



# THE CHARGER



Saint Charles  
Catholic School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

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## Robyn's View

When someone drives past St. Charles Catholic School, not much has changed from the curb since the 1964 addition was completed. It is time for some changes.

The Board of Directors has been in a state of reflection - weighing options on how to proceed on dealing with an aging building. Since the Board continuously has faces changing within its members, it has always been a challenge to keep important history pieces alive in the Board's memory. During the last number of years, the Board has taken deliberate steps to ensure who St. Charles fundamentally is, isn't lost.

Three years ago, at the annual Board Retreat, the whole Board had an incredible opportunity to hear directly from some of the School's history makers. Sister Emma Berard spoke of the history of the School. Starting from when classes were being taught out of the basement of the church until the construction of the school was complete to the handing over of St. Charles Academy to the five parishes to then become St. Charles Catholic School. Mother Superior, Cecile Fortier spoke to the charism of the Oblates and the School which translates to that 'feeling' people speak of when they walk through the front door of the School - the feeling of coming home for me personally.

Then the Board had a chance to hear from two former Board members who were very involved and instrumental in keeping the doors of the school open during a difficult time in the School's history. John Dusessoy was kind of enough to give a glimpse into challenges and sacrifices made to keep the systems running and the doors open when there was no funds to invest into the school infrastructure. Then he took all of us on a tour of the school which at first seemed strange to a bunch of parents who are in the school every day but this was a different kind of tour. It was where the different little bits of history, the uniqueness of St. Charles comes out. Anne-Marie Ford, Board Chair for many years, spoke to the successful efforts to rebrand the school, creating the corporate and management structure, making the School's way through tragedy, and the bringing in of what is now the key programming that makes St. Charles Catholic School who it is today...our future leaders.

This past year has continued to see the Board form plans that will see a stronger, more efficient school, who, as always, remains true to its heritage and looks forward to the future to prepare the St. Charles students for life. These past years of planning have been a long road of realization and reflection...and ever so rewarding.

### 3-2-1 CHARGERS!

**Robyn Powell (deBeer) '82-90'**  
Alumni Rep, Board of Directors

*Estote fideles - Be faithful*



[www.stccs.ca](http://www.stccs.ca)



[stccsblog.wordpress.com](http://stccsblog.wordpress.com)



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# Principal's Update

- Dr. A. P. Penny



*"Faith based  
education is  
an inviting,  
welcoming  
atmosphere."*

*- Family*

*Graduation  
Survey 2009*

As a school community we are incredibly blessed. Together we have been called to share in the lives of the families that come and go through our community. I believe that it is important for us as a community to take time to remember others and to cherish their legacies, big or small, that have been left for future SCCS families.

For example, two very memorable events happened in the life of our school during 2015-2016. This year marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reincorporation of St. Charles Catholic School. It also marked the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary since our founding by Sr. St. Viateur and Sr. Marie Joseph in 1906. It just so happened that these events dovetailed with significant moments in the life of the greater church community: The Archdiocese completed its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations this past November, and the Pope initiated the Jubilee Year of Mercy in December. So, we took time to:

**S**ay our school prayer daily for everyone in our community, which includes not only families enrolled in the school, but those within the five owner-parish communities.

**C**ome together for an anniversary dinner – bringing together people who returned for the first time in many years. They were able to re-connect with one another, see some of the renovations to the building and make some new friends.

**M**ourn together. In September, a dear friend of the school passed, Fr. Rafael Glofcheski. Classes for the older students were canceled so we could all attend the funeral and sing one last time for this wonderful priest. We still remember him reminding us to "pray for each other".

**G**ive back to the greater community. Together with Fr. Geoffrey Angeles, composer and pastor of St. Mary's, the music department created a musical Cantata to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese which was performed at St. Mary's Cathedral in November. One little girl in Grade 2 walked into the cathedral for the first time in her life, stopped, looked around and sighed, "This is just like being in the Philippines."

