



St. Thomas Aquinas Church & Catholic Student Center
 2210 Lincoln Way • Ames, IA 50014 • www.staparish.net • 515-292-3810

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Slumber!"

Farewell, Father Dennis!



Archbishop Jerome Hanus invited me to take on a new assignment effective July 13. I will become pastor for six parishes in extreme north central Iowa.

For the past five years, it has been a great honor to serve the student and

resident parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas. As I leave, I can't help but give thanks for the bonds of friendship I take with me; the great leadership opportunities afforded me, both by this parish and the University; and the work that has been accomplished since I came. It's hard for me to think of a time when Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, Jack Trice Stadium, the Campanile, Hilton Coliseum, and Lake Laverne will not be a part of my daily life. I will always remember evacuating church during Mass because of a tornado warning; hearing the students sing *Sweet Caroline* at a contentious UNLV football game; and, of course, the epic fall I had into the baptismal font at TNL.

I do ask for your prayers as I make this transition. In my opinion, the fact that the Archbishop was willing to appoint me to an assignment of such gravity shows how much confidence he has in the experience an associate pastor receives at St. Thomas Aquinas.

STAparish.net

"Where tradition comes to life!"

From Padre Jon's Desk

Father Jon Seda



As you know, Fr. Dennis Miller is being transferred this summer to become pastor of six parishes in Winnebago and Hancock counties – with an associate pastor – which is quite a promotion! We thank him for his very fine work here for the past five years. I can honestly say he is the best associate pastor I have ever had!

Fr. Dennis will be replaced by Fr. Jack McClure, CPPS. Fr. Jack is a very interesting character who, I think, will fit in here well. To say he is excited about coming here is an understatement!

At the 2010 ISU Alumni Days, we were delighted to host several STA alums for Mass and lunch. It was great to hear stories of the “old days,” and to share some of my memories of Father Supple myself. Many of them graduated from ISU in 1960, two years before I was born. When looking at the picture of all of us in this edition, my problem is that I look older than all of them!

May 26 was an interesting day here. We received an anonymous donation of \$14,000! We will probably never know the person or the story behind this, but this person must have experienced Good News at STA in some way. God bless this anonymous saint!

You may have noticed that the former *News and Views* has a new look and name -- *STA in Touch*, which I think is really creative and cool. Special recognition to **Eloisa Perez-Lozano** ('07) for submitting our newsletter's new name and to our summer communications intern, Kelli Lageschulte ('11) for our new design. Thanks to all who sent ideas. Our new name sums up what I hope from all of you ... please, *STA in Touch*!

Proud to be your Padre,

Father Jon Seda

Campus Ministry Staff

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frjon@staparish.net

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On the Cover

2010 Alumni Days Mass and Luncheon



The 2010 Alumni Days Mass and Luncheon took place on May 13.

Pictured in the photo:

Front (L-R) Jane (Judge) Baty, '60; Karen (Yaffee) Martin, '60; Kris Egan, alumni relations and development coordinator; Margaret (Judge) Graettinger '61; Karen (Peters) DeWolf, '85.
Back (L-R) Fr. Jon Seda, pastor; John Baty, '63; Paul Martin; Dr. Jim Melsa '60; Kathy Melsa; Tom Phelan, '60; Dennis Graettinger, '60 and Jack DeWolf '60. **Missing** Barb Cockshoot, '75.

Vocations Awareness:

Pointing South

Jeff Dole

"Many people have asked me, "Wherever did you get this idea that you should study to become a priest?" To be honest, the question has never been a very easy one for me to answer. It is not that there is no answer, but in fact, quite the opposite; there are just so many."

Editors Note: Jeff's article appeared in the March 14, 2010 edition of The Witness, the Archdiocese of Dubuque weekly newspaper. You can read Jeff's entire story online at:

<http://www.staparish.net/alumni/alumnirelations/spotlight.php>



Jeff Dole

Save the Date!

