Dear Alumni & Friends,

As I write this, the Gehlen Catholic Class of 2019 have received their diplomas.

Gehlen Catholic has done our best to prepare the 32 graduates with the knowledge & wisdom to negotiate life’s twists & turns. The focal point we have instilled in them is in the area of “Faith & Faith Practice.” This is why Gehlen Catholic exists.

We believe to recognize the spiritual dimension of human life, (our existence in God & for God) is true wisdom. To practice it in the Catholic tradition is a time-tested means of spiritual growth & way of fulfilling our individual potential & being of service to God & others.

We all are being challenged by today’s emphasis on secular values. A study in the National Catholic Education Association’s fall 2018 Momentum Magazine reported an increased number of individuals are shying away from affiliation with any Church & from “religion” in general, preferring to describe themselves as “spiritual, but not religious.”

A wiser approach is to understand religion is the way we live out our spirituality. A spirituality untethered from religion can easily become an exercise in self-absorption rather than a way to make ever more real in our lives God’s will rather than our own.

Our hope is our graduates will not waste time looking for wisdom & a deep spiritual life where they cannot be found. Instead, they will discover in every-increasing ways the depths of our Catholic Faith as they leave the sheltering world of their parental home & Gehlen Catholic.

We pray their Faith may continue to grow as they find their place in the world. Also, we pray for ourselves (ever on our spiritual journey) that our Faith will continue to grow & deepen as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Bruce Lawler
President

As we know (or quickly learn), in our formal years of education there is more knowledge than wisdom; the latter only comes with experience & to this point, their experience has been limited.
On Friday, May 10, the 1st graders celebrated the annual Mother’s Day Tea & May Crowning.

1st grade teacher, Mrs. Melissa Lehmann, explained, “The focus of our Mother’s Day Tea is to show our appreciation for our Mother Mary, Queen of the Rosary who Gehlen Catholic was placed under the patronage of in 1953. The students researched all of the sacrifices & love Mary bestows on us daily.” The students sang “Hail Mary, Gentle Woman” & prayed the “Hail Mary.”

The students shared their top ten list about their mothers as well as presented poetry, music & a choral reading entitled “You Are My Sunshine.”

The tea ended with the traditional May Crowning.

Carson Koch’s mother, Kayla, said, “Carson was eager to spend some one-on-one time with me & not with Sissy, Noah or Dad.” Carson chimed in, “I enjoyed singing to my mom & eating cookies too!”

As Kayla hugged Carson, she extended her appreciation to the 1st Graders and teachers for the beautiful tea. She knows the Mother’s Day Tea & May Crowning truly helped the students better understand Mary’s impact on the Catholic faith & how the students & mothers can be humble & holy like her.

According to the USCCB, “The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation by which the baptized ‘are more perfectly bound to the Church...’ The celebration of the quince años compliments the Sacrament by providing a special blessing for a young Catholic woman as she enters adulthood, preparing her for her new responsibilities.” Since today’s teenagers are urged by our culture to embrace success & power, which contradict the Church’s teachings, the Quinceañera stands before the altar & asks for the Church’s blessing.

(Taken from http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/persons/quinceanera.cfm.)

¡CUMPLEAÑOS FELIZ!” ("HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!")

“¡Cumpleaños Feliz!” is being sung more than just in Spanish Class at Gehlen Catholic School. The “Happy Birthday Song” is being sung in the hallways & throughout the building as more young Latinos are celebrating their Quinceañera in the school.

Jacqueline Muñoz, the freshman daughter of Jose & Ana Muñoz, shared “A Quinceañera is the celebration of a girl’s 15th birthday & her transition from childhood to adulthood.” The celebration typically involves Mass followed by a party.

Jacqueline explained, “The Hispanic tradition is believed to have started many years ago when the Spanish conquerors brought the tradition to Mexico. Others say the tradition originated with the Aztecs.” This special Hispanic tradition is associated with the Mexican, Central and South American cultures.

Jacqueline celebrated her Quinceañera on May 4th beginning with a Mass at All Saints’ Church with a reception & dance afterwards.

Quinceañeras customarily receive a tiara, Cross or medial, Bible of prayer book & rosary &/or a Scepter, Jacqueline stated. Other accessories may include a bouquet of flowers, cake decoration, cake server set, champagne glasses, guest book, & photo album. Another ritual is the crowning of the girl during her reception, where she is presented her last doll.

Jacqueline’s most memorable parts of her celebration were the Mass & ritualistic dance with her father. She also will never forget dancing with her mother, cousin & brother.

“¡CUMPLEAÑOS FELIZ!” is being sung more than just in Spanish Class at Gehlen Catholic School. The “Happy Birthday Song” is being sung in the hallways & throughout the building as more young Latinos are celebrating their Quinceañera in the school.
Every mission trip is similar & yet stands out for different reasons. With great determination, the 2019 Gehlen Catholic Mission Honduras (GCMH) team worked hard to attain their goals, one of which was to build homes for 3 extremely poor families. These families made the 2019 mission trip special.