**M**ake music together. Our annual Christmas concert was moved to St. Charles Catholic Church where students and their families filled every niche, including the choir loft, the nursery rooms, the basement, and the sanctuary, where the rafters were reverberating with carols for hours afterwards! And the Christmas Choral CD our school spearheaded brought together all of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Each school was recorded singing their two favorite carols. The CDs were then made available to all churches in the Archdiocese.

**R**econnect with others. A Facebook page titled "SCCS Brag Book" was created to share the exciting moments in the lives of all SCCS families, both current and past. It provides a forum for sharing blessings and notes, especially from our former teachers and former students.

**R**e-ignite the charism. Sr. Cécile Fortier, Sr. Thérèse Bilodeau, Sr. Emma Berard, Sr. Léa Archambault and Sr. Dora Tétreault spent time with the staff this year. They shared their life stories and re-affirmed the Oblate charism in our community: a spirit of faith, charity, simplicity, openness and transformation in Christ. As one sister said "If you listen carefully, you will hear our charism. It is in the walls."

**M**ake what is old new again. Last year, the 15<sup>th</sup> year, the golf tournament made some changes to include children as players. The idea of having three generations on a golf team really took off this year, with several teams including grandparents, parents and current students. Alumni unable to join us for golf were able to attend the supper concluding the tournament this year. With the large number of people coming for just the evening, added with the enthusiastic golfers sharing "my golf game" stories, and the inclusion of many members of Bob Morrison's family, the festiveness of the evening reinforced the SCCS spirit of openness, charity and community.

## Principal's Update ... continued

Several unannounced visitors dropped by the school this year. One included a gentleman from Alberta who had attended SCA in the 1950s with his brothers (one of whom later became a diocesan priest). It was the first time he had been back since then. Then there was the visit by Jordan Paige's father who came to discuss the bursary which had been created in Jordan's memory. This award had been created by the students in Jordan's grade 8 class.

*Let us pray.....*  
 Lord, give us the grace to  
 share your joy with one  
 another,  
 to be supportive,  
 standing by people at every  
 step of the way,  
 no matter how difficult or  
 lengthy this may prove to be.  
 May each one of us  
 experience the power of  
 prayer in our lives.  
 May all of the families at  
 SCCS be joy-filled this year.  
 Amen

The SCCS uniforms are distinctive and worn with pride throughout the community. When our students attended an afternoon concert by violinist James Enns, a lady came up to chat and to share how impressed she was with the children. During the conversation we realized she had been in the last class to graduate from Grade 12 at SCA. She went on to become a teacher in northern Manitoba.

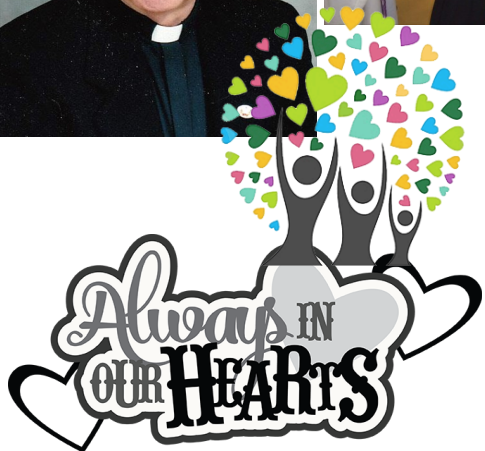
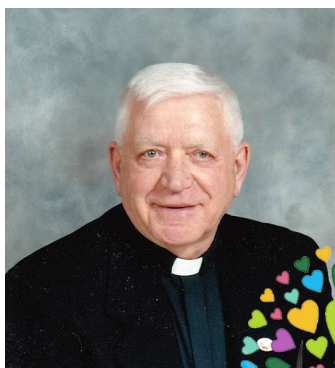
Yes, over our 110 years, many children have grown up in the SCCS community. Each child has a story to tell. Please do take the time to share your story, the stories of your parents and grandparents. Woven together, these stories form the fabric of our community. We are so blessed and proud to call it our own!