Upcoming Alumni Events

Homecoming Tailgate

Sat., Oct. 30, 2010

Tent # 9 on Tent Row

Party starts 3 hours prior to kickoff.

Watch your mail for our invitation

postcard!

VEISHEA Village - Central Campus

Sat., Apr. 16, 2011

Plan to visit us at our second annual event!

Alumni Days Mass & Luncheon

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Special recognition - Class of 1961 and all Gold Medal classes.

For more information regarding these events or to organize an event in your area, contact Kris Egan, Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator, at kris@staparish.net or 515-292-3810 ext. 18.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Church & Catholic Student Center

Peer Minister Reunion Brunch

WHEN

Sunday, October 31, 2010
10:30 am Parish Mass - Brunch
to follow in STA's Lower Lounge

All former and current Peer Ministers and Campus Ministry staff members are invited to re-connect with the St. Thomas Aquinas community!

Save the Date!

Contact: Kris Egan - Alumni Relations & Development Coordinator
515-292-3810 ext. 18 or
kris@staparish.net



Meet our Summer Peer Ministers



(L-R): Nathan Bierl, Amanda Bellegante, Cassidy LeClaire, and Brittany Tielbur.

Life-Changing: Spring Break Immersion Trips

Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras

Beth Connett ('12)

“Life-changing, challenging, inspiring, and eye-opening are not adjectives one would usually equate with a college student’s Spring Break.”

Yet when people ask me how my trip to Honduras was over break, these are the words I use in an attempt to sum up an indescribable experience. I joined a group of eight Iowa State students from St. Thomas Aquinas on a mission trip to Honduras. We left Ames with a lot of questions and uncertainty about what we would discover and how it would take effect in our lives.

There were two main projects on our agenda. One was to build solidarity with St. Thomas Aquinas’ twin parish of Dulce Nombre by helping build a retaining wall on the church grounds. The other was to work with malnourished and abandoned children in the city of Santa Rosa.

In my mind, the most memorable day from our time helping build the retaining wall was spent mixing concrete. A group of Dulce Nombre parishioners had walked two hours in the early morning by mountainous roads to volunteer their time and hard work. Most of the men had very little or no schooling, but were very intelligent nonetheless. Despite the language barrier, they taught us the “ins and outs,” of mixing concrete and labored all day alongside us.

Perhaps the most trying and eye-opening day was spent in Santa Rosa working with the children. We visited a kindergarten, an orphanage, and a school that provides lunches for children who have nowhere else to go for a meal. Many of the children came from a neighborhood called Divine Providence, made up mostly of



squatters whose homes consist of scrap metal they found on the side of a road. Only about a third of the children know their fathers. Many have nowhere to go for a meal after school because their mothers are out working for less than living wages or prostituting; because that is the only way they know how to provide for their children.

My Spring Break trip to Honduras opened my eyes to the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ; but it also gave me hope. Amidst all the tribulations the Honduran Church and its people face, there is an awe-inspiring spirit of love and faith kept alive and burning.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.” 1 Cor 15:58.

Editor’s Note: Beth Connett is a religious studies major from Des Moines, IA. She is the incoming Liturgy Peer Minister.

On May 15, Dulce Nombre of Maria parish council accepted St. Thomas Aquinas’ invitation to serve as twin parishes and partners in solidarity.

Additionally, a small group of resident and student parishioners traveled to Santa Rosa de Copan from May 17 to 26.

Washington, D.C.

Kassi Wheeler ('11)

“Our trip to D.C. was to help us become more aware of homelessness and serve the homeless.”

Our service trip consisted of eight young women who traveled to Washington, D.C. We went through a program called Pilgrimage, which set up our week-long service activities. At night we reflected as a group on the day; these reflections helped everyone to become closer to each other and to God throughout our experience. This trip opened up everybody's eyes to the issue of homelessness. I believe everyone who went learned something new about themselves and the world.