The GCMH team met the mothers on the first day at the home site. Belkis, Raquel, & Roxana, each the mother of 5 children, could hardly contain themselves. As the team began measuring to start the framing of the houses, the Honduran ladies clapped & jumped up & down like children at Christmas at the reality of finally receiving one of the homes.

On Blessing Day, the day the GCMH team turned the homes over to these ladies & their families, each one of them wept with joy!

They could not believe their beautiful homes – 3-room homes of concrete & wood. Belkis, Raquel, & Roxana thanked the missioners over & over.

The missioners also cried, elated their labor of love could bring so much joy to these deserving families!
FROM TK-12TH GRADE: TFJO IMPACT ON THE CLASS OF 2019

14 years ago, when the Class of 2019 were in Transitional Kindergarten (TK), the school launched Then Feed Just One (TFJO). 2019 marked the first Gehlen Catholic graduating class who participated annually in TFJO, from TK-12th grade.

TFJO Co-Director, Mr. Richard Seivert, reported, “On average, each class/grade has packed an average of 192,824 meals from 2007 to 2018.”

Senior, Katelyn Langel, enthusiastically recalled when TFJO was started. “I wanted to do it all – package the rice, chicken powder, vegetables & oats; plus weigh & seal!” Katelyn exclaimed.

Another senior, Katie Peters, reflected on how the students had a better understanding of TFJO their 6th & 7th grade years. “I worked harder & faster. It was essential to make one more meal to feed one more child in Honduras.”

Katelyn said, “It’s crazy. Over the years, we thought we were changing the lives of children in Honduras. Instead, they have changed our lives.”

“Since we were in TK, we have seen the pictures of the Honduran students impacted by TFJO,” Katie stated. “As a member of the 2019 GCMH team, we personally got to know the children.”

On May 1st, Katie packed adamantly for Oscar to help him recover from a fractured arm. “While Oscar & I were playing, he asked for a car. I didn’t have one. I went & asked Mrs. Bickford for a toy car. I found a car in the bag. When I gave Oscar the car, he beamed with joy!”

Katelyn was transformed by Maria, age 12, & Yareli, age 7. “My team built their home. I worked with Maria & Yareli at the school in Nueva Capital. They were my favorite family because they loved so deeply! When we presented their house to the girls, it was purely a joyous moment for them & for me!” Katelyn exclaimed.

If you could change a starving child’s life, what would you do?

If you were a participant in Gehlen/Spalding Catholic’s Then Feed Just One (TFJO) packing event, you provided life-saving meals to 210,600 children! These meals are saving the lives of starving & malnourished children in Honduras.

The 2019 GCMH team had the opportunity to help the Honduran school cooks make & serve the only meal those students would eat that day. On this special day, the cooks were feeding the Santa Teresa students their TFJO food. The missioners were excited to see some of the very food they might have packed in May of 2018 was definitely making a difference in the lives of the students in Nueva Capital.

As Mother Teresa said, “If you can’t feed a hundred children, THEN FEED JUST ONE.”

Gehlen Catholic responded by feeding 210,600 – one child at a time.

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
On May 21st, Gehlen Catholic’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Club opened a mini-golf course.

With clubs & a golf ball, the 6th graders & their parents played a round of mini-golf course. The holes featured windmills, a ticket booth, & “The Wizard Of Oz.”

In December, Mr. Sexe used the worldwide initiative called the “Hour of Code” activities his Science Class. Mr. Sexe explained, “The Hour of Code’ introduces students to computer coding & broaden their experiences with computer science. The students really enjoyed these activities and were surprised at what they were able to accomplish in one hour of coding.”

Due to the students’ interest, Mr. Sexe launched the STEM/Robotics Club in January. The STEM/Robotics Club is an extracurricular opportunity for the 6th grade students to experience new technology, computer coding & work on life skills including problem solving & teamwork.

“It is important for students to learn about computer coding & robotics as it is relevant to their future jobs. By developing & fostering their interest now, the students can set themselves up to take the right classes in high school & college,” Mr. Sexe added.

The STEM/Robotics Club used the Hummingbird robotics kit to create three projects. The Hummingbird robotics kit uses the same programming languages as the Hour of Code.

The first project was the Jitterbug. The Jitterbug is a small robot which students learn how to use all the equipment.

In April, the students created a robot petting zoo. The pets varied from a cat to a panda bear.

The pets’ real-life movement was in response to motion, sound, light or a twist dial.

Their 3rd & final project was a mini-golf course.

At first, the automated mini-golf course was intimidating. By breaking down the construction of each hole into steps, the mini-golf course was much easier than the students thought.

The STEM/Robotics Club members embraced each challenge & had a lot of fun building their mini-golf course. The mini-golf course was a highlight as the students were able to “experience” their creation.

Sami Zubrod’s mother, Nancy, said, “Sami ‘loved’ the STEM/Robotics Club! Every Tuesday, an exuberant Sami exclaimed, ‘Guess what day it is Mom?!’ She then told me all about what they are doing in STEM/Robotics Club. Tuesdays & Thursdays are her favorite days!”

Mr. Sexe concluded he hopes the students’ zest & passion will inspire future 6th graders’ involvement in STEM/Robotics Club, as well as careers.
THE HUNT IS ON FOR THE BEST FAIR FOOD

Leading the hunt are juniors, Anthony Vera & Alexander Buman! Anthony & Alexander were selected for the 2018-2019 Le Mars Chamber Youth On Main Street Program (YOMS).