Wishing God's blessing upon all of you, - Dr. Anne P. Penny, Principal

### REV. FR. RAPHAEL A. GLOFCHESKI

Date of Passing: Sep 22, 2015

*God called and I must leave you*



*Singing goodbye to Father G*



# Rome

## March 21-March 28, 2016



**When in  
Rome....  
celebrate  
Easter  
Sunday  
mass with  
Pope  
Francis!**

This year, we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to travel to Rome! On March 21<sup>st</sup>, six students, 1 from Gr. 7 and 5 from Gr. 8, along with their parents and a staff member, gathered at the airport for a special blessing by Fr. Peter and Fr. Michael. Once our blessing was complete, we got ready to go through security and board our first plane to Toronto.

From Toronto, we traveled over 8 hours to Rome and arrived in Rome on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We were very excited and ready to begin our adventure!

Once landing in the airport in Rome, we were met by our tour guide Angie. She helped us find our luggage, and then we boarded a bus, (with our St. Charles name in the front window), to begin our hour travel into the city and to our hotel. When we arrived at the Hotel Repubblica, we got checked in and settled into our rooms. Once this task was complete, we met up with Angie again to de-brief about the rest of our day.

Our first stop was a little grocery store so we could pick up some items for lunch and enjoy our first picnic lunch in Rome. After eating, we began to explore the city. We visited Trevi Fountain, walked along Tiber River, walked the Spanish steps, and enjoyed yummy gelati. We visited two very beautiful churches, and you would have been proud...all of the students knelt down and started to pray. It was a very touching moment. In total that day, we walked over 16 kms and over 20,000 steps!

The next day, we enjoyed a traditional Roman breakfast and then walked to the metro and used our Roma pass. It was truly an experience! We found out that if you don't load fast enough, you get left behind! Of course, we learned our lesson quickly and didn't have that happen again.

We met another tour guide for the day, and she introduced us to the Coliseum, the Imperial Forum, and Ancient Rome. It was fabulous! To actually hear the stories and think about what life had been like back then was pretty powerful. We also took a bus tour of Rome which was a great way to see more of the city itself.

The next day we went to Vatican City. This too was absolutely amazing! We began with the Vatican museum and we were in awe! Nothing can prepare you for the feeling you get when you enter this space. We had an opportunity to see the Vatican gardens, and go into the Sistine Chapel. The paintings were remarkable! It truly was a moment we will never forget!

Next we went into St. Peter's Square, and stood in line for security checks to go into the Basilica. The Basilica was absolutely stunning! Since it was Holy Week, there were 1000's of people there. We were lucky enough to be able to enter through the Holy Doors, which was another powerful experience. Some of the students and their parents climbed up into the cupola. We also saw the balcony where the Pope always stands and addresses the crowd. As we were leaving the Basilica, we also got to witness the changing of the guard.

The next day we were off to see the catacombs of St. Callixtus. Upon reaching the catacombs, we learned that there are 21 kilometres of tunnels! We headed down into the catacombs to see where many popes, martyrs and many Christians had been buried. We even saw a statue of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, who had been buried in the catacombs after being beheaded. Once we finished our tour, we explored the grounds, and then headed back to town.

Our next stop was Castel Sant Angelo. This castle is surrounded by a moat, which of course no longer functions as a moat. The castle was originally the mausoleum of the emperor Hadrian, as well as his family. The castle was a place of burial, but also part of the defensive system. At the top of the castle, was the most amazing view of Vatican City!

The next day, we boarded our own private mini bus for our trip into Pompeii. The drive was 2 ½ hours, which gave all of us a chance to experience the Italian countryside. We saw many olive orchards along the way, as well as many Italian farms.