Speaking to homeless individuals was the most touching encounter I experienced. One night a panel came and told us their stories. Their stories were amazing and unlike anything I

expected to hear. One was a cancer survivor, another used to work at the White House. By sharing their lives, they helped us to break our perceptions of the homeless.

Another day we worked in one of the soup kitchens and were able to talk to the people who came in. Most of them seemed like they only wanted to have some conversation, and were very grateful for the food. I learned that homeless individuals are real-life people who just want to be acknowledged instead of being dismissed every time you pass them.

Throughout the week we did other activities like working at a food bank, helping clean a house whose residents were close to eviction, and distribute



lunches to the homeless. It was amazing that once we were aware of these issues, we couldn't stop noticing homeless individuals were everywhere and no longer overlooked them. I learned so much on this trip and I'm so grateful that I got to have this wonderful experience.

Editor's Note: Kassi Wheeler is an anthropology major with a secondary major in international studies and with a mathematics minor. Kassi is from Winterset, IA, and expects to graduate fall 2011.

Williamsburg, KY

Felicia Susetyo ('13)

Editor's Note: Felicia Susetyo is a freshman advertising major from Malang, Indonesia.

I went to Appalachia for a service trip during Spring Break. I joined this service trip because I wanted to serve and to help people directly for a long time, but I couldn't in Indonesia because of safety. My mom's saying that life is about sharing-- it isn't only about living for oneself-- also became my inspiration to go. Other things that encouraged me to join this service trip were my interest in cultural enrichment and traveling, and my intention to get out of my comfort zone to gain many new experiences.

I brought all of that spirit and excitement with me to Williamsburg, KY, and spent my whole Spring Break with

joy, peace and laughter. Not only the beautiful scenery and the peaceful setting but also the people in Williamsburg made me learn and change my point of view about life. I discovered so many people live in poverty there, yet they never complained; they even smiled and accepted their lives with gladness. These occurrences taught me to be glad with everything that happens in my life and to find happiness in many small things around me. I also learned how to use nails and screws, which I had never done before. I met so many good and awesome people and remain friends with them, especially friends on my team.

I'm so glad that I joined this service trip. I not only had a really good time with awesome friends, but also an

“They never complained; they even smiled and accepted their lives with gladness.”

experience of serving and sharing with others. I dare to say that this Spring Break trip is one of the best holidays I've ever had. I'm looking forward to another trip to Kentucky next spring!



Alumni and friends stay in touch

Life updates from STA alumni and friends

Quinlan Halbeisen ('53) visited St. Thomas on May 12. He and his wife, Ann, reside in Topeka, KS. For 28 years, he served as an electrical engineer for AT&T in Chicago, IL, and Topeka. While attending STA, he served as president for the National Newman Club Foundation. Currently, he serves as a eucharistic minister at Most Pure Heart parish, Topeka.

Paul ('57) and Marlys Kelly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 16. A Mass of Thanksgiving was held April 10 at St. Patrick's, Britt, IA. They have nine children and 22 grandchildren. "It seems like the time just flew by since graduation. We get back (to Ames) for most football games and wrestling meets. When possible, we stop by St. Thomas Aquinas. The place has really changed for the better," Paul wrote.



Paul and Marlys Kelly

Roy J. Reiman ('57) received the ISU Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award on April 16.

Kathy (Coyle, '59) Staudenmaier died December 31, 2009. Her husband, Bill, writes, "Kathy was active in Newman Club and a big fan of Father Supple. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in August, 2009."

Jane Judge ('60) and John Baty ('63) attended the second annual Alumni Days Mass & Luncheon May 13. They report, "We have two grown children residing in Baltimore, MD, and Rockville, MD. Our daughter is married and son is engaged. We reside in Ames." Jane is a sister to **Margaret Graettinger ('61)**.

