



Varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders 1973

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

*Alumnae*

BULLETIN 2023



*Alumnae*

Notre Dame Academy



Graduating class of 1968

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**03** Letter from the Provincial President

**04** Timeline

**08** In Memoriam - Alumnae

**10** In Memoriam - Relatives of Alumnae

**12** Alumnae Updates

**27** Academy Song

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## WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR THE FOLLOWING CLASSES THIS YEAR:

We will honor the class of 1973 for their 50th Anniversary!

- 1943 - 80th anniversary!
- 1948 - 75th anniversary!
- 1953 - 70th anniversary!
- 1958 - 65th anniversary!
- 1963 - 60th anniversary!
- 1968 - 55th anniversary!



# FROM OUR PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Dear Notre Dame Academy Alumnae,

Greetings to each and every one of you from the Notre Dame Sisters! It is with great joy and pride that I reach out to you on the occasion of your class reunion, particularly celebrating the 50th anniversary of the outstanding Class of 1973. This milestone represents not only the passage of time but also the enduring spirit and values that have been the foundation of our beloved Notre Dame Academy.

As we gather to reminisce and reconnect, let's take a stroll down memory lane to the year 1973. That year marked a significant period in both history and society.

- President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War.
- President Nixon, on national TV, accepted responsibility, but not blame, for Watergate.
- Unemployment in 1973 was at 4.9%.
- The cost of a first-class stamp was .08 cents.
- Secretariat won the Triple Crown: Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes.
- The American Indian Movement occupied Wounded Knee, South Dakota.
- The World Trade Center officially opened in New York City with a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Skylab, the United States' first space station, was launched.
- The United States Congress passed the Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA), mandating Special Education federally.

Today, in 2023, the world has evolved in unimaginable ways. We find ourselves navigating the digital age, facing global challenges, and adapting to a new normal in the wake of unprecedented events. The Notre Dame Sisters have stood strong, upholding the values of faith, service, and education that have been the hallmark of our order and Notre Dame Academy. We have continued to provide unwavering support to our communities. Through all the challenges, we've grown stronger, together, just as we did during your time at Notre Dame Academy.

Your accomplishments, your dedication to the values instilled during your time with us, and your continued support inspire us every day. We are immensely proud of you.

Please stay connected with us, share your stories, and keep the spirit of Notre Dame alive in your hearts.

With heartfelt blessings and warmest regards,

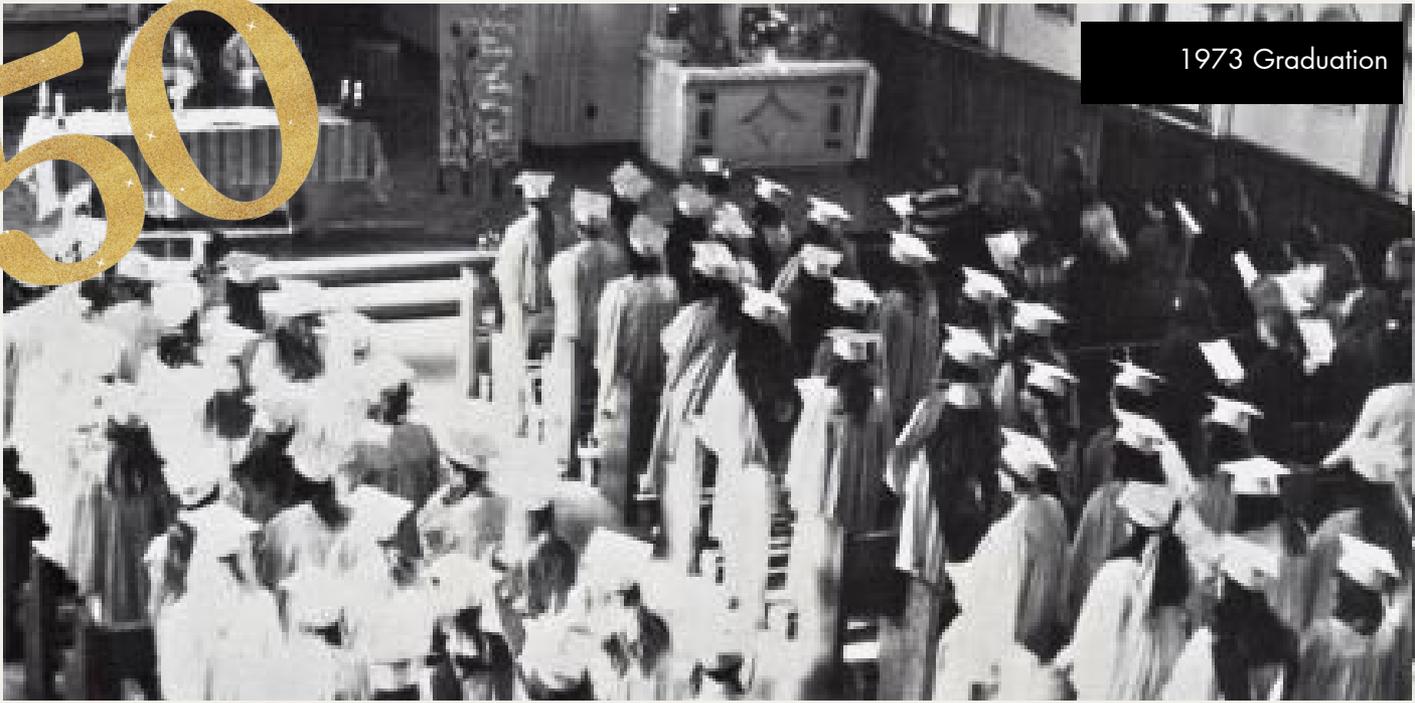
Sr. Rita Ostry, ND

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Rita Ostry, ND".

President, Omaha Province

50

1973 Graduation



1973 Spiritual Life



1973 Kathy Mosley Models Skirt



1973 Student Leadership

As a response to the renewal of religious life from Vatican Council II, Sisters write Vision Goal under the guidance of Sr. Marjorie Tuite, OP, and Sam Beasley.

The United States ends its involvement in the Vietnam War after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords.

Secretariat becomes the first horse since Citation in 1948 to win the Triple Crown in United States horse racing after placing first in the Belmont Stakes on June 9.

NASA launches the Mariner 10 Mercury probe spacecraft.

The Sears Tower is completed.

Spiro Agnew, the Vice President of the United States under Richard Nixon, resigned.