When we arrived in Pompei, we learned that it used to be a resort for wealthy Romans. However, in 79 AD the Vesuvius volcano erupted and buried the city. Prior to this happening, Pompei had been a very active city and did a lot of trading. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the excavation began and is still underway, with only 2/3 of the city being uncovered to date. Today Pompei is benefiting from the attraction the old city

# Rome ... continued

- Tammy Narynski, Vice Principal

has for tourists. This helps everyone to learn something about the traditions and daily lives of the past Romans.

After leaving Pompei, we boarded the bus and headed to Napoli for a tour around the city. Napoli is definitely not as clean as Rome, but it does have an amazing view of the water! We also learned that Saturday in Napoli is laundry day, because we saw many apartments with clothing hanging out of their balconies drying!



Our final full day in Rome was Easter Sunday. We were very excited to again travel to Vatican City to celebrate Easter Sunday Mass with the Pope Francis. Once we arrived in St. Peter's Square, we joined the thousands of people in line to go through security. It was such a powerful experience knowing how far we had come, and to be able to participate in this Mass was very moving. Pope Francis is very popular with the people, and spoke about peace, conflict and the refugees. He asked us to pray for Brussels. It was extremely moving to be part of this huge event.

After the Mass, we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the square while waiting for the crowd to thin out. After the picnic, we visited more churches, had our final gelati, and headed back to the hotel to pack our suitcases for the next morning.

After our last dinner in Rome, we went back to the Trevi Fountain, took some final pictures, and wandered along the cobblestone streets. It was such a beautiful way to say goodbye to Rome.



## Roma





# Celebration

## - 100th Anniversary and Cantata

On Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, our very own St. Charles Catholic School put on their very first "Cantata" performance in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Archdiocese.

130 Grades 3 through 8 students shared in presenting this gift of music and scripture to portray the journey of our Catholic people over the past 100 years. Professional musicians along with our Senior Violin Ambassadors, and a 130 voice choir brought out the beautiful meaning of the text in each of the themed scripture readings.

With the spiritual and musical guidance of Father Geoffrey our Cantata began to take form. The hymns that brought out the deeper meaning of each theme included: "Christ Be Our Light", "Dona Nobis Pacem – Grant us Peace", "Come and Follow Me", "We Are One", "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace", & "Go Make a Difference". Scripture readings were chosen for each of the hymns and themes presented for this 100 year celebration.

Many warm and lasting memories were made.

Here are just a few of the many accolades received:

*"This event was a true celebration of the centennial and its theme of Proclaiming Christ Always. It was very inspiring to hear the voices of the children in prayer and song. While we remember the history of the past 100 years in this centennial year, the Cantata gave me great hope for the future of our Catholic community in Winnipeg. We will be in very capable hands."*

- Robert Praznik - Director of Education, Archdiocese of Winnipeg

*"I truly appreciate all of your incredibly hard work and your dedication to music education...thanks for including me in this excellent musical experience."*

- Jay Harrison – Professional Musician

*"It was truly a pleasure to work with you, the staff and the students at St. Charles. You and the students did a terrific job. Kudos to everyone involved."*

- Paul Cerilli – Professional Musician

*"Please let your school community know how many countless phone calls were received saying how well all the children sang, and how well behaved they were."*

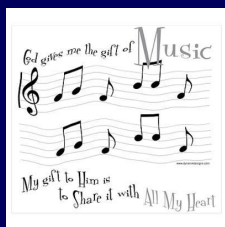
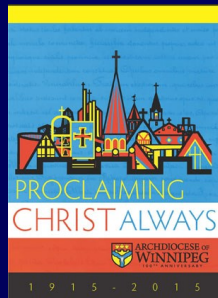
- Secretary of St. Mary's Cathedral, Winnipeg MB

This musical project would not have been possible without the tremendous dedication from our entire staff, as well as, the amazingly positive, unwavering support from our school board. We are truly grateful and blessed as a community to have had this experience in sharing our faith in "Proclaiming Christ Always".