Dennis ('60) and Margaret (Judge, '61) Graettinger attended the May 13 Alumni Days Mass & Luncheon. She and Dennis reside in Rockford, IL. Margaret says, "After 20 years at the Rockford (IL) Public Library, I retired two years ago. We have five children and one grandson." Margaret is a sister to **Jane Baty ('60)**.

Tom Phelan ('60) attended the second annual Alumni Days Mass & Luncheon. He and his wife, Delores, are retired farmers and reside in Colfax, IA.

Dr. Thomas J. Eganhouse ('65) died April 26, 2008. He practiced veterinary medicine in Naperville, IL. He is survived by his wife, Betty, four children and nine grandchildren.

Dr. Thomas Devine ('67) retired from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) on April 1, 2009. Tom

writes, "I had a great retirement party with a bagpiper from AOH perform! Father Ray Lelii, S.J., gave a talk along with Sister Philomena Malvaux of the Sisters of the Holy Family on the foundation and work of the order. Dr. Jim Holland, formerly on the agronomy faculty, gave a seminar for the occasion. I now live in Laurel, MD, after 42 years with ARS."

Rev. Mr. William Weber ('72) died March 31 in Pembroke Pines, FL.

Florian ('71) and Karen Steffen stopped at the St. Thomas VEISHEA Village tent. Florian writes, "We are blessed to have six children and 24 grandchildren. Two of our children graduated from Iowa State. We are always proud and happy to come back to St. Thomas." Florian and Karen reside in Maquoketa, IA.



Florian & Karen Steffen with granddaughters Brittany (back) & Brooke Moore

Barb Cockshoot ('75) attended the May 13 Alumni Days Mass & Luncheon. Barb wrote, "I work part-time at St. Thomas and reside in Nevada, IA."

Former Campus Minister & Peer Minister, **Tom Cordaro ('78)**, and author of *Be Not Afraid: An Alternative to the War on Terror*, delivered the Msgr. James A. Supple Lecture on March 25.



Tom Cordaro

Don ('81) and Trish (Fraser, '80) Elsbernd attended the Spring Break immersion trips fundraising dinner and silent auction on Feb. 26. Their daughter, Stephanie, served in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras, during Spring Break.



Don and Trish Elsbernd

Dave Halstead ('86) visited April 15 between College of Engineering meetings. He is the younger brother of STA Director of Religious Education, **Kathy White ('83)** and **Teresa Halstead ('08)**. Dave and his wife, Cathy, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in November, 2009. They reside near Cincinnati, OH. "We have three wonderful kids: Carolyn, 14; Nate, 12; and Dan, 8. Kids keep me young," Dave said.



Halstead siblings: (L-R) Dave, Kathy White, & Teresa

Dave ('92) and Jody ('93) Weber visited the St. Thomas Aquinas VEISHEA Village tent. They reside in Humboldt, IA.

Former Peer Minister, **Mary Oldham ('96)**, is serving as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Kenya until June, 2013. Previously, she served a two-year commitment with Catholic Relief Services in Uganda and with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. "I was first attracted to Maryknoll Lay Missioners by the stories I read in Maryknoll magazine, reflecting not only compassion but also honoring the dignity and culture of the people who are impoverished or oppressed," she writes.

Former Peer Minister, **Father Troy Richmond ('97)**, will become the Pastor of St. James Church, Washington, IA, effective July 1.

Jason ('01) and Laura (Helin, '03) Whitford are parents of a son, Elijah Walter, born December 10, 2009, in Heinsberg, Germany.

Mark Murphy ('02) and Jeff Dole ('08) completed their philosophy studies at Loras College in Dubuque, IA, this spring. They will attend seminary at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, this fall.

Corey ('03) and Dana (Bono, '02) Dreckman became parents of a second daughter, Giana Bono Dreckman, on October 19, 2009 in Jacksonville Beach, FL. Giana is joined by her 2 1/2 year old sister, Maddie Grace, whose favorite characters include Snow White, Dora, and CyBird! Corey and Dana continue to support STA and Cyclone athletics.