World Trade Center in New York becomes the tallest building in the world.

Watergate Hearings begin in the United States Senate and President Richard Nixon tells the nation, "I am not a crook."



1953 Air View



1943 Flood



1948



1953

The Missouri River floods and over 1,000 families evacuate in Omaha including Sisters living at St. Theresa's.

Due to shortages America sees its first rationing.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra provided the most popular music of the time.

The Pentagon, considered to be the world's largest office building, is completed.

- Communist rule was established in Czechoslovakia after a nearly bloodless coup took place.
- General Visitation trip of M. Zbislava Krumpova and Sr. Vlasta Ptak to the United States cancelled by communist government in Czechoslovakia.
- The World Health Organization, also known as WHO, was established.
- Indian pacifist and leader Mahatma Gandhi is murdered.

- Centennial of the founding of the Notre Dame Congregation. This is the peak of NDS growth in terms of new and living Sisters.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower is inaugurated as the President of the United States.
- Queen Elizabeth II crowned queen of England on June 2nd.
- Salk gives himself and his family the polio vaccine.



1963



1958



1963



1968

Kindergarten classes open at Notre Dame Academy, including boys! The kindergarten ran until 1962.

United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the National Aeronautics and Space Act into law, creating NASA.

14 year old Bobby Fischer wins the United States Chess Championship.

- Sisters staff LaSalle High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two Sisters were sent as missionaries to Chile, South America (Marritte/Joan in Chile); Sisters adopt a modified habit.

- President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Friday, November 22nd, 1963, in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas.

- Beatles Release I Want To Hold Your Hand/I Saw Her Standing There and Meet the Beatles.

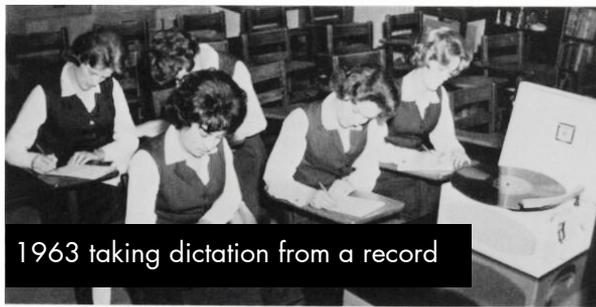
- NDS General Chapter cut short due to communistic uprising; a small group of NDS living in Omaha Motherhouse; new constitution (Lay principal NDA/Srs. Council formed).

- Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

- Apollo 8 is the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon.



1953 senior class gift



1963 taking dictation from a record



1958 May Queen princesses of honor



1968



1948



1973 student leadership



# IN MEMORIAM

## Notre Dame Sisters Memorial Association

Please join us in prayer for our beloved Alumnae and their loved ones who have moved on to eternal life. Those enrolled in the Memorial Association remain in the thoughts and prayers of the Sisters during our liturgies. An annual Memorial Mass, dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have passed away in the previous year, takes place every November. The names included in this commemorative book were received by August 31, 2023. We can only share the names brought to our attention. If there is a loss in your family or among fellow Alumnae, kindly inform Sr. Josita Hanus at the Advancement Office so that we can include them in the Memorial Association.

### ALUMNAE

**Lillian Kubat Meradith, '42**

**Louise Pazderka Vayda, '48**

sister of Catherine Pazderka Hammer, '60

**Sophia R Drzaic, '49**

**Geraldine Rolf Hagedorn, '50**

sister of Sr Dorothy Rolf ND, '52

sister of Bonnie Rolf Ault, '59

**Sr Karen (Rita) Rolenc ND, '52**

sister of Pauline Rolenc Voboril, '47 (d)

sister of Sr Anita (Dorothy) Rolenc ND, '51

**Peggy Barta Siciliano, Class of 1953**

**Eileen Barnes Rasnick, '56**

sister of Mary Jane Barnes Christoffersen, '54 (d)

mother of Ann Marie Rasnick Macaitis, Roncalli '87

**Mary C Roberts Dahlberg, '56**

**Suzanne Prokupek Micek, '58**

**Marianne Koukal Dropinski, '59**

**Nancy Morrissey DeWolf, '59**

sister of Sharon Morrissey Emmons, '59

**Judith Schaffart Gubbels, '59**

sister of Jane Schaffart Gutchewsky, '63

sister of Geraldine "Jeri" Schaffart Bartek, '64

sister of Jean Schaffart Ostergaard, '66

**Clare Havlovic Schnase, '61**

**Judith Hill Kreps, '61**

**Sr Mary Jo Hrnchir ND, '61**

**Patricia Henderson Ourada, '62**

sister of Virginia Henderson Christen, '61

sister of Cecilia Henderson Buettner, '61

sister of Donna Henderson Tezky, '61

sister of Linda Henderson Hess, '64 (d)

sister of Evelyn Henderson Meloy, '67

sister of Marilyn Henderson Raymer, '69

sister of Charlene Henderson Meyer, '72

sister of Angela Henderson, Class of 1975

**Charity Philipp Schneekloth, '64**

sister of Faith Philipp Seehawer, '58

sister of Hope Philipp Hugh, '64

**Victoria Koon Kearney, '65**

**Irene Stieb Anzalone, '65**

**Patricia Rimington Tomasek, '66**

sister of Kathleen Rimington Sobczyk, '70



# IN MEMORIAM

Notre Dame Sisters Memorial Association

## ALUMNAE

**Mary Kristi Donovan Kaminski, '67**  
sister of Colleen Donovan Luckasen, Class of 1969

**Juliana P Hernandez, '67**  
sister of Emilia Hernandez-Brown, '70 (d)  
sister of Rosemarie Hernandez, '74 (d)

**Kathleen M Synowicki Szalewski, '67**  
sister of Barbara Synowicki Crenshaw, '63

**Geraldine R Urban, '67**  
sister of Mary Lou Urban Stodola, '70

**Cheryl Braniff Desterhouse, '68**  
sister of Sally Braniff James, '69

**Barbara Norton Borgeson, '69**

**Colleen Martin Polley, '71**  
sister of Leslie Martin Fox, '65

**Linda J Karschner, '72**

**Mary Ann McLaughlin O'Neil, '72**

**Joanne Lastovica Nolan, Class of 1973**  
sister of Mary Catherine Lastovica Juhl, '69  
sister of Teresa Lastovica Bender, '72