*On November 24th we came together to reflect on those that had forged the way for us, and to give thanks for their gift of selves....What have we learned over the past 100 years?! These five things we know to be true: ...*

Visit our School Blog page, to view a short video clip of our SCCS students' performance as well as a link to the program, at:

<https://stccsblog.wordpress.com/2015/11/30/sccs-musical-cantata/>



**"This event was a true celebration of the centennial and its theme of Proclaiming Christ Always .."**



*Speak  
to one another  
with psalms,  
hymns and  
spiritual songs.  
Sing and  
make music  
in your heart  
to the Lord  
Ephesians 5:19*



**THANK YOU**  
FOR CELEBRATING WITH US





## Honors From the Winnipeg Music Festival

St. Charles has received some EXCITING & FABULOUS news from the Winnipeg Music Festival coordinator.

It is an honor to announce that our very own St. Charles Catholic Schools Choral program was selected by the festival adjudicator as the awarding recipients of the Helen Derksen Memorial Shield – Trophy (known in the choral music world as the “Stanley Cup”) for the category of The Most Outstanding Performance of a Sacred Selection by a School Chorus K - 6.

The Winnipeg Music Festival is a huge, province wide, month long festival, where many of the schools music programs participate in our city. 100's of emails of congratulations have been received on this recent announcement.

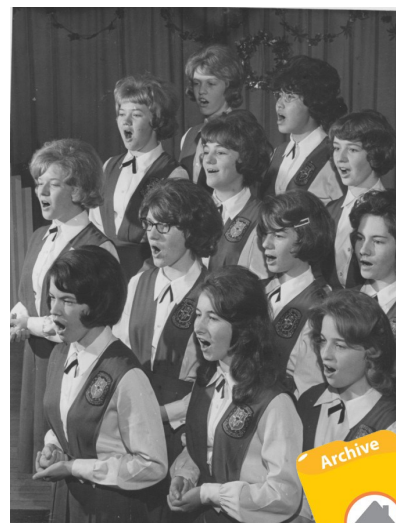


### Helen Derksen Memorial Shield

Awarded for the most outstanding performance of a Sacred Selection by a School Chorus, Kindergarten to Grade 6 .



CLASS 8117 SCHOOL CHORUS, OWN CHOICE,  
KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 6, PART 2  
Gold performances: St. Charles Catholic School  
Grades 3-5 Choir



Archive





# Re-Incorporation

It has been 15 years since the Oblate Sisters passed their ownership of the school to the five parishes: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. John XIII, St. Ann's, St. Paul the Apostle and St. Charles Parish.

To commemorate this important milestone in St. Charles history, a video was created to help preserve this part of the school's rich history. The video is comprised of interviews of the key individuals who saw the re-incorporation process from start to finish.

This video was presented at the 15th Anniversary Dinner that was held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the school. The event was initially planned with possibly 20-30 people in attendance. The RSVP list quickly surpassed 40 people, then 80 people...the night of the dinner saw over 120 people in the gym enjoying a meal prepared by the dedicated staff; enjoying the entertainment of the musically talented students, and in many cases reminiscing about the past and touring the school.

It truly was an evening of celebration that saw many familiar faces. Many thanks to the Corporate Board and their parishioners, former and current staff, countless alumni, former and current Board members; students and of course the Oblate sisters for helping celebrate.



## **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, 4588 Roblin Blvd Winnipeg MB

Pastor: Rev Msgr Maurice Comeault      Mass Times: Saturday 5:00pm; Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

## **St. John XXIII Parish**, 3390 Portage Ave Winnipeg MB

Pastor: Rev Robert Polz      Mass Times: Saturday: 5:00pm Sunday: 9:00am & 11:45am

## **St. Ann's Church**, 271 Hampton St Winnipeg MB

Pastor: Rev Ceas Chmiel      Mass Times: Saturday 4:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am  
(Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite), 12:00 Noon

## **St. Paul the Apostle Church**, 2400 Portage Ave Winnipeg MB

Pastor: Rev Eric J Giddins      Mass Times: Sunday 9:00am, 11:15am;  
Deer Lodge Centre Mass: Sat. 3:00pm

## **St. Charles Church**, 320 St. Charles St Winnipeg MB

Pastor: Rev Michael Wollbaum      Mass Times: Saturday 4:00pm; Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

# Golf Tournament

We celebrated the 16th Annual Robert Morrison Golf Tournament on May 30th, 2016 at Breezy Bend.

