



St. Mary's Catholic School 16th Hall of Fame Awards

Presented at the 5:30pm Mass
Saturday, November 21, 2020

Since we were unable to gather for the banquet due to the pandemic, we will celebrate these individuals next year.

Service Achievement

Rosella Windschitl

Dorothy Haala

Verna (Haala '48) Wendinger

Athletic Achievement

Steve Seifert ('80)

Leo Braun ('59)



Distinguished Service Achievement Award Inductees



Rosella Windschitl

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Faithfulness to God and a life of service to others has created a legacy of greatness for Rosella (Suess) Windschitl. Because of her love in serving others, Rosella is an outstanding inductee in to the St. Mary’s Hall of Fame for Service Achievement.

Rosella, the second of twelve children, began her life of service at an early age. She recalls her daily life in rural Comfrey consisting of the typical work of life on a farm, including milking cows and helping with the fieldwork. She attended country school in Mulligan Township until the 8th grade which was common at this time. She then went to work for other families with their household chores. When Rosella was 21, she married Sylvester Windschitl and they had five children: Gloria (’65) Helget, Eugene

(’66) (who passed away in 2007), Mary Lou (’69) Mathiowetz, Darlene (’71) Tauer, and Jane (’75) Portner.

Rosella’s life of service is most vividly illustrated by the years that she generously gave to St. Mary’s. In the 1970’s, she began cooking with the St. Mary’s Catering Ladies along with Leona Helget, Florence Schroeffer and Donna Helget. After Leona passed away, it was Marie Bushard who kept the catering business going. With Rosella at her side, Marie and the St. Mary’s Catering Ladies have offered their gifts of time, treasures and talents by preparing meals for countless events and donating their profits to St. Mary’s. Rosella also worked for 18 years in the school kitchen helping prepare meals for the students until her retirement in 2014. According to her friend and co-caterer, Cindy Rieke: “With a spoon in her hand, a recipe in her head, a smile on her face and a prayer in her thoughts, Rosella Windschitl has been found in the St. Mary’s School kitchen cooking up good old-fashioned comfort food for people for many, many years, whether it be for the school children or for the St. Mary’s Catering Ladies events!”

To this day, at the age of 98, service is what motivates Rosella. Whenever the school kitchen has potatoes or apples that need peeling, Rosella is ready and willing to help out. Until recently, she attended various catering events and even made her famous potato salad when needed. However, the greatest gift she shared was her faith. Cindy stated, “Rosie is a very faith-filled and prayerful person. Even when she was cooking and lost in thought, you could tell she was offering up her work in prayers... [she] has been a wonderful role model for all of us. She has shared her kindness, her time, her prayers, and her love of God.”

As her close friend and co-worker for many years, it is Marie Bushard who most eloquently describes Rosella: “When I think of Rosella, she reminds me of Mother Teresa, especially her hands and her dedication to her religious faith. When I sit in the Adoration chapel and see Mother Teresa’s hands, they resemble Rosella’s hands, crippled and callused from working and praying and never giving up. Those hands have done much service for St. Mary’s. They are always busy doing something: praying, saying rosaries, and going to daily Mass. Those hands were involved in mixing many batches of dough for brunches and meals. Making schmierkuchen and rolls was her pride and joy. She never wore out because she was always praying while working. She used her hands for peeling many potatoes and for helping in every area of catering especially making glazed carrots and gravy. What a lady to have as a special friend and a leader. We had many hard days but her cheery disposition, big smiles and laughs got us through. She never complained no matter how much her hands hurt. She said that she always offered up the pain. Rosella gave many hours to many different projects with her hands to St. Mary’s. We always told her, when she meets the Lord, she should hold one hand down and pull us up there!”

If being a faithful steward is measured by service to others, Rosella truly is one of the greatest. Congratulations Rosella on your induction into the St. Mary’s Hall of Fame for Service Achievement!



Dorothy Haala

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat’ (Matthew 25:34-40).

Few individuals have followed God’s command to “feed the hungry” as abundantly as Dorothy Haala has throughout her lifetime. Because of her obedience in sharing her time and talents with others, Dorothy is an extremely deserving inductee in to St. Mary’s Hall of Fame for Service Achievement.

The second of four children, Dorothy (Zeig) Haala grew up on her family’s farm southwest of New Ulm. She attended District 6 Country School, but spent three years at Holy Trinity Catholic School in order to receive her sacraments. She met Delmar at a dance and they were married at Holy Trinity on

May 20, 1953. Together, the couple had five children: Jerry (’72), Cathy (’74), Chris (’76), Cherie and Cory (’90). They have also been blessed with ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to being an outstanding mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Dorothy held various jobs over the years. However, she may be best known as one of the “St. Mary’s funeral ladies.” This role began in February of 1984 when Dorothy was approached by a fellow parishioner who asked her to “help out” with preparing the meals for the funerals at St. Mary’s. By saying “yes” to a seemingly simple question, Dorothy was, in actuality, saying “yes” to a lifetime of serving others and feeding the hungry.