*Alumnae*

Notre Dame Academy





## IN MEMORIAM RELATIVES OF ALUMNAE

### **Joan E Meisner**

sister of Mary Sokolik Skopinski, '37 (d)  
sister of Virginia Sokolik Hemenway, '52 (d)

### **Paul F Beveridge**

son of Mildred Ficenec Beveridge/Cherney, '44

### **Vincent D Sis**

brother of Josephine Sis Horinek, '45 (d)

### **Karen M Cockrell (Roncalli '77)**

daughter of Mary McAuliffe Cockrell, '46 (d)  
sister of Michaela Cockrell Hoffman, '70

### **Duane C Heble**

brother of Sr Phyllis Marie Heble ND, '50 (d)

### **Richard W Kimball**

husband of Patricia Murphy Kimball, '52 (d)

### **Arthur L Narmi**

husband of Lois Allred Narmi, '52 (non-grad)

### **James H Sabatka**

son of Irene Curtin Sabatka, '52 (d)

### **Clyde P Straka**

brother of Veronica Straka Kucera, '53 (d)

### **Helen A Jisa**

sister of Sr Alma (Margaret) Janousek ND, '54

### **Gary D Brosch**

husband of Irene Pieper Brosch, '55

### **Marilyn H Ortmeier**

sister of Helen Uher Horn, '57 (d)

### **Joseph S Bellus**

husband of Dorothy Hansen Bellus, '60  
sister of Elizabeth Bellus Holstein, '70

### **Eugene J Galus**

husband of Catherine Kurtz Galus, '60

### **Jeff Galus**

son of Catherine Kurtz Galus, '60

### **Frank M Sapienza**

husband of Margaret "Peggy" Cullen Sapienza, '60

### **Jamie M McPherson**

son of Sharon McTaggart McPherson, '61 (d)

### **John D Scheibeler**

husband of Antonette "Toni" Kawa Scheibeler, '61

### **Rev Jonathan Williams, OFM Cap.**

brother of Maria (Jane) Williams Jones, '61  
brother of Susan Williams McGuire, '65

### **Cheryl Jean Conley**

daughter of Donna Wiater Meier, '62

### **Rev Robert F Preisinger**

brother of Sr Dolores Preisinger, RSM '62

### **Viola H Ramaekers**

sister of Donna Jean Hennes, '62 (d)

### **Kenneth W Sobczyk**

husband of Mary Irene Siepmann Sobczyk, '63

### **Margaret A Sacco**

sister of Judy Johnson Wingard, '62



# IN MEMORIAM RELATIVES OF ALUMNAE

**Helen Ponec-Beard**

sister of Kathryn Ponec-Ervin, '64

**Mary Belle Pokorny**

mother of Dr Marie E Pokorny, '64

**Thomas A Neumann**

brother of Sue Neumann Sixta, '65  
brother of Pat Neumann Tworek, '69

**Laura A Schaben**

mother of Patricia Schaben Putz, '65  
mother of Mary Joan "Jody" Schaben Garland, '67

**Martin P Hruby**

brother of Sr Cynthia Hruby ND, '66

**Dolores R Pacholski**

sister of Cynthia Pacholski Freer, '66

**Pat P Pavone**

husband of Mary Frances Burgr, "Stacey" Pavone, '66

**Michael D Stephens**

brother of Janine Stephens Penton, '67

**Victor W McAllister**

husband of JoAnn Crampton McAllister, '69 (d)

**Alan Boyle**

brother of Kathy Boyle Luedtke, '70  
brother of Patty Boyle Redding, '73 (d)

**John R Kool**

husband of Phyllis Swoboda Kool, '70

**Frank A Kudlacz**

brother of Kristeen Kudlacz Gleason, '70  
brother of Debra Kudlacz Carroll, Class of 1972

**Marie E Lucas**

mother of Mary Lucas Larsen, '70  
mother of Beth Lucas Cullison, '71  
mother of Joan Lucas Edmundson, '73  
mother of Ann Lucas Illgner, Class of 1974  
mother of Patti Lucas Swoboda, Class of 1976

**Lillian V Cuff**

mother of Sharlene Albrecht Kinder, '71  
mother of Patti Albrecht Johnson, Class of 1974

**Elizabeth A "Betty" Smith**

mother of Patricia A Smith, '71  
mother of Sue Smith Myers, '72  
mother of Barb Smith Peters, '74  
mother of Kathie Smith Sautter, Class of 1976

**Clementine Gurney**

mother of Debbie Gurney Slattery, '72  
mother of Teresa Gurney Robinson, '74

**Thomas J Troia**

husband of Debra Blessie Troia, '72

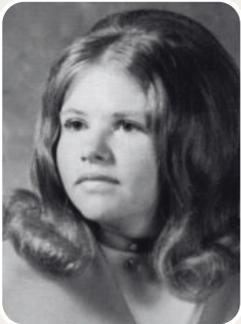
**Lorraine Lyon Fitzgerald**

mother of Gayle Fitzgerald Sturm, '73

**Henry A Scheibhofer Jr**

brother of Mary Scheibhofer Fry, '73

# CLASS OF 1973



## Cindy (Smith) Jensen '73

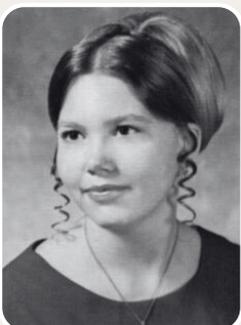
Embracing 49 years of marriage to my husband Mike, we've been blessed with the joy of raising two beautiful daughters. While our eldest was sadly taken from us by ovarian cancer in 2017 at the tender age of 32, our younger daughter's marriage and proximity have brought us even closer, allowing us to cherish many delightful shared moments.

In this chapter of our lives, both my husband and I are enjoying our retirement, finding endless activities to enjoy on our serene acreage.



## Diana (Luers) Bader '73

After graduating from NDA, I pursued 9 years of diverse education. I initially aimed to become a Park Ranger, then a PE teacher, before discovering my passion for medicine. I retired as a Physician Assistant after 36 years at VA Black Hills Health Care System and a local clinic. My home for 46 years has been in Hot Springs SD, where I embraced my interests: husband Larry, stepchildren, grandkids, and outdoor activities like skiing, boating, biking, and more. Active in my Catholic church, my faith in Jesus guided my successful journey, supported and guided by NDA's faculty.