YOMS, which was started by the Chamber in August 2014, educates, inspires, & empowers today’s youth to become informed community leaders using their talents, diversity & creativity, according to YOMS Coordinators, Rich Ziettlow & Becky Klohs.

Alexander & Anthony attributed their selection into YOMS in part due to their education at Gehlen Catholic. The individualized attention they received & smaller class sizes required both young men to be actively engaged in their learning, classroom discussions & projects. Their teachers are also model leaders, in the classroom & on the playing field.

This year’s YOMS leaders have previously or are currently involved in 4-H & the Plymouth County Fair. They selected a Scavenger Hunt at the Fair for their project as a way to bring families together, which is increasingly more difficult to do.

Make plans now to join Anthony & Alexander on the Scavenger Hunt during “The Best 5 Days of Summer,” at the Plymouth County Fair, July 24-28, 2019!

Anthony & Alexander will help you discover who has the best food stand at the Plymouth County Fair & more!

WHO HAS THE BEST STUDENTS? GEHLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Commencement exercises were held for the Gehlen Catholic Class of 2019 on May 19.

This year’s Commencement speaker was parent & 7-12 Religion Teacher, Mrs. Laurie Kellen. Mrs. Kellen proudly testified to the audience, “It is the students which make Gehlen Catholic what it is. I believe my colleagues would agree with me, we have some of the very best!”

7-12 School Psychologist, Mrs. Kristin Hausmann, concurred. Mrs. Hausmann stated 100% of the graduates will pursue a post-secondary education or a career in the military. The graduates’ composite score, of those who took the ACT, was a 22.9 (97% tested). Gehlen Catholic’s graduates’ scores were higher than the national average of 20.8 (55% tested) & the Iowa average of 21.8 (68% tested). The top ten seniors by class rank had an average ACT composite score of 26.2.

In her parting remarks to the Class of 2019, Mrs. Kellen concluded, “Have fun! Be careful! Say your prayers! Call your mom!”
All Iowa Dance: Junior, Sydney Logan (left), & senior, Ally Aquino (right) were amongst the 224 dancers selected this year.

Math Club: Congratulations to Bradan Weber, Elizabeth Arens, Emerson Schmidt, Cole McCarty & Cameron Spangler (left to right) on their 7th place team finish at the NWAEA’s 5th & 6th Grade Math Contest. Emerson Schmidt earned 18th overall amongst the 128 students who competed.

Golf: The girls’ golf team finished 4th in Regionals. Katelyn Willett made 2nd Team All Conference. Dylan Barthole advanced to the boy’s Regional Finals as an individual.

Choir: The Bass Clef Ensemble was selected for the 2nd year in a row for the Iowa High School Music Association’s Best of Center.

Band: The Marching Band earned at the 2019 Valero Alamo Bowl (all in Class 1A) 1st Place Overall, Best Color Guard, Best General Effect & Best Music; Tied-Best Marching & Maneuvering.
It's a Great Day to Be a Jay!

**PBIS Honor School:** The elementary was 1 of 8 schools honored at the Paramount Level for the implementation of the AEA's Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports.

**Art:** 3 high school students were selected for the Sioux City Art Center’s Juried Youth Art Exhibition—Nathan Nemmers, Ashlyn Bollin & Jacob Nemmers (left to right).

**BOYS’ & GIRLS’ STATE TRACK RESULTS**

**Girls’ Shuttle Hurdle Relay**—2nd—Sydney Livermore, Kate Hill, Molly Roder & Tiffany Woerdehoff

**Girls’ 100 Meter Hurdles**—4th—Sydney Livermore (bottom right)

**Girls’ Sprint Medley Relay**—16th—Tiffany Woerdehoff, (bottom left) Lauren Heying, Katelyn Langel & Kate Hill

**Girls’ Discus**—16th—Melinda Zubrod

**Girls’ 4 X 200 Meter Relay**—14th—Sydney Livermore, Katelyn Langel, Tiffany Woerdehoff (bottom left), & Kate Hill

**Boys’ Sprint Medley Relay**—18th—Derek Nilles, Adam Schuch, Derek VonArb & Isaac Vaske (center left)

**Boys’ 1600 Meter Run**—4th—Will Roder

**Boys’ 3200 Meter Run**—1st—Will Roder

**Boys’ 4 X 800 Meter Relay**—18th—Jeff Augustine, Ethan Herbst, Traegen Kramer & Carson Tesch

**Boys’ High Jump**—18th—Ethan Peters

**Boys’ Distance Medley Relay**—21st—Jeff Augustine, Derek VonArb, Ethan Peters, & Will Roder (center right)

American Legion Auxiliary’s Poppy Poster Contest Winners: (Back row, left to right): Cathy (Reuter, ’65) Popp, American Legion Auxiliary; Gracey Spencer & Emerson Schmidt, 1st Place; & Karla Hansen, American Legion Auxiliary. (Front row, left to right): Elizabeth Arens & Boston Nuebel, 2nd Place; Ella Scheitler & Susana Ramos, 3rd Place. Emerson’s poster advanced to district.

