

# STA *in touch*



Winter 2015

## PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Enrollment at ISU has grown 40% in the past ten years to a record breaking 36,001 students. Over 7,800 of these identify themselves as Catholic. What an opportunity for evangelization we have sitting right across the street from Iowa State University. Our founder, Msg. James Supple, saw the opportunity when he purchased the land with the intention of building a church over 70 years ago. Our church facilities have expanded several times and we are now looking at expansion of a different sort.

STA Campus Ministries applied for and received a grant for \$99,000 from the Lilly Endowment Inc. so that we can hire a team of young missionaries to reach those on campus who may be isolated or uncertain of their faith. Shari Reilly, Director of Campus Ministries, said the grant will allow STA to jumpstart the missionary program. "We are very grateful to the Lilly Endowment for this grant. We recognized the impact that similar programs had in other large universities and we wanted to get on board with this as soon as possible in a way that's organic to our ministry and sustainable financially. Without this grant we would have had to wait years to begin a missionary program on campus."

Two missionaries will begin service in the summer of 2016. They will receive training from STA staff and the Evangelical Catholic, which partners with STA. Reilly says they will spend most of their days on the ISU campus, meeting with student leaders and encouraging others to engage the faith whether they are already Catholic or new to Catholicism.

"The missionaries will support the faith of others and encourage them in the heart and habits of good disciples. These habits include daily prayer and scripture reflection, frequent attendance at the sacraments, participation in the Christian community, attention to church teaching and outreach to others, which is evangelization," Reilly said. They will work directly with students on the ISU campus inviting them to engage more fully in their faith.

The missionaries will likely be recent college or university graduates with experience in evangelization programs. STA will begin recruiting early in 2016.

The current campus ministry program is partially supported by the Msg. James Supple Endowment, but as Reilly explains more funding is needed. "The Supple endowment continues to receive gifts, but the endowment has not kept pace with the level of growth of the student population at ISU. Our eventual goal is to have the Supple Endowment fully fund the campus ministry program including salaries and missionaries."

If you are interested in helping support our campus ministry programs, we would welcome any contributions. You may also contribute online at: <http://staparish.net>.

**We thank you for all of your support over the year and ask for your continued prayers.**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center**

**✦ Gathered ✦ Transformed ✦ Sent**

# POPE FRANCIS' US VISIT

The student lounge at St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) was abuzz with excitement waiting for Pope Francis' plane to land. At STA we set up a large screen television to broadcast highlights of the four day visit so that students and others could monitor the activities together.



Two days later, a larger crowd of students, staff, and resident parishioners, some toting small children, crowded together to watch in rapt silence. For nearly an hour they listened to the historic address of the Pope to a joint meeting of the US Congress in Washington, D. C. Even our smallest attendees clapped when they heard the Pope's congressional audience showing their appreciation.

Many of those present expressed their hope that the Pope's address will make a lasting difference to the culture of the United States.

Brian Odino, an ISU junior in Animal Sciences said, "He made lots of points I didn't think of. I hope this can be a platform for more growth, especially of Catholic social

thought."

Jacquie Novak, an Ames mother of three said, "I liked that he touched on life issues and the family. He was more direct than I thought he would be and I was happy with that."

Another mother, Karrie Walton, who brought the youngest of her four children, expressed concern that his speech might fall on deaf ears. "I'm happy that Congress asked him to speak. This shows that they respect his opinion. They seemed supportive of his thoughts, but will they take them to heart? I am nervous about that."

David Pedersen, ISU senior in accounting said he was pleased with what he heard. "The pope highlighted what he felt was important and not one political ideal or other."

## Share Your News

Tell your friends where you are and what's happening in your world. Share a memory or send news of a new baby, marriage or promotion.

Email your news to: [clare@staparish.net](mailto:clare@staparish.net)



## Fall New Student Cookout

# Grateful Scholarship Recipients

**T**welve ISU students were awarded scholarships from four STA funds. The awardees expressed their gratitude for the support.

## **The Hemann Scholarships**

**Samuel Altier, Waukee, IA:** “One of my favorite ways to be involved at STA is playing clarinet at Thursday Night Liturgies. I also attend Adoration and Benediction regularly at STA during the school year, and have been on the Antioch retreat.”

**Taylor Fernholz, Estherville, IA:** “This money will help me to stabilize my financial situation as I apply for the seminary for the Sioux City Diocese for 2016. I cannot wait to start formal studies in philosophy and theology. Thank you!”

**Vivian Spilde, San Antonio, TX:** “You have been a blessing and have helped strengthen my conviction that I want to be able to give everything I have back to God and my community. I cannot thank you enough for your gift.”

