Roth says his goals are to give all of the students a basic understanding of the most popular social channels and who their users are. At the end of the year, he says he would like everyone to be comfortable making posts or sending tweets representing a business (in this case, Lourdes Academy).

He also wants all the students to be comfortable answering posts, questions, and tweets from the Lourdes Facebook and Twitter followers. Lastly, he wants all the Knight Writers to grow all of the social media channels and make Lourdes standout in Oshkosh in order to increase awareness, enrollment and community involvement.

This class not only helps students become journalists, but it also helps the students become more involved in their community.

Every day during block 4A, the students of the newly created Journalism class file into room B04 of Lourdes Academy ready to find and discuss news.

They are warmly greeted every afternoon by their teacher Mrs. Jennifer Pollack, and every Thursday, they have a special guest. Bryce Roth, director of cooperative outreach at CitizensFirst Credit Union, volunteers his time to teach the students how to promote Lourdes Academy professionally through social media.

When the students arrive to class, they discuss the important news stories of the day or week. On Friday, they have a current events quiz to make sure they are keeping up with the news. According to Pollack, part of being journalists is being aware of the news going on around them.

Pollack also teaches the students how to become professional and well-rounded journalists while promoting the school. In doing so, she helps the students become responsible writers and earn the title Knight Writers.

As Knight Writers, the students are responsible for finding a Lourdes related story and then writing an article to be published in at least one of the school’s media outlets: the Knight Register (high school newsletter), the LA Times (middle school newsletter), and the parish bulletins.

The students will also be publishing and posting the news on Twitter, Facebook, and the Lourdes Academy home page with Roth’s guidance.

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Calling all educators...

The Spring 2015 issue of The Shield will feature Lourdes alumni who are serving in the field of education. Tell us about your experience for a chance to be included in The Shield. To share your story, contact Karen Boehm by February 1 at kboehm@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org or 920-426-3626, ext. 546.

Like Lourdes Academy on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @lourdesacademy1.
By Bob Biebel, President

For the second year in a row Lourdes Academy capped off another successful Fall sports season when the Lady Knights Cross Country team won the WIAA Division 3 State Championship in Wisconsin Rapids. Not only did this year’s harriers win back-to-back state titles, but they also added their fourth state championship in the past five years. Can you say Dynasty! Senior Nora Keller, the Trailways Conference Runner of the Year, led the squad to both a Conference and Sectional Conference Championship. On the boys’ side, Junior Lucas Weber was also named Trailways Conference Runner of the Year.

The 2014 Knights Football team advanced to the WIAA State Playoffs by virtue of their second place finish in the Trailways Conference. Senior Linebacker Zach Weiher was named Defensive Player of the Year and also received Honorable Mention All-State. Eight other players were named 1st Team All-Conference including Kyle Cerroni RB ('15), Jordan James OL ('15), Nick Wielgosz OL ('15), Christian Pecore WR ('16), Brian Dowling DE ('15), Micah Decker ILB ('15), Phillip Gruber DB ('15), and Michael Godfroy K ('15).

The Lady Knights Volleyball team completed another outstanding season with both a Trailways Conference Championship and Regional Championship. The squad came within one match of advancing to the State Tournament bowing out to state runner up Marathon in a closely fought battle. Sam Jaeke ('16) 1st Team All-Conference and Trailways Player of the Year lead the way for our girls with support from Laura Chier ('16) and Kelli Calkins ('15) who also were named 1st Team All-Conference performers. Not to be outdone, Kelley Hollmaier ('15) and Maggie Scharf ('16) were named 2nd Team All-Conference.

Elsewhere our Knights Soccer team battled to a 4th place finish in the Flyway Conference and Regional Finals. They were lead by Second Team All-Conference players Brady Schneider ('15) and Adam Trofka ('15). In girls Tennis, Mara Resop ('17) and Abby Schaefers ('16) were named 1st Team All-Conference.

Supporting Lourdes has never been easier

Are you looking for a new reason to SMILE when you shop? Now, your Amazon purchases can earn money for Lourdes Academy. Log on to amazonsmile.com and select Lourdes Academy as your charity of choice. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of eligible purchases to Lourdes Academy. Tens of thousands of items are included.

Your Target REDcard purchases can also earn money for Lourdes. Target will donate 1 percent of all REDcard (debit or credit card) purchases to Lourdes Academy. In addition, your Target REDcard saves you 5 percent on your entire purchase every time you shop, and earns you free shipping at Target.com and an extra 30 days for returns. To designate your REDcard purchases or to sign up for a REDcard, visit Target.com/tcoe (Take Charge of Education), search Lourdes Academy and select your school site.

