

Focus

THE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE OF MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY



SPRING/SUMMER 2023



The Sisters of MSM

PAGE 3 – A tribute to the siblings who walked our fair halls together.

A Look Into The MSM Archives

PAGE 5 – Take a glance at all the memories in our 100 years of history!

Alumnae Updates

PAGE 9 – Read about the accomplishments of your fellow Mounties.



Focus

THE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE OF
MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.
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FOCUS IS BOTH DIGITAL AND IN PRINT!

Our Spring/Summer edition will be printed and mailed out yearly, while our Fall/Winter edition will be published digitally. Please make sure your contact information with MSM is up to date so you can receive the alumnae magazine.



Dear Alumnae of Mount St. Mary Academy,

It is hard to believe that in just a few short years our beloved school will celebrate its centennial in 2027. As the academic year begins, we welcome our Centennial Class to Mount St. Mary Academy with a brand new group of incoming freshmen. A lot has changed since the first group of students began their school year in 1927, but there is so much that remains the same. Each year brings new memories to this building, and the same values of sisterhood, tradition, and home.

But what do we mean when we say “sisterhood?” To some, it could mean actually attending MSM with your sibling, whether it’s at the same time or years apart. Or sisterhood could be referring to the lifelong friendships we made as teenagers. These “sisters” continue to stay by our side throughout our lives being bridesmaids in our weddings and godmothers to our children. Or maybe sisterhood refers to the underlying support we show our fellow alumnae when they need it most.

The value of “tradition” is one of the most special parts of being an alumna of Mount St. Mary Academy. We all remember receiving our class rings, carrying red roses on graduation day, and laughing with friends on the way to class. Almost 100 years of memories somehow overlap with each other, and graduates from the Class of 1973 have traits in common with the Class of 2023.

Lastly, “home” means something different to everyone. To many students, alumnae, families, and faculty, Mount St. Mary Academy is their second home. That feeling that when you walk through the doors you are welcomed, just as you are. Countless memories and nostalgia remain here in this special place.

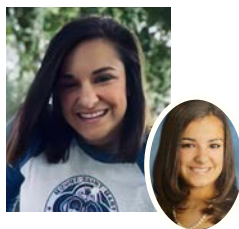
We hope you enjoy this edition of our Alumnae Focus Magazine, and are reminded of your very own cherished Mountie memories.

Blessings and joy to you always,

The MSM Development Team:



Stephanie Ohol King '05
Director of Development



Rosie Paternostro '11
*Coordinator of Alumnae
Outreach & Public Relations*



Marissa Brandel '19
*Coordinator of
Annual Giving & Events*

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount St. Mary Academy, founded by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women. Within a nurturing and academically challenging and inclusive environment, the Academy strives to develop the whole person’s gifts and potential. Guided by our Catholic tradition, and rooted in Gospel values, we empower scholars to be leaders dedicated to lifelong learning, moral integrity, social justice, and service to and inclusion of others.

The “Sisters” of Mount St. Mary Academy

A beautiful tradition of Mount St. Mary Academy is that being an alumnae is some-thing many share with their siblings. Since the first class started here in 1927, hundreds of sisters have walked the halls of our school. Countless students have shared their love for MSM with their younger sisters, and in turn those sisters start their own journeys here after. We also have sisters who attended MSM together, each having their own unique experiences. Family is one of MSM’s core values, and sharing the bond of MSM Sisterhood with your sister is such a blessing for so many in our alumnae community. Alumnae from three different generations have shared what Mount St. Mary Academy means to their family, and what the term sisterhood means to them.

“All six DeTine women attended the Mount, so there were several years when two or three of us were around.

Amy reminisces: ‘Prior to high school my world consisted of walking down the street to our small parish elementary school, then there I was with a city bus pass going all the

way down Delaware Ave into Kenmore on my own! Having sisters to make sure I got there safely and found my way to a homeroom class that first week without getting lost?’