Along with Verna Wendinger, the two amazing “funeral ladies” prepared 955 meals over the course of 32 years. During that time, Dorothy never missed a single funeral even during the winter months when inclement weather made her ten mile drive from the country a difficult journey!

Her son, Cory, remembers: “When I was in junior high and high school, I remember Mom making her phone calls to the grocery store to order supplies for the upcoming funerals and stressing about how much to order. She never wanted to be short food but didn't want to be stuck with too much left over either. It would become more stressful in weeks when there were multiple funerals or large amounts of crowds expected. Would there be enough food? Would there be enough help? Those were always concerns!” In addition to preparing the main meals, Dorothy also always brought a pan of bars or a salad. Cory added: “I used to complain at home about having leftover hotdish for supper, although I never minded the leftover desserts. I sure wouldn't complain if I had some funeral hotdish today! No doubt Mom knows how to cook good food!” Everyone who has had the opportunity to taste Dorothy's cooking would most definitely agree with him. In October of 2016, both Dorothy and Verna decided to retire as the “funeral ladies,” leaving an incredible legacy of serving and feeding the hungry just as God commanded.

Dorothy not only spent countless hours preparing and cooking for funerals, but she shared her time and talents in many other capacities as well. She cooked and volunteered for the Hospital Fair and the Divine Providence Bazaar as well as for countless bake sales and meals served at St. Mary's Catholic School or in the church social room. She also spent additional hours supervising the social room for private events. Dorothy continues to volunteer at Nex-Tu-Nu II, a parish owned thrift store. She also loves to sew, especially large quilts. She, along with a group of other women from the parish, made exquisite quilts for the annual quilt auction at the St. Mary's Parish Festival each summer. The profits obtained from the winning bid of these beautiful quilts was donated back to St. Mary's. It is impossible to even estimate the amount of time and service that Dorothy has given to St. Mary's throughout the years. She has truly blessed the entire parish by willingly sharing her many gifts. She is a true example of what it means to be a good steward, offering God's gifts back to Him for the good of His Church and His people.

When people are “hungry” - hungry for food, for help, for love - Dorothy is always there, willing and eager to answer God's command to feed them. Her example is a priceless legacy to all who know her. Congratulations, Dorothy, on your induction in the Hall of Fame for Service Achievement.



Verna (Haala '48) Wendinger

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

Throughout her lifetime, Verna Wendinger has truly heard the call of the Lord asking her to serve His people and she always joyfully answered, “Send me!” Her willingness to give of her time, talents, and treasures makes her an ideal inductee for the St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Service Achievement.

Verna attended St. Mary's Catholic School. Her daughter Lana (Wendinger '81) Mathiowetz recalls: “She used to board at St. Mary's Convent. Sister Michael was a sister there at the time. Pa, her dad, would bring her in to school and get her with the horse and wagon in winter. Food was so scarce, especially meat, that the Sisters would ask for anything they could bring in to the convent.” Verna graduated from St. Mary's in 1948.

On May 2, 1951, she married Leonard Wendinger. The couple was blessed with six children: Larry ('69), Leann, Lonnie ('72), Laurie ('74), Lisa ('77) and Lana ('81). Tragically, two of their children passed away: Leann in 1954 and Larry in 1995. The Wendingers' legacy continues as the couple currently has eleven grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

In addition to answering God's call to be a faith-filled mother to her children, Verna also willingly served His Church. Along with Dorothy Haala, she is well known as one of the two amazing “funeral ladies” who prepared 955 meals over the course of 32 years. Beginning in 1986, Verna faithfully served as a cook for funerals as well as a supervisor in the social room until her retirement in October of 2016. God truly sent Verna to serve countless individuals in the social room, undoubtedly bringing much comfort, joy and peace to each of them.

Verna also said “Send me!” to various other needs of the Church and community. Since the inception of the St. Mary's Church Festival in 1968, Verna was well-known for the beautiful quilts, dolls, and other items that she made and donated. She was a valued contributor to the Divine Providence Bazaar for many years as well as for the Hospital Fair (cook and crafter) during the years that it was held. Verna was also active in a variety of 4-H leadership roles. She is truly a woman of service who is always willing to say “yes” to God.

