



SETON

SPRING 2021

Educating in the Spirit of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

*Finding
Our
Light*





“ We couldn’t be more proud of our students, faculty, staff and the entire Seton community in the way that we faced these times and have pulled through. ”

KATHY ALLEN CIARLA '87
KAREN KLUG WHITE '92

Dear Alumnae, Parents, Students and Friends,

A little over a year ago, life changed dramatically for everyone! We felt the effects at Seton but were able to transition to online learning for the final quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Our students missed out on dances, and spring sports and graduation looked different, but we persevered. With prayers, determination and strength, we opened school last fall and have been in-person all year. While this came with many challenges and uncertainty, we couldn't be more proud of our students, faculty, staff and the entire Seton community in the way that we faced these times and have pulled through.

We have had a successful school year and are looking forward to celebrating traditional spring dances and events in the safest way possible! While our students have been working diligently in the classroom and achieving academic success, it is very apparent they need the socialization and experiences that make high school complete. These events foster skills and develop leadership, teamwork and friendships while teaching the value of balancing life's responsibilities with outlets for recreation and enjoyment. We are thankful for all of the prayers and support through these ever-changing times!

We are always in awe of the compassionate, selfless acts and dedication to helping others that so many of our alums have embraced throughout their lives. Kathy Kremer Blair '71 has spent decades in missionary work throughout the world helping children with special needs and entire communities. You can read about the many places and beautiful people she has met over the years in our cover story on pages 4-7.

Our sports teams embraced their seasons and have had quite a bit of success this school year! You can see some of the highlights on pages 12 and 13. In continued efforts to focus on the positivity in life and the support that our students give one another, our Hope Squad hosted 'Hope Week' in the fall with daily reminders and activities to be affirmative, positive and supportive of one another. See inspiring messages and learn more on page 9.

Our enrollment continues to grow here at Seton as we welcome 192 new Saints to the Class of 2025! Please pray for our newest Saints as well as our current Saints, staff and administration. Everyone is working hard both in and out of the classroom as we head into the final quarter here at Seton. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to live out the mission of the Sisters of Charity and our patroness, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Thank you!

Kathy Allen Ciarla '87
President

Karen Klug White '92
Principal

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Spring 2021

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PHOTOS: We celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a variety of activities for our students during the week including making prayer walls throughout the hallways and two service projects. Each mentor group made Cupcake Socks for schools and nursing homes in addition to collecting over 3,200 books for The Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati.

ON THE COVER: Photo by Shawn Sprague, Maryknoll Catholic Foreign Mission Society. Kathy Kremer Blair '71 helping a disabled child in Cambodia get stronger through play.



SETON

Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Seton High School, a Catholic community in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, through the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, develops a diverse population of young women for a life of faith, service and leadership and engages them in achieving academic excellence in a college preparatory environment.

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- T. Johnson Design:
- Tricia Witterstaetter Johnson '93

Photography

- Christy Dean Schutte '94
- Seton Students, Staff, Alumnae & Friends

Finding Our Light

Sometimes it is nice to look back on our childhood dreams and see how those hopes and visions have played out in our lives.

For Kathy Kremer Blair '71, the wishes of her youth ultimately guided her to living a life of missionary service, which was once just a dream written in her 7th grade journal. Kathy grew up in what could be called a traditional Catholic family. "We attended Sunday Mass, prayed at every meal, said our nightly prayers and prayed the Rosary during Lent." But she said she learned more about being a Christian by the way her parents lived. "My mother taught us to give to others through the various activities she volunteered for, and my father taught us the value of hard work, which he modeled every day," Kathy explained. "We always knew we were loved and cared for, and we felt very secure in our family, knowing our parents were always there for us. God and family were priorities in life and there were very little interests outside the family circle," she added.



Kathy's family grew up in St. Dominic's parish. "Catholic education was important to my parents because they wanted schools to reinforce the faith, morals and Christian values that they instilled in us," Kathy said. Her three sisters, Lynda Kremer Taylor '73, Eileen Kremer Hamrock '74 and Karen Kremer Flanigan '80 all attended Seton, and their younger brother attended Oak Hills Vocational School. Her mother stayed home while her father worked outside of the home. They spent summer vacations in their camper while enjoying the outdoors and many outside activities with family and friends.

Kathy felt a calling from God at a very young age. "When I was in grade school, I always dreamed of being a missionary sister in Africa or China. I thought it would be exciting to live in a grass hut," she said. In the 7th grade, Kathy's class wrote autobiographies which included a section on their future plans. "I wrote in there that ever since the 4th or 5th grade I have wanted to be a nun," she explained. "Then one day God put into my mind to be a missionary nun, going off in foreign countries, teaching the young and telling them about the one great God there is."

During her high school years at Seton, she let loose of the dream for religious life, but helping the poor was still of great interest to her. "Seton provided us opportunities to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to families in need, and I became an officer for Christian Student Mission Crusade so that I would have priority over others to go to Appalachia for mission work." Unfortunately, Kathy's job made it not possible to attend the trip. But in Spanish class she would listen to Sr. Mary Barbara tell her Peru missionary stories. "I remember listening and saying to myself, 'someday I am going to do that.'"