Priceless! And I can’t hear a soundtrack from ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ without stopping to enjoy it all the way through.’

Nancy, the eldest sister, set a very high academic standard that we were all expected to achieve, and the faculty usually refrained from comparisons. However Mrs. Stumpf couldn’t help but remind Beth every year she would have to go a long way to beat Susie’s school record for the high jump!

MSM left all of us with cherished friendships that have endured many years. It prepared us well, leading to careers in advertising & creative writing, education, hospitality, law, architecture & interior design, real estate, hospital administration and entrepreneurship. Thank you to the Mount and the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur from Nancy, Susie, Linda, Beth, Amy and Carol!”

—*Beth DeTine ‘71 and Amy DeTine ‘73*



The DeTine Sisters: Nancy DeTine ‘66, Susan DeTine-Carter ‘68, Linda DeTine ‘70, Beth DeTine ‘71, Amy DeTine ‘73, and Carol DeTine ‘75.

“Attending MSM with my sisters is a blessing I am forever grateful for. I had the privilege of not only having one, but two sisters attend the Mount before me. Seeing the connections, opportunities and successes of Chloe and Lara made me eager to create my own path at the Mount. Through their knowledge, I was able to gain insight into the routines, traditions and spirit of MSM. When I was a freshman, Lara was in her senior year. I remember thinking how cool it was to have a senior-sister, and I was thankful to have her right by my side as I took on the challenges of high school. She taught me the ins and outs of the school—which staircases to take to dodge Mrs. Dauria, how to put milk cartons into my locker, and what classes to stay away from. My oldest sister, Chloe, also played a role in my time at Mount, even though we never attended at the same time. She inspired me to play lacrosse. I remember watching her games decked out in Mount lax apparel, cheering



The Macdonald Sisters: Chole Macdonald Bree '09, Lara Macdonald '12, and Olivia Macdonald '15

them on to the championship. I couldn't wait for it to be me on the field. Years later, we would swap sides, and she would be cheering in the stands at my MSM lacrosse games.

Sharing the title of MSM Alumna with my sisters has created a bond stronger than I thought possible. We embody the term sisterhood in more ways than one – sure, we're related, but we also share in the sisterhood that connects all Mounties. It's something we hold dear to us. I proudly wear my class ring and am often recognized by other alumna because of it. The ring forges an instant connection. Being a Mountie is only something other Mounties fully understand. It's a circle of inside jokes, 'just Mount

things', and traditions like none other. The Macdonald girls are proud to be Mounties for life."

