



**St. Benedict Academy  
Alumnae Association  
Newsletter  
Winter 2025**

# St. Benedict Academy: a legacy of women's empowerment

Have an address change? Story to share?  
Idea to highlight your class in the newsletter?  
Email Linda Romey, OSB, Communications Office  
lromey@eriebenedictines.org

*"We'll always come to thee again, when alma mater calls."*

## Class of 1969 at the monastery

Nine members of the SBA Class of 1969 joined the sisters for prayer and lunch at the monastery the end of August. Sister Diane Rabe, a member of the class, was there to welcome her classmates.

They enjoyed a tour of the monastery and a visit to the gift shop and reminisced with two of their teachers, Sister Rosanne Loneck (Home Economics) and Sister Phyllis Schleicher (French)—a couple of the girls actually remembered a few words from French class to greet Sister Phyllis.

After lunch they visited Glinodo Center—which they knew as Camp Glinodo—to see the invasive-species eating goats who spent a month eating their way through plants and vines that are harmful to the woods along the creek.

"We'd love to see more class groups at the monastery," said Michelle Basista, Development Associate. "Join us for a weekday lunch, an evening meal, or Sunday after liturgy." Contact Michelle at the monastery, 814-899-0614 ext 2281.



## Class of 1973 at the monastery



Members of the Class of 1973 visit the monastery:  
Susan West Minarich,  
Kathryn Kaiser  
Klaphor,  
Joyce Double  
Wickles,  
Sister Rosanne  
Loneck,  
Mary Beth Whitby  
Veshecco,  
Tina Krasinski Delio.

**Mark your calendars now:**

**The 2026 SBA Spring Luncheon is Sunday  
March 22, 2026 at Erie's Ambassador  
Banquet and Conference Center.**

**Class of 1966 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion is June 6,  
2026, at the Lake View Golf Club in  
North East. Contact Mary Joswig,  
mezjoswig@aol.com**

## Class of 1976 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The Class of 1976 is planning a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on Saturday September 19, 2026, at Lake Shore Country Club in Erie. Classmates only for this reunion, Lassies! We'll have cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Invitations will go out next year. Please email Nancy Szcztukowski Cross, ncross120@gmail.com, or Karen Kuchcinski Sonney, ksonney@roadrunner.com, if you or your group can offer a sponsorship for the hors d'oeuvres.

On Sunday, September 20, we will go to Mount St. Benedict Monastery for liturgy followed by coffee, sweetbreads, and conversation with some of the sisters who taught at SBA. Help us spread the word, and please forward updates of emails or addresses. Let's make it the most attended reunion in our history! The picture at right was taken at our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion.



## Class of 1975 at the monastery

The SBA Class of 1975 joined the sisters at the monastery for liturgy followed by coffee and sweetbreads on Sunday September 21 as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion celebration, following a Saturday evening gathering at Calamari's in Erie.

They offered a litany of thanks to former teachers, Sisters Phyllis Schleicher, Rosanne Loneck, and Dorothy Stoner. "Thank you for the life lessons (Lori Snell Honard); for being there during our high school years! (Anna Dodick Aicher); for a great education (Sharon Czulewicz); for all that you did then and all that you do now (Karen Lilly Dombrowski); for being a guiding light (Meg Habas Morris); for all your love! (Judy Bulishak Goddard); for all you instilled in us (Sharon Plumb Sparacino). Sister Elizabeth Adams is a member of the Class of 1975.

After coffee, they toured the former SBA building which has been St. Benedict Education Center since the year after the school closed in 1988. While the students are different, adults working to find employment and become self-sufficient and new immigrants learning English and how to navigate in a new country, SBA still supports education and self-improvement.

## SBA Alumnae Association Board of Directors



Members of the St. Benedict Academy Alumnae Association Board meet regularly to plan fundraising activities that benefit the Benedictine Sisters and their ministries as well as social events for SBA Alumnae. Pictured are Sue Chase, '82, Sue Zill, '65, Darlene Kerstetter, '82, Sister Rosanne Loneck, '61, Sheila Warner, '73, Katie Young, '87, and Cheryl Zingelewicz, '65.

Sister Rosanne taught many of the Board members and recently invited them to join the sisters for midday prayer and lunch. "In so many ways in my life, in my work, and in how I treat people, I pay it forward because of the way Sister Rosanne treated us. I took all four years of Home Economics just to be with her," said

Darlene. "We didn't need a guidance counselor, we went to Sister Rosanne," added Sue Chase.

In response Sister Rosanne said, "You never know how you impact others. Sometimes it's the smallest thing that makes the other person feel better. I'm overwhelmed at hearing the difference I've made in the girls' lives."



## Let us pray for SBA alumnae who have passed into eternity.

Virginia Matz DiBacco '53  
Betty Jane Bules Reynaud '56  
Patricia Grugin Buckel '54  
Sharon Lefaiver Carlin '61  
Barbara Orbanek Ahlgren '60  
Sister Paula Burke '54  
Carol Przybyszewski Scott '56

Nancy Sitter Freeman '59  
Shirley Ponzy Szyplik '49  
Rose Marie Sarnowski Fries '54  
Marilyn (Linda) Randolph '60  
Mary Ann Smith Hughes '51  
Christine Visosky '59

## 2025 Scholarship Winners

The SBA Alumnae Association is pleased to announce 25 scholarships of \$300 each were awarded to relatives of alumnae who will be attending Catholic grade or high schools for the 2025-2026 school year. Funding comes from monies raised at the Annual Spring Luncheon and Cash Bingos.

