

# alumnae

## Sisters celebrate 150 years in Erie Special alumnae concert and homecoming weekend planned



*Sister Marilyn Schauble, below, will lead more than 170 alumnae for a concert at downtown Erie's Warner Theatre on Friday, Nov. 25, 2005. A very special Homecoming Weekend 2005—kicking off with the concert—is planned to help celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benedictine Sisters in Erie.*

June 2005 through June 2006 marks a series of special events celebrating 150 years since the Benedictine Sisters were founded in Erie. The sisters hope the thousands of graduates of their former high school, Saint Benedict Academy, will join in the anniversary fetes. In particular, alumnae need to mark calendars now for the year's special SBA homecoming weekend, Friday to Sunday, Nov. 25 to 27, 2005.

Homecoming Weekend 2005 will kick off with an alumnae Christmas concert Friday in the pride of downtown Erie, the opulent Warner Theatre. Saturday night, SBA revelers will relax and reminisce during the annual Christmas party at the Avalon Hotel. Alumnae are invited to join the sisters at Mount Saint Benedict

Monastery Sunday for 10 a.m. Liturgy, followed by a brunch and get-together.

More than 170 women plan to sing



in the Christmas concert, to be directed by Sister Marilyn Schauble, an accomplished vocalist, musician and liturgist who

recently completed her master's of arts degree in Theology with a concentration in Monastic Studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. "Even though I wasn't a student at Saint Benedict Academy, I have enjoyed the 'spirit' that is so much a part of the alumnae support and gatherings," Sister Marilyn says. "It is clear to me that this group of

women shares a special bond that has lived on well past the days when they walked the hallways of the Academy. I have experienced this through the welcome, kindness, inclusion, hospitality and caring among the women today. This choral event is an opportunity to build on this spirit, to share what they are so good at already."

"There is something special about enabling music to rise off the page and into the hearts of all involved," Sister Marilyn says. "This concert will not only mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a very special way, it will also give a message of hope and Christmas Peace to the Erie community. It will be a mutual sharing of gifts and energy, 'spirit' and fun.

"My sincere wish is that the peace which music provides will prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas, the Incarnation, given to one and all," Sister Marilyn says.

Call Alumnae Director Ann Comstock, '64, at (814) 899-0614, Ext. 573, to sign up if you want to sing in the alumnae concert.

## New alumnae donors respond to annual fund drive, phonathon

More than 1,300 graduates of Saint Benedict Academy responded to calls from 65 alumnae who volunteered weeknights in September to call classmates as part of the annual alumnae fundraiser.

The hard-working callers helped the alumnae association raise \$45,000 during this year's annual campaign. This year, nearly \$1,000 was raised from alumnae donors who had not participated in prior annual campaigns. The money raised will complete the alumnae association's three-year commitment to the Saint Benedict Community Center, the former Saint

Mary's auditorium, which now provides recreational opportunities for adults and children with special needs. Sister Dianne Sabol, '70, is the administrator of the Community Center.

Alumnae who still wish to pledge support may do so by calling Ann Comstock, '64, director of alumnae relations, at (814) 899-0614, Ext. 573 before Dec. 30. For online donations, visit [ErieBenedictines.org](http://ErieBenedictines.org) and click on Saint Benedict Alumnae/Annual Appeal Donations.

Some of the alumnae annual appeal donations help support the Benedictine Sisters to care for their older members.

A small portion also allows the alumnae association to provide scholarships for Catholic education.



*Bonnie Zaczyk Prokocki, '67, and Nikki Balczon, '56, give a "thumbs up" to their team's effort during the phonathon.*

## Reunions continue to be fun and lively—

Check [ErieBenedictines.org](http://ErieBenedictines.org)  
SBA Alumnae Reunions for photos.