She went on to graduate from Brescia College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Special Education, and began teaching soon after in Ft. Wright, Kentucky. "I had a class of severely multiple-handicapped children who had previously been taught in a basement with uncertified teachers," she explained. After three years, she wanted to learn more and focus on these types of students so she moved to pursue her Master of Science Degree in Special Education at the University of Kansas. She began volunteering at a homeless shelter and also cooked meals in a Catholic Worker House, and then learned about The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. During the summers of 1987 and 1988 she lived in the San Francisco Desert in Venezuela. "I worked in a home serving about 40 children whose families were too poor to take care of them. We would get the children up for school, prepare their meals, help them with chores around the home and plan activities," she explained. She learned how difficult being poor can be but also how much pride and dignity they have in themselves. At the end of the summer, they brought the children back to their neighborhoods with cardboard homes only to find that the local government had demolished them and moved them down the road. "We saw mothers, fathers and children running towards each other, ecstatic to be reunited," she said. "I learned that the less you have the less you have to worry about and the more you can be present to others."

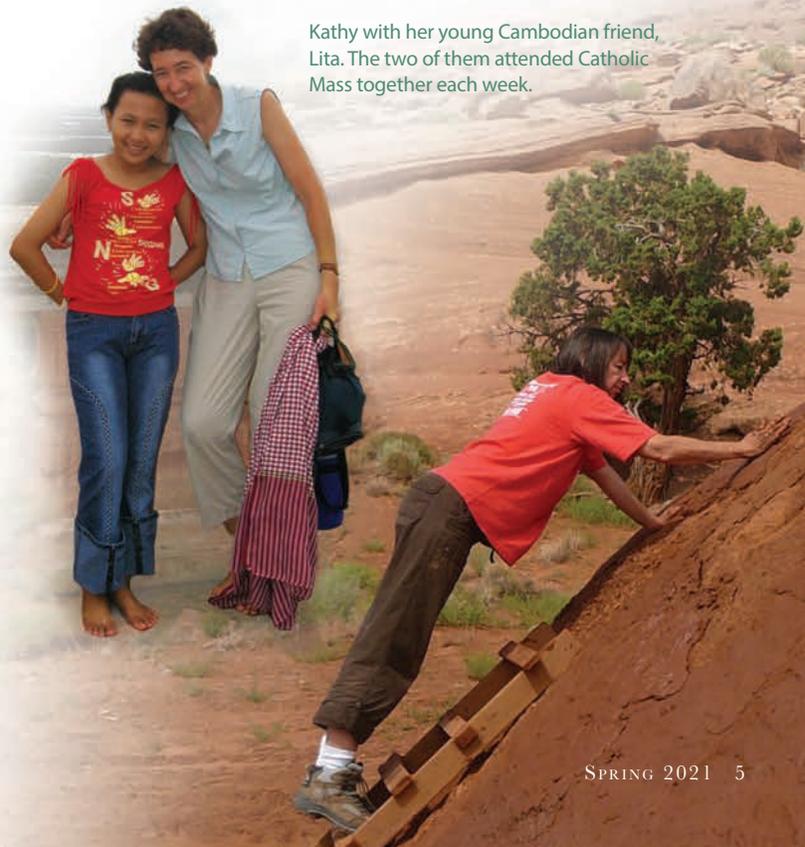
She found her way back to Cincinnati and began volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project. She was happy to have the chance to serve as a camp counselor in the same area where she had hoped to do mission work during



Kathy working with physically disabled children at the orphanage in Cambodia.



Kathy with her young Cambodian friend, Lita. The two of them attended Catholic Mass together each week.



Finding Our Light

high school. She soon felt unsettled and wanted to do more, which was when someone from the past came back into her life – it was Sr. Mary Barbara from Seton. “She was giving a talk at my parish on her mission work and I recognized her voice,” Kathy said. “She met me for lunch and helped me with my discernment process to join the Peace Corps.” She served from 1994-1996 on the island of St. Lucia working with the Ministry of Health and Education where she trained the community health aids on how to identify and serve children with special needs, and she also volunteered in schools. “The most wonderful part of my job was finding and visiting families in the northern part of the island, providing them support with their children who had special needs. It was a beautiful sharing of cultures,” she explained. “I realized then that parents all over the world want the same thing for their children – to be loved, accepted and to live a happy and fulfilling life.”

For a total of 10 years, Kathy continued to serve in Cincinnati at St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen. She also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and in 2001 she went to Guatemala for two weeks with the International Habitat Organization. Despite being so busy, she still felt God calling that maybe it was time to be a lay missionary. She spent more time in prayer and talked with a Jesuit priest who gave some words of wisdom. “He said, ‘Whatever you wanted to be as a child is probably

what you should be as an adult because those desires are least affected by friends, family and social norms.” So she turned her decision over to God, which was hard because she still wanted to get married and have children some day. She finally said ‘yes’ to the Maryknoll Lay Mission Program. “Once I made the decision to join Maryknoll, I was very much at peace and felt so much of God’s love and joy during the time of preparation and my service in Cambodia.”

From January 2003–June 2006, she worked with the Disability Action Council in Cambodia, which is a national coordinating organization working for the rights and services of people with disabilities. She worked with the Ministry of Special Education to help them learn about children with special needs. “We traveled all over the country, providing technical assistance and workshops to teachers and schools, and we also visited families who had children with special needs, which was always my favorite part of the job,” she said. She also volunteered at an orphanage and provided toys and physical therapy equipment. Here she started an inclusive classroom that included typical students, those with HIV and those with special needs.