Sophia Pitcher, Mercyhurst Prep, by Karen Kuchinski Sonney, '76 • Robert A Merski, St George School, by Marie Chmielewski Merski, '71 • Ariel Cephas, St George School, by Kim Fontecchio Hardner, '73 • Macy Bowes, Mercyhurst Prep, by Anne Kuna Shiel '79 • Davion Edmond, Cathedral Prep, by Angela Vincent '83 • Emilia Roach, St Jude School, by Margaret Nies Hinkel '74 • Amelia Hopkins, St Luke School, by Sue Hewitt Perry '74 • Calvin Dunbar, St Luke School, by Carol Holdnack '76 • Christopher Murphy, St Luke School, by Patricia Volk Murphy '61 • Kayley McCall, Cathedral Prep, by Patricia Zimmerman Flagella '65 • Anna Patterson, Bishop Fenwick High School, by Anne Luddy DeLuca '72 • Laina Drabic, Mercyhurst Prep, by Mary Lou Marshall Chimenti '74 • Casey Wagner, Cathedral Prep, by Nancy Fessler Ruffa '73 • Amelia Italiani, St George School, by Patricia Kearns Italiani '66 • Tanner Catrabone, St Francis High School, by Kathleen Welch Wozniak '72 • Karley Zielinski, St George School, by Patricia Engel Zielinski '66 • Luna Sophia Weaver, Our Lady of Peace School, by Nicolette Maly Azicri '68 • Kylie Carutis, Cathedral Prep, by Connie Capozziello Watt '74 • Michael Clark, St George School, by Kimberly Caldwell Marini '84 • Alexandra Tolhurst, St Mary Magdalene School, by Patricia Stull D'Annibale '69 • Robert Markley, St Jude School, by Sandra Pulinski Veidheffer '72 • Isabella Robbins, St Stephen's Catholic School, by Christine Hemmis Kaschak '69 • Hadley Dombrowski, Our Lady of Victory School, by Karen Hogenmiller Krahe '66 • Eden Nies, Cathedral Prep, by Maureen Nies Hubert '73 • Jenna Meyer, Mercyhurst Prep, by Nancy Olsen Veshecco '66

# Benedictine ✠ Sisters of Erie

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery  
6101 East Lake Road  
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Please alert Heather Cloutier, Benedictine Sisters Development Office, of any address changes. Call 814-899-0614, ext. 2573, or email [hcloutier@eriebenedictines.org](mailto:hcloutier@eriebenedictines.org). If you prefer not to receive a print copy of *The Mount*, please let Heather know. Current and past issues of *The Mount* are available on our website at [eriebenedictines.org/good-work/mount-magazine.html](http://eriebenedictines.org/good-work/mount-magazine.html).

## Memories of Camp Glinodo

*In the previous issue of The Mount we ran a photo from the 1950s of one of the cabins at Camp Glinodo. We asked if any of you could tell us the names of those cabins which were replaced in the late 1960s with the Timberlodge. Several readers responded, including Elaine Berthold Migchelbrink, SBA Class of 1960, who was able to send us her picture taken in front of one of the cabins that was clearly named "Zhonta." Sally Wolbert Michalski sent us her memories of attending Camp Glinodo in the early 1950s. Her cousin is Sister Jean Wolbert and they are both from Oil City, Pennsylvania, where the Benedictine Sisters taught for many years. A shortened version of her reflections follows. We also heard from Donna Geiger Villa, SBA Class of 1954, who remembered Netab and Bidabon, and Mary Ellen Dahlkemper who went to Camp Glinodo in the 1960s. Thank you all for sharing your memories.*



The camp grounds seemed enormous and always smelled of newly mowed grass. To get to the lake there was a wooden staircase down to the rocky beach. The water was cold for swimming and the lake bottom rocky unless you ventured out a little. There was also "seaweed" to contend with which wrapped its slimy self around your legs.

Some days we played in the creek where the water was even colder than the lake and the rocks slippery—it would have been considered wasteful to go in the water with your white tennis shoes.

In the center of the property was the flag circle. In the evening we gathered on blankets around the flagpole and

sang songs about Glinodo and the "sisters so sweet." Ghost stories were told. At the end of the sing-a-long taps was played and the counselors sang, "Now run along home and jump into bed..."

Activities were archery, theater, and maybe volleyball. I was too inexperienced to join any of these. I wanted to work on crafts, and what I dreamed of doing was a making a lanyard but I was either not old enough or adept enough at braiding so I reverted to reading.

There was a circle of hedges in front of Bidabon and after supper the counselors would read Nancy Drew books! Oh my, I was in heaven. I was not sure if I had read Nancy Drew before that, but I fell in love. I couldn't wait for story time.

Often in the evening there would be a game of hide and seek, maybe it was called Run Sheep Run, in which the entire group of a certain age was sent off into the woods and then try to sneak back to base without being caught. Even though I didn't get it, I enjoyed this freedom to run in the semi-tamed property.

I look back at camp with great affection. I am thankful to my mother and to the sisters for providing such a pleasant week of camp. Camp at Glinodo was a great experience.

## Glinodo Days by Sally Wolbert Michalski

When thinking about my education with the Benedictines at St. Joe's in Oil City, I smile. I am grateful to all the sisters who taught me (well, maybe there was one who was a bit too tough) and the effort they made to make my life a pleasant one.

Somewhere around age ten (1952), I was asked if I would like to go to Camp Glinodo on the shores of Lake Erie. It was run by the Benedictine Sisters. I think at the time that a week at Glinodo cost \$50. The younger campers slept in a cabin named Bidabon. There were inside rooms and a screened-in porch with four bunk beds where I slept and had fresh, cool air from the lake all night.

The "Big House" sat just a little way from the cabins and that is where meals were served. The sisters in their habits did the cooking. Spanish rice was a favorite of mine, served with chocolate milk.