



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMCS FACULTY AND STAFF AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

NEENAH/MENASHA: The following individuals received special recognition at the annual year-end prayer service for St. Mary Catholic Schools faculty and staff that was held at Pullmans at Trolley Square on June 1, 2018. The recipients of these four annually-bestowed awards were each nominated by several parents, students and/or peers. Then, an administrative committee reviewed and prayerfully considered the nominating essays and chose the finalists. A list of the comments from their supporters was given every person who was nominated for an award.

The St. Frances Xavier **Positive Influence Award** was presented to **Anne Buss**. In her position as a fourth grade teacher at St. Gabriel Elementary School, Buss has dedicated herself to sharing her Catholic faith with her students, exemplifying what it means to truly live out your calling in all situations with dignity and in a Christ-like manner. She has genuine concern for her students' spiritual, personal and academic needs, ensuring that each student receives high quality instruction and lives her faith both in and out of the classroom with a smile on her face and kindness in her actions.

The St. John Baptist de la Salle **Outstanding Teacher Award** was presented to St. Mary Elementary School fifth grade teacher **Judy Blaney**. Blaney is known as a positive reinforcement, a leader, a force of faithful energy and an incredible educator. She connects with each student personally, inspires all to do their best, both as individuals and as a class and is known for her optimism and kindness.

The **St. Anne Award for SMCS Spirit** was given to SMCS English Teacher **Ron DuVernay**. His enthusiasm for the SMCHS community is appreciated by his peers and students alike. He keeps up with all the current team events at the high school and has extreme school spirit. DuVernay makes a point of asking students about their competitions, hangs printouts of key statistics from games in his classroom and mails copies of relevant newspaper articles to student athletes. That same enthusiasm inspires students in his classroom to think for themselves, be creative and do their personal best.

The **St. Isidore of Seville Award for Promising Innovation** was given to a St. Mary Catholic Schools' Fine Arts Director, **Hayden Kraus**. He received this award, which recognizes excellence in an educator in the first five years of teaching. He is known for his creativity, dedication and resourcefulness, and for leading by example through his strong work ethic. Kraus positively impacts every campus and every student. His work (helps) make being part of SMCS and investing in its continued advancement exciting.

St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) includes St. Mary Catholic High School and St. Mary Catholic Middle School in the Village of Fox Crossing and St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha). SMCS is dedicated to the individual development of each student in grades Pre3-12, by providing the highest quality education focused on faith, academics and service in a rapidly changing world.

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