



St. Mary's Catholic School

15th Hall of Fame

Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Service Achievement

Joan (Braun '49) Abrahamson

Athletic Achievement

Maria (Gangelhoff '08) Halverson

Mark ('65) Schroepfer



Distinguished Service Achievement Award Inductee



“Ask God to use you. Ask Him to show you how you can be a blessing everywhere you go. Keep honoring Him so that others can see Him through you” (Germany Kent). Few individuals are stronger examples honoring God so that others can see Him than **Joan (Braun '49) Abrahamson**. Her life of faith, service, and love of God and others make her an exemplary inductee into the St. Mary's Catholic School Hall of Fame.

Joan was born on April 13, 1931 on her family's farm in Stark Township to Henry and Marie Braun. She was the oldest of their nine children. She attended country school until the fourth grade when she transferred to St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. She graduated from St. Mary's School in 1949. She then worked at the National Tea Grocery Store until her marriage. In 1950, she married Gerald Schroepfer at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The couple was blessed with nine children, including two sets of twins! Gerald passed away tragically in 1969 when his car was hit by a train. Joan moved to town in 1978 and drove school bus for Sleepy Eye Bus Service for fifteen years. In 1984, Joan married Dale Abrahamson at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

An active member of her community and church, Joan was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, was part of the VFW Auxiliary and held a position on the Administrative Council for St. Mary's Parish. Serving others was part of her very nature and she volunteered in a multitude of ways. She was an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, served as a rosary leader, was a member of the Welcoming Committee, helped with Meals on Wheels, called people for offertory, volunteered at Nex-Tu-Nu II and prayed as an adorer for Perpetual Adoration. An extremely gifted seamstress, Joan sewed for the missions and for the VA. She also designed and sewed priest vestments and sister veils for the children involved in the Early Catholic Family Life at St. Mary's (a program designed as an opportunity for Catholic parents to interact with their children and put faith at the center of their lives). Recently, the St. Mary's Elementary Art Program benefitted from her talents as she created colorful aprons to wear during their art classes! She did mending for the priests and was willing to do whatever the church needed including curtains for the temporary Adoration Chapel and curtains for the new Chapel. And, a St. Mary's Parish Festival Quilt Auction would not be complete with Joan's beautiful items being bid on! In her free time, she enjoyed sewing, fancy work, and gardening. Driving by her house vividly demonstrated her talent with flowers! She also used this talent to bless others as she sold plants from her home for MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life). Beth (Vait '99) Kosel of Divine Providence Community Home where Joan spent her final days perfectly describes Joan: “A selfless giver, a woman of great faith, she was a true example of a humble follower of Christ. She did countless good deeds and acts of service.”

According to her niece, Myra (Sellner '69) Simon, “Joanie was the most welcoming person I have ever known. She shared her time, talents, food, and wisdom with anyone she knew (and she knew a LOT of people)! Whatever she did was done well, from sewing to painting to cooking or just listening and visiting. You would always leave her house with more than you came with. She was my favorite aunt and I miss her dearly.”

Family was incredibly important to Joan. Her children include Jean (Schroepfer '70) Schmitz, Stanley ('71) (Linda) Schroepfer, Paul ('74) (Linda Sellner '75) Schroepfer, Beth ('76) Schroepfer, Karen (Schroepfer '79) (Terry) Galuska, Kathy (Schroepfer '79) (Jeff) Mathahs, Glenn ('84) (Cindy) Schroepfer, and Curt ('88) Schroepfer and stepchildren, Deb (Neil) Pehrson, Brenda Abrahamson, Darrell (Tracy) Abrahamson, and Dennis (Denise) Abrahamson. She was also blessed with 21 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, James Schroepfer on February 22, 1999 as well as her second husband Dale on May 11, 2017.