Kathy thought Cambodia was a fascinating country to do mission work. “Some of my most cherished moments were listening to the Cambodian people share their stories of how they struggled to survive in previous years and family members of theirs who were murdered. These stories were not something they talked about often,” she said. “The Cambodians have the courage and strength to continue to live each day with hope, despite living in one of the poorest countries in the world.”

She returned home to America after four years with no home, no car and no job. Many things had changed, including Kathy. “Living and working in places of such dire poverty heightened my awareness of affluence,



In Cambodia, Kathy trained teachers and the Ministry of Special Education about children with disabilities in provinces.

consumerism and the rapid pace so characteristic of our culture. I wondered how I would be able to continue my solidarity with the poor," she said.

She went back to teaching and volunteering, and in 2012 and 2013 she went on a mission trip to New Mexico and Honduras. Then Kathy met who she calls the man of her dreams, Morgan Blair. "I had prayed that God would send me someone who would have an interest in doing mission work," she said. "I knew I had the right man when he decided that part of our honeymoon would be volunteering with Maryknoll in Bolivia." Morgan worked in a wheelchair factory putting up lights and Kathy spent time tutoring children. "We have no children, but my mother always told me that I have been a mother to many children all over the world," said Kathy, who has 17 nieces and nephews that she enjoys spending time with.

In 2019, Kathy and Morgan traveled to Uganda to live with the Comboni missionaries for one month. The Holy Spirit guided them to tutor in a nearby school where the children sat on dirt floors or wooden benches. So Kathy and Morgan decided to build desks for the school. With the help of local woodworkers and through an email to friends back home for support, they were able to do great things. "We not only supplied schools with desks for every classroom, but we were able to buy teacher and student supplies

for several schools in the area, in addition to shelves that my husband built for the Sisters who lived at the parish because all their cooking supplies sat on the floor or on low benches."

All the missionary experiences over the years have strengthened Kathy's faith. "It's not only through the actual experience of serving others, but in the process of discernment to become a missionary or volunteer. I have learned how much God loves me and about God's forgiveness, mercy and moving forward," she explained. "Seton provided the foundation for me to learn more about God and how to serve others through all the organizations and opportunities it provided to us. Going to an all-girls school allowed me to take risks. Seton gave me the confidence to run for offices and take on leadership roles through student council. Those risk-taking opportunities were the basis for taking bigger risks later in my life as a volunteer and missionary."



"Seton provided the foundation for me to learn more about God and how to serve others through all the organizations and opportunities it provided to us."

KATHY KREMER BLAIR '71

Kathy painting dorms at the El Hogar Foundation Orphanage in Guatemala.

Kathy describes being a missionary as having faith, taking risks and embracing human suffering, and she prays that God uses her and her husband in a future ministry. They remain faithful followers as they wait for an answer. "All of us need to be missionaries to one another; to embrace the pain and suffering in our families, communities, churches and work," said Kathy.



Kathy teaching and working with a group of children in Cambodia.



Helping build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala.

Named Scholarship

An all-girls Catholic education is something that the Richter family has always prioritized and strongly believes in. "It helps young women develop self-confidence and prepare for a life beyond the classroom," said Kathy Erwin Richter '67, mother to Robin Richter Chavez '94 and Sarah Richter '98. "Seton offers many opportunities to learn and grow which helps students achieve their individual full potential."

Their love and appreciation of Seton High School is why Kathy and Robin felt that a Named Scholarship was an important way to honor Sarah after she passed away unexpectedly in 2019 due to a diabetic emergency.

Prior to attending Seton, the Richter girls both attended St. Dominic grade school. "The parish and the school provided an important foundation in the development of

Family celebration for Annabelle Chavez's First Communion.

religion and education within a caring environment," Kathy explained. "Sarah played soccer, volleyball and softball, and she was a Girl Scout throughout her eight years in grade school."

Once she became a Seton Saint, Sarah was involved in freshman softball, orchestra and band. "She enjoyed the sense of community and camaraderie that orchestra and band instilled while preparing for a concert or performance," said Robin, who added that Sarah's friendships were also important to her. "She went on the trip to Spain with the Spanish Club, but the funny thing was she actually took French. Her friends all took Spanish and she didn't want to miss out on a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Robin added.

Seton has always fostered many opportunities for friendships to grow. "Seton High School is a place where young women can soar," said Robin. "It's a sisterhood and a family for life."

The Sarah C. Richter '98 Scholarship will go to an incoming freshman from St. Dominic beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. "We wanted to honor Sarah's memory, and this helps us redirect our grief and sorrow. It was important for us to pay it forward," said Kathy, whose husband, Bob, passed away in 2010. "Bob and I were so proud of Sarah. It has been my honor to be her mom," she added. "I pray daily for God's help and guidance. Our children are truly our most precious asset, so treasure each day."

"We are so grateful to the Richter family and we are truly honored to continue Sarah's legacy."

– Kathy Allen Ciarla '87, President

Questions?

For more information on establishing a scholarship or on Planned Giving, please contact Seton High School President Kathy Allen Ciarla '87 at 513-471-2600 or ciarlak@setoncincinnati.org.



Sarah and her nieces, Gabrielle and Annabelle Chavez.



Sarah and her dad, Bob Richter.



"We wanted to honor Sarah's memory, and this helps us redirect our grief and sorrow. It was important for us to pay it forward."

