



FALL 2020

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ST. JOHN'S

EST. 1879

Opportunity





Stability. Comfort. Steadiness. Resolve. Faith.

We've made it work, but it could be better. Now it is. "Yes, go for it" was all this group needed to get to work.

MAKING IT WORK

For years, the soccer field has doubled as a path from the grade school leading to the high school. On sunny days it was fine. When it rained and snowed, the field became a swamp. Teachers would trudge their students the long way around, in between the church and Father's house. Everyone was soaked but mud-free. This alternate route turned icy during the winter months.

MAKING IT BETTER

While the school grounds were vacant in Spring 2020, administrators discerned it to be the proper time to get the ball rolling on these projects. At the same time, work was being done to remove a generations-old mobile classroom foundation just beneath ground-level on adjacent Cornerstone property. School administration approached these workers and Cornerstone to ask if they would consider adding to their workload. Resurfacing the field would prevent the flooding and installing concrete sidewalks would offer a safe path across the campus. With the players in place, it was approved by parish and school officials to get started.

And, it was with this same flavor of resolve, steadiness and faith in which a rather significant "face lift" was undertaken on the grounds of the school this past summer. This "project" originally got started more or less the morning of May 22 when Pat Ziegler began working his magic to remove the foundation (North across Court Street from the high school) of a many-years-past used mobile classroom. Pat initiated a "I wonder what would happen if we tried to do a little dirt work to enhance the overall view and landscape the complete grade school campus playground area?" Well, it went from there and an approach of, "Now that we are in the initial midst of this project, how can we take a more long-term approach to accomplish several long-needed projects?"

NEW AND IMPROVED

So it was with eager anticipation and a tremendous bear hug of an embrace St. John's began our first day of full-time, in-person classes on Thursday, August 20 – our **142nd** continuous year of providing Catholic education in Beloit. . . Students, teachers and parents were welcomed to safe, appealing, freshly enhanced and significantly larger playgrounds campus.

Now that school has begun, teachers and students can navigate safely (and mud-free) between schools. The land is ready for endless P.E. activities and recess games. Students on the playground, and the cars on Main Street are kept to their designated areas by the fence.

And finally, for any project of this magnitude to be initiated and work towards a fruitful conclusion, an "all hands on deck" mindset and willing spirit of cooperation was needed from many parishioners – from kids, dads/moms, as well as City officials. This occurred in spades! A big THANK YOU to all who donated their time, most especially Dennis Lutgen, Nelson Palen, Pat Ziegler, and Cornerstone for spearheading and coordinating the project. The spirit of stewardship is alive and well in Beloit. Local government, private businesses, families, and individuals offered their time, talent, and treasure. St. John's has recently experienced a flavor of the stability, comfort, steadiness, resolve, and faith of our ancestors.



The main moving pieces of the project:

- 1) Tear up and reseeding of now firmly established hearty buffalo grass on the grade school playground, a playground area that was literally tripled by including recently acquired adjacent lots by Cornerstone and now made available for school/parish usage. This revamping of the playground included eliminating all above-ground obstructions.
- 2) Installation of much-needed sidewalks, addressing a long-requested wish of the school!
- 3) Installation of a noble, dignified wrought iron fence bordering Main Street. As part of this process, gorgeous post rock pillars were interspersed.



Stability. Comfort. Steadiness. Resolve. Faith.

All adjectives which describe the hoped-for processes and path ahead – in light of the current circumstances.

Stability. Comfort. Steadiness. Resolve. Faith.

All adjectives which describe the collective group of individuals which have formed our Catholic community and school now for many generations.

Stability. Comfort. Steadiness. Resolve. Faith.

All characteristics as we seek to secure a more “right-side-upness” in this “upside down” world.





Starting a New Adventure



Reg and Jan Konrade raised their six children in Abilene, Kansas: Fr. Konrade, his four brothers and one sister. They attended St. Andrew's Catholic Grade School until 5th grade and Abilene Junior High and High School. Father attended Sterling College, Newman University, Benedictine College, and Conception Seminary; earning a Bachelor of Liberal Arts-Philosophy Degree. He earned a Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary).

