

THE UTOPIAN

A NEWSLETTER OF
SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VOL

4

Fall 2005

Spring 2006

Noreen Walsh
retires after
17 years at STM.



Thoughts on My Years at St. Thomas More NOREEN WALSH

It is not like me to be at a loss for words, but saying goodbye to St. Thomas More after 17 wonderful years has me “speechless.” There are no words to express my profound gratitude to all the folks who have shared these years with me.

Perhaps numbers are easier... I have watched over 800 St. Thomas More 8th graders march down the aisle on Graduation Day and I have felt that some part of each of them has become a part of me. Math is not my strong suit, but the numbers add up to a life incredibly enriched by the beauty of the students the Lord gave me to teach.

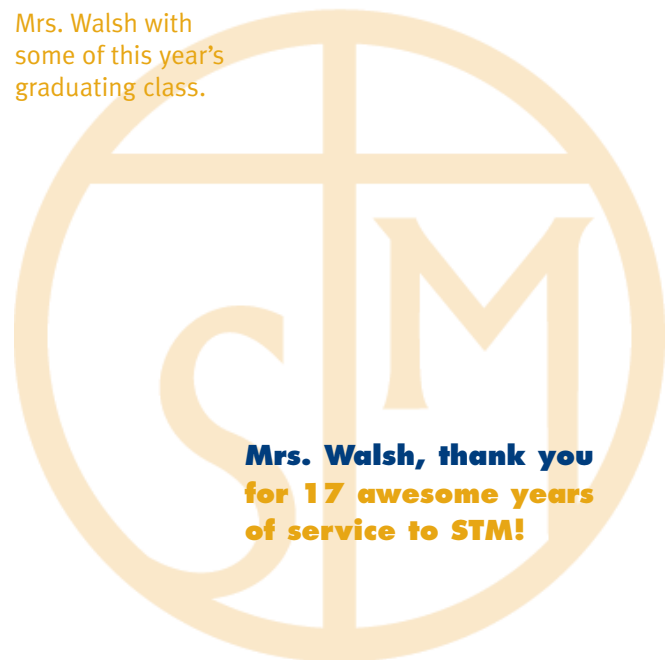
The words that do come from my heart and are easy to say are “Thank You”. Thank you for allowing me to share in shaping the future, one child at a time. I believe “it takes a village to raise a child” and this “village” of St. Thomas More is the best! The parents, the religious, the teachers, the students and the

support staff make a seamless garment of Christian love that brings out the best in each of us. Never underestimate the power of the St. Thomas More community. I know I will carry your love with me wherever I go. Thank you St. Thomas More.



Mrs. Walsh with
some of this year's
graduating class.

**Mrs. Walsh, thank you
for 17 awesome years
of service to STM!**





SPIRIT NIGHTS BUILD SCHOOL COMMUNITY

If you haven't been to an STM Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A in downtown Decatur, then you just don't know what you are missing! Where else can you go after school to socialize, enjoy good food, AND raise money for STM School? We have had seven spirit nights throughout the school year and EACH one has raised anywhere from \$230 - \$275 for STM School. STM School earns 10% of the total sales between 3:15 and 6:15 p.m. on STM Spirit Nights.

"STM is by far our best Spirit Night," exclaimed Cristina Crays, Unit Marketing Director for Chick-fil-A Downtown Decatur. "The employees know when I tell them it is STM Spirit Night that we are going to be very busy! I am amazed at how the parents of STM support the school and show up month after month at Spirit Night. The kids have a great time and the parents love catching up with each other. The Chick-fil-A Cow loves STM Spirit Nights as well because he knows he will get lots of love which is what he is all about!" The Chick-fil-A Cow makes a personal visit to STM during afternoon carpool on the day of scheduled Spirit Nights.

"Of all the fundraisers we do this one is the most satisfying because of the partnership we have formed," commented Kim Kissell, PTO President. "Cristina and her staff are eager to meet any request that we have and have been very generous to us. And we here at STM love going to Chick-fil-A; they are always courteous and the food is great!"



THANK YOU FROM SISTER MARGARET THOMASINE

Dear STM Students:

You can't believe the joy you brought all of us when we received your heart-warming letters, notes and decorations during Lent. I have never heard of any other school children expressing appreciation for the past such as your teachers have instilled in you.

It is so obvious that you realize the great school you attend at STM. Never forget that you, my friends, your teachers and your principal, plus your wonderful parents all contribute to making St. Thomas More special today.

You are always in my prayers.

Love and peace,
Sister Margaret Thomasine, S.N.D. de N.

Read the Second Station in "Our Lenten Project" (article to right) to learn more about this!

ALUMNI NEWS

Don Mettler, STM 1984, graduated from St. Pius in 1988 and the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1992. Don married Barbara Mooney of New York in 1997. They have four boys: Will (5), Andrew (3), Jake (1.5) and Ryan (1.5). The Mettler family lives in Peachtree Corners. Don is a technology consultant.

Zack Davis, STM 1996, graduated from the University of Georgia in May 2005.



He married Mara Kent on December 16, 2005. His brother, **Nick Davis, STM 1998**, was his best man. They reside in Athens, Georgia where Zack is a real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty. zackdavis@kw.com

Amanda Kloer, STM 1997, graduated Cum Laude in May, 2005 from Elon University with a double major in International Studies and Social Justice Theory. After working in Tanzania at a home for street children, Amanda accepted a job in Washington, D.C as the



Research and Intern Coordinator for Shared Hope International, a non-profit organization working against human trafficking and slavery. She recently coordinated the US Midterm Review on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in America conference.