**Art:** 3 high school students were selected for the Sioux City Art Center’s Juried Youth Art Exhibition—Nathan Nemmers, Ashlyn Bollin & Jacob Nemmers (left to right).

**Boys’ Sprint Medley Relay**—18th—Derek Nilles, Adam Schuch, Derek VonArb & Isaac Vaske (center left)

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**Boys’ High Jump**—18th—Ethan Peters

**Boys’ Distance Medley Relay**—21st—Jeff Augustine, Derek VonArb, Ethan Peters, & Will Roder (center right)
“I wasn’t made to fit in. I was created by God to stand out!” Abi Chagolla (’15) humbly stated. (2nd from left in elementary Christmas program)

Abi’s remarks are not ostentatious. Instead, her comments are a true reflection of how many of today’s Latino & Hispanics feel. Many continue to struggle growing up in the United States surrounded by a predominantly English speaking & Caucasian society.

Abi never let her race & ethnicity derail her from achieving God’s calling.

Abi’s faith, coupled by her Gehlen Catholic teachers & moderators, continually challenged Abi to strive for her best. Abi thanked Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Sandbulte, Mrs. Stokesbury, & Mr. Meyer especially, for teaching her to apply the classroom instruction she received into her daily life—versus retaining the information for tests.

Abi’s teachers & moderators inspired her quest for excellence both inside & outside the classroom. Abi was involved in choir, band, speech, drama, Christian Leadership Team, volleyball, softball, track & field. Abi’s highlights include competing at the state volleyball tournament; performing at the 2009 Champs Sports & 2012 Bridgeport Education Bowls; & her selection for the 2014 All State Honor Choir.

Abi also worked part time at La Fiesta Charra in Le Mars.

Abi’s most important & fulfilling work was attending, cantoring & serving at St. James Parish (now All Saints Parish) Latino Masses.

Abi has come to a greater understanding the sacrifices her parents made so she could receive a quality faith & academic education at Gehlen Catholic School.

Abi’s mom missed many of her activities as an elementary student during the school day, as Abi’s mom worked days. As Abi was involved in co-curricular activities in junior & senior high school, her father cheered quietly in his heart working nights in Le Mars versus the stands.

More than just sacrificing their time & financial resources, Abi comprehends her parents’ unspoken fears of losing her proud Latino culture, traditions, heritage, faith & language. Abi’s parents only wanted her to have the best education & stalwart faith possible.

In December 2019, Abi’s years of studying will come to a formal end when she receives her Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre Performance & Communications from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Abi expressed her gratitude to Speech & Drama moderators, Mrs. Henrich, Ms. Sandbulte, Mrs. Falkena & Mr. Morehead, for the numerous opportunities which prepared her for her post-secondary education & career in the arts & communications.

In the various intellectual discussions Abi has had with fellow students & professors, Abi reminds all of us to keep, & never abandon our faith, no matter what others say or believe.

Abi’s family & faith formed her core tenants. Therefore, Abi has never let the pettiness of others, jealousy or competition affect her. There have been moments in Abi’s life in which things have been difficult to do, explain, &/or believe. Abi gave examples of her trepidations heading off to college, making new friends, or fears when a couple of her high school classmates were in accidents in the summer & fall of 2016.

Abi said, “I believe & trust in God. I take the time to pray &/or just talk to Him. He has helped me get to where I am today.”

“Students cannot find their voice, without passionate teachers, a thriving communication, & an engrained faith. It starts here at Gehlen Catholic School,” Abi adamantly acclaimed.

“My journey has been interesting. I have not always been certain where I fit in. One of my professors said it was a good thing I did not fit in. I have brought new ways to think & solve problems, as well as presented new ideas.

Yes, God did not make me to fit in. Instead, He created me to stand out,” Abi concluded.
2007 graduate, Dr. Ashley (Sitzmann) Powell, returned to her hometown of Le Mars in 2018. On August 27, Dr. Powell began her practice as a Family Medicine physician at Floyd Valley Healthcare.

Unlike other physicians who receive their M.D. (Doctor of Medicine degree), Dr. Powell graduated with her D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine), a field which is known for producing holistic practitioners. Dr. Powell graduated from Creighton University in 2011 with a double major in Exercise Science & Spanish & then from Des Moines University with her D.O. in 2015.

Dr. Powell was immersed in her faith throughout Catholic education, from her early days as a Gehlen Catholic kindergartener to her senior year Creighton University.

Dr. Powell shared, “At Gehlen Catholic, & especially through my involvement in the Christian Leadership Team, the focus was on serving the whole person – mind, body & spirit. Creighton University reinforced these teachings especially through the Jesuit value of ‘Cura Personalis’ in the curriculum & student life.” Whether through the physical environment, classroom instruction, Mass, or co-curricular activities at both institutions, Dr. Powell’s faith grew as she did.

Dr. Powell knew trying to get into the prestigious Des Moines University would be difficult. The night before her interview, Dr. Powell’s parents met her for supper. On interview day, a nervous Dr. Powell sat with her mother in the car. Julie, her mom, said a prayer. Once again, Dr. Powell’s faith swelled within her heart & was at the forefront of her life.