Fr. Konrade has been especially involved with the youth and vocational discernment in the Diocese since becoming a priest in 2005. He worked with Totus Tuus Ministries, a summer program for youth that develops faith and prayer life.

Father also was involved with Prayer and Action in the Salina Diocese for a hand full of years. Following ordination, Father accepted the position of vocations director for the Salina Diocese. He had the opportunity to travel across the diocese talking to young men about discerning the call to the priesthood.

From July 2015 to July 2020, Fr. Konrade was pastor at St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church in Hays, Kansas. St. John's has been blessed to have Father here since the first of July. He is very active in the Beloit community and can often be seen spending time with the students, whether that be in the classroom or on the playground, attending sporting events, visiting with families after Mass, or even participating in the Sunday evening Ultimate Frisbee game.

Father's thoughts on moving to Beloit...

"It's amazing that 18 years ago I came to Beloit after my first year of Theology Seminary on summer assignment, not really knowing anyone, and also not 100% sure I was sold on the whole priest thing. It would be two summers and a spring in Beloit that really helped affirm and solidify my vocation as a future priest of the Diocese of Salina. I gotta be honest, now, 18 years later, it feels like I'm coming home! Don't get me wrong, I'm really nervous, but terribly excited to start a new adventure with St. John the Baptist and Ss Peter. and Paul parish communities!"

Please join us in celebrating Fr. Konrade's Pastor Installation at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, October 25th. Bishop Vincke will be the celebrant.



Eucharistic procession around the St. John's campus at the beginning of school.



Bishop Vincke, Fr. Konrade, and Fr. Augustine celebrated mass at the school and afterwards were caught testing their athletic skills during a competitive 4th grade football game.



Father's competitive side comes out on Sunday evenings while playing a game of "old mans" ultimate frisbee.



MIDDLE OF SOMEWHERE

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND SEE WHAT BELOIT HAS TO OFFER

Does it just seem as though things we once thought were “right side up” have been turned “upside down?”

Do we just yearn for “things maybe a wee bit more as ‘they used to be’” – on many fronts?

Is there a craving for a slower pace, a more leisurely daily regimen for our family?

Well . . . Right here, in the heart of what most would call “the middle of nowhere,” possibly there is a community where:

- Daily occurrences still seem to be anchored “right side up”. . .
- Folks tend to have a simple “lunch pail”, yet enterprising and entrepreneurial work ethic . . .
- There is just a plethora of prime hunting and fishing opportunities . . .
- A flourishing and traditional pre K – 12 Catholic school, faithful to the Magisterium . . .
- An abundance of employment or independent and remote employment work endeavors based on merit . . .
- There exists an economically resourceful standard of living . . .





"We started the season with high expectations and tough opponents. Although we would like to have gotten victories the first two weeks we came up short but learned from those defeats. We're looking to finish the season strong and contend for the district championship and playoffs."

- Coach Dean Gengler

Even with limited number of fans at the fall sporting events, all of our teams have come ready to compete!



Congratulations goes out to the Homecoming King Timmy Greenwood and Queen Lauren Schmitt, along with their court!



We started the season out strong with an 8-0 record. We had some injuries, but have found our way back. Looking forward to finishing the season strong and our sub-state looks promising!

- Coaches Jason Carr & Stacy Perez



The 2020 cross country season is off to a good start. The Blujay boys and girls have competed in three meets and have brought home nine individual medals and one team trophy. The boys team consists of Caleb Eilert (Sr), Joe Knappert (Jr), Sergio Lopez (So) and Andy Prather (Fr). The girls are Elizabeth Meyer (Sr), Gemma Clark (Jr), Jane Letourneau (So) and Emma Mick (Fr). We are looking forward to a full schedule this fall with lots of good competition.

- Coach Ben Letourneau



Strength for the Journey

The St. John's High School boys and girls attended retreats on different days at Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, Kansas.

