

# ALUMNI NEWS

Fall 2008

Blessed Sacrament School  
To Know, Love and Serve God.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT : THE GOURLAY FAMILY



Madeline

I guess it is true that the family that prays together...stays together. This fall we really hit the jackpot, with not only the memories of one of our special Alumni, but four!

John (Jack) and Geraldine Gourlay sent their five children to Blessed Sacrament School from 1938 through 1954. Jim Gourlay (1954), who still lives and works in Lincoln, gathered his siblings together to share their school memories with us and this is what Jim had to say...



John

Madeline (Palesky), the oldest of the five children attended school from 1938 to 1948. She now lives in Phoenix. Madeline recalls what great teachers Sister Mary Mathews and Sister Mary Tarsisius were. She said, "The nuns were masters of teaching sentence diagramming and construction. They drilled it into all our students." She also recalls dancing lessons taught by the nuns and also, "At the end of the day we marched out of school to march music on an old victrola."



Helen

John Gourlay attended school from 1939 to 1949. Sadly, John passed away in 1978 in an automobile accident. At the time of his death, John was the Head Legal Council for the University of Nebraska.

Helen Gourlay, is a BVM Nun and lives in Chicago. Helen, celebrated 50 years as a *Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* this summer. She attended school from 1941 to 1951. Helen said, "I Admired the *Sisters of Mercy* for their teaching skills and how young and vibrant they were." She remembers 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays of the month when, "We trekked over to the old church on South 16<sup>th</sup> to attend Stations of the Cross. Also, on 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays we had glazed donuts and hot chocolate in the school basement." Helen said she also remembers going home for lunch every day and rushing back to Schneider's Grocery on South 19<sup>th</sup> for one cent candy.



Fran

Frances (Neff Hansen) attended school from 1942 to 1952 and now lives in Denver. Her memories include Kamp Fire Girls, Bluebirds and Father Reisdorf beginning volleyball for the girls in the old Blessed Sacrament church, (then converted to a gym). She recalls being appointed to ask Father Kramer if some of the classes could listen to the World Series and Father agreed. Frances said, "Father Kramer, (later Monsignor Kramer) loved sports of all kinds and frequently played softball on the school lot."



Jim

Jim Gourlay attended school from 1944 to 1954. Jim said, "I remember the lower grades being divided. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades shared the same classroom and teacher up until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade." He recalls the school lot where all played softball and how home runs often broke the window of the house just over left field fence.



December 8	No School - Immaculate Conception
December 16	PK-4th Christmas Play at 7pm
Dec 22-Jan 2	Christmas Break
Jan 26 - 30	Catholic Schools Week
February 13-16	No School
February 21	Table for Ten

Dear Fellow Alums,

Recently Fr. Sullivan related a comment made by a new parishioner who said, "There sure is a lot of red in this parish! Is that because we are in Nebraska?" Good guess, but not the right answer.

We are Blessed Sacrament, named after the precious Body and Blood of Jesus. Our school colors were chosen to remind us of who we are.

We are Blessed Sacrament and we cheerfully accept our sufferings and unite them with Christ's. We do this by offering up all our troubles for the poor souls in purgatory.

We are Blessed Sacrament and we selflessly put the needs of others before our own. We do this through the Holy Childhood Association and our service at Matt Talbot Kitchen.

We are Blessed Sacrament!

Thank you for your continued support,



Holly Jennings Kruger  
Principal

### Christmas 2008 Wish List

Number	Item	Cost
10	Tuition Assistance	\$650 each
4	Library Tables	\$300 each
1	Refrigerator 18CF or less	can be used
4	Playground Benches	\$250 each
1	Playground Storage Shed	\$300
25	Locker Locks	\$15 each
50	Safety Coat Hooks	\$5 each
40	3rd Grade Social Studies Books	\$50 each
40	2nd Grade Social Studies Books	\$50 each
1	Heavy Duty Paper Shredder	\$200
1	18: Paper Cutter	\$200
1	Colibri Book Covering System	\$1800
9	42" Library Cases	\$185 each
6	84" Library Cases	\$430 each
3	72" Library Cases	\$290 each
6	Reinforced Shelves	\$60 each
99	Shelf Bookends	\$15 each
1	7th & 8th Grade Science Series	\$3000



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## Alumni Spotlight Continued...

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Jim said that the Blessed Sacrament – Saint Theresa athletic rivalries were very intense. “Of course we were better than they were!” Jim said. “Those of us in the classroom on the north side of the school were able to watch the new church being built, this was in 1950- 51.”

Jim said that all together he and his siblings have 24 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He told us, “We all agreed that we received a very sound education at Blessed Sacrament and along with that a firm religious training. It was a happy time for all of us.”

Jim and his wife Mary live in Lincoln. They have two sons, Tom and Dan and three grandchildren, Harrison, Hannah and Libby. After 45 years of working the family’s Piano store, Jim had the sad job of closing its doors. Jim now is semi-retired and works with his son Tom, who owns Proforma Print and Promotional Images in Lincoln.