—*Olivia Macdonald '15*

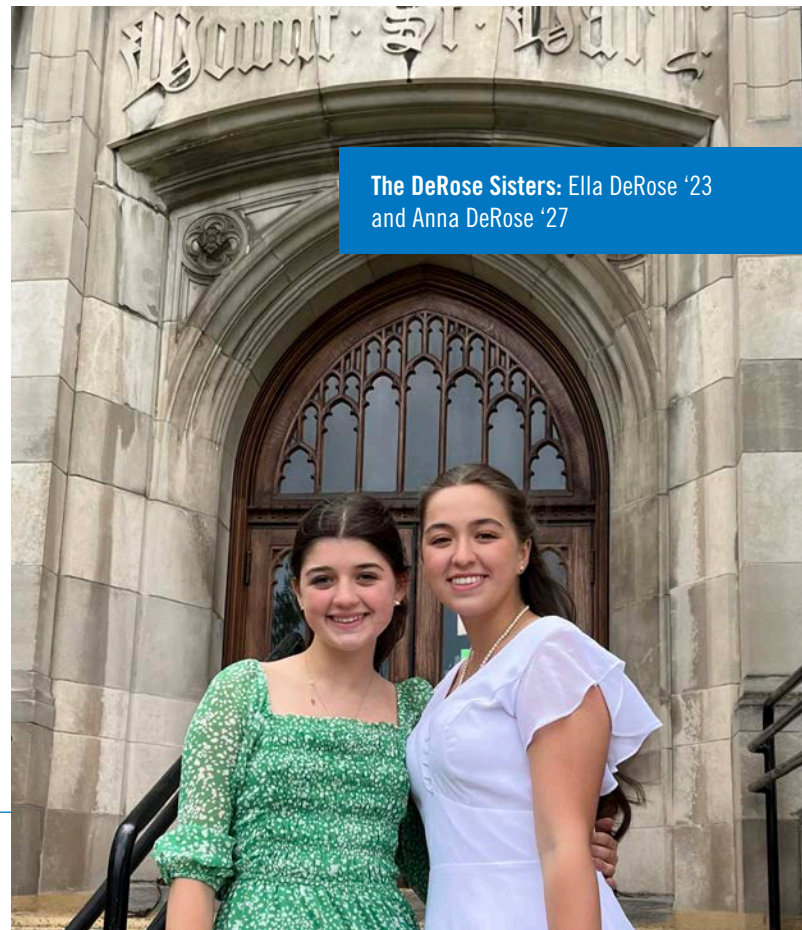
"Mount St. Mary Academy is not just a place that generations of students have come to learn, but a place where the principles of kindness, acceptance, and sisterhood have earned a spot in the minds of many women. At MSM, sisterhood is the backbone of all lessons learned. It creates a sense of understanding

that reaches past the usual challenges of being in high school. Essentially, sisterhood is a Mountie's lifetime belonging to her community long after graduation.

Not only am I a graduate of the Class of 2023, but I am the daughter of Jennifer Englert DeRose '89, niece of Jessica Englert '96 and Sarah Englert Martineck '86, and the proud sister of Anna DeRose '27. It means so much to know that I share my forever home at Mount St. Mary with the people I love. Just as I was given the chance to find my own place at MSM, I challenge every student with alumnae mothers and sisters to do one thing—make your own path. Whether that means exploring your current beliefs, challenging your norms, or questioning what sisterhood means to you, it is important that every Mountie creates her own legacy.

Our alma mater is a mosaic of the women who have passed through its halls. It is a home to memories of girlhood, accomplishment, and the sisterhood that binds each alumna to Mount St. Mary. As my sister Anna begins her own journey, I look on with excitement and pride for the person she is and has yet to fully become at the Mount."

—*Ella DeRose '23*



The DeRose Sisters: Ella DeRose '23 and Anna DeRose '27

Remembering the MSM Bazaar

By: Liz Reiser '75, Sr. Carol Ann Kleindist '67, and Mary Feeney Burich '79

The sounds! The sights! The smells! Do you recall the storied Mount St. Mary Academy Bazaar of days past?

An annual event anticipated and fondly remembered by many, this legendary MSM fundraiser was a collaborative endeavor of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the laity, most prominently the MSM Mothers Circle. Of course, MSM dads were involved too, typically handling financial aspects of the event. Traditionally held on a weekend in November, it was: “the place to be.” With the reach of the Sisters extending deep into the surrounding communities, attendees—including many prospective “Mounties” - hailed from far and wide.

As one entered the school, a notable buzz permeated the premises. There were joyful sounds of laughter, chatter and of course, the whirr and “click, click, click” of the Wheel of Chance! Treasures abounded, both hand-made and home grown.

I remember well my mom, Shirley Reiser, decorating plastic fruit and flowers with gold-leaf-infused varnish to create masterpieces of home décor. She recalls that committee members would find all sorts of items around their homes which were then creatively repurposed as treasures for the

Boutique Booth. Likewise, her career making “Raggedy Ann dolls” had its genesis here and they quickly became a popular raffle item!