The girls' retreat was guided by two Marian Sisters, Sr. Serena and Sr. Amy Marie. Fr. Konrade presided over Mass and made available the sacrament of Reconciliation. The day consisted of spiritual exercises, games, adoration, and marveling at the beauty of God's creation. Fr. Andrew Rockers offered Adoration as well as the sacrament of Reconciliation. A perfect day!

The boys' retreat was led by Fr. Andy Hammeke and several college students from the Catholic campus center at Fort Hays State University. The boys participated in talks from speakers on topics related to being a man of God and exemplifying such in our current world. Other topics included practical discussions on the dignity and sacredness of women, how pornography destroys, and living your life in sacrifice for others.

The event was loaded with great food, spiritual discussions, and masculine activities such as gun shooting and ax throwing. Bishop Vincke, Fr. Konrade and Fr. Augustine joined in the various events and facilitated Confession and Adoration.



On September 9th, internationally renowned Catholic author and speaker, Jason Evert made a presentation to the St. John's 7th-12th grades. He founded Totus Tuus Press and The Chastity Project, an organization that promotes chastity primarily to high school and college students.

Find the complete talk on the St. John's Facebook page



"When a man loves a woman, he has to become worthy of her. The higher her virtue, the more noble her character, the more devoted she is to truth, justice, and goodness, the more a man has to aspire to be worthy of her."

— Jason Evert, *How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul*



Class of 2020



Brandon Bates
Kansas State University
Secondary Education-Social Studies



Braden Dameron
Kansas State University
Engineering



Emily Eilert
Kansas State University
Elementary Education



Landon Eilert
Hutch Community College
Media Production and Digital Communication



Lydia Eilert
North Central Kansas
Technical College
Nursing



Jacob Gengler
Kansas National Guard
Employment in Criminal Justice



Sarah Gunderson
Wichita State University
Nursing



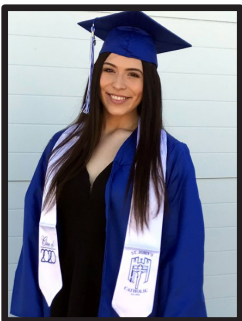
Brady Palen
Wichita State University
Economics



Bren Peters
Fort Hays State University
Agriculture Business



Jadyn Rosebaugh
Kansas State University
Business



Caitlin Strong
Northwest Oklahoma State
University
Nursing



Elizabeth Witt
Cloud County Community
College
Nursing



Benjamin Walter
Benedictine College
Philosophy

As students across America experienced an unexpected ending to their school year, so did these seniors. This abrupt ending did not stop them from finishing strong! Unable to have prom, spring sports, awards banquets, and much more, the seniors spent their time finishing with online classes, compiling scholarships, and breaking school records.

Graduation was rescheduled for July 19th with Father Konrade and Bishop Vincke as celebrants.



Brandon Bates had his sights set on the 800m school record before the track season was cancelled. Yet, he trained all season, ran several time trials, and broke the record the day he would have competed at State Track in Wichita. His 1:59.42 eclipsed a 56-year-old (1964) St. John's record of 2:00.1.



Welcome Home!