Dr. Powell’s nerves dashed away & she felt reassured by her faith that her calling was to a life of service as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

Each day as Dr. Powell enters Floyd Valley Healthcare, she tries to begin & end each day with a prayer for her patients. Dr. Powell asks God is to use her practice as an opportunity to share God’s light & message with them. Dr. Powell truly believes He brings people to her office when they are ready to hear Him & His message.

Dr. Powell comments sometimes it can be difficult for people to see God or that a personal relationship with God is what they are looking for in their lives, especially with all the distractions of today’s media-driven, secular society. Dr. Powell tries to use the filter her Catholic education provided her to help her patients find God’s answers for their lives.

While many question the “investment in a Catholic education,” Dr. Powell said the impact on her life, & others, is truly an “infinite return.”

The investment in her Catholic education was evident through other avenues too. Gehlen Catholic’s student to teacher ratio provided her an opportunity to work with teachers who truly had a genuine interest in her success & the success of her classmates. Her teachers taught her about goal setting. They helped Dr. Powell set a course for success academically, co-curricularly, & to work towards her spiritual calling too. She felt privileged to grow alongside classmates & friends that were also working to answer God’s call in their own lives.

A humble Dr. Powell concluded with her heartfelt gratitude of her parents, teachers, staff, & parishioners sacrifice in making her Catholic education possible. Dr. Powell is committed to returning the gift they have bestowed upon her through her healthcare practice at Floyd Valley Healthcare in Le Mars.
IN LOVING MEMORY:
- Martin Huckle (attended Gehlen Catholic School) entered into eternal rest on January 7, 2019.
- Hank Ahlers (‘40) entered into eternal rest on February 28, 2019.
- Robert Langel (‘48) entered into eternal rest on December 29, 2018.
- Patricia (Laddusaw, ‘49) Wetrosky entered into eternal rest on February 3, 2019.
- Karl Schnepf (‘53) entered into eternal rest on March 6, 2019.
- Gerald Sitzmann (‘56) entered into eternal rest on February 27, 2019.
- Helen (Hoss, ‘58) Brunning entered into eternal rest on November 1, 2018.
- Dale Reichle (‘63) entered into eternal rest on April 8, 2019.
- Mike Westergard (‘71) entered into eternal rest on May 15, 2019.
- Michael Moir (‘81) entered into eternal rest on December 14, 2018.

FUTURE JAY BIRDS:
- Jessica Ferguson & Beau Ortmann (‘03) welcomed a son, James, on December 12, 2018.
- Erin (Puetz, ‘03) & Dan Nizzi welcomed a daughter, Ruby Jaye, on Saturday, April 27th. Ruby’s grandparents are Bob & Lisa (Dreckman, ‘74) Puetz. Lisa’s birthday is also April 27th. Ruby is welcomed home by her older sister, Rose.
- Samantha & Nick Schlichte (‘05) welcomed a daughter, Kacey, on January 24, 2019.
- Krista & Tyler Sitzmann (‘07) welcomed a son, Kamryn, on October 10, 2018.
- Tiffany (Sitzmann, ‘08) & Tyler Schoen welcomed a son, Jamie Ray, on December 19, 2018. Jamie is welcomed home by his older brother, Justin, 1.5 years old.
- Sarah (Mayer, ‘10) & Travis Westhoff (7-12 PE Teacher) welcomed a son, Brayden Joseph, on May 16, 2019.
- Matt (‘11) & Becca (Vonahnme, ‘12) Klein welcomed a daughter, Nora Mae, on Wednesday, March 6, 2019.
- Maggie (DeRocher, ‘15) & Mason Cook welcomed a son, Kai, on March 4, 2019.

NEWLYWEDS:
- Tera Langel (‘10) & Kevin Shea (‘08) were united in marriage on November 19, 2018.
- Brittany Krienert (‘13) & Alec Mousel (‘12) were united in marriage on May 4, 2019.
- Merrissa Schlichte (‘13) & Alan Godfrey will be united in marriage on July 13, 2019.
- Michaela Bretey (‘15) & Michael Rziha were united in marriage on May 18, 2019.

