



Ledger Pick-Axe

November 2021 Edition



SPORTS NEWS

Girls' Sports Come to a Close

By: Amelia Brinkley, Sophie Vande Slunt, and Lauren Liethen

Volleyball

St Mary Springs was fortunate enough to get everyone's fall sports season in and completed, unlike last year, when many sports were postponed due to COVID-19. Three senior participants from completed fall sports shared highlights from their seasons: Isabelle Coon, Grace Meyer, and Dolce Rusniaczek.



Isabelle Coon has been on the St. Mary Springs volleyball team her entire middle and high school career. She joined the varsity team as a freshman, and has had a very successful career ever since. At the beginning of the season, the team struggled with low numbers, but it ended up working out, since they became very close with each other. One of her favorite memories was going to state her junior year (2020-2021) against Washburn, as she felt it was an honor to represent Springs and the community at that level. Her advice for all the freshmen who are just joining their sport: "cherish every moment, because it goes by so fast." Isabelle will be playing next year at the University of Mount Olive in North Carolina.



From front: Dolce Rusniaczek, Amelia Brinkley, Sam Ramirez

Cross Country

Dolce Rusniaczek has been a part of the St. Mary's Springs cross country team since her freshman year. She has run varsity all four years and was awarded the title of captain her senior year. When asked about her favorite memories, Dolce asserted that the entirety of her senior year falls under that category. The 2021 team, she said, was the best one yet and gave her the best senior season she could have asked for. However, this doesn't mean there were no challenges. In the middle of the season, Dolce faced a quad injury, a key training point for cross country. She shared that she struggled with regaining her strength and positive mindset during recovery. Dolce's advice to any incoming freshman in the cross country: "always give it your all, in both practices and meets." Dolce will not be continuing her running competitively in college, but will keep running simply for exercise and fun.

Tennis

Grace Meyer has been a part of the St. Mary's Springs Academy tennis team for three years. Her freshman year she played for the Fondy tennis team, and then played Sophomore through Senior year for Springs. Grace says that she will miss the bonds she made with her teammates and jamming out before matches. She loved the practices, especially standing in line and talking with her teammates. One of the biggest challenges that Grace faced this year was switching from singles to doubles. It was hard for her to find the right person with the right chemistry. Grace Meyer plans on playing club in the future and also playing for fun as she keeps growing in age.



From left: Amelia Schiek, Grace Meyer

UPCOMING WINTER SPORTS:

- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Basketball
- Wrestling
- Dance
- Hockey

LET'S TALK FAITH

New SMSA Chaplain

By: Lauren Cobb and Hailey Hoffmann



Father Justin Weber

Last July, Father Justin Weber joined Holy Family Parish Community in Fond du Lac, replacing Father John Lococo, who was appointed as vocations director for the Milwaukee Archdiocese. As the newest member of SMSA's Campus Ministry, Father Justin is the official Liaison Pastor and Chaplain for the entire school system, with responsibilities ranging from offering Mass and Reconciliation to visiting classrooms and assisting with faith formation.

When asked what made him realize that he wanted to become a priest, he shared that the summer before his senior year of college, he had a small thought about the priesthood. Even in third grade, he had thought about entering the priesthood. However, Father Justin ignored that thought and kept pursuing a career in meteorology. Finally, upon graduating from college, he decided to meet with a priest and was spiritually guided to pursue the priesthood. After the rigorous journey through seminary, Father Justin began to work at Holy Family. He immediately was at ease in his new assignment, because he had grown up in a small town similar to our church community: he noted that everyone was friendly and gave him a warm welcome.

The hard hitting questions were approached next, being what is the best and worst part of being a priest. On a

good note, the best part of being in the priesthood for him is living on the edge of what is tangible and invisible. The mystery of our God and the world exhilarates him. He experiences the mystery of our faith on a daily basis. (See Father Justin for a more in depth explanation.) As for the worst part of being a priest in Father Justin's opinion: people unwilling to have an intellectual conversation about the faith. He would rather discuss with someone with religious differences than with someone who is not willing to engage. A priest is not able to operate this way, because he is unable to evangelize and share the Catholic faith.

Father Justin revealed that his favorite books from the Old and New Testaments were Psalms, because they are good for prayer and were prayed by Jesus; and, the gospel of John, because it portrays the life of Jesus in a beautiful way.

Finally, when asked about his favorite subject in school, Father shared that it was AP Physics: apparently, he and Mr. Allen would have been good friends! This subject fascinated him because it helped him to see a potential career in the science field.

Neither of the reporters conducting the interview would be able to agree with this sentiment.

Sorry Mr. Allen!

"Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever."

Psalms 111: 2-3

What Is Vocations Week, And Why Do We Celebrate It?

By: Reese Neumann

Every Friday, the students at St. Mary's Springs Academy High School have the opportunity to attend a morning Mass, which is celebrated by the school's chaplain, Father Justin Weber. His presence brings joy to the Ledgers, and all of the students address

him as "Father Justin." This title is due to his position as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. He did not become a priest overnight though, it took a lot of time and prayers of discernment. Discernment is a key part of Vocations Week, because it is the way people can figure out what vocation to which God is calling them.