Mark Your Calendars

Knight Madness Varsity Basketball Double Header
January 15 in the Castle Gym
Boys - 6 pm • Girls - 7:30 pm

Midwest Corn Hole Tournament
January 17 at Lourdes High School

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Lourdes • Jan. 25-31
Jan. 23 - Scooter Hockey Tourney
Jan. 24 - Red & White Knight
Jan. 27 - All System Mass
Jan. 31 - Stuff the Truck for the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry

Lourdes Academy Musical
“Once Upon a Mattress”
March 26-28 • Grand Opera House

For a complete listing of events and event details, visit the event link at lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.

Show Your Knight Pride!
Customizable apparel shipped right to your door.
Visit lourdesacademyoshkosh.org and click on the school store link.
Called to Serve

By Karen Boehm, Development Director

Continuing the year-long theme of service, this issue of The Shield highlights several alumni who are answering God’s call to be His disciples, from religious priests and sisters to parents and teachers. Thank you to the alumni who shared their stories with us.

Calling People to Prayer

Fr. Daniel Schuster (’99) has a long list of individuals in his life who taught him to pray and enter a deeper union with Jesus Christ—a parish priest, a religious sister, a high school classmate, his grandma and a group of seminarians to name a few.

Schuster first thought about the priesthood in seventh grade, but at the time, he ignored the call. During his junior year at Lourdes, then Principal Brother Roger Betzold invited him to think more about the priesthood. That call was reinforced by other priests, including Fr. Dan Felton, Fr. Martin Carr and Fr. Doug LeCaptain, and by attending a local dinner in Oshkosh called Project Andrew for young men who were open to the priesthood.

“When Brother Roger first invited me to think about the priesthood, it was almost a relief because someone gave me permission to pay more attention,” Schuster said. “After the (Project Andrew) dinner, I felt more relieved like I had more information. I still went to college at Drake University…and had been dating, but the seeds were planted.”

Schuster completed a business management degree at Drake then entered Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. His first assignment after being ordained a priest was St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Manitowoc.

“When you’re doing the will of the Father, there’s nothing more enjoyable,” Schuster said of becoming a priest. “There’s a feeling of knowing you are where you’re supposed to be.”

One area of the priesthood that brings Schuster the most joy is teaching people to pray and be in relationship with God the Father, whether that’s through mass, teaching RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) or visiting high schools throughout the Diocese. Four years ago, Schuster was assigned to the vocations director position for the Diocese of Green Bay where he’s seen an increase in the number of men who want to become priests.

“I look at my vocation as making disciples, not recruiting,” Schuster said. “My way of being a vocation director is simply being a priest, by sharing the faith with others and doing the things that priests do. That’s the best indication for young people. We’re calling people to wake up and be spiritually aware. They seem to find peace, joy and freedom when they do that.”

Recruiting Young Adults for God

After finishing college and entering the workforce, Andrea (Gratton) School (’05) felt a strong call to serve the church. She searched to find places where other Catholic young adults gathered to socialize and share their faith, but to little avail. Until her call led her to the Mount Tabor Center, a former convent turned retreat center in Menasha.

“For years I had been struggling after college, trying to find where other Catholics my age hung out. Young adult groups in the area were small, inactive and inconsistent,” School said. “I love the faith, and I wanted to spread it and share it. God took my searching and made a little bit of a joke of it: I now am the recruiter for SPIRITUS.”

SPIRITUS is an evangelical team of 16 young adults (age 20-29) from across the country who dedicate nine months of their lives to being missionaries. They travel throughout Wisconsin giving retreats to Catholic youth, including hundreds of students at Lourdes Academy, and helping them grow in their faith.

“SPIRITUS is designed to lower the statistic that 85 percent of confirmed Catholic youth leave the church by the age of 30,” School added. “My calling was simple in itself, but my role supports the outreach to 6,500 youth in Wisconsin.”

School recently stepped in the role of development coordinator for SPIRITUS, sharing the mission of the organization with donors who wish to support and encourage the group’s ministry.

Raising Children in the Faith

When Joseph and Dr. Jennifer (Alt) Gelhar (’98) started dating in seventh grade, they both talked about having a large family. Being in awe of Joseph’s family, Jennifer wanted eight children, coincidentally the same number of children in Joseph’s family. They also knew they wanted to raise their children with the same faith foundation they experienced growing up.

Joseph’s and Jennifer’s parents, Deacon Pat and Carla Gelhar and Ed and Mary Alt, have been role models in their faith development.

“They set an example of faith by the way they live their lives every day,” Joseph and Jennifer said. “They practice what they preach. They taught us that God will provide,
that you can go to God when you have troubles and successes. It’s easy to live our faith with role models like that.”

