sound."

The school's church choir performs every week at the school Mass and Ms. Guiffre impresses upon them the importance of their role. "I tell the students that they're not just the choir, they're the music facilitator and support for the entire congregation. Everyone is looking to them to lead." She also stresses their role in supporting the liturgy. "The hymns support the message of the day. There's always a purpose, a message for every song chosen."

### Teacher & Performer

Ms. Guiffre grew up in Florida and came to Minnesota to attend Concordia University, St. Paul, where she earned degrees in music and teaching. She also likes to infuse her experience as a vocal performer and flautist, as well as her work in dance and drama into the classroom experience. "I'm very theatrical," Ms. Guiffre admitted.

Ms. Guiffre also performs with VocalEssence, a renowned choral group that often appears at the Ordway, Orchestra Hall, the Cathedral and the Basilica. "One of my all-time highlights was when we got to be the backup singers for Andrea Bocelli at the Target Center. It was a sold-out performance."

### Music is Essential

Ms. Guiffre wants her students to understand that music is an essential part of life; that it is, in fact, transcendent. "There is an intangible quality to music, it has to be felt in your soul. If you're not feeling it in your heart, we've got to work on something."

The students have embraced her approach. "I've really seen them grow this school year. Over the summer I tell them 'Remember what you learned — sing along with the radio or find a steady beat. Then next year we'll spend more time learning and less repeating.'" Last year she said she hardly had to reteach. "I told them, okay, we have a good foundation. We can go much further."



# Reunion Sunday Mass and Breakfast

Over 100 alums, school families and friends celebrated Mass at Community of Saints on May 20. Special guests of honor were Peter Willems, Stella Flis Lundquist, Edith Minea Lamers from the class of 1943, and Florence Bandholz from the class of 1934!



PHOTOS BY PEG LINDLOF

Guests of honor (L-R): Peter Willems ('43), Stella Flis Lundquist ('43), Edith Minea Lamers ('43) and Florence Bandholz ('34).

## STELLA FLIS LUNDQUIST ('43) AND EDITH MINEA LAMERS ('43) REMEMBER...

- Very large classes of 40-50 students in each room.
- In 5th grade we went on a tour to the Swift Company's slaughter plant, in South St. Paul.
- Msgr. Ziskoskey's nickname was Fr. Sox.
- Representatives from Coca Cola came and gave us each a ruler, pencil and tablet with the Coca Cola emblem on them.
- Taking violin lessons from Sister Timora and paying 25 cents per lesson.
- Walking to school from Hall and Butler no matter the weather. At the end of the day we stood in line and they played John Philip Sousa marches as we left school.



1936 first grade class of Stella Flis Lundquist and Edith Minea Lamers.

## FLORENCE BANDHOLZ ('34) REMEMBERS THE "NEW ADDITION"

I was in 3rd grade when St. Matthew's school was expanded. Due to the construction, 3rd and 4th grade classes were held in the basement of the church. It wasn't very nice down there, but once the construction was complete and we moved to the new building, everything was wonderful.



Florence Bandholz, shown here with Fr. Steve, graduated 84 years ago, making her the oldest alum to attend Reunion Sunday.



ABOVE: Mike Vasterling ('68) and Vicki Petschauer Baker ('68)



ABOVE RIGHT: Frank Brewer ('55) and Sue Alleva ('56)



AT RIGHT: Jasmine Castillon, 4th grade, and Marisa Thomas

## PETER WILLEMS ('43) REMEMBERS THE SHRINE CIRCUS

When the circus came to town, my father, who was a firefighter, helped out. He was given discounted tickets, so our family went to the show. I enjoyed it immensely. As Catholics, we weren't supposed to go because it was supporting the Shriners, who were freemasons. So in school, they'd ask us, "Who went to see the Shrine Circus?" I raised my hand — there were six of us. This was a serious matter and they said we had to report to the Parish house. I remember walking up the steps, entering the iron gate. There in his office was Msgr. Ziskoskey. He asked, "What's the problem?" We told him we were sent here because we'd gone to the Shrine Circus. He listened and nodded his head. Then he opened his desk drawer and pulled out a box of candy. He offered us each a piece and told us we could return to school.