Joan passed away on September 28, 2018. She left an amazing legacy of faith and service, of truly asking God to use her, and of being a genuine blessing to all who knew her. Joan honored God by acting as His hands and feet on earth and showing others His great love. Joan Abrahamson is an ideal example of how an inductee in to the St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Service Achievement should live.

Distinguished Athletic Achievement Award Inductees



"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort" (Jesse Owens).

Maria (Gangelhoff '08) Halverson is one of those rare individuals who was able to make her dreams into reality through her incredible talent, strong work ethic, and outstanding dedication, making her an ideal inductee for the St. Mary's Catholic School Hall of Fame.

Throughout her high school career, Maria was a three sport athlete, excelling on the volleyball and basketball courts and on the softball field. Her impressive list of statistics and honors illustrate her "determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort". In volleyball, Maria was a Tomahawk All Conference Honorable Mention in 2005 and a Tomahawk All Conference selection during both the 2006 and 2007 seasons. She was also the KNUJ Player of the Week in 2006 and 2007. During her senior season (2007), she was also named the Team MVP and Team Leadership as well as the Tomahawk Player of the Year in volleyball. She earned a place on the Tomahawk All Conference All-Academic Team in 2005, 2006, and 2007 and was All State Academic in 2007. During her volleyball career, she had an incredible 98% serving percentage, with 779 serves attempted and only 47 missed. She also accumulated 108 aces.

As a varsity basketball player since eighth grade, Maria helped lead the Lady Knights to a 71% winning percentage (98-40) during her five years on the court. During the 2004-2005 season, Maria and the Lady Knights earned a trip to the elite State Tournament. Maria's talents were acknowledged as she was named to the Tomahawk All Conference team every year from 2004 to 2008. In addition, during her senior year, Maria was elected Team MVP and was an All-State Honorable Mention. During her basketball career, Maria amassed an impressive list of statistics. With 1698 points, she remains the second all-time highest in the girls' program. She also holds the record for third highest assists (365), for second highest steals (358), and for eleventh highest rebounds (536).

Her play on the softball field was equally notable as she was a Tomahawk Honorable Mention and Team Most Improved during her sophomore season (2006), a Tomahawk All Conference selection and a State Tournament participant during her junior season (2007) and a Tomahawk All Conference selection and Team MVP during her senior season (2008). She earned a place on the Tomahawk All-Academic Team in 2006, 2007, and 2008 and was a member of the Team Academic Champs for Class 1A in 2007 and All State Academics in 2008. In addition, Maria was a member of the All Section Team 2A in 2008. On the softball field, Maria was a three year starting outfielder and pitcher with a career pitching record of 25-11. According to former teacher and coach Wendy Owens: "Maria has been a joy to watch throughout her high school career. She is such a phenomenal young woman who has become a role model for many of our girls in our K-12 school system. Maria has worked very hard for her success and does not take any of that hard work for granted."

Although Maria excelled in athletics during her high school career, she was also actively involved in a variety of other activities. She was a member of the Student Council during 2007-2008 and a part of the Diocesan Youth Council from 2005-2007. Her former teammate and friend Crissi (Schewe '09) Mangen adds: "Maria was a great friend, teammate and role model for everyone who knew her. She made those around her, not only better athletes, but better people. Although soft spoken, Maria led by example and always kept God and her faith the most important part of her life. A true leader and shepherd of Jesus." Maria graduated from St. Mary's in 2008.

After her high school graduation, Maria continued to turn her dreams into reality. She enrolled at the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) where she earned an Associate of Science – Radiography degree in 2011. She also earned a Mayo School of Health Sciences Radiography Program Certificate of Completion in 2011. While at RCTC, Maria played on the women's basketball team from 2008-2010 and continued to accumulate remarkable statistics and honors. Maria averaged 20 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 rebounds per game during her sophomore season. She helped lead the RCTC Yellowjackets to a 54-7 record during her two seasons there and was a "key component to the 2009 national championship team". In 2009, the Yellowjackets earned the titles of Region Champions, State Champions and National Champions. In 2010, Maria was named to the first team NJCCA Division III All-America team as well as the first-team All-Region XIII. According to her coach Steve Hulke in a 2010 *Post-Bulletin* article, "She has worked extremely hard on her game....she will be a hard person to replace...She just did so many things".