These same values are being passed down to their own children—Lili (10), Olivia (8), Izabel (6), Henry (3), Charles (2) and Thomas (1).

“What our children learn is coming from us—prayer, family, believing in a higher being who is in control, and serving others,” they said. “Life is not about getting, it’s about what you’re giving to others.”

Joseph and Jennifer are continuing the tradition of making faith part of their everyday life. They share their faith by attending mass, praying as a family and sometimes both at the same time.

“We have ‘mass’ at home where we read scripture and have little talks,” Joseph explained.

“They all fight over who gets to pray right down to our two year old,” Jennifer added. “It’s a powerful moment when we know we’re doing something right.”

The Gelhars also enrolled their three oldest at Lourdes Academy Elementary to reinforce their family values in the school setting.

“We are both Catholic school alumni from kindergarten through high school so it wasn’t even a question of where we were sending our children, but through the Lourdes system.”

Transformation Through Education
Sr. Joan Penzenstadler (’63), vice president for mission and identity at Mount Mary University and a spiritual director, was attracted to religious life from the time she was in grade school. As a member of the first freshman class at Lourdes in 1959, she got to know the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) who taught at the school along with the Christian Brothers. During that year, she had to research a career for a social studies project and the only thing she could think of was the sisters. The more she learned, the more she fell in love with the idea of becoming a nun. When Penzenstadler graduated from Lourdes in 1963, she entered the SSND community at Notre Dame of the Lake (now Concordia University), which had a satellite campus affiliated with Mount Mary College.

“My heart was drawn to religious life,” she said. “It seemed like such a whole life—prayer, community, ministry, making a difference, being with women of like minds on a mission. Every aspect flowed into one another.”

From 1963 to 1970, she studied and lived the life of a religious sister before taking her final vows in 1970. Preparing for her ministry, she earned a degree in French, then a Masters degree in Theology and eventually a Ph.D. in Theology and Education at Boston College.

The mission of the SSND is taken from the Gospel of John, ‘Father that we all may be one as you are in me and I am in you.’ Penzenstadler embraced that mission eager to express the Gospel message through the ministry of education.

“Our call is to educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons,” she said. “At Mount Mary, we educate women to transform the world. The most gratifying thing is to be part of this grand movement and to see the transformation that takes place in students, faculty, administrators and staff. Together our world can be great, but we could not do this alone.”

Paying His Faith Forward
Christopher Alt’s (’04) family started attending the Newman Center on the UW Oshkosh campus in the early 1990s, and he immediately experienced the grace of God.

“The Newman Center community was very life giving for me and my family,” Alt said. “Fr. Jeff Vanden Heuvel had a significant impact on me, as did the music, homilies and overall spirit of the community. It was there that the seed planted by God (to pursue a religious vocation) was watered and grown.”

After graduating from Lourdes, Alt pursued undergraduate degrees in Theology and Philosophy at the University of San Diego, then completed a Master of Divinity (MDIV) at Boston College. Through the MDIV program, Alt received further academic, ministerial and spiritual formation. Recently, he completed a 15-month residency in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego. As a chaplain there, he provided spiritual and emotional support to families and coworkers.

“Growing up I saw how wonderfully powerful my faith was to me in times of hurt,” Alt said. “When others were suffering, I could have solidarity with them and together we could find comfort. My faith nourishes me in so many ways, and I seek to pay it forward for the well-being of others.”

As a chaplain, Alt ministered to people of all faiths offering an outlet for people to tell their story, talk about their emotions and how they were interpreting an event or what meaning they found in it.

“We live and die by how we make and discover meaning in our lives,” he added. “If I can journey with someone through that process, I can find joy. Having conversations about what brings ‘death’ and what brings ‘life”—it doesn’t matter who they are, there’s God in that.”

With his chaplaincy experience behind him, Alt is contemplating his next step—returning to school, traveling abroad, continuing his chaplaincy ministry or discerning a vocation to the priesthood.
"At times, I’ve left liturgy uninspired and frustrated, and I think I can help with that," Alt said of his considerations of priesthood. "There’s a fire within. I don’t know how that calling will manifest itself. I continue to pray and seek signs and ask the Holy Spirit to guide me. I know saying yes to one thing means saying no to a thousand other things, but I trust God will help me say ‘yes’ to the vocation where my deepest joy meets the world’s greatest need."