Sr. Mary Philip could regularly be found in the biology lab, overseeing the plant booth, the contents of which had been lovingly tended to by Sr. Dolorata in the property’s greenhouse. Perhaps a handmade birdhouse could be purchased there as well. A plethora of other booths filled the gym and corridors. Reflecting the Academy’s foundation in the Catholic faith tradition, art students in 1959 created posters advertising the booths, dedicating each to an appropriate saint. Thanksgiving and Christmas booths were replete with seasonal decorations while aprons, blankets, records, white-elephant items, jewelry, toys, religious articles, craft items created by the Sisters themselves, and so much more could be found in the multitude of other booths. The selection seemed endless, and I am left to wonder how many parents received gifts purchased at the MSM Bazaar?

Perhaps as a young attendee, you remember going fishing in the little gym (also known as the Small Aud) which had been transformed for the occasion into Kiddieland or Funland. Located beneath the chapel, it was filled with activities and games for the younger set. Hopeful young anglers would cast their lines over the seawall on the stage, sure to catch a

A Dive Into the MSM Archives

Since construction first started on Mount St. Mary Academy, our school has collected over 100 years of information, pictures, and artifacts. These pieces of school history live in the MSM Archives, a collection built up over time hosted by the Development Department.

Liz Reiser '75 and Sr. Carol Ann Kleindist '67 have graciously donated

their time and efforts to organize and sort through all the artifacts in the archives in preparation for MSM’s Centennial in 2027.

Thanks to their hard work, we were able to come across pictures from the construction of the building’s “New Wing” in 1953. This addition to MSM added 30 classrooms including science labs, home economics and art rooms, music rooms,

and a real cafeteria. This expansion makes up the majority of MSM today, including the addition of the gymnasium and auditorium in 1958.

Take a look into MSM’s History in the photos to the right—did you know any Mounties present at the 1953 “New Wing” Groundbreaking Ceremony?



small trinket! And how many of us went home having won a goldfish from the fish pond?

The school cafeteria became a dining room during the Bazaar, with students filling the roles of servers, bussers and greeters. Sumptuous aromas emanated from large pots of chowder and the preparation of spaghetti, ham, or roast beef dinners which varied from year to year. Some might contend those scents still linger in our fair halls even today! Likewise, appetites could be satiated in the snack bar or at the pantry booth, which offered baked goods for sale, including wonderful breads baked by Sr. St. William and pies and cookies made and donated by others. Those with a sweet tooth could head over to the candy booth for Sr. Mary Powell's peanut brittle.

Based on articles found in the school archives and shared by the Sisters, the Bazaar was well publicized in local newspapers. Begun in 1931, the MSM Bazaar was a themed event,

with many hands contributing countless hours towards its planning, preparation, set-up and successful production. On the occasion of its 40th Anniversary in 1971, the hope was to raise \$10,000. While that may not seem a lofty goal by today's standards, it should be noted that tuition for the 1971-1972 school year was \$400.00, payable in ten monthly installments of \$40.00.

It is likely the Bazaar continued for another decade or so, at which time the festive Medieval Faire took place for a few years, followed thereafter by today's signature fundraiser: Chrysalis. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many moms, dads, and of course, our beloved Sisters, who worked so diligently to make the Bazaar a success, thus ensuring the fiscal solvency of MSM and an excellent educational opportunity for generations of "Mounties".

Do you have a favorite memory from the MSM Bazaar?
Share it with us by emailing alumnae@msmacademy.org



Mother Mary Celine, the school's provincial, performs the ceremonial spade turning at the New Wing Groundbreaking Ceremony in 1953.



Alumnae Weekend 2023

The Mount St. Mary Alumnae Community hosted its first ever Alumnae Weekend this past June! A wonderful three days of events celebrating friendship, sisterhood, and a shared love for our Alma Mater.

The weekend kicked off with the 8th Annual Alumnae Golf Tournament at Rothland Golf Course on Friday, June 23rd organized by the MSM Alumnae Board. Family and friends of MSM came together on the fairways to raise money for the Alumnae Scholarship Fund awarded to a member of the incoming freshman class every year. Thank you to this year's Golf Tournament Chairperson Laura Belczak Heim '02 for the planning and execution of such a fun day!