## Mary Ann (Scheibelhofer) Fry '73

My husband of 49 years, Steve, and I have been in Utah for 31 years. We moved with our 2 kids, now grown with their own families. Our 7 grandkids (4 girls, 3 boys) bring us immense joy. I retired last year from paralegal work at Salt Lake Legal Defenders Office, learning much from dedicated attorneys. My Catholic faith aided my work. Now, I'm with family, church, Senior Center, sorority sisters, and my Bunco group. Though Utah's beautiful, Nebraska remains home. Cruises are our passion, eyeing an Alaskan one for our 50th anniversary. Our 50-year high school reunion approaches—can't believe time's passed!



## Patricia (Hill) Goodman '73

I've retired from teaching and now find joy in hiking, gardening, writing, and traveling. With 4 kids and 5 grandchildren (and more to come), life is quite fulfilling!

# CLASS OF 1973



## Janet (Gradoville) Schulz '73

Having graduated from Kearney State College in 1977 with a journalism degree, I initially moved to Imperial, Nebraska, joining the staff of the weekly newspaper, The Imperial Republican. What was meant to be a short stay turned into 46 years of commitment. I'm set to retire as Managing Editor on August 1st this year. Our newspaper achieved recognition, earning 19 Nebraska Press Association awards at the April convention. Among them, my photo of an early morning trailer court fire was selected as News Photo of the Year. After 44 years, I'm still happily married to Nick, and we're proud parents of 3 and grandparents of 5. In the community, I engage actively in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, having led the Parish Council of Catholic Women for 6 years and contributing time to our Catholic Social Service's thrift store.

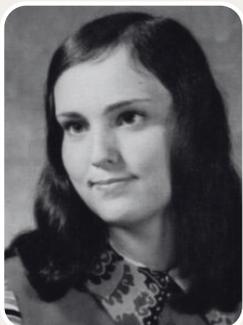


## Denise Smith '73

I'm a proud parent of five wonderful children, each a unique source of joy in my life's journey. While I cherish the memories of my beloved oldest daughter, Sunny, who left us four years ago due to an unknown heart condition in her sleep at the age of 37, I am grateful for the time we shared. I have three sons and one daughter, who all reside in Omaha. I am also a grandmother to ten beautiful grandchildren.

I am the secretary at St. Philip Neri Catholic School. After 31 years of marriage, I embraced a new chapter and divorced. Nevertheless, I continue to reside in the cherished house that holds my childhood memories, having taken ownership from my parents in the 80's.

I frequently encounter good friends from my high school days, an experience that brings warmth to my heart. While the passage of time has taken some dear friends away, I am grateful for those who remain in my life. My faith, a cornerstone, guides me through both joyous and challenging times, and I hold a special place in my heart for the Notre Dame Sisters, who have been a source of support and inspiration.



## Francine (Schulte) Buettner '73

I have been married to Jerry Buettner for 48 years, a Rummel High School alumnus. We share three children. One daughter is a Sister with the Marian Sisters in the Diocese of Lincoln. Our son, now married with a child, resides in Sioux Falls, SD. The third child, a daughter, is a single Omaha-based interior designer. Our children were raised and educated in Lincoln, NE's Catholic schools.

We own a summer lake home in Brainerd, MN. I fill my days with reading, quilting, kayaking, swimming, fishing, and walking.

For over 40 years, I've volunteered at our Lincoln Catholic Church in various roles. After a full-time career of 36 years, I am now enjoying a fulfilling retirement. I maintain cherished friendships with several of my Notre Dame classmates.

# CLASS OF 1973



**Catherine (Egan) Bedore '73**

I retired from teaching in 2019 and we moved from Tallahassee to Spring Hill, Florida. My husband Phil and I celebrated our 47th Anniversary in June. We enjoy traveling to new places and opportunities to be with our three sons and their families. We have five grandchildren between the ages of 4 and 17. It has been a pleasure to observe and experience their varied life interests and activities.



**Joan (Lucas) Edmundson '73**

I will be celebrating my 45th wedding anniversary this October with my husband Craig. We have two daughters who are both married, and we have six grandchildren. We all live in Omaha! The grandchildren keep us very busy, but we manage to get away now and then for some travel. We are both retired (I was a nurse and my husband worked in IT at Mutual of Omaha) and look forward to taking some more trips and to continue to spend time with family.



**Theresa (Polley) Bagley '73**

I married Bill Bagley in May of 1976. Bill was commissioned into the Marine Corps officer program one week later and off we went. After being stationed in 8 States including a 2-year tour in Okinawa we finally settled in North Carolina. We miss Nebraska but love North Carolina; however, we remain "Go Big Red" fans, forever!

We are blessed with 3 children, Angie, Matt (Lt. Col. USMC) and Chris. Most of our time is spent with our 3 grandchildren. I've worked as a manager in a real estate office for 30 years and will soon retire this December 2023. Bill has been retired since 2009.

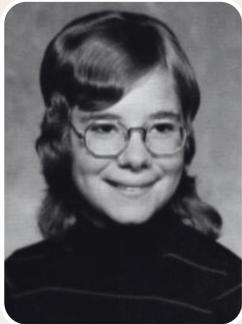
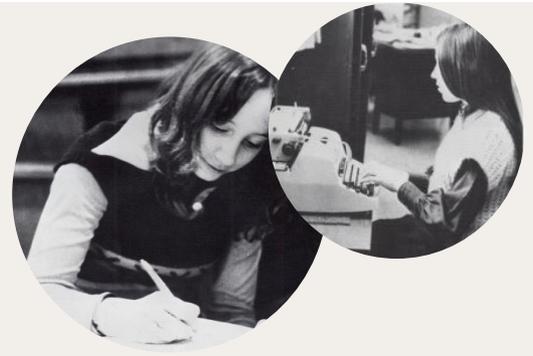


**Ceci (Cannon) Kiefer**

My husband and I have been married 43 years and have lived in the Green Bay, WI area for most of that time. I'm a nurse and he's a physician, now retired. We have three children and three, soon to be four grandchildren. We keep busy enjoying just about everything outdoors that the four seasons in Wisconsin offer. I volunteer for several organizations for the benefit of monarchs, native plants, and shoreline preservation.