ALUMNI NEWS:
- Marlene (Timmins, ‘51) Fitzpatrick lived in Le Mars until 2012 when she moved to Ireland to be near her daughter Maureen (‘80). I taught at Gehlen Catholic from 1965-1992. My high school years were spent in the old St. Joseph’s School. Many memories!
- Stephennie (Stopak, ‘62) Freeman & her husband, Julian, have moved to New Durham, NH, to a property next to their daughter, Heather.
- Kathleen (Sitzmann, ‘63) Shaw welcomed her 1st granddaughter, Natalia Shaw, on February 12, 2019. Natalia’s parents are Jeff & Haidy Shaw of Las Vegas, NV.
- Judge Robert Dull (‘65) was appointed to the bench in 1993 & served throughout the 3rd Judicial District as a District Association Judge. A retirement reception was held on November 30, 2018. (right)
- Michele Timmins-DeGregory (‘68) continues to work as an Administrative Coordinator at one of our local hospitals. We enjoy visits to England to visit our grandson (& his parents!), as well as occasional U.S. trips.
- Julie Kilpatrick (‘69) is “…happy & healthy. I work part-time with The Center for Mind-Body Medicine, travel often & excited to come to Le Mars & see my childhood friends.”
- Gary Rohmiller (‘69) & his wife Pearl, have been married for 48 years & are retired from the Military after 36 & 30 years of service respectively. After Gary’s retirement from the Iowa Air Guard. Gary & Pearl worked for a US Defense Contractor serving in Europe. They were stationed & lived near Seville, Spain. In ‘09, the Rohmillers retired to Iowa, as their children are in North Carolina & Iowa. Gary worked as an Occupational Safety Health & Environment Manager for an agricultural chemical company. Pearl worked for the State of Iowa as an accountant assigned to the Iowa Communications Network. They are retired & devote their time to operating a small hobby farm, growing hay, row crops & cattle. (See photo top right page 13)
- **Dave Hoffman (’70)** was elected as the President of the Iowa State Fair Association.
- **Sandra (Masuen, ’72) & Sam Kirby** have 5 children & 12 grandchildren. They celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in September 2018.
- **John (’83) & Debra Ahlers** received the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Division Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award on March 21, 2019.
- **Troy Beitelspacher (’99)** was promoted on December 4, 2018, to Senior Police Officer with the Le Mars Police Department.
- **Derek Bretey (’13)** is employed as an engineer at Burns & McDonald in Overland Park, Kansas.
- **Maggie Dickman (’13)** was named Assistant Audience Editor at People Magazine in Manhattan, New York, in November, 2018.
- **Michaela (Bretey, ’15) Rziha** began the physician assistant graduate program at Des Moines University in May 2019.
- **Cathy (Reuter, ’65, not pictured) Popp** gloved as her 3 grandchildren, Anna (’19, left), Nichole (’13 second from left); & Aaron (’15, right) graduated this spring. Anna graduated from Gehlen Catholic; Nichole from the University of Iowa with her Master’s in Social Work; & Aaron from Drake with his Bachelor's in Political Science. Their mother, Tamie Britt (second from the right) stood proudly with her 3 children on Mother’s Day.

**4TH GENERATION GEHLEN CATHOLIC STUDENT SELECTED AS LE MARS SESQUICENTENNIAL PRINCESS**

As the City of Le Mars prepares for the Sesquicentennial June 12-16th, junior, Sydney Logan (’20), was selected as one of this year’s princesses.

Sydney is the daughter of Rick & Tammy (Langel, ’95); granddaughter of Dave (’72) & Paula Langel; & great-granddaughter of Marvin (’53) & Joyce Langel.

In an interview with the Northwest Iowa Review, March 9, 2019, Jays Journal, “Junior Named to Royal Court for Sesquicentennial;" Sydney expressed her excitement to be a part of the Sesquicentennial celebration.

Sydney loves Le Mars. Her hometown feels like one big family. She was honored to be selected as one of two princesses, as the other candidates were equally as deserving.

Prior to the Sesquicentennial Committee’s interview, the candidates wrote a 100-word essay outlining their school & community involvement. The candidates also explained why they wanted to be selected.

After answering questions during the interview process, the girls gave a two-minute speech. Sydney explained how she applied the lessons she acquired in dance to her life.

This is Sydney’s first time in royalty. She hopes her service on the Sesquicentennial court will inspire other young people to be more involved in their community or school.
GENE & BETTY SITZMANN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PAY IT FORWARD TWO-FOLD

3 seniors were each bestowed with a $500 scholarship from the family of the late Gene (’78) & Betty (Schwartz, ’78, Spalding Catholic) Sitzmann during Catholic Schools Week.

The scholarship’s purpose is to help offset the 2019 Gehlen Catholic Mission Honduras (GCMH) student’s expenses to further the Church’s & school’s mission by serving Jesus’ people & spreading His message.

The Sitzmanns were impressed by all 14 student submissions & were disappointed they could not fund them all.

Aubree Nilles, daughter of Lee (’94) & Angela Nilles, was one of the recipients. The Sitzmanns believed the symbolism of the small parts, through the collaboration of others, improves the big picture reflected the overarching theme of TFJO & MH.

Adam Berkenpas, son of Kris (Mousel ’84) & the late Dave Berkenpas, inspirational essay showed his strength & resilience. The Sitzmanns added, “They are great personal qualities to possess. God can get us through very hard times, if we lean on him & allow him to be our Rock.”

Jared Morris’s essay reflected the life of service instilled by his parents, Lisa (Sanny, ’98) Morris & Joe Morris. Putting others first improves our damaged world & draws people together, the Sitzmanns concluded.

Inspired by the Sitzmanns generosity, the 2019 GCMH team “paid it forward” by making a donation to the 2019 Friends of Gehlen Catholic Ball auction. The auction’s proceeds offset parental & parish investments (tuition & assessments) for the entire student body.

REV. FRIEDMANN’S LEGACY CONTINUES TO LIVE ON

Rev. Cecil H. Friedmann, who served as a teacher & administrator at Gehlen Catholic from 1956-1962, made a generous gift Gehlen Catholic & several other Catholic institutions in the Diocese of Sioux City through his estate. Father Friedmann entered into eternal rest on April 15, 2018.