Saturday, June 24th our alumnae returned to the halls of Mount St. Mary Academy with tours of our school followed by the Alumnae Networking Happy Hour! Former classmates from all generations visited their favorite spots at MSM and reminisced about what has changed since their graduation day. Then, our panel of Alumnae Career Professionals held a discussion about their career paths and advice for women in the working world.

Finally on Sunday, June 25th our alumnae joined together for a beautiful outdoor mass at Banchetti By Rizzo's in The Grove led by Msgr. Francis Weldgen, followed by brunch in the Michelangelo Room.

Thank you to all those who helped to make Alumnae Weekend 2023 truly unforgettable!

Thank you to our Alumnae Career Professionals for sharing their wisdom and expertise at the Alumnae Networking Happy Hour:

Esther Ossei-Anto Sarpong '01

Director of Experiential Retail at Brookfield Properties

Dr. Elizabeth Gruber Brem '02

Hematologist & Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, UC Irvine

Kelly Jakiel Copps '04

Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Second Generation Theatre Company

Mary Balkin Cannata '08

Senior Associate at Lippes Mathias LLP

Danielle Blount '09

Co-Founder, BOLDER Inc, and Partner, BOLD Ventures





Congratulations!

To our Mount St. Mary Academy Alumnae Award Winners for 2022 & 2023:

Alumna of the Year



2022 Deborah Keenan '66



2023 Mary Balkin Cannata '08



2022 Dr. Erin Biro Bui '98



2023 Dr. Roslyn Romanowski '78

Sophia Award

Distinguished Educator Award



2022 Mary Ann Fancher



2023 Jennifer Pitz-Jones '96

Volunteer of the Year



2022 Elizabeth Reiser '75



2023 Patricia Pike '72



TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN LIFE SAVING SWIMMING SKILLS: A MOUNTIE ENTREPRENEURIAL STORY

By: Alison Lowes Thompson '04 – Owner of ISR of Buffalo – Survival Swim School

Swimming has always been a large part of my life. During my high school years at MSM, I swam on the varsity swim team and was a member of the Tonawanda Aquettes. I later became the head coach of the MSM Swim Team until 2015.

Once I had children of my own I knew I wanted them to be safe in and around the water. When Covid hit and I was stuck home with my newborn twins and 2 year old son, I started researching swim programs. I quickly realized there were no survival swim programs anywhere in WNY. Drowning is the leading cause of death in children ages 1 to 4 years old. I knew then I wanted to become a certified survival swim instructor with ISR (Infant Swimming Resource).

ISR is the global leader in survival swimming. How are ISR survival swim lessons different from traditional swim lessons? I work with children as young as 6 months old and teach them through sensorimotor learning how to react if they were to ever find the water unattended. Children from ages 6 months to 12 months learn how to hold their breath and roll onto their back and sustain a float. Once children are walking, they can learn to swim then roll onto their back to rest and then roll back onto the stomachs to continue to swim.

I work with children of all abilities up to age 6 with hopes that they develop a love for swimming. I am thrilled to be offering these lessons with hopes to continue educating families and keeping children safe in WNY.

INSTAGRAM: [ISR_BFLO](#)

FACEBOOK: [ISR of Buffalo - Survival Swim School](#)



Stay Connected With MSM!

Mount St. Mary Academy will always be a place that cheers you on. Keep us updated with your accomplishments, life updates, and stories of life's gratitude at msmacademy.org/alumnae or scan the QR code to the right.





WE'VE GOT "THE LUCK OF THE MOUNT!"