Maria is currently employed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, working as an MRI Technologist. She and her husband, Matt, live in Goodhue and have one daughter, Josie. Her Catholic faith remains an important part of her life as she is a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Goodhue. Throughout her life, Maria has proven that dreams can become reality with "determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort". This belief has earned her a much-deserved place in St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Athletic Achievement.

Distinguished Athletic Achievement Award Inductees



"You can have all the talent in the world, but without determination, you won't get very far." (Malorie Blackman). However, there are individuals who are blessed with extraordinary talent as well as deep determination and, thus, find great success in life. **Mark Schroepfer ('65)** is one such person. His outstanding achievements during his life make him an excellent inductee for the St. Mary's Catholic School Hall of Fame.

It was on the Knights basketball court that Mark truly demonstrated his abilities as an athlete. According to Mark, "the best individual game I ever played for St. Mary's was the last game I played." It was the Sub-Regional State Tournament finals against the Guardian Angels of Chaska. Despite Mark's impressive 39 individual points, the Knights suffered a devastating loss. However, that final game was certainly not the only game in which Mark showed his talent and determination. According to the St. Mary's score book, Mark's scoring average was 24.6 points per game, a highly significant accomplishment. Coach Moe Moran once told the *Herald Dispatch* that "Mark Schroepfer will set a school scoring record before the season is over." Moran was proven correct on February 14, 1965, when Schroepfer scored 43 points against St. Adrian. Coach Moran

described Mark, "He played a tremendous game...a 100 percent effort."

Mark's talents and determination were honored as he was recognized as the leading scorer during the DeSmet Conference games. He was the team captain, Team MVP, a unanimous DeSmet All-Conference Team selection and an M.C.E.A All-Regional Team Selection. The New Ulm Journal named Mark both "Player of the Week" as well as a First Team All-Area Player, the only Catholic school athlete on the first team. The Catholic Bulletin of St. Paul held a coaches' poll and Mark was named to the Catholic All-State Basketball Team.

In addition to his abilities on the hardwood, Mark joined the Knights on the gridiron. During his sophomore year, he kicked extra points. Unfortunately, Mark broke his arm in a preseason practice during his junior year and missed half of that season. However, his determination was clear as he still did some kick-offs and punting even with his arm in a cast during the latter part of the season. During his senior season, he played safety.

Mark also enjoyed a variety of other sports during high school. During his junior year, he joined his classmates on the newly formed track team. However, despite practicing after school, the team never participated in a track meet! In addition, Mark decided to add golf to his repertoire. Using a borrowed set of golf clubs, he played on the golf team. The team had no formal coaching, but played as much as they wanted on the municipal golf course. The team only entered one event: the DeSmet Golf Tournament. Mark also played on the Knights baseball team as a sophomore. He lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and golf at St. Mary's. Mark graduated from St. Mary's in 1965.

Combining both his talent and his determination, Mark earned both his BA and MBA at the University of St. Thomas with additional postgraduate studies at Santa Ana (CA) College, Delta College (MI) and the University of Minnesota. He also served his country as a United States Marine (two years in active duty and four years in the reserves). His professional career included being the American Hoist and Derrick group controller, the Pentair VP of Finance and MIS, and the president, CEO and Board Chairman of Lincoln Industrial based in St. Louis with operations in Germany, the Czech Republic, India, Singapore and China. After retiring from full-time business, he became a member of the Winnebago Ind. Board of Directors and its Audit Committee Chair and taught for ten years as an adjunct professor in the field of music business at the University of St. Thomas. Mark defines his business leadership principles as: "Manage with highest ethical and moral standards. Respect the dignity and self-worth of all. Be respected for actions by all constituents: shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, and communities."

