



ST. NORBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 3 Issue 1

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June 2024

SISTERS WHO SERVED

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Sr. Kathleen Pritchard served as St. Norbert School principal in the 1980s. Today she attends Mass regularly and participates in school activities.

While some have returned to Ireland others are enjoying a life of retirement and parish involvement. And all are lovingly remembered by the hundreds who sat in their classrooms.

Born Kathleen Pritchard in Ireland, she was just 18 when she entered the convent. She joined dozens of other Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Pakistan, where she figured she'd spend the rest of her life.

But after seven years, God had other plans.

Fr. Peter Caslin, the first pastor at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress, reached out to his cousin, a Presentation Sister also living in Pakistan, and asked if they could spare a few sisters to help out the new parish. Five left in 1953. The third wave of sisters left in 1966. Sr. Kathleen was one of them.

Sr. Kathleen taught first grade at St. Norbert Catholic School in Orange before becoming the principal of St. Irenaeus. Within eight years, she succeeded Sr. Margarita Meenahan as principal of St. Norbert. She served in that role in the 1980s for about six years.

"I really liked St. Norbert School; the families were so supportive," says Sr. Kathleen, who welcomed the school's first kindergarten class during her term as principal.

While she attends Mass and school functions like Fish Fry regularly, Sr. Kathleen says she is thrilled to see principal Joe Ciccoianni continue the high

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ALUMNI in the NEWS

1970s

Kristine (Genzel) Telles (1978) graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a bachelor of arts in liberal studies and has been an administrative assistant for more than 12 years for Foot-hills Sentry newspaper.

1980s

Mater Dei High School graduate **Patty (Ward) McKimney** (1980) is celebrating her 25th year teaching kindergarten at SNCS.

1990s

Ashley (McNamara) Blalock (1997) is a child life specialist at Children's Hospital Orange County in Orange helping children cope with their illnesses in the pre-op and infusion departments.

Harmony (Hager) Briscoe (1998), who graduated from California State University Fullerton, is the educational technology director for Irvine Unified School District.

2000s

Rory Mahony (2002) graduated from Servite High School and UC Irvine with a bachelor's in international/global studies and now works as an area sales manager for Infinium Spirits, Inc. based in San Diego County.

Daniel Purpura (2006) graduated from Mater Dei High School and UCLA before earning a master's degree from NYU. He is currently a certified public accountant for Green Street in Newport Beach.



(Above) Kate holding the Atlanta 1996 torch at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee Archives in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Below) The SNCS graduate married Drew Gaarenstroom March 1 and they will have their Catholic wedding ceremony and reception on the same day next year.

Compassionate LEADER

St. Norbert School may be in her rearview mirror, but Kate (Wilson) Gaarenstroom keeps memories of her formative years close to her heart.

While a student at SNCS she loved being a part of the talent show and later helping put it together, having fun staying late to clean the Ministry Center kitchen post Fish Fry Fridays and offering to sell ice cream during random school lunches. The East Coast Expedition, undoubtedly, is also up there.

"Walking around Times Square at 2 a.m. during the 8th grade D.C. trip eating the biggest deli sandwiches I've ever seen and being student council president because I loved leading meetings weekly in the 8th grade classroom and getting to know every grade level," recalls Kate, 26, a 2012 SNCS graduate.

Kate also fondly remembers her second grade teacher, Mrs. Debevec.

"She has the kindest heart, knows how to make her students feel special and has



the best printing/organization of anyone I've met," Kate says.

Her sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Tredanari (Susca at the time), has "such a holistic approach to teaching and taught me not

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EVENTS & AROUND CAMPUS

Alumni Reunion Slated

Catch up with St. Norbert Catholic School's Class of 1974 at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 at Wise Guys Pizzeria, 4957 Yorba Ranch Road in Yorba Linda. For more information, email Paul Mazzarella at pmazzarella@k12.com or Kelly McNamara at kelmaureenmc@gmail.com.

Final Call!

Show off your swing at St. Norbert Catholic School's annual golf tournament Monday June 10 at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine. Assemble your own foursome or we'll match you with a group and enjoy a day of golf and camaraderie followed by an awards reception. The event includes a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, putting and longest drive contests and hole-in-one opportunity. For information, visit saintnorbertschool.org/golf.

Minimal Effort, Maximum Results

Alumna **Michelle (Ortiz) Navarro** (1990) is heading up St. Norbert Church's Christian Service food distribution and is looking for volunteers 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Join alumni, current families and parishioners as they

assemble bags of food for more than 250 families each week behind the St. Norbert Family & Youth Center. To sign up, email christianservice@stnorbert-church.org.