KATHY ERWIN RICHTER '67

Hope Week

In early October, Seton High School celebrated HOPE WEEK. Seton's Hope Squad planned the inspiring week, which took part during National Mental Health Awareness Week. Hope Squad is a school-based, peer-to-peer, suicide prevention program that emphasizes suicide prevention fundamentals, self-care and anti-bullying. The purpose of a Hope Squad is to improve access and availability to appropriate prevention services for teens who are at risk for suicide. The Hope Squad Program functions as a peer support team with the goal of providing friendship, encouragement and support for students in our school who may be struggling. Hope Squad members are nominated by their peers as someone who displays naturally good listening skills and to whom students would go if they needed help during a difficult time. These students are not asked to act as a counselor, but rather are trained to refer student peers to a trusted adult for help. Hope Week had themed days and also included making inspirational posters in mentor group that were displayed in the school. Students received Lifesavers and computer stickers with positive messages on them, and there was a motivational wall outside the Halo Café where students wrote positive messages.



Seton Spirit

Welcome and Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

We welcomed 192 new Saints to the Seton Sisterhood on the official registration day in January! We also honored and recognized the scholarship recipients through a virtual Evening of Distinction. Please join us in congratulating these exceptional young women and please keep them in your prayers.



Seton High School is continuously very blessed to have supportive alumnae and friends of Seton. In addition to our Honors Program Scholarships, Admission with Merit Scholarships and 31 Women Scholarship, we are proud to offer additional scholarships. The Alumnae Super Saint Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who demonstrate school spirit, leadership and service to others. The Mark Neumann, SC Seton Sisterhood Scholarship honors the legacy of former Seton Principal Mark Neumann, SC, and is awarded to incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who exemplify the true meaning of the Seton Sisterhood and are active in extracurricular activities. The Spirit of Seton Scholarship is awarded to a current sophomore who exhibits qualities of kindness and impacts others in a positive way. Teachers, coaches, academic advisors or staff members nominate students for the Mark Neumann, SC Seton Sisterhood Scholarship and the Spirit of Seton Scholarship.

Service Update

Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of November, Seton High School held a school-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive collection. The effort was coordinated by the Seton Helping Saints philanthropy club, and every student within each mentor group was assigned particular items to bring in. Several students and staff volunteered to help organize and deliver the meals, which ended up being 101 full Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys. These meals were delivered to families in need throughout the Price Hill community as well as to St. Vincent de Paul.



101 FULL MEALS DELIVERED



12 Months of Giveaways

Seton is excited to be offering our incredible Seton community the opportunity to WIN amazing prizes each month throughout 2021. For \$25 per chance, you can win an incredible prize package. Chances are sold all month long and the winner's name is drawn on the first day of the next month along with the announcement of the next month's prize! For more information, please go to setoncincinnati.org. Thanks to generous Seton families and local businesses for donating and supporting this effort.

Seton Sweepstakes

12 Months of Prizes... 12 Chances to Win!

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	<i>Weekend Getaway</i>	
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	?	?
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
?	?	?
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
?	?	?

Tickets - \$25

Girls' Schools Unite

Last spring, our incredible alumnae found a way to step up in a big way as Seton participated in the first-ever Girls' Schools Unite campaign, which included five area all-girls Catholic high schools -- Mercy McAuley, Mount Notre Dame, Seton, Saint Ursula and Ursuline Academy. Thanks to YOU, we were the WINNERS of this spirited contest among all-girls high schools in Cincinnati. We are excited to be taking part once again in 2021! This year's Girls' Schools Unite contest will take place from May 3-7, 2021. The fundraising campaign seeks to raise awareness and financial support. The campaign calls on alumnae from each school to make a gift to their high school alma mater. The high school with the highest percentage of alumnae participation will be "crowned" the winner. Help Seton become back-to-back CHAMPS! Stay tuned this spring and please consider donating to Seton during the contest week!

Girls' Schools Unite!

We are blessed with the best!
Thank you Seton Alumnae!

SETON WON!

\$112,379
TOTAL RAISED

- ✓ INDIVIDUAL DONORS - 1,217
- ✓ 1st TIME DONORS - 246
- ✓ TOP 3 CLASSES BY % OF PARTICIPATION
1. 2015 2. 1995 3. 2019
- ✓ PARTICIPATION FROM EVERY CLASS FROM 1947-2019

Sports Update

SAVE THE DATE

Seton Athletic Boosters Golf Outing

The 12th Annual Athletic Boosters Golf Outing will be held on July 19, 2021 at Aston Oaks. For more information about registration and sponsorship, please contact Seton Athletic Director Wendy Zureick Smith '90 at smithw@setoncincinnati.org.



Thank you to Kevin Kahny for being the official "Voice of Seton Athletics"! He spent the last 10 years as our announcer for the volleyball, soccer, basketball and lacrosse seasons. Thank you, Kevin, for your continued support and for a job well done!



Congratulations to Varsity Volleyball 2020 District Champions AND GGCL Champions!



Julia Marr



2020 Varsity Volleyball Champions



Maggie Jones

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) named Seton Senior Julia Marr to the 2020 Under Armour Girls High School Third-Team All-America! Julia also completed her 1000th Seton career kill during this season. Congratulations, Julia!

Congratulations to Maggie Jones on achieving her 1500th assist during this season!