Throughout his life, Mark has used his talents and his gifts for the betterment of others. He has coached youth basketball and baseball and is a sanctioned referee for all sports in the St. Paul Catholic Athletic Association. He is a past member of advisory committees at the Cathedral of St. Paul, the Saint Paul Foundation, and the University of St. Thomas. Recently, his efforts have turned toward more philanthropic causes especially in the areas of poverty, education and religion. He has established scholarships at St. Thomas (with preference to St. Mary's students) and at the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota. He has assisted with the renovation of the Cathedral of St. Paul, the expansion of St. Paul's Dorothy Day Center, the digital IMAX projection project at the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Digital Newsprint Project (including Sleepy Eye newspapers through 1924) of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Mark has been married to Jean for 43 years. The couple has one daughter Sheila who is married to Philipp Hagmann. In his leisure time, he enjoys photography and video post processing, historical research, and travel with Jean to experience the world. Music has remained a lifelong passion; for ten years, he played guitar in The Heidelberg Starfighters on stage in Germany. Talent and determination truly combined in Mark Schroepfer's athletic career, his business endeavors and his charitable works to make him so successful and deserving of his induction into the St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Athletic

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>FOOTBALL</u> | | <u>BOYS TRACK</u> | |
| Conference | 1935,1936,1938,1948,1949,1950 | Conference | 1948,1962 |
| | 1954,1957,1961,1967,1970,1975, 2012, 2013 | | |
| Section | 1988, 2011, 2012, 2013 | <u>SOFTBALL</u> | |
| State Participant | 1979,1988, 2011, 2012, 2013 | Conference | 2012 |
| | | District | 1983 |
| | | Sub-Section | 1985,1986,1987,1988,1 989 |
| <u>VOLLEYBALL</u> | | Region | 1980,1981,1982,1983, 1984 |
| Conference | 2008 | Section | 2007, 2017 |
| Sub-Section | 1999,2000,2002,2004,2006,2008 | State Participant | 1981, 1982, 2007, 2017 |
| | | State 3rd Place | 1983, 2017 |
| <u>GIRLS CROSS COUN- TRY</u> | | State Runner Up | 1980 |
| Conference | 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 | State Champs | 1984 |
| State Participant | 1999 | State Academic Champs | 2007 |
| <u>BOYS BASKETBALL</u> | | | |
| Conference | 1937,1950,1954,1958,1962,1971 1975,1998,2003,2004,2005,2012, 2013 | <u>BASEBALL</u> | |
| Sub-Section | 1998,2001,2004,2005,2006 | Conference | 1954,1955,1956,1957, 1958,1959,1967,1970, 1975,1988,1993,1995, 2001,2003,2004,2006, 2007,2008,2012, 2013 |
| Section | 1998,2005,2006 | | |
| Region | 1949,1957,1958 | District | 1975,1979,1980,1987 |
| State Participant | 1938,1940,1945,1949,1950,1957 | Sub-Section | 1997,2001 |
| | 1958,2005,2006 | Section | 2001,2002,2003,2004, 2006,2007 |
| State 4th Place | 1951,1998 | Region | 1970,1974,1979,1980 |
| | | State Participant | 1954,1955,1956,1970, 1974,1979 |
| <u>GIRLS BASKETBALL</u> | | State 3rd Place | 2003 |
| Conference | 1996,1999 | State Runner Up | 1967,1980,2001 |
| Sub-Section | 1999,2005 | State Champs | 2002,2004,2006,2007 |
| Section | 1999,2005 | | |
| State Participant | 1999,2005 | <u>GIRLS GOLF</u> | |
| State Academic Champs | 2006,2007 | Conference | 2004,2005,2006, 2010 |
| | | Sub-Section | 2004, 2010 |
| <u>GIRLS TRACK</u> | | | |
| Conference | 1981,1982,1984,1985,1986,1988, 2009, 2010, 2011,2012, 2013 | <u>BOYS GOLF</u> | |
| District | 1982,1983,1984,1985,1986 | Conference | 1957,1958,1995,1996, 1997,2000, 2016, 2017 |
| Sub-Section | 1993,1995, 2010 | Sub-Section | 2012, 2016 |
| Region | 1986 | Section | 2016, 2017 |
| State Participant | 1986 | State 3rd Place | 2016, 2017 |
| 4x200 Relay Champs | 2005 | | |