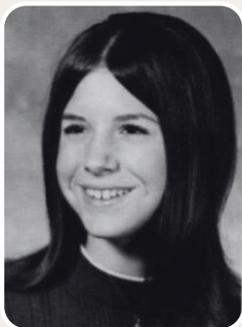
I've enjoyed reconnecting with several classmates recently and look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

# CLASS OF 1973



## Jody (Ballentine) Anderson '73

Married with children. I worked as an X-Ray tech at Immanuel Hospital until we moved to Lincoln and eventually Ankeny, Iowa in 1994. We had one kid in every "port". Our oldest, Lyndsey, lives in NYC. Our youngest, Nate, lives in Fort Collins, CO, and Ian lives in Ankeny. Most of our vacations were either soccer related or fishing in Northern Minnesota. My husband Rich and I are enjoying retirement and having our grandkids living in the area. We need to get on our traveling shoes, get our passports updated, and see more of the world while we are still "young".



## Carol (Homic) Neneman '73

Residing in Layton, UT, my husband Tom and I recently celebrated our 48th anniversary in August. Our family includes 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, with another expected in November. I continue to work full-time as a front desk administrator for an exceptional dentist. Actively engaged at Holy Family Catholic Church, I contribute to various roles like Parish Council, CCW, Eucharist Ministry, Homebound Ministry, Altar Society, and ushering. Tom is an Usher and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Our shared passions include travel, particularly to Montana and Southern Utah. Each day, I'm deeply grateful to God for blessing me with a wonderful family and good health.



## Deb (Mitzlaff) Koenen '73

What an honor to join the legacy of South Omaha Broads pursuing education at Notre Dame Academy for Young Christian Women in North Omaha. Some of us, like me, were subtly encouraged by the Notre Dame Sisters at St. Adalbert's Grade School in South Omaha. They not only guided our studies but also watched over our families from the old brick convent near the schoolyard.

After college, my diverse degree in advertising journalism and fine arts from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln led me to thought-provoking jobs - primarily in restaurants. Eventually, I found my niche in the Omaha Public Schools, serving as a graphic artist and later as a public information specialist, while also juggling restaurant work for additional income.

Balancing a career and duties as a cherished aunt to many nieces and nephews, I unexpectedly found love at 40 and married Bob Koenen. Becoming a "bonus mom" to his three daughters, we expanded our family with sons-in-law and grandchildren. After relocating to Iowa, we ventured into a unique vacation rental business. In 2021, grief struck as Bob, Wendy (Bob's oldest daughter), and Robbi (the mother of Bob's other two daughters) fell to glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), a rare form of terminal brain cancer. Since then, I've continued in Iowa, managing our business and cherishing family moments despite the challenges of loss.

# CLASS OF 1973



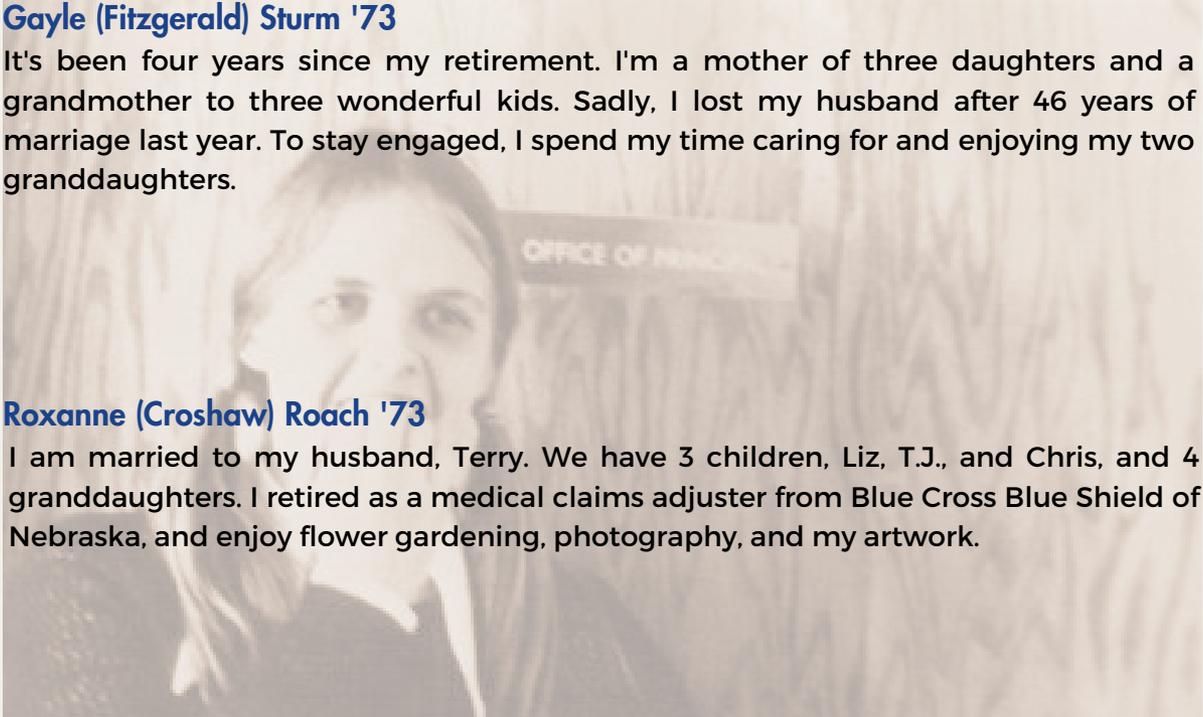
**Gayle (Fitzgerald) Sturm '73**

It's been four years since my retirement. I'm a mother of three daughters and a grandmother to three wonderful kids. Sadly, I lost my husband after 46 years of marriage last year. To stay engaged, I spend my time caring for and enjoying my two granddaughters.



**Roxanne (Croshaw) Roach '73**

I am married to my husband, Terry. We have 3 children, Liz, T.J., and Chris, and 4 granddaughters. I retired as a medical claims adjuster from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, and enjoy flower gardening, photography, and my artwork.



Happy 50th Reunion Class of 1973!



# CLASS OF 1968



## Jean (Bender) Lorenz

Significant transformations are unfolding. You might remember that my partner of almost 50 years passed away in January 2022. Presently, I'm in the midst of relocating to the opposite coast. Both my older son, his wife, and their baby, along with my younger son, are establishing their homes in the Portland area of Maine. Having spent over 45 of the last 50 years in Oregon, this change feels monumental, but the path has been set.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "HIGH SCHOOL IS MY YESTERDAY, LIFE IS MY TOMORROW." - ANONYMOUS

## Marilyn (Hanus) Haerr

Bob and I were married on June 10, 1972, at St. Richard's Church in Omaha. We hosted a celebration for our 50th wedding anniversary on June 12th in Terre Haute, Indiana. The occasion included a Renewal of Vows during a Mass led by my brother, Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB. Our loved ones joined us for a luncheon and Open House at the Red Barn at Sycamore Farm, followed by an evening barbecue at our farm. We were blessed to have our children Scott Haerr and Krisanne/Judd Curtis and our four grandchildren as well as my seven siblings/spouses and several nieces and nephews join us for the celebration.

