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# *MEDIA RELEASE*

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Neenah, WI**-Students, faculty and staff of St. Mary Catholic High School gathered on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 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 **Barb (Braun) Unruh**, a member of the SMC Class of 1983. Barb has a great faith and lives that faith throughout her everyday life, as well as within our community. She coordinates parish meals for the Pillars Adult Shelter, is an Alpha Group Leader, participates as a Perpetual Adoration Chapel Adorer and coordinates Adorers for SMCHS.

After high school, she continued her education at Valparaiso University and the University of West Florida, receiving a Bachelors in Social Studies Education and Social Work. She also received her Masters in School Counseling from Northeastern Illinois. Barb and her husband Dan have four children, Lucas, SMC class of 2013, Lauren, SMC class of 2016, Ethan class of 2019 and Evan, who is in 8th grade at St. Mary Catholic middle School

The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Cliff Uitenbroek**, a 1983 graduate. Uitenbroek continually shares his time and talent with our SMCS community as well as our surrounding community. He has a love for theater and helps our students build stage sets. He was on the volunteer fire department for 20 years including becoming active chief. He volunteers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and is a regular volunteer for Holy Spirit parish including bingo events, the church picnic, and the building and grounds committee.

Mr. Uitenbroek and his wife Chris, SMC class of 1986, have two daughters, Jessica, SMC class of 2013 and Molly, SMC class of 2019. Mr. Uitenbroek has been a local business owner since 1992.

The **SMCHS Alumni Achievement Award** was presented to **Tony Gerharz** a 1977 graduate of SMC. After high school, He continued his education at UW-Oshkosh, receiving a degree in Physical Education with an Education minor and coaching emphasis. He graduated Summa cum laude.

He is married to Gale, and together they will celebrate their 30th anniversary this summer. They have three children, Elizabeth, Christina and Meredith.

Tony is currently the Head Baseball Coach at Oshkosh West and has been honored with several awards including being inducted into the Hall of Fame for the:

* 2016 Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association
* 2013 Snitz Club - Oshkosh
* 2012 Wisconsin State Baseball League

In 2014, Tony was awarded the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Wisconsin Coalition against Sexual Assault Voices of Courage Educator Award in 2018.

Mr. Gerharz continues his involvement in the community. He has been active with:

* The Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association for 35 years
* The Wisconsin Football Coaches Association
* The Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Classic Chairman
* The Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association District/Conference Rep for 20 years

**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.