Father Friedmann was beloved by many Gehlen Catholic alumni, faculty, staff, & friends, especially the Class of 1960. (See photo from 2015 All School Reunion).

Allison Liska, diocesan director of planned giving & annual gifts said in the June 6, 2019, edition of The Catholic Globe, "Father Friedman set ‘an amazing example of what a planned gift can do for our Catholic community.’ She pointed out planned gifts give the donor the option of making a larger gift than they thought possible, while leaving a charitable legacy for future generations.

You too can make a gift of $1 or more, like Father Friedmann, through your estate. Consult your professional advisor first. Then contact Maggie Erdmann or Lisa Niebuhr in the Development Office.
Philanthropy

WISH LIST

PK-12:
- Replace older desks;
- Seated risers & chairs for K-12 choir ($15,000).

Elementary:
- Tchoukball PE game complete pack ($659) Gopher Sports;
- 2 Roller stools for 5th & 6th grade math ($200 each); &
- 9 Square Air Deluxe Game Set for P.E. ($875.49).

Junior High-High School:
- Replace student desks ($160 each);
- 40-45 hardcover Holt McDougal 9th grade English textbooks ($50-$100/book);
- Gizmos (Online Interactive Simulators for Science & Math) ($1,965 annually);
- 2 Apple iPads for Making Music Class ($329 each);
- Jupiter® Sousaphone ($3,898.68); Yamaha® Marimba ($13,992.57), 2 Pearl® Snares ($529.78 each); Yamaha® Tuba ($2,952.20), Yamaha® Alto ($2,070.60) & Tenor ($2,376.43) Saxophones; & repad 3 clarinets ($400 each);
- Automatic rotating incubator for microbiology ($125.99);
- Environmental Science Textbooks, worksheets, projects & tests: $1,824.03
- Environmental Science Lab resources: $3,388.00:
  - Assorted beakers ($60);
  - 3 microscopes ($350 each);
  - Chemicals ($50);
  - Lead test swabs ($30);
  - 4 Thermometers ($12 each);
  - 4 Ring stands ($60);
  - 5 Hot plates ($300 each);
  - 1 Hot plate with magnetic stirring ($550); &
  - 4 Mineral collections: $140;
- Whiteboards for Science classrooms.

Technology:
- Priority:
  - 11 computers for high school computer lab ($800 each);
  - 10 teacher/staff computers per year ($800 each);
  - Google Chromebooks ($249 each):
    - 20-Junior High Computer Lab ($4,980);
    - 24-3rd Grade Classrooms ($5,976);
    - 15-High School Environmental Science ($3,750);
    - 30-School-wide use ($7,470);
  - 2 Chromebook Carts-3rd & 5th/6th Grade ($900 each);
  - 5 Laptops-Environmental Science ($800 each);
  - 8 Computers-Office staff ($1,200 each);
  - 3 iPads-Making Music Class ($309, includes educator discount);

- Proactive:
  - 1 Chromebook for 7-12 School Psychologist/ Guidance ($250);
  - 50 iPads 9.7-inch ($329 each); &
  - 36 classroom projectors (purchased in 2011, currently $850 each).

Building & Grounds:
- Kitchen/“cafeteria” renovations (approximately $400,000+);
- Entirely new sound system for the gym ($70,000 minimum);
- New fine arts facility;
- Garage for school bus & vans;
- Refurbish elementary faculty workroom;
- Repaint the main gym ($13,000-$15,000); &
- New Zero Turn large area mower for school grounds (approximately $15,000).

Mrs. Jacque (Kessenich, ’09) Schmitt will be teaching Environmental Science, one of the newest Science class offerings, beginning in the fall of 2019.

Gehlen Catholic has been awarded several STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Grants. According to the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council (https://iowastem.gov), “The gains in Iowa’s STEM-related graduates is higher than the national average & ranks 1st amongst the benchmark states, which averaged 20% degree growth since 2009.”
Bob & Margie (Mai, 87) Augustine (center) & Lee (’94) & Angela Nilles, (left) General Chairs, whisked guests away to “A Magical Getaway” at the 2019 Friends of Gehlen Catholic Ball.

Father Bruce Lawler (right) opened the program with a video sharing why the students love Gehlen Catholic School.

Gehlen Catholic works diligently to prepare the youth of our community serve the Church & world. Seniors, Caden Kneip, son of Rick (’82) & Mary (DeRocher, ’85) & Tyler Zenk, son of Pat & Jean, Gehlen Catholic K-6 Choir Director, said nothing can entirely prepare you until you experience it for yourself.

Caden (left) concluded, “Whether we’ve walked across the street, driven up the road, or traveled to Honduras, it is the people we have met, the memories we have made, & the opportunities Gehlen Catholic has afforded & transformed us.” The two thanked the school’s friends & family for their support of the Ball & many donations.

Earlier in the week, Gehlen Catholic celebrated the school & Church’s 149th birthday. Steve DeRocher (’72) shared how the Gehlen’s pioneering footsteps have prepared generations of students to “discover the universe” through their faith, values, service & academics.