Bob is set to retire as the Medical Director of the Hux Cancer Center in Terre Haute by the year's end. I look forward to continuing my volunteer work with our local hospital's Service League and our parish.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "WHAT I HAVE IS GOD'S GIFT TO ME; WHAT I DO WITH IT IS MY GIFT TO HIM."



## Joyce (Slizeski) Hanson

My husband and I have lived in the Notre Dame area for 35 years now. We have 5 children and 17 grandchildren.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "IT'S BETTER TO HAVE LOVED AND LOST THAN NEVER TO HAVE LOVED AT ALL."  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## Nancy McGinn

This October, I'm eagerly anticipating becoming a Great Grandma for the first time. The thought of having a baby to cuddle brings so much joy! Life is wonderful, but at this stage, I've realized how short it truly is!

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "THE FARTHER OFF, THE MORE DESIRED; THUS LOVERS TIE THEIR KNOTS."  
- HENRY HOWARD



# CLASS OF 1968



## Mary Lou (Melia) Brennan

Having spent my career in medical/surgical nursing and nursing informatics, I'm now relishing retirement. Tim, my husband of 50 years, is also retired. Our joy comes from our six grandchildren, spanning ages 8 to 20. Among them, we have a Mechanical Engineering student, an exceptional piano player, a talented singer, and three energetic grade schoolers. In gratitude, we praise the goodness of God.

For the past five years, I've been active with St. James Parish. I've connected with many through RCIA, forming friendships. My involvement extends to funeral luncheons and accompanying individuals to Medjugorje. Engaging in Bible Study, the Archdiocese's Mentorship Program, and the Return Program for reconnection with the Catholic Church, I find fulfillment in helping people. My joy comes from working alongside others.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "BUT LOVE CAN HOPE WHERE REASON WOULD DISPAIR." - ALEXANDER POPE

## Alice (Votrobek) Blazek

I've called Kingwood, Texas, a Houston suburb, home for 37 years. My career spanned 22 years with Humble ISD, where I contributed to the Library and Technology Departments. My grandchildren are spread across New York, California, and Texas, so I travel to spend time with them. Retirement brings me joy. I had the pleasure of visiting Omaha in April 2023 to connect with family. Regrettably, I won't be able to attend the reunion this year. Sending my best wishes to fellow Alumnae, and may God watch over those who have passed on. Blessings to all of you.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "IF YOU PILE UP ENOUGH TOMORROWS YOU'LL FIND YOU HAVE NOTHING BUT A LOT OF EMPTY YESTERDAYS." - ANONYMOUS



## Marilyn (Preiner) O'Donnell

Life is truly wonderful! Our days are enriched by our "Great 8" grandchildren, with 5 in Omaha and 3 in Kansas City. From sports events to school activities, our family finds joy in shared moments. Alongside this, I cherish traveling, gardening, quilting, and spending time with friends.

Jack and I are approaching our 52nd anniversary this October. Omaha is blessed to have my siblings Gloria Preiner Byers '66, Lois Preiner O'Callaghan '72, and Jim Preiner '69 from Rummel High School. Our bond remains strong, and we frequently gather. My time at Notre Dame holds a special place in my heart. The memories and experiences were some of the best.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "NOTHING IS LEFT BUT MAJESTIC MEMORY." - LONGFELLOW

# CLASS OF 1968



## Margaret (Harrington) Roberts

In May, my husband Jim and I marked our 52nd wedding anniversary. Our daughter Meghan and grandson Brody live two hours away in Woodstock, GA, north of Atlanta. Both retired, Jim and I relish traveling and our musical pursuits. We both sing in the JSU Civic Chorale, and I substitute at Church on piano and organ. In addition, Jim often plays a trombone solo for special occasions. I am involved on several nonprofit Boards and keep my hand in finance (the Diocesan Finance Committee and one at my parish). Despite Jim's ongoing treatments for Multiple Myeloma he is doing well, and we are enjoying life!

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "THE SOUL WOULD HAVE NO RAINBOW, HAD THE EYES NO TEARS."  
- ANONYMOUS

## Karen (Kisicki) Reynolds

My husband and I relocated to Florida in 2003, over 20 years ago now. Our family is spread across various states - 2 children in Florida, 1 in Arizona, 1 in Vegas, and 2 in Omaha. I experienced a hip fracture almost 2 years ago, following a challenging knee replacement, but I'm on the mend. We're content in central Florida, enjoying the small-town life of Lake Placid. My husband's a musician, performing at local clubs, so our social scene revolves around music. Many of our friends are musicians too, which makes for lively outings to see local bands.



**SENIOR QUOTE:** "OUR HORIZON IS NEVER QUITE AT OUR ELBOWS." - HENRY DAVID THOREAU



## Mary Sheila Ehrhart

My life update reaches back quite a while; however, I currently live at Woodridge Apartments in Millard. I attended a touching funeral service for our classmate Cheryl (Braniff) Desterhouse. Cheryl's friend of 66 years, Karen Hurd, also a NDA graduate, delivered a heartfelt reading, and family and friends gathered to honor Cheryl.

My early retirement revolved around taking charge of my mother's care, assisted by my sister Fran and her family. My mother passed away in 2019, and my father in 2005. My career centered around insurance and customer service. Currently, I keep busy by actively picking up litter all around, which I absolutely love. Walking my dog Dusty, is another cherished activity, given my deep appreciation for nature and animals.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP - AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP." - FROST

# CLASS OF 1963



## Shirley (Gredys) Riedmann

I live in Menomonie, WI near my son, Jason (48), and two grandsons, Tobey (22) and Xander (18), both at University Wisconsin - Stout in Menomonie. My volunteer activities include Mayo Hospice, St. Joseph Parish Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister, and a variety of Parish and community volunteer activities. It's hard to believe 60 years have passed since our high school graduation. My husband, Roger, has been gone 26 years this June. I am a Benedictine Oblate of St. Paul's Monastery, St. Paul, MN. I have a good life filled with family, friends, joy, and God. My time at Notre Dame is very cherished as are all the Sisters who contributed so much to my spiritual and personal life and achievements.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "SIMPLICITY IS THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS."