## **Homer Scholarship**

**Elizabeth Haut, Cedar Rapids, IA:** “I am a math lover which is why I am excited to be a supplemental instruction leader for calculus 1 and a peer adviser for the math department. Thank you for supporting ISU students at STA.”

## **St. Jude Scholarships**

**Arianna Boening, Seward, NE:** “Thank you so much for this scholarship. I will continue to serve STA and the community in honor of this reward. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated. God is good!”

**Emily Garganera, Rockford, IL:** “Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the St. Jude Scholarship. It will be very helpful in finishing my Industrial Engineering degree.”

**Allison Jaeger, Mt. Vernon, IA:** “St. Thomas Aquinas has helped me grow spiritually and personally, by being involved with the community, and now financially as well with your scholarship. I will be traveling to developing countries to apply what I have learned here on campus and to immerse myself in another culture to learn its unique food system. I cannot wait to live out my passion to serve those in developing countries.”

**Ann McLoughlin, Ft Dodge, IA:** “Thank you for your generosity of the donation of the St. Jude Scholarship. The scholarship will be put to good use and will have a positive impact on my financial constraints as well as my ability to keep up with and succeed in school.”

**David Pedersen, Storm Lake, IA:** “My time at Iowa State has been the best experience of my life. This past year I became very active at STA and currently serve as the president of the Campus Ministry Commission. I would like to extend my utmost gratitude and appreciation for this scholarship.”

**Joseph Schneider, Crystal Lake, IL:** “I can’t thank you enough for making my college education more fruitful and more manageable. I also would like to thank you on behalf of the entire parish. It’s so great that we have someone like you that is so generous to our student parishioners, encouraging and promoting leadership and involvement.”

**Christopher Smith, Altoona, IA:** “With this scholarship I know I will be able to take my mind off of future debt and focus more on my studies, to not only become a better student, but become a better person in all aspects of life.”

## **Stritzel Scholarship**

**Quenton Schneider, Holy Cross, IA:** “Your scholarship will allow me to keep up my passion for agriculture and continue to be of service to St. Thomas Aquinas.”



# REST IN PEACE

**Karl Friederich**, former parishioner and ISU journalism professor from 1967-1992, died August 28, 2015 in Columbus, Georgia where he had been living the past several years. He was 86. He and his wife Teresa had five children. Karl's funeral was held October 17 at STA. Karl was a leader at STA and in Ames, serving on the hospital board and others after his retirement. He was originally from Germany and to honor his heritage, his family held a post-funeral luncheon that served Karl's favorite German foods.



**Ellen Hadwiger** died July 8, 2015 at the age of 82. Her funeral was held at STA August 8, 2015. She and her late husband, Don, raised six children. Ellen had a BA from ISU in special education. She was the founding president of Mainstream Living, a residential program for persons with developmental disabilities. Ellen was active at St. Thomas Aquinas, where she served on the parish council, volunteered as the church librarian and participated in many parish committees. Ellen also organized the Archie & Nancy Martin Foundation to recognize one of the founding African-American families in Ames.



**Chuck Jones** died November 11, Veteran's Day, at the age of 88. Chuck was a member of STA for over 50 years. He and his late wife, Margaret, raised two children. He served in the Navy during WWII. He later received an MS and Ph.D from ISU in Counseling and worked in the ISU Counseling Department from 1957 - 1992. Chuck sang at the 10:30 am Sunday Mass for more than 30 years, was the emcee for the Variety Show for 21 years and sang with Ames Choral Society. Thirty musicians sang and played for his funeral.



**Mary Ann Coady** died November 3 at the age of 79. She and her late husband, Larry, raised 10 children. She earned a nursing degree and worked in pediatrics, ER, and at the ISU Student Health Center. She eventually worked as a hospice nurse at Mary Greeley Hospice; her most fulfilling nursing role. In later years, she was very involved with the I.S.U. Electrical Engineering Women's Group.



## *Fond Memories*

**Miriam Kaled Jackobs** (MS 1965) and **John Jackobs** (MS 1964) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Miriam writes: "While my husband and I are not charter members of STA, we were members in the '60's. We met in grad school, at a planning meeting for grad students at STA. We were married on August 28, 1965 in Sioux City. We both have fond memories of ISU due, in large part, to the Catholic Student Center, daily Mass (in the beautiful church we helped to build), Sunday night suppers, classes, outreach activities; all were a part of ISU/STA life. And of course this was the time of Fr. James from Ames! What a priest he was. A model of faith, humor and all. We are impressed with the continuing activities of today's students. They will do well in building their faith life. Many thanks and blessings to you all as you go forth."