Steve (right) applauded the giants of yesterday, the priests & teachers, for providing him & generations of students the tools & resources to be successful in life. They gave of their “self interests” for the greater good of others, Steve testified. The priests, faculty & staff are today’s giants by “…arm(ing) the students with a background of faith along with their families.”

Steve sees “…the faith seed has been planted & highly nurtured at school…..” His youngest grandchildren confidently & proudly volunteer to say prayer and plead for more during Bible Trivia.

This year, one individual was particularly missed when the parish ladies folded the Ball’s napkins.

Karolyn & Larry Freking (center) have been involved in Catholic
education from their childhood to today. The Frekings were heralded with the Spirit of Peter & Catherine Gehlen in appreciation of their leadership in the school & parish through their selfless stewardship including the ball, adoration, All Saints Endowment Board, capital campaigns.

Rev. Bruce A. Lawler, President; Mr. Jeff Alesch & Mrs. Lorie Nussbaum, principals; were presented the record setting check of $264,103 by this year’s Ball chairs & co-chairs. Since it’s inception in 1987, the Ball has raised $4,735,442.57.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peters 4:10.

“Stewardship,” according to the United States Catholic Conference on Bishops, “is the generous giving of time, talent & treasures.”

Stewardship is one of the reasons why Jack Knerl & Sue (Halter) Knerl’s (’59) parents enrolled them at St. Joseph & Gehlen Catholic School. Sue said, “Gehlen Catholic reinforced our family’s values & Church’s teachings of truth, honesty, love & compassion.”

The Knerls are Stewards of Vocation through their commitment to their marriage. As the Division Sales Manager for Consolidated Freighways, Jack traveled frequently for work. Sue worked in accounting & as an administrative professional. Her most important job was her role as mother to their 3 children.

As Stewards to the Church, the Knerls raised their children in the faith. Sue has & continues to give unselfishly through her visits to the nursing home without any desire for recognition.

The Knerls are true Stewards of Creation. When the Knerls were told they could not have children, they adopted their daughter, Laura (’67) through Catholic Charities.

Later, they were blessed with the birth of their two sons, John (’73) & Scott (’76). When Laura entered into eternal rest at the age of 50, the Knerls were grateful for their strong faith, their classmates, & parish family for the love & prayers to sustain them.

In light of their expenses, Jack & Sue wish they could be better financial stewards. The Knerls give faithfully to their Church in Stockton, as well as to the St. Joseph’s & Gehlen Catholic School Alumni Appeal. “We wish we could do more. We are not people of great means.”

The Knerls know being disciples of Christ has never been about “how much they have given.” Instead, it is the Knerls unwavering faith which defines them both as the “Peter & Catherine Gehlen” of the Class of 1959 today!

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Dear Alumni & Friends,

The 2018-2019 school year was full of excitement as evident by our students, faculty, staff & moderators success both inside & outside of the classroom.

To ensure our students’ continued success in the 2019-2020 school year, we are requesting your support of the Gehlen Catholic School Capital Campaign – “We Are Many. We Are One.”

To date, the campaign has secured $1,037,861.32 in pledges towards our $2-million goal:

- $590,000 to retire the loan for the 1998 addition to the school building;
- $410,000 used for much needed capital improvements; &
- $1,000,000 will be invested in the Endowment Fund to strengthen our long-term fiscal strength.

The Finance Committee’s & the Chairs recommended the below priorities:

1. Retire the school’s remaining loan balance of $85,000 (thanks in part to gifts from estates) &
2. Elementary bathroom renovations completed by August 16, 2019.

“Why should I give to Gehlen Catholic?”

St. Joseph & Gehlen Catholic are a family. Our families spend money on all kinds of things - even though we all may not benefit or benefit in the same way.

To be a member of a family is to be committed & supportive of each other’s interests & activities – regardless of the direct benefit to us. When one member of our family benefits, all the members of our family benefit.

As a member of the St. Joseph & Gehlen Catholic Family, please complete & return the pledge card on the next page or contact one of us regarding

“When one benefits, we all benefit!”

Romans 12:4-5
2017-2019 Capital Campaign

When one benefits, we all benefit!
In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/we plan to give a portion of my/our resources. I/We pledge a total of $___________ in support of Gehlen Catholic’s “We Are Many. We Are One.” Campaign. The campaign will be used towards the 3 projects including:

- Debt Retirement;
- Building & Grounds Projects to remodel:
  * The elementary bathrooms and
  * The kitchen; as well as
- The Gehlen Catholic Schools Endowment Fund.

I/We have enclosed an initial gift of $___________ toward the three-year effort.

**TIMING OF MY/OUR GIFT**  
$________ Monthly  
$________ Quarterly  
$________ Annually  

METHOD OF PAYMENT  
Cash/checking  
Commodities  
Mutual fund/stock (Please describe)  
IRA/Annuity (Please describe)  

Date of first payment________

My company has a matching gift program

Print name:_______________________  Signature:_______________________________

Date:________________

Address:_________________________________________

Phone:_________________________________________

**PLEASE REMIT TO:**

**Gehlen Catholic School**  
Attn: Development Office  
709 Plymouth St NE  
LeMars, Iowa  51031