## Class of 1968 Celebrates its 50th Anniversary



PHOTOS BY ANNA BOTZ

BACK ROW (L-R): Joe Nielsen, Bob Patton, Jim Leahy, Don Walker, Mike Vasterling, Randy Jenniges, Joe Dwuznik. 2ND ROW (L-R): Diane Duncanson Teaser, Gina Palumbo Deveney, Kathy Curran, Maureen Clancy Moran, Patti Rasmussen Petschauer. FRONT ROW (L-R): Maggie (n/k/a Mari) Perron, Sue Pavlak, Alison Boehmer Forester, Monica Weigenant Bahls, Vicki Petschauer Baker, David McDonald, Mike Kaess.



Mari Perron and Maureen Clancy Moran.



Diana and Bob Patton.



Diane Duncanson Teaser shown with memorial she created in honor of deceased classmates.

### WHY I GIVE: Kathryn Grayson ('02)

Education is very important to me and now that I have the financial ability, tuition assistance at Community of Saints is the first thing that came to mind.

Growing up on the West Side, my family wasn't rich by any means, but I know not everybody had the same opportunities I did. I had such a great experience growing up there, attending grade school at St. Matt's. I want to provide other great young people with access.

One of my favorite memories was playing sports. I played volleyball and softball. That's where I learned how to play and even though we were a small school, we were always competitive with the other, bigger Catholic schools.

**ADVICE FOR GRADUATES:** Try to learn every day. We all take different paths — one's not better than the other as long as you continue to pursue learning.

*Kathryn contributes quarterly and her donations are matched 100% by her employer, Wells Fargo.*



"A lot of my best friends today are people I met at St. Matt's." Pictured at their 8th grade graduation (L-R): Ash Miller, Amy Escoto Aguilar, Brittany Del Rio, Jesenia Eduarte, Ashley Vedeja, Nicole Stevens, and Kathryn Grayson.



## 8th Grade Class Trip to Wolf Ridge

This year's 8th graders voted to head north for their class trip where they spent three days at the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, on the North Shore. The April trip was colder than expected, with temps hovering in the 20's and 30's, but that didn't slow students down. They hiked the Superior Trail, challenged themselves on the ropes course, observed birds, took a course on orienteering and practiced some skills commonly used by Ojibwe people 250 years ago.

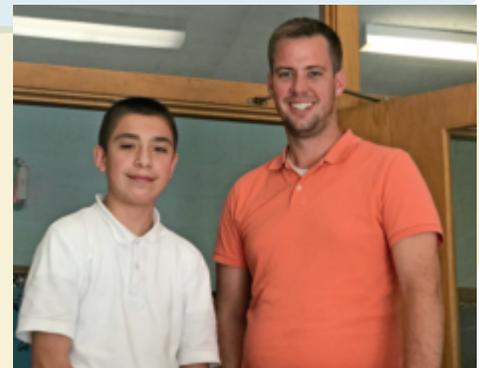
"We had a lot of sun, which was nice, and we had some pretty deep snow which was good for snowshoeing during the Ojibwe Heritage course," reported 8th grade teacher Nick Yannarely who was a chaperone on the trip. "The woods were their classroom. Most of these kids didn't grow up going camping or visiting places like the North Shore, so it was fun watching them figure things out."

Wolf Ridge provided a \$1,500 scholarship which covered the cost of transportation. All other costs for the trip were raised by the students, who hosted Fun Night Out events and worked at St. Matt's Fish Fry, among other activities.

## COS Student Awarded Flaherty Foundation Scholarship

Congratulations to Jose Garcia who received the Flaherty Family Foundation Scholarship to attend Cretin-Derham Hall High School next year. The scholarship is awarded to students with high potential, who have economic need, with the purpose of making private high school accessible. To be considered for the scholarship, students must be able to show strong academic performance in middle school and a record for being a positive contributor to the community.

Middle school teacher, Nick Yannarely is not surprised that Jose was chosen. "He sets goals for himself and then works really hard to achieve them. Some kids give up, but Jose perseveres."



Jose Garcia with middle school teacher, Nick Yannarely.

## BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM MAKES IT TO CHAMPIONSHIP

For the second year in a row, the boys team made it to the championship. While they did not win the final this year, they kept it close.

FRONT: Carlos Martinez, Saul Rodriguez, Elgin Martin III. BACK: Dominic Garcia, Gabe Flores, Dominic Boden, Eli Gonzalez, Jose Garcia. NOT PICTURED: Isaiah Anderson, Coaches Jose Garcia and Elgin Martin.



PHOTO BY EMILY KOWAL

## Class of 2014 Graduating from High School, continued from page 1

and is currently taking AP Calculus, AP Psychology, and AP Language and Composition, which will add to her college credits.

Lisette will be the first in her extended family to go to college and she's very proud of the hard work she's put in to get to this point. "I almost cried when I opened my first college letter of acceptance," she said.

**Memories of Grade School:** "I really liked all the teachers, they were so nice. I also remember the ghost stories from St. Matt's. There was one story about a boy who dropped a ball down the steps to the old bowling alley and something threw it back. Everybody was scared to go over there."

**Advice for 2018 COS Graduates:** Keep working hard through high school because there's no reason you can't achieve your dreams.

### Aliah Lopez

Aliah graduated with honors from Cretin-Derham Hall High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota next year. Aliah was consistently on the honor roll at CDH, where she also was active in the athletics program, lettering in tennis, basketball and softball. In her junior year, Aliah was selected for the Link Crew a, a student leadership club that pairs Juniors and Seniors with incoming first-year students. In addition to her school work, Aliah has a part-time job with St. Paul Parks and Recreation where she travels to different public housing sites and leads the children who live there in activities.

At the U of M Aliah plans to major in biology and then attend medical school. Her goal is to focus on women's health and work as an obstetrician and gynecologist.

Aliah's father came to the U.S. from Mexico with his family when he was 13 years old. Aliah is the first person in her extended family to go to college straight out of high school. "Earning a college degree will be a big deal in my family," Aliah said.

**Memories of Grade School:** "One of my favorite memories was in 6th grade, our last year at St. Matt's. They wanted us to meet our future classmates at COS, so they organized a lock-in with the sixth graders from



Aliah Lopez

St. Matt's, St. Mike's and St. John Vianney. We went roller skating and snow tubing, and then we watched a movie and slept in St. Matt's social hall. They did a really good job of integrating everybody. I thought of that when I joined the Link Crew and helped new students transition."

**Advice for 2018 COS Graduates:** "Two things. Live in the moment because high school goes fast. And remember that your freshman grades affect your GPA forever."

### Autam Mendez



Autam Mendez

Autam graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall High School and will be attending Northern Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa, next year. Autam is a 2018 Athena Award recipient, which honors female athletes for their outstanding academic and athletic achievements. Autam lettered in volleyball, basketball and softball. She earned a spot on the CDH Varsity basketball team as a freshman, and this year she joined a handful of Raiders to have scored over 1000 points during their high school career.

Autam intends to major in Psychology and is interested in becoming a sports psychologist, but she also wants to play Division I basketball. She received a basketball scholarship to attend NIAC, which has a reputation for sending players on to programs at Division I schools. Autam wants to be one of those players to make the jump to DI and she plans to compete hard to earn the opportunity.

Autam is the youngest of three children. Her parents didn't attend college but her sister, a 2004 graduate of St. Matthew's, is currently taking college classes.

**Memories of Grade School:** I loved it — it was fun. St. Matt's was like a little CDH in that the teachers were nice and you could get close to them. But they were strict, too.

**Advice to COS 2018 Graduates:** Stay true to yourself and get involved in as many activities as you can.

**COMMUNITY OF SAINTS  
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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# Congratulations to the 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2018!



PHOTO BY EMILY KOWAL

**FRONT: Madison Nowak, Sarellia Romo, Saul Rodriguez. MIDDLE: Bethany Goplen, Mari Tressell, Jose Garcia, Estrella Perez, Vanessa Sanchez-Lopez, Bella Ramos, Gabriela Haider, Amaya Charles. BACK: Jacob Stecher, Eli Gonzalez, Dominic Boden, Gabe Flores, Connor Lane, Alyssa Goplen.**