Congratulations to the following student-athletes who are continuing their academic and athletic careers at the next level:

- Lucy Cluxton - Northern Kentucky University, Volleyball
- Emily Durr - Siena Heights University, Lacrosse
- Maddy Hensler - University of Cincinnati, Swimming
- Maggie Jones - North Carolina State University, Volleyball
- Julia Marr - Western Michigan University, Volleyball
- Natalie Schutte - Xavier University, Soccer
- Maddie Vaughn - Thomas More University, Softball

Congratulations to junior Jessie Streckfuss, who finished 43rd at the OHSAA Cross Country Regional Championships in Troy, OH! We are so proud of your success this season, Jessie!





Anna Tiernan, Brooke Kamstra,
Hailey Wills, Maddy Hensler,
Molly Pressler

Molly Pressler

Saints Up State!

Congratulations to the following swimming Saints who competed at STATE in Canton, Ohio: Maddy Hensler '21, Brooke Kamstra '22, Molly Pressler '21, Anna Tiernan '21 and Hailey Wills '24.

Congratulations to Molly Pressler who placed 8th overall in the 200 Free!

Congratulations to junior bowler Rebecca Ochs who was named to the District All-Tournament Team and qualified to advance as an individual at the STATE Championships where she came in 5th Place!



Rebecca Ochs

Varsity Dance Team

The Seton Varsity Dance Team traveled to Tennessee in December for the 2020 Smoky Mountain Championship and came home with some hardware! The 2021 UDA National Championship in Orlando, Florida will take place this year in April. Good luck, Saints!



New Faces...

Seton High School is proud to welcome the newest members of our faculty and staff. John Cordova, Director of Facilities, comes to Seton from the



Cassidy Casteel
English Dept.



John Cordova
Director of
Facilities

Cincinnati Reds where he was the Director of Security. Prior to that, John spent 30 years with the Cincinnati Police Department. Seton welcomes Cassidy Casteel to our English department.

Seton Elder Drama Club

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Seton Elder Drama Club for the wonderful fall performance of the play "What Would Happen If." Bravo to these talented performers!



Congratulations to the following juniors who were accepted into the TAP MD and TAP HC Programs sponsored by the Health Collaborative!

TAP MD



Meggie Bailey



Hailey Doerflein



Samantha Ruff

TAP HC



Emma Austing



Megan McCarthy



Abigail Stautberg

We are so proud of these young women! The TAP MD and TAP HC Programs are sponsored by the Health Collaborative and help talented high school students 'tap' into their potential for a career in the field of medicine. Students apply for these programs and the selection process is highly competitive.

Seton Spirit

Girls' Night In

In true 2020 fashion, we took our annual Girls' Night Out and gave it a spin. Gift boxes full of surprises were pre-packed and delivered for a fabulous Girls' Night In! Thank you to everyone who supported this event!



Taylor Kuhl '13



Above left photo - L to R - Shelly Cappel Gillis '87, Nancy Niemeyer Goins '87, Michelle Otten Guenther '87
Bottom photo - L to R - Julie Murphy, Janet Cappel, Kendall Cappel '14, Meghan Cappel '11, Kelsey Murphy '13

“Thanks for this creative way of pulling us together. It was exciting to get the party box and unbox it together on our zoom party call!”

JULIE FORBECK HEITZ '93



L to R - Jennie Forbeck Jacobs '85, Julie Forbeck Heitz '93, Jeana Forbeck Kelly '96, Jill Forbeck McGrail '91, Bonnie Forbeck

National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to Grace Villing '21 who was named as a 2021 National Merit FINALIST! She is one of only 7,500 seniors nationwide to achieve this honor.



Grace Villing '21

VOA Essay Contest



Lizzy Murray



Jenna Book



Libby Luebbering

Congratulations to the following juniors whose essays were chosen as winners for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy:
1st Place – Lizzy Murray
2nd Place – Jenna Book
3rd Place – Libby Luebbering
So proud of these Saints who swept the competition!

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference

Congratulations to the following Saints from the Class of 2023 who were chosen to represent Seton at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference this summer, or HOBY: Teagan Charles, Lucy Guenther, Megan Linnemann and Kylie Himmler. The HOBY seminars focus on



Megan Linnemann



Kylie Himmler



Teagan Charles



Lucy Guenther

students developing their leadership skills and learning how to apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community. The program aims to give them the tools they need to turn their ideas into action and reach their goals. Each program adheres to the five core HOBY values: volunteerism, integrity, excellence, diversity and community partnership.

Seton Sisters

Class Notes

60's



S. Mary Jo Gasdorf '60 was recognized in September by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati for celebrating her Diamond Jubilee. As a senior in high school, S. Mary Jo Gasdorf made the decision to enter religious life. Sixty years later she is celebrating her life as a Sister of Charity. Join us in congratulating S. Mary Jo!



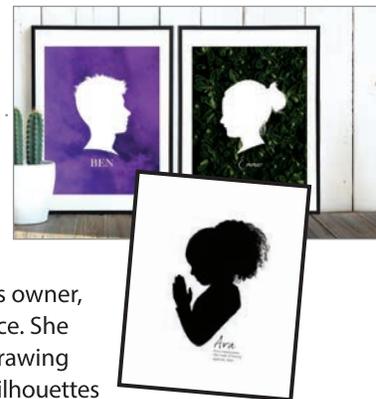
Congratulations to **Dr. Rita Reis Wieczorek '60, EdD, RN, FAAN**. The Nurses Educational Funds, INC., or NEF, announced the establishment of a new scholarship to support the graduate studies in maternal-infant and pediatric nursing. The scholarship is in honor of Rita Reis Wieczorek who was also named as the 2021 Honoree by NEF.