One of Verna's grandchildren eloquently described her grandmother: “Verna has been selfless holding up her community and family for her entire life by her work in the church and with her friends. This staple of our community is beloved by so many and we are grateful for her love. Her family fondly remembers the large spreads she cooks up for them when they stop in for a visit, her cutout cookies with sprinkles on them, handmade baby quilts, her beautiful and prolific garden, and her Christmas candy bags. She is a reminder of what we all strive to be in our lives - a human dedicated to furthering good, love, and light through every one of her actions. She has lived through so many personal and community tragedies and continues to be the backbone of our family and community. We are all better people because of her unwavering love.” When the Lord asked, “Who will go?”, Verna has spent her life answering, “Send me!” She is a tremendous example of what it means to be a true woman of faith and service. Congratulations Verna, on your induction in to St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Service Achievement.

Distinguished Athletic Achievement Award Inductees



Steve Seifert ('80)

"Without self-discipline, success is impossible, period" (Lou Holtz).

Because of his consistent self-discipline, Steve Seifert experienced genuine success in his many endeavors and is a very deserving inductee in to St. Mary's Hall of Fame for Athletic Achievement.

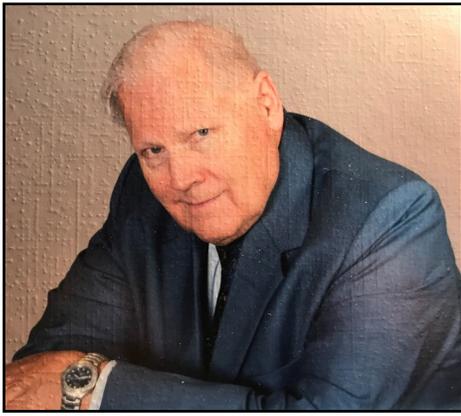
While in high school at St. Mary's Catholic School, Steve excelled as a three-sport athlete, playing on the football, basketball and baseball teams, each for three varsity seasons. On the football field, Steve's self-discipline as a slot receiver, cornerback and punter helped lead the Knights to the Football State Tournament. Steve recalls one of the highlights of the State Tournament: "I tackled Atwater's running back Mike Kingery (former Major League Baseball player) from behind after he broke loose from the line of scrimmage." Dave Freitag shared, "As athletic director, I had the pleasure of watching Steve as a member of the football team which made it to the state playoffs and, in my opinion, was one of the finest football teams that Saint Mary's ever had...Those years that I was able to spend with Steve and his teammates are some of the most cherished times of my life." In addition to the success on the football field, Steve was an essential member of the Knights' basketball team, serving as a team captain and averaging twenty points per game during his senior season. He hosted his own pre-game basketball warm-up show that season as well. His talent on the court was recognized as he was selected to the All-Journal Basketball Team. The Football State Tournament was not Steve's only State Tournament appearance. He was also a member of the 1979 and 1980 State Baseball Tournament Teams, playing center field. He vividly remembers leading off the 1980 Tournament with a home run! The Knights ended the 1980 season as the State Runners-Up. Steve ended his high school career with a .361 batting average and seventeen stolen bases. His personal accomplishments were honored as he was a member of the All-Journal Team and the All-State Team for baseball. His highly successful high school athletic career is a strong testament to his self-discipline to use his talent to its fullest potential. His friend and former teammate Randy Wintheiser ('80) recalls: "Seif was one of my better friends and we could always count on him to be a 'spark plug.' He was very confident, always willing - and able - to take the clutch or final shot, stretch a single into a double, and a threat to break loose for a big gain. Steve continues his winning ways today as a successful husband and businessman."

Steve graduated from St. Mary's in 1980. Although he was personally invited by the University of Minnesota's coach, John Anderson, to play for the Gopher baseball coach, Steve opted to attend college at Minnesota State University, Mankato. While there, he played baseball for the Mavericks for two years. Steve graduated in 1984 with a degree in Business/Marketing.

Steve is married to Laurie and the couple have two sons: Taylor (28 years old) and Carson (25 years old). He continued his dedication to athletics, coaching both baseball and basketball when his sons were in 3rd - 6th grades. He is also a member of Holy Family Church where he acts as a Mass server on special occasions and volunteers as an usher. They make their home in Woodstock, Georgia where Steve has been self-employed at Seifert Marketing, Inc. for the past thirty years.

Throughout his life, Steve has repeatedly demonstrated that his multitude of successes have arisen from his ability to be self-disciplined and use his talents to the fullest. Congratulations to Steve Seifert on his induction in to St. Mary's Hall of Fame!

**Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, Steve decided it was best to refrain from traveling at this time. Honored to accept on his behalf is JoAnn (Krzmarzick '57) Seifert, his mother.*



Leo Braun ('59)

"Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it" (George Halas).

Because of his commitment to always giving his best throughout his athletic career and his entire life, Leo Braun is an exemplary example of what it means to be a St. Mary's Hall of Fame Inductee for Athletic Achievement.