“It is not you who chose me, but I have chosen you.” (John 15:16)

Thanks to his parents’ faith and his Catholic upbringing, thoughts of entering the priesthood entered Fr. John Putzer’s ('03) mind even as a young child, but he wanted to get married and raise a large family. Still he recalled thinking in his early teens that if God truly wanted him to be a priest, it would be his duty to say yes. It wasn’t until Putzer started college at the University of Wisconsin Madison and began attending daily mass that the idea of entering the priesthood started to appeal to him.

"Ultimately, it is Jesus who drew me to the vocation to the priesthood," Putzer said. "Developing a deeper love and appreciation for the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament caused me to have a deeper love and appreciation for the priesthood."

Putzer became involved at St. Paul’s, the university parish, where he met other young men who were excited to live and share their faith. He also got to know several priests who were influential in his decision to enter the seminary.

Since he was studying in Madison, Putzer contacted the Bishop of Madison about becoming a priest, and was sent to a college seminary (or minor seminary) in New Jersey at Seton Hall University. Putzer used his time at minor seminary to determine if the priesthood was what God was calling him to do, as well as to develop a regular life of prayer. After completing minor seminary and committing to the priesthood, he continued on to the major seminary in Louvain, Belgium, where he pursued a Masters degree in Theology.

"The center of my life as a priest is sharing the love of Christ with those that I meet," Putzer said. "I became a priest because I experienced this love in my own life and I wanted to dedicate my life to bringing that love to others. Concretely, this happens in so many ways from baptizing babies to celebrating weddings; from visiting the sick and imprisoned to burying the dead and mourning with their families; from teaching religion in school to going to a movie with a parishioner. It is such a beautiful thing, as a priest, to be able to share intimately in the joys and sufferings of so many people."

By Paul Lee - Knight Writer Student Journalist

On September 29, Korean War Veteran and former Unified Catholic Schools President Dr. Stanley Spanbauer stepped into the high school’s conference room prepared to talk about the unique experience he had during his Glory Honor Flight. The Glory Honor Flight is dedicated to transporting local WWII and Korean War veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials built in their honor.

I asked Spanbauer how and why he was chosen for this honor, and he came up with a simple and humble answer. He said he did not know why he was chosen.

It is clear to most in the Lourdes and Oshkosh community, however, that he is most deserving of this honor. Not only was Spanbauer a major influence in the Oshkosh community working as president of Fox Valley Technical College for 11 years and as the president of Lourdes Academy (formerly UCS) for five years, he served as a veteran in the Korean War in 1953.

With a gentle smile on his face, he explained his memories of his flight to Washington D.C. to see the Korean War Memorial. Spanbauer said, "I felt a huge honor, especially since my two daughters came along with. They treated us wonderfully." Spanbauer said that in the plane the day of his honor flight, there were approximately 200 people, and most of them were unfamiliar faces except for the faces of his daughters.

Spanbauer said, "One of my favorite places to visit was the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and it was absolutely stunning!"

Many people wrote letters to Spanbauer thanking him for his service to the nation, and they were delivered to him to read while at the memorial. Spanbauer was grateful for all the letters he received, but he mentioned that letters from Mr. Paul Trader, Lourdes High School Biology teacher, and Mr. Mike Mauth, former Lourdes Academy principal, were especially memorable.

Spanbauer was not only a veteran, but he also holds four major degrees. He earned a teaching, doctorate, counseling, and special education degree.

After reflecting on the interview, this reporter realizes what a deserving recipient Spanbauer is of the Glory Honor Flight because of the diligent and warm-hearted service he has provided to both the Lourdes and Oshkosh communities.
Lourdes Academy
250 North Sawyer Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

THE SHIELD
Lourdes Academy Alumni Newsletter

Special thanks to Bart Putzer, Class of 1984, for assisting with the layout & design of The Shield.

UPCOMING LOURDES REUNIONS

Class of 1995 - 20 Years
Saturday, June 20
Becket’s, 2 Jackson Street
Kelly Voss at kellyvoss76@yahoo.com

Class of 1985 - 30 Years
Saturday, August 8
Mass & Tours at Lourdes Academy
Reunion to follow at Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, 1 N. Main St.
Contact: Sarah Schneider at 414-630-9924 or sarahschneider1@yahoo.com

Class of 1965 - 50 Years
Saturday, September 12
The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave.
Contact: John Dempsey at 920-426-1327 or dempsey2@att.net

Aloha Class of 1974!

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 40th reunion at Lourdes Academy on July 19, 2014, with a Hawaiian theme.

Watch for details and updates at the Alumni link at lourdesacademyoshkosh.org.

Planning a reunion? Contact Shannon Gibson at 920-426-3626, ext. 541 or sgibson@lourdesacademyoshkosh.org for assistance. Lourdes Academy offers free mailing lists and facilities usage for Lourdes class reunions.