

St. Anne Catholic School Alumni Newsletter

August 2023

We have been busy at St. Anne. This past year, we graduated our largest eighth grade class in years, but a high number of families transferring into St. Anne has kept our enrollment steady. Unfortunately, so many of the students who would like to transfer from public schools were too far behind to make the transition. We have been working hard to build a prayerful and supportive culture within the school while also meeting our students academic needs. We continue to develop programs for our school parents to grow in their own faith and develop the skills they need to raise children in today's environment.

Last summer we replaced the lights and sound system in the church, creating a more beautiful and welcoming environment. Renovation work on the auditorium is almost complete. The new St. Anne Family Room is ideal for retreats, family formation events, parish gatherings and family celebrations. We hope you will come by to see what we have done.

This past year we began organizing alumni events in various locations including Dallas, Houston, and Chicago. Also locally, we held an event for those who are currently parishioners at St. Peter in Schulte and St. John in Clonmel. Anyone who would be interested in helping to organize or host an event in their city or locally for their parish, please contact our Director of Engagement, Oscar Raymundo at 316-522-2383 or ORaymundo@stannewichita.org.

Finally, please see the attached letter regarding the St. Anne Festival. We hope you will join us September 22-24.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. David Marstall



Melissa Arguijo Receives Bishop Carroll's Highest Honor

Melissa's family became active at St. Anne a little over four years ago and decided to start sending their children to Catholic School. Her younger siblings entered St. Anne and she entered Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. This past May, she was invited to share her story with the entire student body. Then, at graduation, she received the Bishop's Crest Award.

Watch her tell her story:

<https://youtu.be/jf5Q1ftBmU8?si=IQWttVQeESDmfn0G>



Congratulations to our Retiring Teachers

When school began August 16 it was without two faces who had been with us for many years. Janet Goetz and Edie Beugelsdijk had had a profound impact on the lives of many students.

Janet Goetz started teaching religion to the upper grades at St. Anne Catholic School as a long-term substitute. "I was a fill-in until they were able to locate somebody or hire somebody," she said.

That "somebody" never arrived.

"They ended up keeping me," said Goetz, retiring this spring upon finishing her 15th year teaching.

In sixth grade, students study the Old Testament; in seventh grade, they learn about the liturgy, the Creed and the New Testament; and in eighth grade, they explore church history. Sixth-graders go to a vocation rally to learn about the priesthood and religious life, and seventh-graders have a Judaism project, Goetz said. In recent years, eighth-graders have traveled to Pilsen, home of Father Emil Kapaun, and have toured the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Wichita. Eighth-graders also construct models of historic churches, the results displayed annually in the gathering space in the church. College sophomore Nick Howland called that one of his favorite assignments. The model of the Chartres Cathedral in France remains in the family basement. "I think she was the most informative teacher I've ever had to this day," Howland said.



Associate pastor Father Ty Taylor has seen what our students learn by visiting their classes regularly. Father Ty, a product of public schools, said, "The Catholic school kids know way more as junior high kids than I did in high school."

St. Anne graduate, Sam Schmidt, is a seminarian living in the St. Joseph House of Formation, Wichita. Schmidt spoke of his former religion teacher. Outside the classroom, he would see Goetz in church and interacting with the parish community, he said. "She taught it but she also lived it. And I think that was something striking, because it wasn't something abstract. It actually was a real, lived experience," Schmidt said.

College sophomore Fatima Figueroa said Goetz would tell her she believed in her. "I felt like she was always there for me, like I could feel she actually cared about me," Figueroa said. "She really just left a mark in my life."

Retirement will give Goetz and her husband Bill Goetz, already retired, time to spend on things they weren't able to do when she was teaching.

"I'm going to do volunteer work, but I haven't decided what. I'll be listening to what God wants me to do," she said.

Edie Beugelsdijk taught in public school for about 20 years prior to coming to St. Anne to teach fifth grade. This summer, she retired from teaching in the school.

The experience has been "a great blessing," Beugelsdijk said. "I have grown so much in my faith and become much more involved in my parish family. I have most enjoyed becoming a Eucharistic minister and serving the students at daily Mass. What a joy to bring Jesus to them in Holy Communion."

School parent Crystal Ontiveros admires Beugelsdijk's patience as she teaches a roomful of children with different personalities and entering the challenging early adolescent years. Crystal and Lorenzo Ontiveros' daughter Arely, now in seventh grade, was in Beugelsdijk's class in fifth grade.

"It takes a special person," Crystal Ontiveros said. She appreciated hearing the teacher's reassuring words, " 'Mom, she's going to be fine.' "

Marley Chavez, a sophomore at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, said it was the little things Beugelsdijk did - such as keeping water in the classroom and offering an assortment of chairs from which students could choose - that showed how much she cared.



Her devotion to students made an impression on Bishop Carroll junior Anna Kliever, who entered St. Anne in the fifth grade, and Beugelsdijk was her teacher.

"Mrs. B is an amazing teacher. She always made sure we had what we needed," Kliever said. "I remember that one time a student needed glasses. She went out and got the child glasses."

"She always greeted us with a smile," Kliever said, and was "very strong in her faith." Students did a Mass journal, which Kliever thought was very important. When Kliever received the sacrament of Confirmation, Beugelsdijk was her sponsor.

St. Anne Principal Gerard Hamilton said Beugelsdijk and another veteran teacher who is retiring, Janet Goetz, "are great educators and will be missed immensely by the students and the staff. They have a wealth of experience they have shared with all of us throughout the years."

Beugelsdijk is looking forward to spending time with her husband, Paul Beugelsdijk, who retired four years ago and has been awaiting her retirement. They enjoy traveling and like to garden.

"We will continue to be active members of the St. Anne family," she said.