Invest in our Future

Honor a loved one who valued Catholic education by donating a monetary gift or non-cash financial instruments, such as stocks or mutual funds, to St. Norbert Catholic School. Our needs include:

- **SNCS Endowment Fund:** Provides financial support now and into the future. Funds are used to reduce or stabilize the school's deficit.
- **Tuition Assistance Fund:** Gifts of any amount help families struggling to meet their child(ren)'s tuition costs (about \$8,100/year).
- **Legacy of Light:** Contributions help finance projects that improve the school's safety, durability and energy efficiency.
- **Kathy Oldham Children's Fund:** Supports our school in a way that honors our dear friend Kathy Oldham and her love of family, children, faith and art education.

To arrange a donation, please call (714) 637-6822 or email info@saintnorbert-school.org.



HONORING BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

St. Norbert Catholic School continued its decades-long May Crowning tradition this month with 8th grader Anika C. doing the honors of crowning Mother Mary with a wreath of flowers.

2010s

Madison Enriquez (2013) recently graduated from CSU Monterey Bay with a bachelor's in marine science and is now working at Monterey Bay Aquarium as an aquarist with the animal care team.

Christina Tomas (2014) graduated from Cornelia Connelly High School and Creighton University's Heider College of Business and now works as an associate recruiter for CSS Staffing in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mater Dei alum **Steven McKimmey** (2016) graduated this spring with a degree in civil engineering from Northern Arizona University and will begin working for Southern California Edison.

Servite alum **James Terrones** (2016) is making home ownership a reality as a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway in Yorba Linda.

Brendan Hale (2018), a graduate of Orange Lutheran High School now studying political science and playing safety for Southern Utah University's football team, has appeared in an Instagram ad for Cerave skincare.

2020s

Nolan Risling (2023) was named Servite High School's cross country MVP for the freshman team.

Do you have news to share? We'd love to hear! Email your Alumni Update to alumni@saintnorbert-school.org.



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standards that have been maintained at the school through the years.

"I am very happy with the school," Sr. Kathleen says. "We as Presentation Sisters are very pleased with the way Nano Nagle's charism is promoted by Mr. Ciccoianni and the staff."

Update on Presentation Sisters who ministered at St. Norbert Catholic School:

Sr. Catherine Burke (aka Sr. Matthew): Along with the late Sr. Jane Bonar, Sr. Catherine opened an adult learning center at San Miguel Catholic Church in Watts in 2020 offering classes in English, U.S. history and citizenship preparation.

Sr. Angela Callanan (aka Sr. Sebastian): Lives in the Presentation Sisters-owned house behind St. Norbert School and leads the congregation's development committee, which fundraises for needs of retired Presentation Sisters in the United States.

Sr. Eileen Cannon (aka Sr. Cecilia): Returned to the U.S. from Ireland a year ago and now resides in the Presentation Sisters-owned house behind St. Norbert School.

Sr. Celestine: Left the Presentation Sisters congregation, returned to Ireland, married and had a son. She is active in parish work, focusing on religious education and sacramental preparation.

Sr. Breda Christopher: Lives at the Regina Residence run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Orange. She was active in the St. Norbert parish promoting the foundress of the Presentation Sisters, Nano Nagle.

Sr. Fabian Dunlea (aka Sr. Mary): Resides at St. Bonaventure Church in Hun-



Sr. Jane Bonar (left) and Sr. Catherine Burke



Sr. Marilyn Omieczynski



Sr. Immaculata Kelly



Sr. Breda Christopher



Sr. Rosemary O'Sullivan



Sr. Angela Callanan



Sr. Maura Fitzsimons



Sr. Debbie Gumina



Sr. Gemma Pires



Sr. Mary Dunlea

tington Beach and is active in her parish. She also cares for members of the Presentation Sisters community who are ill.

Sr. Maura Fitzsimons: Transferred to San Antonio, Texas.

Sr. Ambrose Fitzpatrick: Left the congregation and returned to Ireland.

Sr. Marie Clare Fox: Returned to Ireland and is active in the congregation.

Sr. Debbie Gumina: Lives at San Miguel Catholic Church in Watts and is the local leader of the Presentation Sisters' Guadalupe Community.

Sr. Niamh Kelley (aka Sr. Helen): Sr. Niamh, lovingly nicknamed Sr. Naïve, was so liked by SNCS families that many gave their daughters her first name. She resides at the Regina Residence run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Orange and busies her days with art projects.