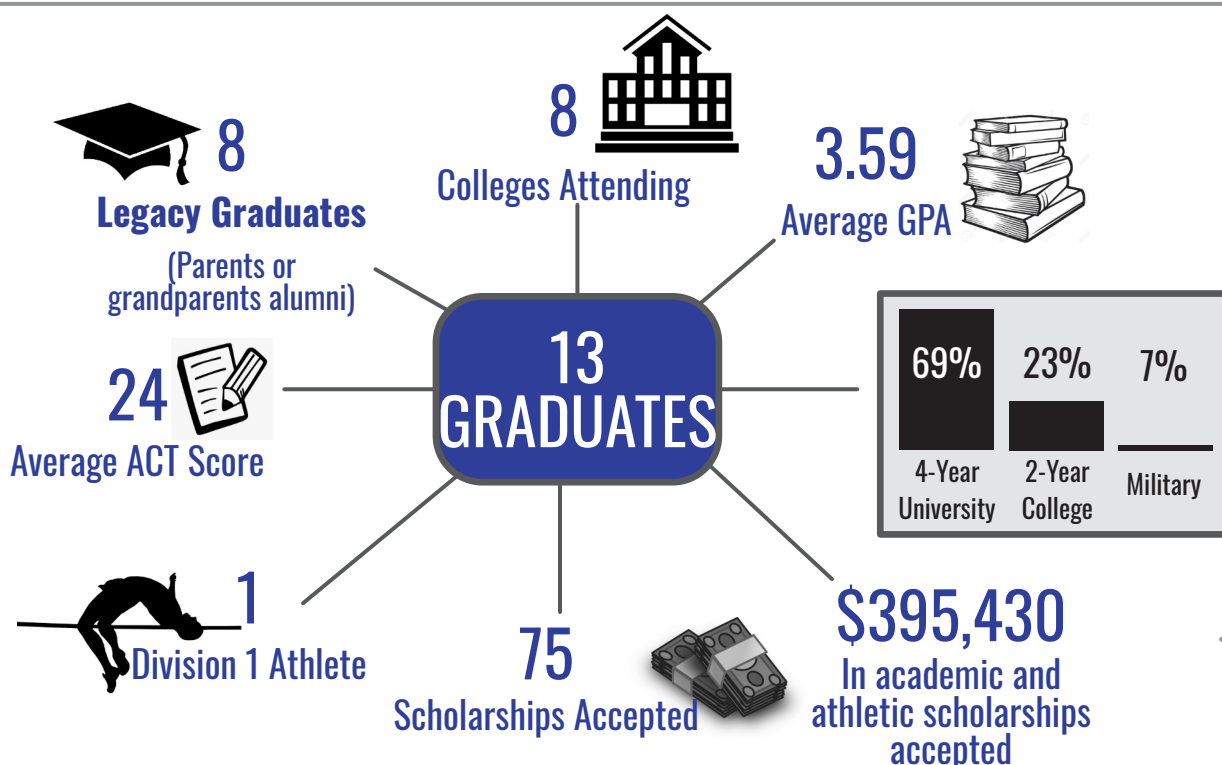
Jon and Laura (Brunner, Class of '97) Konrade, and their 4 boys Kolbe-9, Joseph-8, Jacob-6, and Owen-4 moved to Beloit this summer from Thornton, Colorado. Laura graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in Journalism and she received her Masters in Elementary Education from California Lutheran University. Jon graduated from Benedictine with a degree in Theology/Youth Ministry and received his Masters in Catechesis and Evangelization from Augustine Institute. Jon is currently the Director of Religious Education at St. John's and Laura is the High School English proctor.

"Prior to moving to Beloit, we lived in a suburb north of Denver. Although we enjoyed having access to museums, the zoo, professional sporting events, etc., we felt that our boys would benefit greatly from growing up in a small-town setting. Back in Colorado, thinking about the future of our boys might have been filled with a little fear. Now, after working with the high school students at St. John's, we actually look forward to their teen years and feel much more optimistic about the future.

We had considered moving back to Beloit multiple times in the past and were drawn to small town life for several reasons. We desired a safer environment to raise our boys and wanted them to have more freedom. For Jon and I, we were hoping for more intentional relationships and more frequent visits to and from our families in Kansas. A few things really led us to seriously think about making the move this summer including Jon's brother being assigned as pastor here at St. John's and my parent's selling my childhood home.

Everyone has been so welcoming to our family. The crew that gathered to help us move in when we arrived was beyond impressive and we had many families in the community provide meals, etc. These things definitely made the transition go more smoothly. It has been a joy to be reunited with many people that I knew when I was growing up here in Beloit. We have also really enjoyed getting to know many of the new families that have moved to Beloit in more recent years. The strong Catholic community that has grown here is wonderful to be a part of.


Overall, the transition has gone well. The boys are loving the "country life" as they call it, and we have found such peace and security living here in Beloit. We are definitely enjoying being closer to family."




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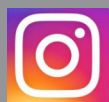
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world to survive without the
sun than to do without the
Holy Mass."**

-St. Padre Pio