# NEW STUDENT RETREAT



We packed in 91 for this fun retreat at the Sunstream Retreat Center near Boone, Iowa. This is up from 54 last year. A team of juniors and seniors led the retreat and gave talks about how their faith has grown at STA.

They had time for prayer, sharing great food and some games that would make senior citizens cringe, like the one pictured above. Many long term friendships begin at this retreat each year.

Students are invited to join small faith sharing groups to continue to deepen their faith with other college students.



## Leaf Raking

Crews of ISU/STA students raked the leaves of parishioners homes who needed a bit of help. In this one home, they ended up with about 25 bags of leaves.

Rakers at left were: Nick Seymour, Austin Ellis, Ryan Dessy, Tyler Reiser, Leo Bird, Nathan Scheirer, and Alex Tietzt.



# *STA by the Numbers 2014/15*

The STA Stewardship Committee compiled a list of the many ways that we serve students, residents and beyond. Below is a list from the fiscal year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

- 69 engaged couples completed their marriage preparation this past year at STA. Of these, 17 couples were married at STA.
- 175 people joined the STA prayer network, ready to pray for those who are hurting.
- 200 students and 75 resident parishioners participated in small faith sharing groups.
- 7 from our priesthood discernment group began the seminary in the fall of 2015.
- 12 ISU students were awarded STA scholarships.
- 37 people served as catechists or aides in the faith formation program. Of these, 25 were ISU students.
- 54 students took part in the New Student Retreat in Fall of 2014. (91 participated in Fall, 2015.)
- 44 people brought communion to the homebound.
- 5 STA/ISU students, along with other ISU members of Students for Life attended the March for Life in January in Washington, D. C.
- 2 Funerals were held at STA in addition to three memorial services.
- 32 were baptized. Of these, seven were adults.
- 12 children received their First Communion.
- 14 high school parishioners were Confirmed.
- Ten Stone Soup Suppers were held in parishioners' home.



## **Fall 2015 Antioch Retreat**

Fifty students and leaders attended the weekend retreat at the Hidden Acres Christian Retreat Center in Dayton, Iowa. The Antioch Retreat is offered twice a year to St. Thomas Aquinas/ISU students.



## FROM THE PADRE'S DESK

**E**ach month I meet with some campus ministers at ISU from many different churches. At our last meeting, one shared that he was struggling with holding off on Christmas decorations, music and parties . . . until Thanksgiving. Fr. Marty, the Orthodox priest, shared that his tradition observes Advent, and they do not celebrate Christmas until, well, Christmas.

That is our tradition as well. Just as we cannot truly experience Easter unless we observe Lent, so we cannot truly experience Christmas unless we observe Advent. There is much wisdom in not giving in to the culture that just cannot wait until Christmas to celebrate Christmas.

Advent may be especially important for our students. On a campus with immediate communication and immediate gratification, Advent spirituality is really healthy and holy. To be a Christian is to develop a capacity for delayed gratification, which is admittedly counter-cultural.

- In a culture that says buy what you want now and pay later, Advent says it is wise to wait.
- In a culture that says that sex before the commitment of marriage is okay, Advent says it is wise to wait.
- In a culture says immediate gratification is fine, Advent says it is wise to wait.

I choose not to observe Christmas until Christmas. I am an impatient person. I too want what I want, and I want it NOW. I need a season that teaches me the wisdom of waiting. I am proud that our Catholic Tradition does not cave into our impatient culture, and so produces some amazing saints.

This STA in Touch highlights some of those saints who have recently died and who spent their lives for the betterment of ISU, STA and Ames. We also are proud of our student scholars who are taking the lead in evangelizing ISU. And we share the stories of how today's Cyclones are affected by STA.

This impact could not happen without the support of you, our alumni and friends. So again I say thank you to all who support our mission.

**I will also break my self-imposed rule and wish you a Merry Christmas!**

**Proud to be your Padre,**

**Father Jon Seda**

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TNL - Thursday Night Liturgy - remains as popular as ever. The next generation of Catholics at prayer.

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STA In Touch is the quarterly newsletter for alumni and friends of St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center. Writer and editor is Clare Bills, Coordinator of Ministries and Communications. If you have information to share in the next issue, please contact Clare by mail, phone or email: 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014 or 515-292-3810 or [clare@staparish.net](mailto:clare@staparish.net).

Look for current and past issues online at: [www.staparish.net](http://www.staparish.net) - under "Resources."

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