Over her four years of service, Dr. Wieczorek has blazed the trail for nurses as a nurse, educator and leader in her field. "This scholarship is an investment in our future, the United States' future and the world's future," Dr. Wieczorek said. "The work NEF is doing to help nursing students in master's and doctoral programs throughout the United States is so important," she said.

90's

Tricia Witterstaetter Johnson '93

is celebrating 15 years as a freelance graphic designer/business owner, with over 24 years of total experience. She recently rediscovered her love for drawing and is now adding custom portrait silhouettes to her design offerings. Her silhouette creations are budget friendly and make the perfect gift for grandparents, baptisms, first communions, graduations and more! For more information, email Tricia at tjohnsondesign@gmail.com or search Heirloom Silhouette Design on Facebook.



00's

Brittani Nicolaci '08 received the prestigious American College of Veterinary Pathologists Award - an award that is given to those individuals that have demonstrated exceptional proficiency in anatomic and/or clinical pathology. Brittani is a current Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine student who is completing her clinics in Gainesville, Florida. Congratulations, Brittani!

Allie Glatt '13 spent two years in South Africa with the Peace Corps and helped to build a school library while there. She is now the program coordinator for after school care at Oyler School.

Emily Gramke '13 organizes a Valentine's Day Dance every year for people with special needs. She has been doing this event since her senior year at Seton and gets help from friends, many of whom are Seton alums.

Virtual Walk

Seton's Annual Walk and Alumnae & Friends Walk took place virtually on November 6-8. Thanks to all of our students, staff, alumnae and friends of Seton for donating and to all who participated over the beautiful fall weekend.

We are so blessed with the amazing support from the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati throughout all that we do here at Seton. In November they took the opportunity to show their support for our Annual Seton Walk as well. THANK YOU to these special Sisters for their prayers and continued support!



Seton Sisters

Weddings

Congratulations to the following Seton graduates and their spouses on their recent nuptials.

- Kelly Simpkins Batcha '11, August 7, 2020
- Olivia Bernard Comarata '12, September 19, 2020
- Lindsey Mullen Lanza '13, August 15, 2020
- Ashley Niemann Gibson '12, September 12, 2020
- Mo Carolyn McMahon '13, November 28, 2020



Kelly Simpkins Batcha '11



Olivia Bernard Comarata '12



Lindsey Mullen Lanza '13



Ashley Niemann Gibson '12

Births

Congratulations to the following Seton graduates on the addition to their families.

- Katie Eagan Downing '00, twin daughters Greer and Paige, May 19, 2020
- Christina Grothaus King '01, daughter Marisa Eve, June 17, 2020
- Elissa Hetzer Stetter '03, son Liam, September 30, 2020
- Noelle Lammers Adams '06, son Declan James, May 31, 2020
- Krista Hungler Wendling '10, daughter Amelia June, August 9, 2020
- Grace Laiveling Heil '13, son Brady Thomas, August 23, 2020
- Jenna Martini Marschall '13, daughter Evelyn Elizabeth, November 14, 2020
- Chelsea McAuliffe Shaw '13, son Finnian Blake, February 26, 2020



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1 - Greer and Paige Downing with sister Maeve

2 - Marisa Eve King
3 - Declan James Adams

4 - Amelia June Wendling
5 - Brady Thomas Heil

6 - Evelyn Elizabeth Marschall
7 - Finnian Blake Shaw

To submit a class note or update, please fill out the "Update Your Information" form at www.setoncincinnati.org, email alumnae@setoncincinnati.org or call (513) 471-2600.

S. Benedicta Mahoney



A very loved and special Seton Saint, S. Benedicta Mahoney, passed away peacefully on December 5, 2020 at the age of 95. This wonderful teacher and Seton supporter touched so many hearts throughout her career at Seton while teaching Journalism, English and Publications classes from 1983-2002. She was always cheerful and such a true joy to be around.