**THE CLASS OF '49** celebrated their 55th class reunion July 31 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

**THE CLASS OF '54** gathered the weekend of Sept. 18-19 for their 50th reunion. On Saturday, they began with breakfast at Perkins in Erie, followed by a two-hour trolley ride around the city, stopping off at the old Saint Benedict Academy for pictures, and dinner at the Marketplace Grill. Sunday Liturgy at the monastery was followed by brunch and a tour of the Garden of Memories.

**THE CLASS OF '64** celebrated their 40th reunion this summer with a weekend at Peek n' Peak. Saturday afternoon was for golf, gab, games and getting together. Sunday was a wonderful seafood brunch.

## CALENDAR of events

**Jan. 3, 2005**

Homecoming Core Committee meets to plan homecoming Mount Saint Benedict

**Jan. 13, 2005**

Executive Board Meeting at Mount Saint Benedict

**April 2005**

Christmas Concert rehearsals begin at Mount Saint Benedict

**Thanksgiving Weekend 2005**

**Nov. 25-27**

SBA Homecoming Weekend—Warner Theatre, Avalon Hotel, at Mount Saint Benedict

Visit [ErieBenedictines.org](http://ErieBenedictines.org) for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your e-mail address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at [sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org](mailto:sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org) to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use e-mail, 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 an article, jot it down, or call us, so we can share the news with all our members.

## Saint Benedict Academy—roots, happy memories, people who cared

An interview with Pat Straub, '59, member SBA alumnae executive board—



Part of the joy of attending Saint Benedict Academy was that it was like joining a big, happy family. Almost everyone knew everyone else, or their sisters, or their moms, their cousins, aunts or even grandmothers. In many ways, Saint Benedict Academy was an extension of our own families.

**Q: What does it mean to you to serve on the Saint Benedict Academy alumnae board?**

A: Serving on the board gives me the opportunity to let people in the community know that the graduates of Saint Benedict Academy have a strong allegiance to each other and the Benedictine Sisters who so willingly taught, nurtured and encouraged us, helping us to become the people we are today.

**Q: Do you have a fond memory or funny story to share?**

A: My sophomore year I didn't sign up early enough to be in the chorus. Nonetheless, I would show up for evening practices and sing along. Sister Mary David Callahan would see me there and didn't say anything—and didn't make me leave. Not actually being in chorus, I wasn't able to go with the group to sing at various places. However, one time, when the announcement was made that all choral members could leave (mid-afternoon) to go to Prep to sing, I stood up and went along. Sister Mary David never did say anything to me about that little stunt. In my junior year, however, I did join and went to all events—legally! Singing in the chorus with Sister Mary David was one of the highlights of my high school years.

**Q: What does Saint Benedict Academy mean to you and why do you stay connected?**

A: The Class of '59 had a really great group of girls. We all got along and had fun together. The sisters were genuinely interested in us and cared about us, what we became. They were serious and disciplined and gave us many rules to follow. At the same time, they had a great sense of humor and listened to what we had to say. There was a sense of pride in being an SBA student. Why does it mean so much? It's a part of my heritage, part of who I am. What the sisters taught in school was an extension of what my parents taught me at home. Each time I go to the Mount for liturgy or a meeting, that feeling of pride and happy memories is there. It's about having roots and happy times; it's about people caring, it's about recognizing the blessings in your life and thanking God for them. It's knowing that if I ever feel lost, the sisters will be there with open arms. Roots, happy memories, people who care—that about sums it up.

## Let Us Pray ... For our recently deceased alumnae—

Margaret Mary Welch Kappelt	'34	Rita J. Czulewicz DeLuca	'48
Frances Mahlbacher Parker Saber	'34	Kathleen A. Braeger Corsi	'51
Frances Seifert Schwartz	'35	Dolores Gackowski Gornic	'56
Josephine Walczak Nash	'35	Barbara A. Oszczepinski Paszko	'60
Virginia R. Hahn Scully	'40	Agnes M. Lenda Toffinski	'65
Sally R zodkiewicz Dubik	'47	Francine Ann Corapi Markiewicz	'74
Catherine A. Sitterle	'48		