

MIRACLES AND SBA?

As you've read this issue of *The Mount* you may have noticed the theme of "miracles and magic" running through its articles. To help us develop this theme, our editor offered quotes for us to ponder, and one in particular drew my attention. It was a quote of Mother Theresa: "The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it."

Another thought that caught my attention was a question posed by the same editor: "Are others touched by miracles and magic because of your work?"

Thus my question was: Miracles and SBA? Does it fit? Is there a miracle in what we do, and if so, are we happy to do it? Do we help to provide miracles and magic for others?

Is there a "miracle scale" from 1 to 10? If it exists, would any of the following activities of the SBA Alumnae be measurable:

- providing Christmas gifts of clothing, games and books for impoverished children through Emmaus Ministries;
- providing financial assistance in purchasing equipment, books and supplies for pre-school inner-city children at the Saint Benedict Child Development Center;
- providing financial assistance to programs for immigrant families with children at Saint Benedict Education Center;
- helping to purchase outdoor furniture for seniors at Benetwood;
- providing financial assistance for the purchase of instruments and supplies for the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House;
- providing financial assistance for purchasing and replenishing equipment for the Saint Benedict Community Center?

I think the answer is a loud and resounding YES. The women of the Saint Benedict Academy Alumnae Association continue to support the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and their various ministries. We are grateful for the education we received and ever mindful of our own Benedictine roots. The generosity of time and presence of the SBA women, their prayers and monetary support have had an impact on the lives of many.

Are we happy to do it? Again, YES. Anyone who has read past editions of *The Mount* knows this to be true. Consider the number of pictures from Christmas Parties, Summer Picnics, Spring Luncheons, Concerts, Homecoming Events, Communion Brunches and more. Lord knows, for every cause the SBA Alum hold a social event. That's who we are and that's how we perform our small miracles, always with a smile, always with those friends we never can forget.



*"The miracle is not
that we do this work
but that we are happy
to do it."*

– Mother Theresa

Reunions

We want to hear from you! Class reunions every five years are a tradition with SBA alumnae. We will gladly include information regarding your reunion on our website. Send us the facts and we'll post them as soon as we get them. We'll send you an updated class list from our database and a set of mailing labels. Please provide us with any follow up stories and photos (digital, please) you might wish to share and we will post them on our website (ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum). Classes who are planning reunions are eligible to receive a \$35 check to help defray mailing costs. We ask that you provide us with new or updated addresses for the database. It is one of the best ways we have to keep in touch.

Please contact Ann Comstock. Call 814-899-0614 ext. 2573 or contact by email: sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org



Members of the class of 1963 included the SBA Spring Luncheon as part of their 50th Class Reunion.



Members of the Class of 1973 celebrated their 40th Class Reunion.

Please visit our Website

Due to the timing of *The Mount* magazine schedule, SBA's two main social events usually have been held by the time the magazine is published. **Check the website eriebenedictines.org/sba-alum frequently for current information.** There will always be an announcement on the page regarding upcoming events along with a downloadable reservation form that can be printed at work or home.

For those living out of town and unable to attend, we always include numerous photos of the event on the website. You can view the occasion and try to spot any classmates. You can also view pictures from past events. They are archived for your enjoyment.

Visit ErieBenedictines.org/sba-alum for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your email address to Alumnae Director 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 East Lake Road, Erie, PA, 16511. Whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article or jot down the details then call, write or email us the information so we can share the news with all our members.

SBA Celebrations

Each year we begin the celebration of Christmas with our Annual Christmas Party. Last year we celebrated Peppermint Twist 2012 with reservations for 469 attendees. Traditionally we raffle off an incredible assortment of themed gift baskets to raise funds to support one of the Benedictine Sisters' ministries. It is a gala event and everyone is encouraged to attend. Each year we get closer to our goal of 500 attendees. Maybe 2013 will be the year!



Last spring we hosted a new event, a Spring Luncheon followed by a visit to SBA Academy to "Walk-the-Halls," held on a Saturday in June. Ten vendors were at the luncheon for the guests' shopping pleasure displaying jewelry, candy, candles, and soap among the items for sale. The following day a liturgy and social gathering were held at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery for the alums and it was all a great success. The event planners hoped for 50 alums and got 200! Two classes used the event as part of their reunion celebrations and many alums who were unable to attend the Christmas Party were able to join us that day.

We have decided to repeat the event. There will be a luncheon on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Ambassador Center. The following day, Sunday June 1, there will be a liturgy and social event at the Monastery.

Keep this in mind if you are planning a reunion or class get-together. Please watch the mail in March—further information on the luncheon as well as scholarship nomination forms will be sent to all alums.

Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

- Kathleen Esser '37
- Kathleen Froess Malinowski '59
- Barbara Brojek Korn '60
- Judy Ann Trohoske Litz '60
- Caroline Mihalovic Strong '64
- Gail Kemmler Hoh '65
- Joann Lariccia Foster '66
- Terry B Todd Lassman '68
- Ellen Sandusky Dorau '72
- Linda Malinowski Cirillo '74
- Dorothy Polaski Pearson



Mark your
2014 Calendar
Spring Luncheon
Saturday, May 31
Ambassador Conference Center



"SPIRIT OF SBA"
IS ALIVE AND WELL.

Faculty and Staff of St. Benedict Academy Reconnect

Sister Roseanne Loneck was on the St. Benedict Academy faculty when the school closed 25 years ago this summer. When she cleaned out her classroom on the last day she brought home the faculty and staff contact list—and she’s kept that list for 25 years and stayed in touch with many of the 40-45 people on it. “We were a faculty and staff that was like family, traveling together in a professional arena as well as celebrating the happy events and difficult times in each other’s lives,” she said. “We were always there for each other.”

That special bond and the 25th anniversary of the school’s closing inspired Sister Roseanne, community liaison to the SBA Alumnae Association, to organize a faculty and staff reunion—an opportunity for former co-workers to reconnect and share memories. Two reunion gatherings were held, one in May and the other in October, at Mount St. Benedict Monastery where the former faculty and staff members joined the sisters, some of whom were also on staff, for prayer, dinner and conversation.

“The reconnection was such a good time that we’ll make it an annual event,” Sister Rosanne said. “The time we shared at SBA touched all of us and coming together again after so many years was its own special kind of homecoming.”



October 12, 2013

Back row (l-r): Sr. Rose Ann Kolbas, Evelyn Caffarel, Marlene Trambley, Mike Manafo, Cecilia Polumbo
Front row (l-r): Sr. Rosanne Loneck, Linda Pikiwicz, Melody Laudensack Lewis, Charlene Antalek, Sr. Pat Lupo



May 4, 2013

Back row (l-r): Sr. Annette Marshall, Sr. Pat Lupo, Steve Zmigrosky, Maria Mioduszewski, Chris Polotas Bowler, Sr. Margaret Zeller
Front Row (l-r): Sr. Mary Ellen Plumb, Sr. Rosanne Loneck, Anne Sundean, Lucille Powers