



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alumni Awards Bestowed at SMCHS Leadership Day

Neenah, WI—Students, faculty and staff of St. Mary Catholic High School gathered on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 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 (Jape) Gyrion**, a member of the SMC Class of 1958, who has stayed very active with St. Mary Catholic Church as she worked as the parish secretary for 22 years and still volunteers there today. Mary's children and grandchildren have all attended St. Mary Catholic Schools and they all stay very active with our school community.

Mary helps with organizing and running the Food Pantry, works every year to ensure the craft sale is a successful fundraiser for the parish and also led the Faith Formation Program for seven years and lent her creative skills to the parish environment. She has always lived her life as an example to others. Passing on her faith to her children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren has been a priority. A 100+ year old baptismal gown, made by her grandmother was remade by Mary for her grandchildren and now great-grandchildren, continuing a blessed family tradition.

The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **James Englebert**, a 1959 graduate. Englebert continued his education at Indiana University and Fox Valley Technical College. Jim and his wife Helen were blessed with three children who are all alumni of St. Mary Catholic High School.

Jim served our country in the United States Air Force from 1959-1963, serving as a Russian Language Translator in Berlin, Germany. After the Air Force, Jim worked as an Instrumentation Technician for John Strange Paper, a division of Menasha Corporation, for over 20 years. Jim then assumed responsibilities with professional organizations in our community, including the United Way Fox Cities, where he was the Director of Community Services. Jim concluded his professional career as the Executive Director of the Northeast Wisconsin Labor Management Council, retiring in 2003.

Jim's involvement in our community is extraordinary, and he continues to support St. Mary Catholic Schools along with many organizations. Jim was elected and appointed to many community leadership roles, some of the many include: appointed by WI Governor Thompson to the Wisconsin State Labor Management Board, Co-chair of Fox Valley Unites, a 120 volunteer organization with a mission to reduce the impact of alcohol and drug abuse in the Fox Cities, elected to the Menasha City Council for 12 years and was a Winnebago County Supervisor for four years, served as Chairman of the City of Menasha Personnel Committee for 11 years, elected Board President of the John Strange Paper Employees Credit Union, and Union President and President of the Golf League at John Strange Paper for many years.

Jim also was a volunteer and Coach for Menasha Little League baseball, Coach for St. Mary grade school and Seton basketball teams, member of the TCCES Strategic Planning Committee, and mass usher at St. Mary church. Currently, Englebert is actively serving as Chairman of the Menasha Library Board of Directors, Post Adjutant for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2126 in Menasha and is proud to be a member of the Military Funeral Honor Guard. Jim's fond memories of St. Mary are those of making lifelong friends, enjoying the Ralph "Cyclone" McClone's sports teams, and serving on the class reunion committee for the past ten reunions.

The **SMCHS Alumni Achievement Award** is presented to **Mary Jane (Schmerein) Heaney "Mame,"** a 1965 graduate of SMC who displayed strong leadership and has achieved distinction in her community and/or field of expertise, who continues to support St. Mary Catholic High School and Catholic education, and who lives out Christian values. Mame continued her education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a B.A. in Social Sciences. Heaney was married in 1972 at St. Patrick's church in Menasha to Daniel J. Heaney, they have one son Patrick, a daughter-in-law Kate and three wonderful grandchildren.

In addition to Mame's generosity to our school community, through her professional life, she has served on numerous boards of directors including United Way, Community Foundation Fox Valley, PAC, North Shore Golf Club, Kings Daughters and Son Service Circle, Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club, Fox Cities YMCA, Neenah/Menasha YMCA and Lawrence University Presidents Advisory Council. Through all these organizations, Mame has made a huge impact in our community both professionally and volunteering. She continues to be a huge supporter of Catholic education and St. Mary Catholic Schools. Heaney describes that some of her fondest memories of her years at St. Mary Catholic Schools were the friendships she made during high school, which continue on today.

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.



Pictured: Mary Jane (Schmerein) Heaney "Mame," James Englebert, Mary (Jape) Gyrion

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