Passings

Our sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Martha Donelan Trauth '34 | Patricia Byrne Westenberg '47 | Mary Dirr Frey '53 | Rita Borgman Hodge '64 |
| Rosemary Kramer Stoesser '36 | Jeanne Woodworth Bosch '47 | Velia Conte Dirr '53 | Colette Brehm '64 |
| Mary Murray Kumpf '39 | Joan Brown Hautman '47 | Geraldine Metz Lipps '54 | Joyce Young Sprecker '65 |
| Rita Espelage Goertemoeller '40 | Charlotte Popp Watkins '48 | Mary Kohler Mastruserio '54 | Bonnie Minges McKay '65 |
| Ruth Kersker Heath '40 | Virginia Vetter Walters '48 | Martha Middendorf Haas '54 | Barbara Tragesser Durbin '65 |
| Agatha Lyons Ridder '40 | Joan Metz Binzer '48 | Evelyn Altherr Remenowsky '55 | Kathy Schiller Stautberg '65 |
| Ruth Sailer '40 | Patricia Burg Osterkamp '48 | Mary Mahon Paul '55 | Mary Lloyd Richardson '65 |
| Rosemarie Wuebbing | Marilyn Jansen Powers '48 | Mary Ellen Doherty, SC '55 | Lynn Wilburn Brauch '65 |
| Johannigman '40 | Janette McDonald Huerkamp '49 | Janet Schobert Conwell '56 | Joyce Harmeyer Klug '65 |
| Rosemary Griesser Quinlan '40 | Mary Lohman Wehner '49 | Eleanor Gottmann Lindner '56 | Sharon Baitz Hemsath '65 |
| Virginia Weil '40 | Lorraine Koch Cornell '49 | Eileen Branigan Schenk '56 | Carol Miller '67 |
| Dorothy Duffy Arata '41 | Mary Lou Albers Hisch '49 | Janet Peters Gramza '56 | Antoinette Lipps Lockwood '67 |
| Anne Mara Kessen '41 | Dollye Moloney Jones '49 | Marilyn Vale Weinheimer '57 | Peggy Bietsch Schuckman '67 |
| Grace Gerver Pickens '41 | Angela Rohe Lyons '49 | Carole Huddleson Martin '58 | Eileen Delaney '67 |
| Ann Gilkey Delp '42 | Mary Noonan Ryan '49 | Margie Yunker Spille '58 | Patricia Ridge Vettel '68 |
| Helen Oehler Linz '42 | Elvira Feld Rizzo '49 | Jean Helmes Doll '58 | Marcella Cruise Ballinger '68 |
| Catherine Hocter Redmond '42 | Jean Learn Conway '49 | Diane Shoemaker Stevens '58 | Carol Heath Holyoke '69 |
| Bette Gavin Moorman '42 | Anna Thernes '49 | Patricia Koerner Hudepohl '58 | Therese Zins '69 |
| Gloria Roth Wormus '43 | Janet Bassett Borgelt '50 | Loretta Saupe Bacon '58 | Patricia Burns Gentil Burns '70 |
| Marian Bosse Bier '43 | Mary Reynolds Borgman '50 | Marlene Plogman Bernens '58 | Ann Gaynor '71 |
| Mary Schirmer Young '44 | Marilyn Mertens Vogele '51 | Mary Jo Goettke Westendorf '59 | Linda Hess '71 |
| Helen Partridge Trierweiler '44 | Martha Hoffman Cole '51 | Mary Carol Herbers Weidner '59 | Mary Hilvers-Noble '71 |
| Margaret Bell Wesseling '44 | Virginia Wellinghoff Schmidt '51 | Judith Smith Birri '59 | Mary Kunnen '72 |
| Patricia Dabbelt O'Brien '44 | Georgetta Schell Kinnemeyer '51 | Barbara Perry Prater '59 | Betty Piecuch Bieber '73 |
| Dorothy Noth Bierman '44 | Mary Thiemann Richter '52 | Patricia Imholte Luken '59 | Maureen Kelly O'Conner '77 |
| Vivian Flaig Wilson '44 | Elizabeth Krekeler Bennett '52 | Marilyn Troesch Fox '59 | Paula Delaney Flaherty '77 |
| Catherine Schwartz Dunseth '45 | Maureen McManus Stenger '52 | Sherry Long '60 | Rose Reilly '77 |
| Carol Steinkamp Molleran '45 | Kathleen Schmidt '52 | Barbara Henzerling Hoffman '61 | Susan Howell Mierenfeld '78 |
| Marjorie Kromme Kallmeyer '45 | Mary Twilling Appelmann '52 | Barbara Dorn Tucker '61 | Jennifer Wolfer Weibel '82 |
| Margaret Cappel Monnig '45 | Lois Auberger Otte '52 | Linda Busch Culman '61 | Pamela Brooks Moorhead '84 |
| Jacqueline Blind Hirth '46 | Mary Louise Kuhlman Geis '52 | Gayle Doyle '63 | Sheri Miles Sparnecht '90 |
| Marian Battista '46 | Bernice Smith Reilly '52 | Patricia Murphy Noel '63 | Melissa Hay Holder '97 |
| Betty Huber Krouse '46 | Carol Jean Farwick Schumacher '52 | Martha Dixon Kline '63 | |
| Mary Miller Lipps '47 | Marilyn Hayhow Boerger '53 | Donna Studt Colegate Keyes '64 | |

Giving Our Time and Using Our Gifts

Wherever it may be that alumnae choose to live in this world, Seton High School has prepared them to excel in life, to hear God's voice and to do God's will. Here you can read about Saints doing amazing things all over the world.

Theresa Diersen '93

"I can do better."

As a senior at Seton High School, Theresa Diersen '93 found that she was able to lighten her class load by adding study hall to her schedule. She then wondered what she could do with that extra time she now had, and she soon found a way for filling her free time by filling her heart. One of the ways that she did this was by volunteering as an assistant to the freshman counselor. "I loved being able to make her life a little bit easier, even if it was simply filing papers or making copies, I was helping to give her some free time so she could catch up," said Theresa. "We also had a new French teacher that year, and so I reached out to her to see if I could assist her as well." During some study halls, Theresa would help clean and deliver things to other teachers. "It really gave me a sense of purpose," she added.