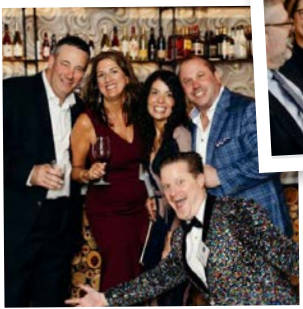
Mount St. Mary Academy's Chrysalis Auction "The Luck of the Mount" took place on March 18th at The Wurlitzer Events Center! A spectacular night full of friends, families, and alumnae all coming together to support our school. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our donors, we were able to raise over \$150,000 for MSM!

Thank you to the efforts of the 2023 Chrysalis Committee for making this year's Chrysalis so successful, and a special thank you to this year's Chrysalis Co-Chairs:

Lisa Battaglia Garvey '96 and Mike Garvey
(Parents of Maeve '24 and Adelaide '25)

Margrit DiCamillo '89 and Jeffrey Voelkl
(Parents of Lucy '24)

Rebecca and Andrew Attea
(Parents of Kate '24)



Our sincere gratitude for this year's Chrysalis Sponsors:

GOOD LUCK CHARM SPONSOR:
Rebecca & Andrew Attea

SHAMROCK SPONSORS:
Quilted Squirrel
Voelkl Law
Brian Murphy and Laura Herzog Murphy '94
Eberl Iron Works
Pine Woods Animal Hospital
Pinto Construction
M&T Bank
Sugarman Law Firm
AP Professionals
Moog Inc.

FUND-AN-ITEM SPONSOR:
Innovative Mechanical

BIDDING PADDLE SPONSOR:
Gelia

WINE SPONSOR:
The Wells Family
Ferguson Electric

DINNER SPONSOR:
Pirrone Accounting, CPA

*** Mark your calendars! The date for Chrysalis 2024 is Saturday, March 16th! Check back to msmacademy.org soon for more details!**

Class Notes

Where you'll find updates on all of your sister alumnae.
Class notes are updates since the Fall 2022/Winter 2013 issue of "Focus".

50s

Joan Coe Frary '55 celebrated her last day at Pensacola Christian College in Florida this summer after 10 years teaching both elementary and high school.

60s

Doreen Kotlowski Hovery '66 retired in June 2023 from her senior staff position in higher education.

70s

Dawn Hurley Riggie '71 and her husband Joseph celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 24th, 2023.

Lisa Tepas '71 recently moved back to Tonawanda after being gone since 1974. She retired from the US Army in 2001, and spent 17 years working for the Department of the Army as a civilian. Following her retirement in 2018, she now works as a Travel Agent for cruises.

80s

Nancy Power Grace '86 was recently featured in the Triangle Business Journal for her work as a licensed Real Estate Agent in North Carolina for the last 16 years! She has won multiple awards and currently works with the Keller Williams Legacy in Apex, North Carolina.

90s

Megan Culliton Gomez '96 was awarded by Buffalo Business First one of their 2023 Women of Influence Awards in the Corporate Executive Category for her position at Univera Healthcare.

00s

Angelina Giglia '02 started a new career last year in Human Resources as a specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs, previously working in the Department of Homeland Security as a Transportation Security Officer/Behavioral Detection Officer for 15 years.

Lisa Womer Krol '04 works for the International Institute of Buffalo in Survivor Support, assisting survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking among teens and foreign born individuals—working closely with the Human Trafficking Taskforce in Buffalo, one of just a few in the country.

Jessica Krol '05 celebrated her marriage to fellow Mountie **Lisa Wormer Krol '04** in May 2022.

Amy Heiser '05 was promoted to Senior Occupational Therapist at The Center for Discovery in Harris, NY in December 2022. Additionally, she serves as the handler for the school's facility dog named Sully who is incorporated into the OT therapy sessions.

Mary Herzig Hetzel '07 welcomed her daughter Sophia Elizabeth in June 2023.

Elizabeth Suchan-Reitz '07 and her husband Andrew welcomed their first child Jack in April 2023.