Merry Morrison

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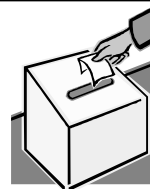
### Stewardship

*...the Giving of your Time and Talent*

### ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL ... FEST QUEST 2008

*Where else can Blessed Sacrament Students, Faculty and Parishioners come together to celebrate the beauty of fall, the fun of fellowship, test their knowledge, bid on items donated and designed by many, play games and of course enjoy the talents of many heart filled baked and cooked items?  
Why it's Fest Quest of Course!*

This year over 40 volunteers made our 2008 Fest Quest a wonderful success. Thanks to all of you that donated your time, talent and treasure to the school.



**Did you vote? Our students did!  
No matter how the elections  
turned out, we must always  
keep the unborn in our prayers.  
Say a rosary today!**



**Attention Alumni of 1956  
...before...and after.  
Mary Anne Curry is planning a  
2009 Class Reunion  
The dates will be  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills of  
South Dakota**

**For more information, call Marilyn at the  
South Dakota/Regional Traveling  
Studies  
605-348-1996 or 605-348-6192**



# Commendable Comets

Commending Blessed Sacrament Alumni that are making a difference in our world.

Every day, all over our great country and others, many people make a difference in the lives of others. In this segment, we would like to highlight members of the Blessed Sacrament Alumni that are doing just that.



What kind of hopes and dreams did you have for yourself when you graduated from Blessed Sacrament or from High School, better yet, from college? Did you know that you wanted to make a difference and change the world? Have you been blessed with the gift of hearing God's Calling?

This Fall, our Commendable Comet Rachael Tvrdy (class of 2002) has been listening to God and she's been acting upon his call.

Rachael has taken the words that stand above the school's office windows to heart...To Know, To Love and to Serve God.

Serving as one of the two Pro-Life chairpersons on the UNL Newman Center's Advisory Board, Rachael says that the pro-life movement is very important to her. Her passion started when she interned at National Right to Life in Washington D.C. in the summer of 2007.

Praying for and defending the unborn is not the only way that this UNL Junior is contributing to her faith. Rachael is also a Student Leader for FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) helping other college students to, "Fill the void in their lives, by involving them in their faith and helping them to find Christ."

Rachael said, "I was always Catholic, but I went through a conversion my freshman year of college. I want people to find the happiness that I found in Christ and in my faith. I want to help them find that same thing I found. I want to help them find what they are looking for."

Rachael along with 5 of her fellow students went on the Newman Center's Mission Trip to New York City in the spring. To read the article that she wrote in the Summer 2008 issue of Husker Catholic, I can only imagine that the Holy Spirit guided her hand as she put her memories of the experience on paper. To read this made me feel that there is hope and security for our faith's future when we have young adults like Rachael excited and passionate about her relationship with God. So willing to help others find that same deep connection.

I'm sure that this is not the last we will hear about Rachael as she continues to live in her faith and I'm sure Rachael would agree that her Catholic education at Blessed Sacrament was a great start to an ongoing faith based way of life. This is one young lady's spirit and enthusiasm that we can all benefit from. I personally feel that she makes a wonderful role model for young...and old alike. Please keep her in your prayers!

Congratulations Rachael, YOU ARE OUR COMMENDABLE COMET!

*Merry Morrison*

If you or someone you know is a Commendable Comet, we would like to share their story. Please email us at [bs.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:bs.alumni@hotmail.com)

# What's happening at school?

## Year Founded

1926



## Religious Affiliation

Marian Sisters  
Sisters of St. Francis of  
Martyr St. George

## Facilities

The school consists of two buildings including:



- \*12 classrooms
- \*1 art room
- \*1 media center
- \*2 IBM PC Computer labs
- \*1 resource room
- \*1 pre-school room
- \*1 cafeteria with kitchen
- \*1 gym with kitchen
- \*administrative offices

## Current Enrollment

### Pk-8

Total of 247 students,  
including 124 male and  
123 female  
145 families

## Student Diversity

Blessed Sacrament teaches a diverse group of students. Minority enrollment today is 23%. Of that total, 13% are Hispanic Americans, 4% are African Americans, 5.5% are Asian Americans, and .5% are Native American.

## Pupil/Teacher Ratio

15:1  
16 certified teachers  
4 paraprofessionals



## Curriculum

Students attend Mass and receive direct classroom instruction in our Catholic Faith daily. In addition, Blessed Sacrament offers classes in all secular core subjects including English, Math, Algebra, Science, History, Social Studies, Reading, Computer, Physical Education and Fine Arts.

## Home of the Comets

## Test Scores

The Terra Nova Test was administered to grades 3-8 in March 2008. Blessed Sacrament student scores are well above the Average National Percentile of 50%.

The scores are as follows:

Third Grade - 52nd percentile  
Fourth Grade - 55th percentile  
Fifth Grade - 55th percentile  
Sixth Grade - 61st percentile  
Seventh Grade - 65th percentile

\*Reading, Language & Mathematics



## Tuition

Tuition is per month for 10 months for 2008-2009

<u># of children</u>	<u>parent</u>	<u>parish subsidy</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	\$70	\$330	\$10	\$400
2	\$95	\$705	\$10	\$800
3 or more	\$120	\$1080	\$10	\$1200

\*Non-parish Catholic Children are charged \$320 per month per child.