Past Hall of Fame Inductees

SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

COACHES ACHIEVEMENT

2005 Inductees

Sr. Margeen Hoffmann ('54)
Jack Berdan ('49)/Coach

Fred Bruckbauer ('56)
Richard Callanan ('51)

Moe Moran
Eugene Maurer ('63)

2006 Inductees

Sr. Theresa Hoffmann ('59)
Spud Dietz ('44)

Herm Sellner ('53)
Mike Hentges ('62)
Jerry Steffen ('63)

Charlie Hale

2007 Inductees

Fr. Wilfrid Upson ('47)

Ed Schotzko ('58)
Jim "Fetch" Seidl ('58)
Bob Broich ('71)
Jim Popken ('65)
Roger Goblirsch ('67)

February 2008 Inductees

Stan Meidl
Sr. Nicholine Mertz ('40)
Sr. Audrey Goldschmidt ('55)

Sue (Riebel) Lueck ('84)
Les Haala ('57)
Pat "Lefty" Reynolds ('58)
Donald "Toby" Schmid ('63)
Jeff Cook ('76)

November 2008 Inductees

Sr. Marlene Pinzka ('63)
Linus Glotzbach ('18)

Francis Broich ('43)
Charles Murry ('46)
Steve Hoffmann ('80)

2009 Inductees

Philip Sellner Jr. ('74)
Nicholas Mertz Jr. ('48)

Janet (Schotzko) Bolstad ('83)
Glenn Sieve ('75)
Mark Tauer ('71)
Joe (Dutch) Schroepfer ('48)

2010 Inductees

Grace (Sellner) Strangis ('62)
Cathy Haala ('74)

Kelly (Tauer) Hogan ('96)
Gary Hoffmann ('68)
Greg Gangelhoff ('78)

Wayne Pelzel ('68)

2011 Inductees

Rita Hirsch ('64)
Tom Popken ('75)

Kim (Schmid) Auth ('87)
Vic Helget Jr. ('75)
Shelley Schwab ('68)

Past Hall of Fame Inductees

SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

COACHES ACHIEVEMENT

2012 Inductees

Fr. Robert Goblirsch ('51)
Marie (Sellner) Bushard ('60)
Norbert ('19) & Joseph ('21) Pietrus

Liz (Neubauer) Braulick ('97)
Kyle Krzmarzick ('91)
George Ladd ('68)

2013 Inductees

Lillian (Haala) Stimpert ('51)

Jill (Schumacher) Weiss ('92) Mike Schumacher ('76)
Bill Eckstein ('72)

2014 Inductees

Rick Mages ('72)

Nicole (Steffl) Fuchs ('01) Denny Lux ('77)
Mike Steffl ('82)

2015 Inductees

Leona Helget
Richard ('53) & Mary Lou Mathiowetz

Jenny (Braulick) Helget ('94)
Dan Schmid ('95)

2017 Inductees

Tom ('59) & Sharon (Simonsen '70) Hirsch

Kit (Neubauer) Rehmann ('99)
Tom Hentges ('55)

2018 Inductees

Kathy Wichmann

Ashley (Mathiowetz) Schieffert ('02)
Fred Hoffmann ('52)

St. Mary's Catholic School Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School exists to assist parents in passing on the Catholic faith while providing a quality education in a safe and positive environment.