Mike and Dana (Schmidt, '04) McCullough stopped at the VEISHEA Village tent. They were married in May, 2009, and reside in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Eric "Hank" Snyder ('07) and Kris Egan, Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator, at the

Spring Break immersion trip fundraising dinner and auction on Feb. 27.



Eric "Hank" Snyder and Kris Egan

Teresa Halstead ('08) sister to Dave ('86) and Kathy White ('83), lives and works in Ames in the insurance/financial industry and attends St. Thomas Aquinas.

Allison Meier ('08) visited the VEISHEA Village tent. She is a substitute teacher for the Des Moines Public Schools, and pursuing a master's degree in secondary education.

Brendan ('08) and Rachel (Downey, '08) Egan are parents of a daughter, Teresa Marie, born March 26 in Des Moines, IA.

Jessica (Hill '08) Denner stopped at the VEISHEA Village tent. She is a quality control lab analyst at Caremoli - USA, Ames. "We make Barilla Pasta's *Pasta Plus* mix. On June 12, I married Andrew Denner in Ames," she reports.



Andrew and Jessica (Hill) Denner

Former Peer Minister, **Christina Blakley ('10)**, will work in Minneapolis, MN, as a copywriter for an advertising agency.

Kathryn Asherin ('10) plans to begin veterinary school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for two years and then return to Iowa State's veterinary medical school for two years.

Jenny Halstead ('10) is working in Ames this summer and will return to Iowa State for fall semester. She plans to apply to Iowa State's veterinary medicine school this fall.

Doug Hartwell ('10) will return to Iowa State this fall to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering.

Holly Howard ('10) will move to Alaska to work as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service.

Mike Kalkhoff ('10) will attend medical school this fall at the University of Iowa and resides in West Branch, IA.

Justin Kleingartner ('10) will begin graduate school this fall.

Jim Lauer ('10) will begin law school this fall at Drake University, Des Moines, IA.

Justin McComish ('10) plans to move to Denver, CO, to work for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Former Campus Ministry intern, **Mary McLoughlin ('10)**, plans to work for a year and then pursue a master's degree in international studies. She is considering the possibility of attending law school for human rights and immigration laws.

Luke Monat ('10) accepted an engineering position with Shive-Hattery Group, Des Moines, IA.

Erin Offelie ('10) "I will be completing an internship and graduating in August 2010."

Nick Poduska ('10) will serve a summer internship in Ames. He plans to apply to graduate school in automotive engineering, possibly in England.

Joseph Retek, Jr. ('10) plans to become a naval officer.

Matthew Solyntjes ('10) will enter major seminary at St. Meinrad's, St. Meinrad, IN, this fall. He is from the Sioux City, IA, diocese.

Molly Staley ('10) will attend graduate school this fall for biological sciences at Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

John Stinn ('10) will pursue a master's degree in agricultural and biosystems engineering at Iowa State this fall.

Heather Wilson ('10) accepted an engineering position with John Deere, in Moline, IL.

2010 ISU Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award recipient, **Nora Tobin ('10)**, added another impressive honor to her resume. The Clive, IA, native is one of 20 national selections to *USA Today's* 2010 All-USA College Academic First Team. Winners of the \$2,500 award are selected based on a combination of academic excellence and a demonstrated extension of classroom activities that benefit society. Tobin, who graduated magna cum laude in May, is the Africa Programs associate for International Student Exchange Programs in Washington, D.C., and is a former intern with both the World Food Prize and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. As student president of the ONE Campaign, Tobin met with seven 2008 U.S. presidential candidates about alleviating global



Nora Tobin ('10)

poverty. She has traveled to Uganda, South Africa, and Honduras in her quest to make a difference.