Rodney Aguirre, STM 2001, graduated at the top of his class from Lithonia High School. He was accepted at Xavier University in New Orleans where he will study Pharmacy. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina interrupted his first year of studies therefore he is temporarily enrolled at Georgia State University.

Roxann Miller, STM 2003, is a junior at Lakeside High School. She was invited and accepted into the National Honor Society this year. She was also just recently elected to serve as her Senior Class President next year!



OUR LENTEN PROJECT

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF CONCERN— THE STATIONS OF STM AS WE REACH OUT TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

March 1-3 / **The First Station:**

I am part of the Body of Christ.

We performed personal acts of kindness for those surrounding us everywhere we went that week. As I performed an act of kindness, I said a silent prayer for the recipient(s) of my kindness.

March 6-10 / **The Second Station:**

Our school is part of the Body of Christ.

We reached out to our founding Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Middle School wrote letters, Intermediate made cards, and Primary made decorations for retired sisters at Villa Julie, Sacred Heart Manor, St. Julie Hall, and St. Vincent Care Center.

March 13-17 / **The Third Station:**

Our church is part of the Body of Christ.

We collected money and used items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society at STM including 14 Marta tokens, \$145 in grocery gift certificates, \$76 in gift certificates to various restaurants, and \$67.90 in cash for other needs. We said a Hail Mary each day or a Rosary for the poor.

March 20-24 / **The Fourth Station:**

Our city is part of the Body of Christ.

We supported Nicholas House by collecting almost 30 big boxes full of juice boxes and individually wrapped snacks for their after school and camp programs. We began the week with a visit from Marla Poe who educated us about Nicholas House. Each class prayed for a child/family served by Nicholas House.

March 27-31 / **The Fifth Station:**

Everyone in the world is part of the Body of Christ.

We collected over \$300 for the orphanage Gradinari Copii in Teleorman, Romania. We prayed for the well being of the children there and for strength for their caregivers.

April 3-7 (Spring Break) / **The Sixth Station:**

I meet the Body of Christ everywhere I go.

We made an effort to treat with respect our families and others with whom we had contact with that week. We especially prayed for our family members and anyone else we knew in need.

March 10-14 (Holy Week) / **The Seventh Station:**

Focus on faith.

We had our student retreat and closing Lenten service. The focus of our retreat was on the Old Testament, particularly the Seder Meal as the precursor of the Eucharist. We prayed that we would be better followers of Jesus this week.

STM Alumni: SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND...

Please share with us any news about yourself! We will print your news under the Alumni section of the next newsletter for all your fellow alumni to read.

NAME

GRADUATION YEAR

ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT PUBLISH YOUR EMAIL OR MAILING ADDRESS.

MY NEWS





2005-2006 ANNUAL FUND

We recently had an anonymous donor present us with a very exciting opportunity for our Annual Fund. They offered to match dollar for dollar (up to \$5,000) any gift received between April 25th and May 15th.

Our school community responded with incredible enthusiasm! We raised a total of \$9,483 during those 21 days and increased our family participation from 50% to 68%!

Thank you to all of our school families, grandparents, faculty/staff, alumni, parents of alumni and friends who have made a gift to this year's Annual Fund.

We conduct the Annual Fund every year as a way to bring in additional revenue for the school so that we can keep tuition as low as possible.

This year, if we reach our goal of \$100,000 then 20% will go towards the purchase of LCD Projectors for each classroom. The remaining amount will be applied to the school's portion of the annual payment on the multipurpose building.

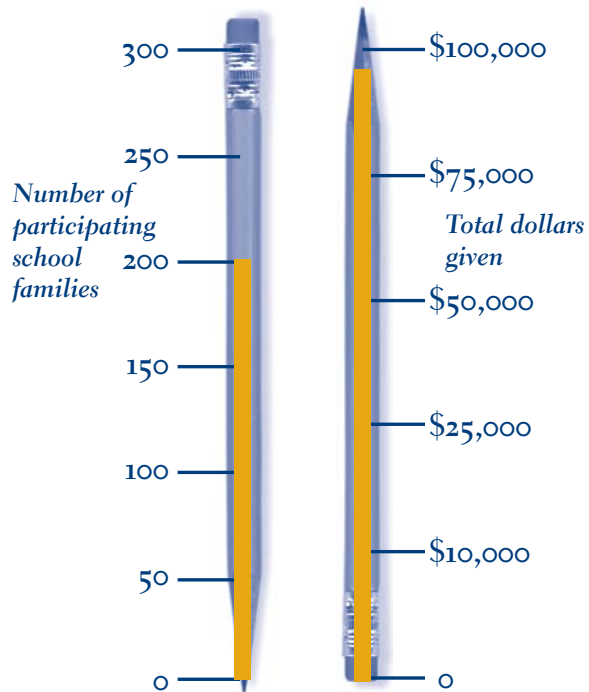
If you would like to make a gift to our Annual Fund, it is not too late! Please mail your check to STM School, 630 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030. Please indicate that your contribution is for the Annual Fund.

Annual Fund dollars help keep tuition low and quality of education high!

THE UTOPIAN

05-06

STM School Annual Fund



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

National School of Excellence, Established in 1950

630 West Ponce de Leon Avenue

Decatur, GA 30030

www.stmga.org