

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

St. Mary's School has established the Distinguished Alumni Award to recognize graduates with outstanding post-elementary achievements. Annually, the St. Mary's Board of Education nominates an individual for this award.

The National Catholic Education Association provides criteria and a framework to enable individual Catholic elementary schools to nominate for national recognition, graduates who have made a significant contribution to the Catholic Church and to the United States.

The following graduates of St. Mary's School are past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award:

- **2014 – Jennifer Ellering**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Serves on the St. Mary's Board of Education
  - Serves on the Area Parish Cluster Board
  - Serves as a Eucharistic Minister
  - Serves as a volunteer teacher for the St. Mary's Art Masterpiece Program
  - Serves on the St. Mary's Dinner/Auction for Education Committee
  - Very involved in the St. Mary's Parish, St. Mary's School and community
- **2013 – Amanda (Thieschafer) Smock**
  - Former member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Very active in current parish community
  - Serves as ambassador for Catholic Education
  - Serves as a positive role model for children
  - Represented our country in the 2012 Summer Olympics
- **2012 – Jean Ritter**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Parish Administrative Assistant for St. Mary's
  - Eucharistic minister for St. Mary's
  - Served on the Liturgy Committee
  - Served on the Religious Education Committee
  - Served as a Lector
  - Very involved in the St. Mary's Parish
- **2011 – James Athmann**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Serves as a mass server and usher for St. Mary's
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
  - Served our country during the Vietnam War
  - Very active in the VFW Schanhaar Otte Post # 7050
- **2010 – Ernest Kociemba**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Serves as Deacon for St. Mary's
  - Very involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
  - Owns Ernie's Family Foods in Melrose

- Member of the Chamber of Commerce
- Very supportive of St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's School
- **2009 – Carol Moormann**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Serves as a Lector for St. Mary's
  - Very active in the community
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
  - Reporter/feature editor for a weekly newspaper
- **2008 – Melvin Roehrl**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Serves on the Maintenance Committee for St. Mary's
  - Very supportive of St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's School
  - Very active in the community
  - Served on various organizations in the community
- **2007 – Bernard Hollermann**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Owned and operated Hollermann Manufacturing; giving time and talent to many parish and school communities
  - Supported Catholic Education
  - Supported school and parish with his handyman talents
- **2006 – Lucille Orth**
  - President of the St. Mary's Mission Society
  - Member of MCCL
  - Member of St. Elizabeth's/St. Bernard's Society
  - Member of the Christian Mothers/Women
  - Member of St. Mary's Adult Choir
  - Very involved in her political party
  - Performed in the musical "Nunsense"
  - Active in the community
- **2005 – Fr. Julius Beckermann OSB**
  - Entered St. Johns Abbey as a brother candidate in 1962 and made his first profession of vows March 21, 1964
  - Worked in maintenance, building, grounds, and plant management at St. John's Abby
  - Served 20 years at St. Mary's Mission in Red Lake, MN during which time he learned the Ojibwe language
  - Served as pastoral minister to Native Americans
  - Is the first member of St. John's Abby to become a permanent Deacon (Ordained June 2, 2000)
  - Was ordained in to the priesthood June 6, 2003
- **2004 – Alan Wiechmann**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Served on the St. Mary's Board of Education
  - Served on the Stewardship Committee
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
- **2003 – Jim Matchinsky**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Very supportive of St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's School
  - Very supportive to the St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund
  - Supportive of the community

- Successful businessman
- **2002 – Judith (Hollermann) Kluempke**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Administrative Assistant St. Mary’s School
  - Sponsor couple for married couples
  - Mass server scheduler
  - Eucharistic minister for St. Mary’s
  - Member of the Christian Mothers/Women
  - Coordinator of the art masterpiece program at St. Mary’s School
- **2001 – Raymond Maus**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Very involved in the St. Mary’s Parish and community
  - Was businessman in Melrose for many years
  - All six of his children graduated from St. Mary’s Catholic School
  - Served on various organizations in the community
- **2000 – John Kociemba**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Serves as an usher for St. Mary’s
  - Served as chair of the St. Mary’s Finance Committee
  - Owns Snyder V & S Variety in Melrose
  - Member of the Chamber of Commerce
  - Involved in the St. Mary’s Parish and community
- **1999 – David H. Sieben**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Graduate of St. John’s University
  - Taught social and served as football coach
  - Athletic Director of the Melrose Area Public Schools
  - Served as Army Major in the Reserves
  - Supportive of Catholic School Education
  - Involved in the St. Mary’s Parish and community
- **1998 – Steven J. Borgerding**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Very involved in the Boys Scouts and served as Scoutmaster
  - Served on the Melrose City Council
  - Draftsman for a lumber company
- **1997 – Sister Ephrem (Rita) Hollermann, OSB**
  - Entered St. Benedict’s Monastery in 1961 and made final profession in 1967
  - Served the community as a junior high teacher of English and religion
  - Served as director on novices and initial formation at St. Benedict’s Monastery
  - Served as doctoral student in historical theology
  - Served as associate professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University
  - In 1995, was elected the 14<sup>th</sup> prioress of the St. Benedict’s Monastery
- **1996 – Gail Schlicht**
  - Member of St. Mary’s Parish
  - Member of St. Mary’s Adult Choir
  - Served as Trustee for St. Mary’s Parish
  - Involved in the St. Mary’s Parish and community
- **1995 – Al Westendorf**

- Member of St. Mary's Parish
- Served on the St. Mary's Education Endowment Committee
- Member of the Melrose Knights of Columbus
- Member of the St. Bernard's Society
- Former Melrose City Clerk-Treasurer
- Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
- **1994 - William G. Meyer**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Served on the St. Mary's Education Endowment Committee
  - Member of St. Mary's Adult Choir
  - Owned a law firm in Melrose
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
- **1993 - Julia Westendorf**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Administrator of the Melrose Hospital
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
  - Member of the Chamber of Commerce
- **1992 - Gary Walz**
  - Member of St. Mary's Parish
  - Eucharistic minister for St. Mary's
  - Graduate of St. John's University
  - Melrose Economic Development Coordinator
  - Involved in the St. Mary's Parish and community
  - Member of the Chamber of Commerce