Sr. Immaculata Kelly: Lives in the Presentation Sisters retirement community in San Antonio, Texas.

Sr. Florence Lowler: Returned to Ireland and passed away recently.

Sr. Jude McCarthy: Left the congregation and returned to Ireland where she married and is involved in religious education through her parish.

Sr. Marilyn Omieczynski: Now serves as provincial superior for the Presentation Sisters Guadalupe Community that includes St. Norbert, San Miguel, St. Bonaventure and St. Irenaeus churches and the Regina Residence in Orange. She lives in the Presentation Sisters provincial house in San Antonio, Texas.

Sr. Rosemary O'Sullivan: Lives at St. Irenaeus Church in Cypress and is very active in the parish. She had many happy years at St. Norbert School.

Sr. Gemma Pires: Orig-

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only how to be a good student, but also a good person.”

After graduating from Rosary Academy Kate went on to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles to earn a bachelor's degree in communication studies; she also minored in public relations.

Today she is the major gifts manager for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Since last July, Kate has been meeting with local Southern California donors to raise money for Team USA athletes.

“The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Team is fan-funded and does not receive government funding, so we solely rely on the generosity of families, foundations and



Kate (Wilson) Gaarenstroom with her nephew, Wilson, who is in kindergarten at SNCS with Mrs. McKimmey.

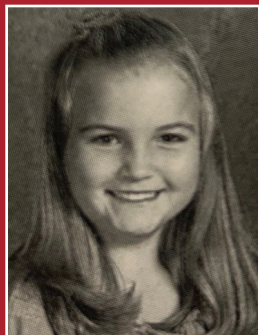
individuals to make athletes' dreams a reality,” Kate says.

This summer she'll be spending three and a half weeks in Paris hosting donors during the Olympic Games.

When she's not attending Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Newport Beach with husband Drew, Kate looks forward to visiting St. Norbert Parish with her family

and catching up with former classmates Kennedy Noden and cousin Kenzie (Hansen) Wiens.

“The community that comes with a Catholic school education is one of a kind,” Kate says. “It's tight-knit, loyal and extremely supportive. I am confident that the people I was exposed to in my younger years at St. Norbert helped shape me into a compassionate leader.”



Kate (Wilson) Gaarenstroom: 3rd grade

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nally from India, Sr. Gemma resides in the Presentation Sisters retirement community in San Antonio, Texas. While in the U.S. she was active in the RCIA ministry.

Sr. Kathleen Pritchard (aka Sr. Eymard Mayard): Resides in the Presentation Sisters-owned house behind St. Norbert School. She is involved in the parish's pro-life ministry doing sidewalk coun-

seling at Planned Parenthood locations throughout Orange County and Long Beach.

Sr. Jocelyn Quijano: Originally from the Philippines, Sr. Jocelyn lives in the Presentation Sisters-owned house behind St. Norbert School. She is on the provincial leadership team and is also the vocations promoter.

Sr. Rosario Ryan: The former first grade teacher at SNCS lives at the Regina Residence run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Orange.

Resting in Heaven

Sr. Jane Bonar
Sr. Eveleen Conlon
Sr. Maria Fitzgerald
Sr. Mary Cabrini Fortune
Mother Mary Jarlath
Sr. Florence Lowler
Sr. Anne Marie McKenna
Sr. Margarita Meenahan
Sr. Rita O'Connell (aka Sr. Mary dePazzi)
Sr. Frances O'Leary
Sr. Mary Raphael (aka Sr. Carmel Lynch)
Sr. Cabrini Riordan

IN MEMORIAM

STAFF & FACULTY

Sharon Dolan
Principal 1999-2000

Irene Soumakian
Principal

Audrey Hoffmann
School Secretary

Jeanne Honikel
Health Room 1988-1997

Janet Llewellyn
Pre-K teacher

STUDENTS

Peggy Sue (Bunch) Nay
Class of 1975

Timothy Michael Bunch
Class of 1979

Julie Griffis
Class of 1980

Darin Haskins
Class of 1980

Charlie Levandowski
Class of 1980

Paul Molthen
Class of 1980

Phillis Piczyk
Class of 1980

Bunk Wurth
Class of 1984

Mieke (Riccio) Small
Class of 1986

Ronald Arlt
Class of 1986

Greg Aarl
Class of 1990

Jonathan Schulte
Class of 2002

Alexander Benuzzi
Class of 2008

Kevin Hogate
Class of 2012



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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