10s

Victoria Mack '10 welcomed her daughter Julia Rose in May 2023 with her fiance Garrett Smith.

Sarah Kingston '11 celebrated her wedding to her husband Sergio Gangarossa in March 2023.

Shauna Murphy Sowa '11 married her husband James in April 2023.

Silvana D'Ettore '12 married her husband Kris Santos in June 2023.

Bryanna Gwitt Prince '12 and her husband Nick welcomed their son Rowan Thomas in August 2023.

Susie Meegan DeLand '12 welcomed her baby girl with husband Brad in July 2023.

Alexis Selak '14 celebrated the Grand Opening of her cafe and bakery Eucalypt Cake Artistry & Cafe on Niagara Street in Tonawanda in August 2023!

Jordan McIntyre '19 married Camden Mills in June of 2023

Kaitriana Seibel '19 earned The Research Recognition Award from John Carroll University for her work in the Psychology Department.

20s

Annabella Bogart '20, part of the University at Buffalo Honors College, recently completed her internship with the office of US Attorney Trini Ross.

Ava Lockwood '20 was recently awarded the Dean's Admission Award to the University at Buffalo's School of Social Work, as well as being appointed as the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Coordinator for the 2023 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) World Leadership Congress.

Carly Ermer '23 competed at the US Synchronized Swimming Junior Olympics this summer in Hampton Virginia - the largest synchronized swimming competition in the world! Carly earned the title of Top Rated Junior Athlete in the US, and took home numerous medals after competing in several event divisions. She was also awarded a scholarship to the University of the Incarnate Word to swim with the Division I UIW Cardinals.



SCAN ME

Please share your news with us!

Scan the QR code to share news, send pictures, and update your contact info!

Giving Day 2023

Mount St. Mary Academy held its first Giving Day on May 11, 2023. Giving Day is a 24-hour digital fundraising event dedicated to giving back to our school.

Just before Mother's Day, we honored the extraordinary women who came before us and in our own communities that help us along our own journeys.

Because of the incredible efforts of the Mount St. Mary Academy Community, our first ever Giving Day was a phenomenal success, raising a total of \$22,169 from more than 150 donors! We are grateful to all those who reached out through their networks and supported in whatever capacity they could. The success of Giving Day allows MSM to continue to be a place where our students can thrive and call home.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, we thank you for being a part of MSM's Giving Day 2023!

In Memoriam

We pray for all of the beloved members of our Mount St. Mary Academy community who have gone to rest with our Lord. We remember our loved ones who have passed since Spring 2023:

Sr. Kathleen Kane

Jacquelyn Nuttle

Elaine Sauberan Gregoire '50

Rosemary Senftle Bath '51

Carole Bird Huff '54

Judith Parkes Morrissey '59

Maureen O'Neill Bunn '61

Barbara Glegota Rosowski '61

Joyce Figlioti Skoghem '72

Jean Frisch Salzman '75

Sarah Dubenion '98

Isabella French '21



Do You Remember?

Take a look at photos from all different generations of Mounties found in the MSM Archives. Do you recognize any of your fellow classmates?



1965



1981



1998



1991



1980



1978



1985



1971



1985



1989



1980



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



Scholarships earned by the class of 2023:

\$12,333,656

Total number of colleges the students were accepted into:

97

Students graduating in the Class of 2023:

52



Mount St. Mary Academy
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Kenmore, New York 14217

Focus

THE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE OF MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY
SPRING / SUMMER 2023



Show Your Support!

The Development Department at MSM is dedicated to raising the funds necessary for the provision and support of the programs available to its students. Funding through these efforts will continue Mount St. Mary Academy's ability to provide state-of-the-art learning blended with time-honored traditions within a developmentally safe and supportive environment.

This mission is only made possible through the kindness and generosity of our good friends and benefactors who support us in our work through their prayers and donations.

Make your gift today by scanning the QR code or making a donation at msmacademy.org/donate.