Dr. and Mrs. Ken and Dee McConnell, STA Friends, were in Ames for the ISU Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Awards and visited St. Thomas on April 15. Dee formerly served as STA's parish family life coordinator. Currently, they reside in Washington state. Dee wrote, "We're enjoying the Olympia peninsula and being near our four sons and their families. We miss St. Thomas!"



Dee and Ken McConnell

Former pastor, **Fr. Dan Knepper**, celebrated his 40th ordination anniversary on May 21. On July 13, he will become pastor of St. Raphael Cathedral and St. Patrick parishes in Dubuque, IA.

Shari Reilly, Campus Minister, and STA students enjoy Chicago-style pizza while attending the *Chicago Wide Awake Young Adult Conference* on April 9-10.



Shari Reilly & STA students

Fr. Neil Manternach, STA friend, celebrated his 25th ordination anniversary on May 25. He is pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Hiawatha, IA.

“Awake from Your Slumber!”

Students Attend Chicago’s “Wide Awake” Conference

Kristin Kimm ('13)

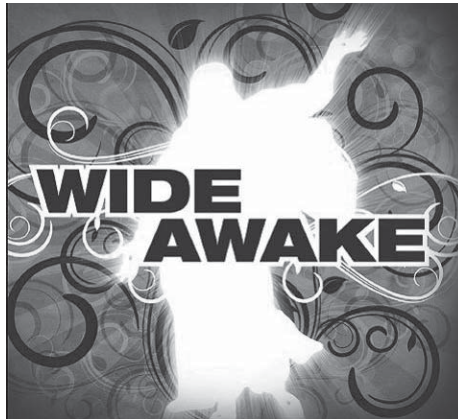
“Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.” -- Luke 9:32.

On April 9-10, ten Iowa State Catholic students and Shari Reilly, campus ministry director, arose from their “spiritual slumber,” as they traveled to Chicago, IL, to attend the *Wide Awake Young Adult Conference* at Chicago Theological Union.

The conference targeted college students and young adults, under 35, with a desire to “wake up” to their life’s mission and purpose beyond career, academic, social and cultural successes or failures.

The conference’s goal is to bridge the gap young adults often experience between contemporary culture and Catholicism. Conference participants came to realize how “dead” our world is today, and yet to stretch themselves to think beyond school, jobs, and the bar scene.

The first session, “*Slumbering through Life*,” challenged young adults and college students to “be awake,” to be receptive to the Holy Spirit’s



presence through their surroundings and the people they encounter daily.

The second session, “*Awake the Day -- Living Life to the Full*,” featured Mr. Bill Johnson, director of service at Marmion Academy, Aurora, IL. His presentation, *Seize the Day: Service and the Awakened*, taught an eye-opening lesson about being excited for life by being awake to surroundings, to people and to feelings.

Participants learned that service is a small, yet powerful word when enacted. The more people give away their talents, gifts and faith, the more they receive from God in return.

After returning, St. Thomas students talked about different ways to implement what they learned. Some new ideas include:

- To wear name tags during weekend Mass; thus student leaders will become identifiable, visible and approachable to their peers.
- Offer a book discussion group on *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*, written by Parker J. Palmer.
- Utilize the Campus Ministry Commission more effectively by inviting all students to join the Catholic student community.
- To make a concerted effort to evangelize to everyone – both inactive and “back pew” Catholics – by inviting all to participate and grow in their involvement.
- Assist the Catholic student community to grow by offering more fun activities - by not limiting ourselves to STA events - to outreach to the larger Ames and ISU communities.



**“They say my work is just a drop in the ocean.
I say the ocean is made up of drops.”**

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate plans.

For more information, please contact:
Kris Egan, Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator
kris@staparish.net or 515-292-3810 ext. 18



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To make contact information changes, please email Kris Egan at kris@staparish.net

STA *in touch... with us!*

Name: _____ Class of: _____

Life update: _____

Detach and mail to St. Thomas Aquinas or submit your update to Kris Egan at kris@staparish.net

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