\*Non-Catholic children are charged \$400 per month per child.

## Activity Fee

<u># of Children</u>	<u>total</u>
1	\$175
2	\$225
3 or more	\$275



# IRA's

## A Great Way to Make A Gift to Blessed Sacrament School!

Donors age 70 ½ and older can make a tax-free gift to Blessed Sacrament School from their IRA.

If you are age 70 ½ and older, the Federal government permits you to donate money from your IRA directly to Blessed Sacrament School in 2008 and 2009 without claiming any income or paying any tax on the withdrawal. These tax-free rollover gifts could be \$1,000, \$10,000 or any amount up to \$100,000.

A few important rules:

- 1) Your gift counts towards your required minimum distributions.
- 2) Your IRA administrator needs to cut a check *directly* to our parish or school.
- 3) Married couples can each make a gift from their IRA.
- 4) You do not receive a tax deduction for your gift.

Our planned giving office can supply you with a form letter to send to your IRA administrator and to the school notifying them of your gift.

Donors younger than age 70 ½ can make future gifts of your IRA to Blessed Sacrament School.

### 1) BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION or BEQUEST

Designate the school as the eventual beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA. If you have three children, make the school your fourth child and divide up your IRA four ways.

### 2) TESTAMENTARY IRA CHARITABLE TRUST

You can establish a charitable remainder trust as the beneficiary of your IRA upon your death. Your trust can provide income to children or grandchildren for a period of years. Then it can distribute to Blessed Sacrament school.

Always consult with your qualified tax advisor for assistance with these and other estate planning gifts.

For more information on estate, gift, tax and charitable planning go to our planned giving web page at [www.legacycdfd.com](http://www.legacycdfd.com) .

Or, for more information contact our planned giving director, Michael Henkenius at (402) 488-2142, ext.113 or email him at [michael-henkenius@cdolinc.net](mailto:michael-henkenius@cdolinc.net) .

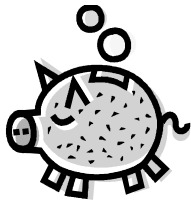


Catholic Planned Giving Office  
Michael L. Henkenius, Director  
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Please continue to save your box and soup labels

Don't forget that Blessed Sacrament School can benefit from the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. You can help us by simply cutting out the "BOX TOP" logo and send them to us. For more information, visit: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). And don't throw away that Campbell's soup can before you cut those labels off. We are still collecting them. Please remember to place them in an envelope and mail them or drop them by the school. (2500 So. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, Ne. 68502) Or if you are still a member of the parish, you can look for the drop box in the bride's room at the back of the church or, place them in the collection basket during mass in an envelope marked: *Box Tops or Soup labels for the school.*



You can help our school's endowment fund with a donation. For more information; please refer to the letter on page 6 from Michael Henkenius or use the provided donation coupon. You can also email us at: [bs.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:bs.alumni@hotmail.com) or call the school office at 402-476-6202

## CHRISTMAS SHOP AT BLESSED SACRAMENT!!



How? Buy Scrip! Scrip is simply just gift cards and gift certificates like you would purchase at the counter or online from your favorite retailer, restaurant or service type of business. Buying Scrip is another way to help the school raise money. Businesses that you buy from may already be participating in the program. The school can get a percentage of the money you are already spending! It's that simple. For more info, call the school office (402-476-6202) for a complete list of all participating retailers and businesses. Scrip ordered by December 9 will be available in time for Christmas.

Need more Christmas Ideas? Or, a special way of giving Thanksgiving this Holiday? How about having a mass said for that special friend or family member? Or, maybe for the intentions of our students, school or past Alumni. What a beautiful gift to give or receive, during this holiday season.

Mass stipends are only \$10 and Mass Intention cards are available.

Call the rectory at 402-474-4249 to reserve a mass today.



# Remember Blessed Sacrament School

Use this coupon to contribute to Blessed Sacrament School or to the Blessed Sacrament School Endowment Fund. Please mail this coupon with your check. All gifts are tax deductible. Mail to Blessed Sacrament Alumni Office, 1720 Lake Street., Lincoln, NE 68502.

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ High School Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Please use my gift for: \_\_\_\_\_ Blessed Sacrament School \_\_\_\_\_ Blessed Sacrament School Endowment Fund

## PARISH STAFF

**Fr. John Sullivan** Pastor, 474-4249

**Fr. Brendan Kelly** Associate Pastor,  
474-4249

**Holly Kruger** School Principal,  
476-6202

### **School Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday: 7:45 am - 4 pm

Want to receive your newsletter via email in PDF format? Send us an email and we will send the next newsletter directly to your inbox! [bs.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:bs.alumni@hotmail.com)



### **Contact Information:**

If you would like more information about the Blessed Sacrament Alumni Association, please contact Jan McConnell, 402-423-3809; or Principal Holly Kruger, 402-476-6202. Or email: [bs.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:bs.alumni@hotmail.com)



Address Correction Requested

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