Leo's football career began early on the St. Mary's Elementary School playground. St. Mary's High School football coach, Ray Wilder, saw him playing football and recognized a young athlete who was already giving his best. Leo recalls: "On the walk back to the classroom, he asked me if I were interested in

playing on the grade school football team. I told him I had no way to get home to the farm after practice. That was about eight miles. He told me the Lion's Club was giving kids a ride home after practice. So I went home and asked my mother. I didn't want to ask my dad because he would probably say no. She said, "Let me talk to your Dad."

Fortunately, for the St. Mary's athletic program, the answer from Leo's dad was "yes" and he began playing eighth grade football. When his brother joined the Army, Leo was able to use his car to drive himself to and from practice. Because of the convenience of having his own transportation, during his senior year, Leo decided to also play basketball. He says, "Needless to say, the car was worn when [my brother] arrived home from the Army".

Leo had a prestigious athletic career during his years at St. Mary's. Following grade school, he played high school football from 1955 to 1958. His football coach, LuVern Ahrndt, proved to be a strong mentor and supporter who did a great deal to help Leo in a multitude of ways. During his senior year, Leo's talent on the football field was recognized as he was named to Football First Team All-Conference; Minneapolis Star and Tribune's First Team All-State and Outstanding Athlete by the Sleepy Eye Jaycees.

Although Leo was only able to play basketball during the 1958-59 season, he made quite an impact. When his basketball coach, Moe Moran, presented the Outstanding Athlete Award to Leo, Coach Moran said, "We don't have anybody that can dunk (basketball) but we have someone that can get their wrist above the rim. I wish we could have had him on the team last year at the State Tournament." Leo was clearly an athlete who always gave his best and that effort was applauded by those around him.

After Leo graduated from St. Mary's in 1959, he received scholarship offers from the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas, the University of Wisconsin and Mankato State University. Leo chose St. Thomas where he was able to play four years of college football for the Tommies. After his years of collegiate football, he had the honor of playing in the Minnesota Collegiate All-Star Game, being coached by Jonny McKay of USC. They played against a team coached by Alabama's coach Bear Bryant.

Leo had the opportunity to continue his football career as he was invited to join the San Diego Chargers pre-season workouts. However, he had another offer: a job with the predecessor of BNSF Railway. Leo opted to accept the job, propose marriage (to the late Rosemary Battaglia) and have a family (including daughter LeeAnn, sons Tom and Bob, and four grandchildren).

Throughout his lifetime, Leo demonstrated the value of giving his best and living without regrets. Congratulations to Leo Braun on his induction into St. Mary's Hall of Fame!

**Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, Leo decided it was best to refrain from traveling at this time. Honored to accept on his behalf is Kathleen Braun ('72), his sister.*

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)

2016—Not Held due to musical rescheduling

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)

2019 Inductees

Joan (Braun '49) Abrahamson

Maria (Gangelhoff '08) Halverson
Mark Schroepfer ('65)



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.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>FOOTBALL</u>		<u>BOYS TRACK</u>	
Conference	1935,1936,1938,1948,1949,1950 1954,1957,1961,1967,1970,1975, 2012, 2013	Conference	1948,1962
Section	1988, 2011, 2012, 2013	<u>SOFTBALL</u>	
State Participant	1979,1988, 2011, 2012, 2013	Conference	2012, 2019
		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, 2012	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	District	1975,1979,1980,1987
Region	1949,1957,1958	Sub-Section	1997,2001
State Participant	1938,1940,1945,1949,1950,1957	Section	2001,2002,2003,2004, 2006,2007
	1958,2005,2006	Region	1970,1974,1979,1980
State 4th Place	1951,1998	State Participant	1954,1955,1956,1970, 1974,1979
		State 3rd Place	2003
<u>GIRLS BASKETBALL</u>		State Runner Up	1967,1980,2001
Conference	1996,1999, 2020	State Champs	2002,2004,2006,2007
Sub-Section	1999,2005, 2020		
Section	1999,2005	<u>GIRLS GOLF</u>	
State Participant	1999,2005	Conference	2004,2005,2006, 2010
State Academic Champs	2006,2007	Sub-Section	2004, 2010
<u>GIRLS TRACK</u>		<u>BOYS GOLF</u>	
Conference	1981,1982,1984,1985,1986,1988, 2009, 2010, 2011,2012, 2013	Conference	1957,1958,1995,1996, 1997,2000, 2016, 2017, 2018
District	1982,1983,1984,1985,1986	Sub-Section	2012, 2016
Sub-Section	1993,1995, 2010	Section	2016, 2017, 2018
Region	1986	State 3rd Place	2017
State Participant	1986	State 4th Place	2016
4x200 Relay Champs	2005	State Champs	2018