## Betty (Dogoda) Tokosh

I have been married for 49 years and have 4 children. My career journey encompassed roles at Hartford Insurance and Gordmans. In 2013, I transitioned from Omaha to Ashland, maintaining my connection to St. Adalbert's Parish. Currently, I'm actively engaged as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and server in the parish.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A STAR."



## Mary (Sramek) Levesque

My husband Bob and I celebrated our 50th anniversary this year. We have three grandchildren, all boys. In retirement, we keep busy with acting as tour guides at the SAC museum and the Czech museum. In addition, we help others with genealogy, especially Czech and French Canadian, and I teach a beginning Czech class. We are both active in the music ministry at our parish, St. Wenceslaus in Omaha.

**SENIOR QUOTE:** "PERFECTION IS THE LIFELONG PURSUIT OF EVERY TRUE ARTIST."



# CLASS OF 1948



**Betty Ann (Kenworthy) Munteann**

I really wish I could join you all, but unfortunately, I won't be able to make it to the 75th event. I'm grateful that I can still embrace "slow" and "sitting." My enjoyment now revolves around reading, knitting, crossword and jigsaw puzzles – all activities that don't require quick movement. To those attending, I wish you a wonderfully joyous time reuniting with old and dear friends. These moments are truly precious and should be treasured. Sending my best wishes to all the beloved Sisters who will be there. The young women who attended NDA were exceptionally fortunate; they received an outstanding education and had the opportunity to experience a genuinely dedicated religious daily life.

## 1970'S UPDATES



**Kathleen (Setlak) Wells '72**

My days are filled with caring for my beloved disabled husband, a role I embrace with love and devotion. Alongside this, I continue to run my mobile animal practice, HIS Healing Hands Pet Therapy, where I take a holistic approach to pet care. Another role I cherish is that of a religious education teacher, guiding 7 to 10-year-old children in their preparation for 1st Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Crafting is still a big part of my life, whether it's crocheting, knitting, or quilting. I'm even a proud Certified Yarn Craft Council of America Crochet Instructor. Retirement hasn't slowed me down; it's simply steered me in a new and exciting direction.



# 1970'S UPDATES



**LeAnne (Harris) Foster '71**

I've been fortunate to call Florida my home for 38 wonderful years. My husband Ken and I have found a peaceful haven in Dunedin, after having spent a fulfilling 29 years in Oldsmar. The winters here are a true delight, although the summers can be quite intense! With both of us retired, we've embraced the art of leisure and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. I have one daughter, Rachel, who is married to Tom. Together they have an absolutely adorable son, Lane, who is almost 3. Lane is on the autism spectrum, which brings its own unique dynamics, but it's a journey filled with growth and love.

**Kathy (Daley) Peterson '71**

I am retiring from UNO after being a teacher and principal for OPS. The education I received at NDA was instrumental in my career as an educator. Thanks for such a strong beginning. Looking forward to having extra time for family, friends, and three super cute grandkids!



**Elizabeth (Houser) Moffatt '70**

In our 30s, my husband Gary and I embarked on our first college experience, which included studies in Mexico where all classes were taught in Spanish. Our second degrees followed after the age of 65, unfortunately disrupted by Covid just one semester before graduation.

Our 50th wedding anniversary came, and we continue to move forward without losing momentum. We're genuinely curious about the years ahead and how many more we'll be fortunate to experience - our blessings have truly been abundant.

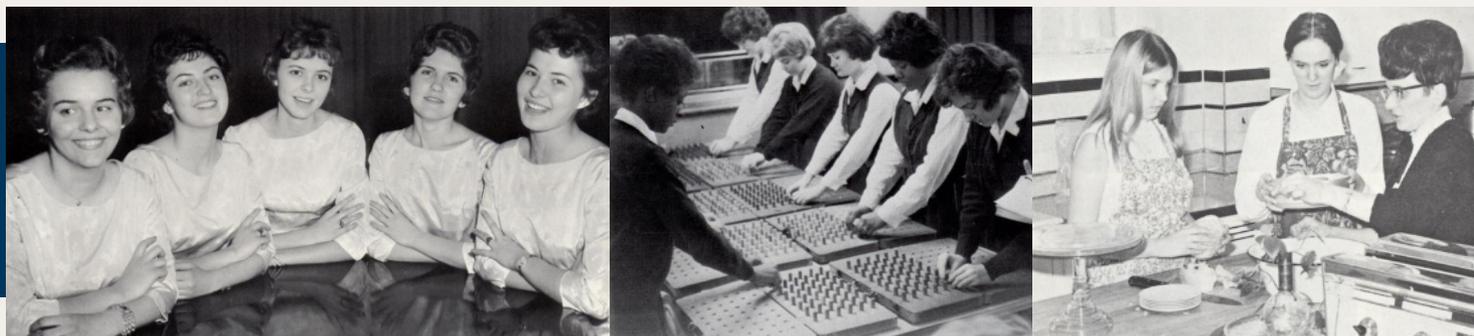
**Phyllis (Swoboda) Kool '70**

This year, my husband passed away after a 15-month-long journey with cancer. While his passing marks the end of a chapter, I am uplifted by the many positive memories we shared during our 44 years together. Throughout our journey, we felt the blessings of God guiding us, manifesting in various ways.

I find comfort in the fact that I am not alone during this time. Our youngest daughter and her family are with me, providing a strong support system that helps me cope remarkably well. Our family remains close-knit, with three children and five grandchildren already bringing us immense joy, and the anticipation of another grandchild due in November adds to the excitement of what lies ahead.



# 1960'S UPDATES



## Mary Ellen (Freberg) Hulstein '69

Having spent my career in medical/surgical nursing and nursing informatics, I'm now relishing retirement. Tim, my husband of 50 years, is also retired. Our joy comes from our six grandchildren, spanning ages 8 to 20. Among them, we have a Mechanical Engineering student, an exceptional piano player, a talented singer, and three energetic grade schoolers. In gratitude, we praise the goodness of God.

## June (Hanson) Morgan '67

I've been residing in Arizona since 1981, although this year's heat has been particularly intense. In 2021, I experienced the loss of my spouse. My children and grandchildren are scattered across the country. Remarkably, my mother, who is a true energizer bunny, is thriving at 96 years old and resides in Council Bluffs.

Retirement has brought me the gift of time. I'm fortunate to connect with a few classmates who have winter homes nearby, and our gatherings are always a joy.



