



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Photo attached*

### **Alumni Awards Bestowed at SMCHS Leadership Day**

Students, faculty and staff of St. Mary Catholic High School gathered on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 for the annual Leadership Day assembly where three alumni were recognized for their contributions to society.

The **Outstanding Catholic Christian Service Award** was given to **Mary Lou (Niesen) Kalaus**, a member of the SMC Class of 1981, who stays very active in both her parish, St. Gabriel, and at St. Mary Catholic Schools. Her daughter, Claire, is also an SMC alumna, and Mary Lou and husband, Brent, also have a son, Brice, who is a junior at the school.

Following a very active high school career and earning the Catholic Girl Award, Kalaus continued her educational journey at St. Norbert College, where she majored in education, and she later earned a master's degree from UW-Oshkosh in school counseling. During her career, Mrs. Kalaus has served in many roles as a teacher, principal and campus minister at area Catholic schools. Since 2002, Mrs. Kalaus has been with St. Mary Catholic Middle School as campus counselor and minister, where her faith is a constant and important part of her daily life.

The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Craig Uhlenbrauck**, a 1989 graduate. Uhlenbrauck is an alumnus along with his brother and sister, and daughter, Maddy. He and his wife, Melissa, also have a son, Caden, who is a sophomore at St. Mary Catholic High School.

According to his brother, Mr. Uhlenbrauck's involvement can be summed up in a single phrase—servant leadership, as exhibited by a lifetime of service. Mr. Uhlenbrauck is a proud graduate of UW-Whitewater from which he entered the workforce at Miron Construction, where he serves as the vice president of education. As a volunteer, Uhlenbrauck was a driving force in establishing the popular Quarry Quest, as well as in creating Christmas experiences for underprivileged kids, helping run food drives and as a coach, member of the system's building and grounds committee, as the SMCS Booster Club president, and as key figure in helping to bring the great improvements to our new campus and facilities. He has also been active in organizations outside the realm of work, school and athletics.

The SMC Alumni Achievement Award is granted to an individual who continues to support St. Mary Catholic High School and Catholic education, and who lives out Christian values. This year's recipient was Mr. Michael McClone, a 1968 graduate of SMC. During his high school years, he was very active, and was part of the football, basketball and baseball teams. Mr. McClone has always believed in the importance of giving back. In particular, St. Mary Parish, Catholic education and community involvement have always been a focus. He has shown strong, but quiet support as he has been instrumental in SMCS's growth and success, in his role as one of the core donors and supporters in the creation of the new high school building, the fine arts education center and the new middle school. He and his wife, Claudia, also support many Catholic causes and volunteer their time to support and nurture our faith.

In addition to his generosity to the St. Mary Catholic Schools community, Mr. McClone has also focused on downtown Menasha's redevelopment for the past 30 years. And through his professional life, he has served on numerous boards of directors including the YMCA, Theda Clark, Special Olympics, and the Green Bay Packers.

The children of Mike and his wife Claudia graduated from SMCS, and all ten of his grandchildren are currently enrolled in St. Mary Catholic Schools.

All three honorees shared heartfelt and inspirational messages with the students of St. Mary Catholic High School.

**St. Mary Catholic High School** (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Village of Fox Crossing. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



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