Filling her schedule with volunteering for others is something that became part of who Theresa is. In one of her first jobs doing public relations and marketing for Jaguar Land Rover, she found herself planning up to 80 sponsorship events each year. During this busy time, however, she managed to volunteer at four different nonprofits with any spare time that she managed to have. "I was once told to 'do what you have to do until you can afford to do what you love to do', and so that is what I was doing at that point in my life," Theresa explained.

When her mother passed away in 2013 of cancer, Theresa felt ready to embrace the advice to 'do what you love to do.' "I had always said that if I could just be half the

person my mother was, then I will be amazing," she said. So she decided that it was time to switch career goals and gears. Knowing it would be a financial sacrifice to give up her salary, she prayerfully considered what she should do, and with the support of her partner, Mike Heile (Elder '86), she quit her marketing job to search for a job in nonprofit. "He encouraged me to do what makes my soul happy and not worry about the finances," Theresa said. "I quit my job and a few days later a friend told me about St. Francis Seraph Ministries, or SFSM. "I make half of what I made at my for-profit job, but I am the richest person I know because my heart is full and I make a difference every day."

In her current job as Volunteer Services Director for SFSM she fulfills the mission of nurturing and nourishing the urban poor in mind, body and spirit through several ways. Her role is to recruit volunteers for SFSM's four programs: Mother Teresa of Calcutta Dining Room, also known as the soup kitchen; Sarah Center; Cooking for the Family and the Bag Lunch Program. "I work with approximately 600 volunteers a month," explained Theresa. "I also work with my co-workers to ensure that there are always two staff members on the premises at any time. I have flexibility in my schedule, so it is possible to see me working dinner one day, breakfast the next, Cooking for the Family another day and filling in for Sarah Center at Findlay Market on the weekends." In addition to all of this, SFSM has recently taken on the task of supplying bag lunches to cold shelters, so Theresa recruits groups and families to help make these lunches off-site.



Theresa Diersen '93

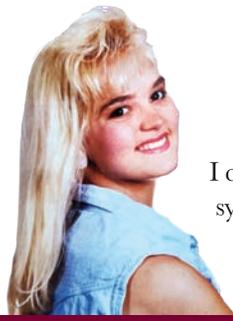


Theresa creates relationships working side by side with SFSM's volunteers and clients.

Theresa recognized some of her gifts while growing up in a faith-filled family. “I was raised in the Franciscan church where we gave of ourselves freely in all situations. We did not have money growing up, but we had time,” explained Theresa. “With that said, my parents taught me early in life to give what you can and look for nothing in return. What we give, whether it is time or money, should be a gift. If we look to be repaid then we will be resentful and always disappointed.”

There are certain strengths that Theresa recognized that have helped her be successful in what God has called her to do. She has always had the goal to be a better person by living a life of service and gratitude and knowing each day that she has done her best. Looking back at her years at Seton she can recognize the gifts she had, even if it wasn't obvious at the time, which included getting yelled at in Sr. Madeline's French class whenever Theresa loudly whispered to anyone who walked past in the hallway. “I just wanted to talk to everybody,” she fondly recalled. “That gift of talking has helped me to create wonderful connections with volunteers and clients alike. I genuinely care about how they feel,” she added.

Other great memories at Seton include moments of sisterhood and bonding, which have carried over to today in how Theresa makes people feel included, valued and special. Some of her favorite memories are from Drill Team. “I remember standing in the hallway before competition singing our good luck songs,” she said. “We had funny traditions while getting ready and then bonding while singing to pump us up before an eight-minute routine. The sisterhood was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I wish everyone could have.” She also recalls her high school morning routines, which included arriving at school early. “Some of my classmates got there early too, so we would talk about everything and anything – school, boys and family life at home. These girls taught me what it means to have an amazing support system,” Theresa explained. “I am not afraid to share anything, and



“I may not have always known what the plan was, but I know that I am right where I am supposed to be right now.”

I can be open, honest and vulnerable with my support system who will in turn share with me.”

Theresa gains the trust of others with her kindness, which is where she finds fulfillment. “What I love most about my job is helping others. I love making a difference in someone's life,” she said. “What most people do not understand is that the homeless want to be seen. So many people walk past them as if they are to be walked on like dirt. This population is the most vulnerable in our city and they want to be heard, want to know someone cares, want a connection with someone else and want to know that they are not alone.”

Within the first year of opening their doors, there was a man who came in daily for breakfast and dinner, in addition to grabbing a sack lunch. Theresa recalls him never smiling and never talking to anyone. “After three months or so he came up to me and another volunteer and he had a huge smile on his face,” Theresa said. “He thanked us for providing three meals a day for him and told us that he had found a job as a dishwasher. He had been able to save the money he would have spent on meals, and the next week he was moving into his first apartment.” But that is not where the story ends. “About seven months later he came back in to just check in with me,” Theresa added. “He wanted me to know that he was giving up his off-nights from work to volunteer at a cold shelter. I remember his words clearly as he said, ‘I went from being homeless to helping the homeless.’”

Theresa maintains a grateful heart and that inspiring story will always be a part of her. “I believe God has a plan for me,” she said. “I may not have always known what the plan was, but I know that I am right where I am supposed to be right now. God is working through me to serve those less fortunate than myself, and if He can work through me then He can help and work through others around me. So many lives pass through the doors of SFSM and our work is like a pebble being dropped into a pond. We may not see the good that we create, but the ripples from the pebble create changes in the pond so that the waters will never be the same.”





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