

From the Director

By Ann Comstock, Oblate

*"We'll always come to thee again,
when Alma Mater calls"*

Alumnae

The year 2013 will mark the 25th year since Saint Benedict Academy closed. As we prepare to commemorate this event, it is helpful to take stock of our Alumnae Association, who we are, how, what and why we do what we do. What is the SBA Spirit of today and what does it represent?

As an Association, we are committed to offering our support to the Benedictine Sisters. The sisters' life of prayer and ministry personify the transforming presence of God in today's world. With our prayers, our presence and our financial support, we join with the sisters as they respond to the needs of all of God's people.

We are a group of approximately 3,200 alumnae members, with members in most of the 50 states. We continue to be the major group of financial supporters of the Benedictine Sisters. In 2011 alumnae members contributed over \$91,200 to the sisters and their ministries. We take our commitment seriously and are always striving to do as much as we can in our efforts to support the Benedictine community. We are grateful for what we have received and privileged to give back what we can. We continue to promote Catholic education and are true to the philosophy of our own Benedictine education – to develop our potential, build community and offer our gifts for others.

We have always been a very social group, bonded together by our mission of support to Benedictine Sisters and their ministries. We value our connection to one another and celebrate it whenever possible. We offer our help and have fun in the process. The last year's social events prove this point.

We partied, we brunched, and then we partied again! We celebrated Christmas at the Ambassador Conference Center with 450 of our closest friends. We dined in style, laughed with our friends and took chances on over 60 beautiful theme baskets. The Party Committee, members of the Class of 1972, provided us with a wonderful evening. We raised over \$6,000 for the Saint Benedict Child Development Center.

In the spring we held the Annual Communion Brunch at the Lawrence Park Golf Club with 60 more of our closest friends. We awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to

students who are relatives of alumnae attending Catholic schools this school year.

In June we picnicked with over 60 of our other closest friends at Glinodo Conference Center. We raised money for the scholarship fund and dined in style once again. It brought back many good memories. People were even signing their old yearbooks. Imagine!

We walked in the "Relay for Life" to support The American Cancer Society. Most astonishing of all, we traveled back in time to celebrate Christmas in July as we "Walked the Halls" of SBA once again. Over 100 alumnae members and some former faculty members reunited at SBA to walk the halls. Some alumnae brought spouses and children with them. Admission to the event was a gift of money or clothing for children who live in poverty and are remembered by the Benedictine Sisters at their Christmas giveaway in December. What a success that was! Over nine huge boxes of clothing and \$300 in cash were donated. Old friends reunited, cameras were clicking and hugs were passed around as we met with yet another of our 100 closest friends and faculty members.

It is safe to say, the "Spirit of SBA" is alive and well. Bless all who continue to make this a reality.

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

Evelyn Aaron Seitz	'40
Mary Ernst Walczak	'41
Gertrude Respecki Crynock	'41
Betty Jo Pruchniewski Marz	'47
Sylvia Wentland Bujalski	'54
Kathleen J Roach Duda	'60
Veronica Tarasovitch Nass	'60
Patricia Ann Wiczorek	'61
Barbara Heidt Hutchinson	'65
Rita Marie Donikowski Clacher	'66
Geraldine Marie Bolla Kramer	'66
Teresa Mae Kurty	'66
Patricia Wagner Bohland	'68
Elizabeth A "Betty Ann" Bell Brown	'75

**"SPIRIT OF SBA"
IS ALIVE AND WELL.**

A Very Special Announcement

At class reunions, Alumnae functions, or with “club girls”, we share so many fond memories of SBA.

It’s hard to believe that June 2013 will mark 25 years since our beloved Academy changed from an all-girls high school to St. Benedict Education Center, serving the critical educational and re-training needs of Erie’s inner-city unemployed and immigrants.

But, the Spirit of SBA has lived on in our friendships and the 3,200 Alumnae who continue to support the sisters and their ministries.

To commemorate our past, celebrate our present, and anticipate our future, we are holding a very special event, a **Spring Luncheon**, to be held Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Ambassador Conference Center. The day will begin with lunch and a video presentation. A tour of St. Benedict Education Center will follow for those wishing to travel down Peach Street to the school.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what’s happening now, and what is being planned for the future, especially if you have not had the opportunity to visit St. Benedict Education Center in recent years.

Watch the mail! For this year only, the Luncheon will replace the Spring Brunch and Summer Picnic. More information, including our Scholarship nomination forms, will be coming in the mail as plans are finalized.

— Janet Hammond ‘67

SBA Alumnae Annual Campaign – 2012

Despite the uncertain financial times, SBA Alumnae continue to be a major support group of the Benedictine Sisters. Over the years we have helped the sisters to build the Monastery, renovate the Monastery, build the SBA building, start the programs at St. Benedict Child Development Center, the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, Emmaus Soup Kitchen and Kid’s Cafe, St. Benedict Community Center and St. Benedict Education Center. We thank all who have already given and encourage those who have not to still consider giving a gift.



Mark Your 2013 Calendar

Saturday	May 4	Spring Luncheon & Marketplace Ambassador Conference Center	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	May 5	Sunday Liturgy & Reception Mount Saint Benedict Monastery	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday	December 3	SBA Christmas Party Ambassador Conference Center	

Reunions

Classes planning reunions are eligible to receive \$35 to help defray announcement mailing costs. We will also provide an updated class list from our database. We ask that you provide us with new or corrected addresses and any pictures from your reunion to post on our website. It is one of the best ways we have to keep in touch with friends and classmates. Please contact Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org or 814-899-0614 ext. 2573 for help.

Visit ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your email address to Alumnae Liaison Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don’t use email, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E Lake Rd, Erie, PA, 16511. And whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip and send us an article or jot it down and call us, so we can share the news with all our members.

Call for Email addresses...

We frequently alert Alumnae Association members of upcoming events as well as timely news items. We need your current email address for this. Please send email information as we as your current home address and phone number to Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org.

SBA Christmas Party (2011)



We wish you a Merry Christmas!



It has been such an enjoyable dinner!



What a terrific evening!



President and Prioress share a moment!



Laughter: the shortest distance between people!

Summer Picnic (2012)



We're glad to have the chance to do some catching up!



It's great to be here!

Walk the Halls (2012)



Sister Rosanne Loneck is excited to see alum.



Isn't this adorable!



Sister Christine Vladimiroff (center) welcomes alum.