

From the Director

By Ann Comstock, Oblate

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



Reunions...

Classes planning reunions next year are eligible to receive a \$35 check to help defray mailing costs. Also provided will be an updated class list from our database as well as a set of labels. All we ask is 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 with friends and classmates. Please contact Ann Comstock at: sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org or call 814-899-0614, ext. 2573.



Annual Appeal 2011

This year's annual appeal supports our Alumnae Association, Catholic education, the sisters and their ministries. In a letter to Alumnae members, the Association President, Mary Rita Groucutt '72, thanked alumnae members by saying, "...you have helped preserve our tradition and our mission that means so much to us. We help others and keep alive our spirit through relationships that last a lifetime...relationships with each other, with the sisters and with those who benefit through our donations. The spirit of SBA will always live on through us and those we help."



Let us pray...

For our SBA alumnae who passed into eternity—

Mary Margaret Kraus, OSB	'39
Janet Bossart Guth	'40
Veronica Alexandra Lukasiewicz	'40
Blanche Kirkpatrick Connor	'41
Elizabeth Brumboy Burgoyne	'54
Rosemarie Tatara Bruno	'55
Therese M. Sitterle Kaval	'59
Evelyn Szymanski Edmonds	'65
Cheryl A. Pitcavage Norcross	'65
Patricia Watson Trocki	'65
Cynthia Louise Nantes	'71
Kathleen M. Steiner Vincent	'72
Beverlee Ann Bielanin	
Bayhurst Maxson	
Dorothy Ruef Petersen	

A gift from an alumnae member could help to finance a \$200 scholarship for a child to attend Catholic School, help an at-risk child receive classes in the Arts, or provide day care for low-income families. These are just some of the programs that a gift can help support. If you have not yet given, please consider doing so. Check our website at eriebenedictines.org or contact Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org or 814-899-0614 ext. 2573. The spirit of SBA will always live on through us and those we help.



Visit **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 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.



Christmas with the Alumnae Association

The Alumnae Association of Saint Benedict Academy is an active spirited organization. It sponsors events, socials and fundraisers to support the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters, promote Catholic education and support and encourage its members in their involvement in service to ministries that promote Benedictine values and traditions.

Our BIGGEST social event by far is the Annual SBA Christmas Party. For over 20 years local SBA graduates along with faculty members have gathered during the first week in December to renew old friendships, celebrate the season and raise funds to support an Erie Benedictine ministry.



We began with 75 attendees and have grown to last year's record-breaking number of 476! As soon as the word gets out how much fun it is, the number grows and every few years we have to look for larger venues at which to hold the party.

Money is raised with a Gift Basket Raffle, a 50-50 drawing and local donations solicited by the Party Committee on behalf of the Alumnae Association. Over the years we have helped to support the Inner City Neighborhood Art House, Glinodo Center, Sister Gus' Kids Cafe, St. Benedict Child Development Center, St. Benedict Education Center, St. Benedict Community Center, Benetwood Apartments and Catholic School Education. At last year's party, we raised \$6,000 for the ministries.

And ...we do it all with a party, the kind of party only SBA graduates understand. We laugh, we sing, and we tell stories about our days at SBA. We visit with the sisters, talk with former teachers, renew old friendships and make new ones. WE HAVE FUN!!! We cheer when our friends win a basket and groan if they win more than one. (That's entirely possible as we usually have over 60 gift baskets to raffle.) We celebrate with a fine dinner and great company. We have a wonderful time and look forward to next year's event. Our only true regret is that so many of our fellow graduates live out of town and never have the chance to experience Christmas with the SBA Alumnae Association.



Visit our website, ErieBenedictines.org and click on the SBA tab to view pictures and an accounting of this year's party - Starry Starry Night 2011.