Some 95 golfers and volunteers were blessed with a day of beautiful weather, great company, and an opportunity to celebrate a great person who left his mark on St. Charles.



Saint Charles  
Catholic School

## 16th Annual Robert Morrison Golf Tournament & Dinner

St. Charles Catholic School Thanks All Sponsors & Supporters

### OUR PARTNER FOR THIS EVENT

- Breezy Bend Golf Club

### CART SPONSOR

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Solicitors and Trademark Agents

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- Wojcik's Funeral Chapel & Crematorium

### BRONZE SPONSORS

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- St. Charles Catholic Church
- St. James Electric & Heating
- Vigier Hockey
- Rob-Lyn Financial

### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Domino's Pizza
- Booster Juice
- Sargent Sundae
- Second Cup Polo Park
- Molson Coors
- The Cookie Divas



## How Can I Help?

St. Charles Catholic School believes that every child should have the option of benefiting from a Catholic education. Thanks to our Student Bursary fund, we are able to welcome families from all circumstances. Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated and will ensure the Bursary Fund's ability to assist.

Donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt and can be forwarded to:

St. Charles Catholic School • 331 St. Charles Street • Winnipeg MB • R3K 1T6

**Thank you** for your ongoing contributions towards this important fund.



Our Alumni are like family.

And, like many families, we don't always see one another very often!

We would like to encourage you to join us for our school events throughout the year to mix and mingle and to share and support.

Events are posted on our school calendar online at [www.stccs.ca](http://www.stccs.ca).

**You will ALWAYS be welcome!**



# Alumni Updates

Let us honour our dear Alma Mater. Let us sing in one voice her fair name.  
Greater schools there may be, but none dearer to our hearts than the one we acclaim.



**Kyra Thiessen** has committed to play for the Women's Hockey Team at Mercyhurst University after her graduation from SMA in June 2017.



**Cameron O'Hara** will be playing for the Men's University of Manitoba Bison Basketball Team for the 2016-17 season after his St. Paul's graduation in June of 2016.



**Dylan Thiessen** is playing in the MJHL for the Virden Oil Capitals since the 2014-215 season and will be playing for the Mercyhurst Men's Hockey Team for the 2016-17 season.

## MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATING CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I have enclosed my membership fee of \$10.00. Please continue mailing a hard copy of "The Charger".
- ☐ I have enclosed an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Please send a tax receipt to the above address.
- ☐ Please send the Electronic Charger to the above electronic mail address and enter my name in the draw for a "CHARGERS" Toque.
- ☐ Please contact me about upcoming fundraising events.

## Our Sympathies... To the Martin Family



The Alumni Association wishes to extend condolences to the family of **Ryan Martin** ('82 - '90), who passed away on October 5th, 2015. Ryan attended SCCS from 1982 to 1990 and then graduated from St.

Paul's High School in 1995. Ryan was an excellent athlete and excelled at every sport.

*With heartfelt Sympathy*

**keepintouch**

Our Alumni are our greatest ambassadors, and we like to acknowledge your personal and professional milestones.

If you've got news you'd like to share, photos or memorabilia, contact us by email: [alumni331@stccs.ca](mailto:alumni331@stccs.ca) or call the school office: 204-837-1520.

***We would really like to hear from you.***

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

331 St. Charles Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3K 1T6

**POSTAGE**

**LABEL**