## Janet (Tworek) Zych '66

My husband Bob and I are currently parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo church in Gretna, NE. We share 1 son and 3 daughters, along with 3 grandsons and eight granddaughters. Additionally, we're blessed to have a great-granddaughter who is 8 months old. During the winter, we enjoy the lovely weather in Arizona, which also allows us to explore new sights.

We have traveled to interesting places in the USA and also some countries in Europe such as Spain, Portugal and France. My goal was to see Norte Dame and I was not disappointed. We would like to perhaps visit Eastern Europe if time and health permit.

# 1960'S UPDATES CONTINUED

## Irene (Kridelbaugh) Ratliff '66

I had the incredible opportunity to embark on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land last December, a true privilege. During my time there, I faced a minor setback as I had a fall resulting in a broken wrist, but despite this, I continued to embrace the experience. It was an indescribable feeling to walk where Jesus once did.

This year I spent a couple of weeks with my son and his family in the breathtaking mountains of eastern Washington. In July my sister flew here from Oklahoma, and we drove down there where I stayed for the month. I was able to see all my siblings including my older brother in Wisconsin.



## Sheila (Jones) Johns '65

Recently I started teaching art to children through an organization that matches artists of all kinds with youth in the region, it is very rewarding and keeps me busy. Sacred Heart Church choir allows me to sing with them each week and for that I am very grateful. I serve on the liturgy committee there and volunteer at Mater Filius. I have two daughters; one owns a farm and B&B in eastern Iowa and the other is here in Omaha and works at Creighton University. I am blessed with six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, most of which I see frequently.



## Lois (Sindelar) Holloway '65

I am retired from a fulfilling nursing career. My life is enriched by three children and four grandchildren. While my husband passed away three years ago, I continue to cherish the memories we shared.



## Kathy (Feichtinger) Vogt '65

I have very fond memories of my years at NDA. I am currently living in Loveland, Co. I am retired after 45 years in the Insurance industry. I have one daughter who also lives in Colorado, 2 grandsons, and 5 great-grandchildren. I have few relatives back in Omaha so don't make the trip as often as I used to. God willing, I plan to attend the 60th reunion of the Class of 65. I keep in contact with several of my classmates.



# 1960'S UPDATES CONTINUED

## Sr. Stephanie (Catherine) Matcha '62

I'm fortunate to call the Notre Dame Sisters property my current home. While I've retired from my role at Siena Francis Shelter, I continue to volunteer there, extending my assistance to addressing the unmet needs of the homeless. Additionally, I lend my support to those residing at a home for the mentally ill in Omaha, as well as disabled veterans. I am also active in the Pro-Life Movement.

Outside of these endeavors, I take pleasure in attending the various Music and Art Festivals our city has to offer. Spending quality time with Sisters, family, and friends adds immense joy to my life.

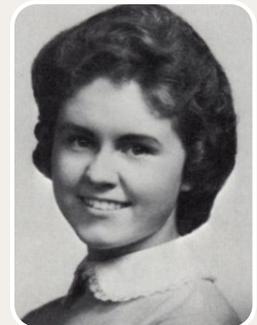


## Linda (Finken) Shanahan '62

I managed AAA offices and have been retired for two years. Although the adjustment from working long hours was "interesting," I am now enjoying the freedom. My husband Dave and I play a lot of golf, and I am trying to re-learn the piano. We enjoy attending daily mass in the beautiful chapel at St. Wenceslaus Church. A group of graduates from my class meet for lunch every couple of months, which is a great way to stay connected. Dave and I host Thanksgiving and Christmas each year, with around 20 of my family for Thanksgiving and 55 of Dave's family for Christmas! Thanks to the Notre Dame sisters for helping to shape who I am.

## Lois Ann (Schlautman) O'Gara '61

After graduating from St Catherine's School of nursing, I worked at Clarkson hospital, St Joseph hospital, and Midwest Endoscopy. I have been retired for almost 10 years. I have 3 daughters and son-in-law, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great-grands. I enjoy travel and am active in my parish here in Council Bluffs.



## Patricia (Harrington) Finn '60

I am excited for the Notre Dame Alumnae Reunion! We moved from Allentown, PA and have been living in Dayton, Ohio since 1986. I was married to Dennis Finn for nearly 54 wonderful years and was blessed to share life with him. I met Dennis at the 1959 Summer School of Catholic Action in Chicago. We married in 1965. We raised 4 children and were blessed with 12 grandchildren. Our life was full. Life is different without Dennis, but I'm in good health, able to travel and relish time with family and friends. Excited to attend the reunion with my sisters Margaret and Jane, making it extra special. Eager to see everyone there and celebrate together.

# 1950'S UPDATES



## Frances (Ingram) Ranck '59

Since 2017, I've been living life in Lincoln, NE. Though I lost my husband in 2018, I've stayed active engaging in my parish, St. Peter's, along with the Women's Welcoming Club, Magnificat, and the Lincoln Community Playhouse. Supporting my daughter and her family, who also reside in Lincoln, also fills my days. Throughout these years, my family has been supportive and helpful. Their presence has been a true blessing. I hope to hear from the other 1959 graduates. Blessings to everyone.



## Sr. Celeste (Genevieve) Wobeter '56

My life continues to unfold day by day, each one a new adventure! I spend some of my time as a hospice chaplain, engaging in part-time visits. Additionally, I serve on a couple of boards and committees, always ready to help out wherever and whenever needed. Amidst this bustling routine, I sometimes wonder if retirement might find its way into my plans someday - but for now, life is full of excitement and purpose!



## Mary Patricia (Mines) Henderson '55

In April, I faced a new challenge as I was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer. I courageously underwent a Lumpectomy and received 5 rounds of radiation. Supported by an abundance of prayers and love, I have full faith that I will come out of this stronger than ever.

Although I am a widow, my family continues to be my greatest joy. With 6 children, 4 of whom are married, along with 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren (and another one on the way!), my life is truly blessed.





*Alumnae*  
Notre Dame Academy

*Notre Dame Academy*

# SCHOOL SONG

THE SPIRIT OF THE WHITE AND BLUE,  
THE SPIRIT OF NOTRE DAME,  
IS HARM FOR NONE AND HELP FOR ALL,  
OUR PATRON'S GLORIOUS CLAIM.

INSPIRED BY FAITH AND LOYALTY,  
UNITED IN MARY'S NAME  
WE PLEDGE OUR HEARTS IN GRATEFUL LOVE  
TO YOU DEAR NOTRE DAME!