The four vocations of the Catholic Church are priesthood, religious life, consecrated single life, and marriage. One does not simply wake up one day and decide to be a priest or religious sister, a consecrated single, or get married. Father Justin, for example, did not just walk into a Church and celebrate Mass. In fact, Father Justin wanted to be a meteorologist from an early age. Obviously, he is not a weatherman, although he would probably be amazing at it. This was not an act of his will, but rather the will of God.



Although the priesthood is a very honorable lifestyle, it is not meant for everyone. Women cannot become priests, and not every single male is supposed to be a priest. God blessed everyone with specific vocations that he/she is supposed to discern through prayer. Being a priest or religious sister does not make one less holy, nor does it guarantee a reservation in Heaven. Whatever God's vocation for each individual person is will be the way God wishes for him/her to live. Vocations Week is definitely a great time to pray about God's plans for you; but, everyone should say prayers of discernment throughout the entire year.

LET'S TALK CAREERS

Digging Into Dentistry

By: Teresa Brunette

Dentistry is a very popular career, especially in Wisconsin, but it is not quite as perfect as it seems. One challenge that Dr. Tim Twohig had was getting into medical school in the first place. According to studies, of nearly 2,500 applicants, only about 100 are admitted, an average of four percent. Another challenge present according to Dr. Catherine McGalloway is the need to have many strengths which include, but are not limited to, being a good leader, being intellectual, having good fine motor skills, and being able to talk to people. Dr. McGalloway stated that the skill of talking to people is the most overlooked one that people should have.



Dr. Timothy Twohig

As in any career, there are sacrifices that are present. Dr. Twohig claimed that he didn't have many for his career, but he did live frugally and made it work. Dr. McGalloway had a different opinion: she asserted that dental school was a sacrifice. Between studying, having no free time, and having no social life, she said that dental school was a significant struggle in the path toward a career in the field of dentistry.

On a more positive note, there are many things to love about the career. Dr. Twohig explained that the ongoing challenge is one of the best parts, as well as learning about new and updated trends in the field of dentistry: this, he said, is one of his favorite



Dr. Catherine McGalloway
things about his career.

However, one of the best aspects for both dentists is establishing and building relationships with their patients.

You might guess that all people have a favorite time in their career process and journey; for example, attending college or beginning a new, exciting opportunity. However, in the case of both Dr. McGalloway and Dr. Twohig, that is not the case.

Dr. McGalloway said that starting as a young dentist was a good time, with plenty of learning; but, she also likes the confidence that comes with having more experience over time. Her advice is simple yet wise: you don't choose a career for school, because dental school is very difficult. Choose a career that you can see yourself in.

As for Dr. Twohig, he believes that the dental career is a journey, and there is no one favorite point, but rather, each has its own challenges and rewards along the way.

Mentors who guide and provide a positive example are key in careers, as well as in life. For Dr. McGalloway, her mentor was her dad, Dr. Twohig. She grew up with dentistry her whole life, whether it was going to dental conventions or just being at his dental office. She noted that her dad was always her biggest fan and her role model, which is very important for mentors to be.

Dr. Twohig's mentor is Dr. LD Pankey, a dentist from Florida who started a small institute for dentists to learn more about various aspects and

techniques for dental work. Dr. Twohig learned to do above-average work, treat people well, and be the best you can be, which is an important motto for all careers.

But what about aspiring dentists? Christian McGalloway, a graduate of St. Mary's Springs Academy High School, is currently interviewing for several different dental schools. According to Christian, anatomy and chemistry classes were very beneficial for him, as they helped to bridge the gap between high school and college. Christian's mentors have been his mom, Dr. McGalloway, and grandfather, Dr. Twohig.

Growing up in a dental office around all things dentistry sparked his curiosity and led him to pursue an education and career in the "family business." One thing that he is looking forward to in his career is being able to do surgery with minimal damage to a patient. In addition, he hopes to establish and build trust in his patients as they face difficult decisions regarding their care or procedures.

Some advice from Dr. Twohig if you are considering a career in dentistry is to spend time in a dental office as early as you can to make sure that it is for you, and that you will love it. In addition, get into a good college where you know you can get good grades and find a good mentor. Finding a good mentor is vital to dentistry, because you will be able to learn not merely from textbooks, but from a supportive professional in the industry. Finally, dentistry is a very rewarding career, but it has its challenges, so think a lot about what you want.



Christian McGalloway

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

“Catching” Up with Mr. Zimmer

By: Samantha Fouch and Klaudia Sullivan

Q: Were you always planning on being a teacher?

A: I started to watch my teachers in sixth or seventh grade, and I started to watch what they did. That was the first time I thought I would really like to do this, because I wasn't always learning what I was supposed to know, but I was learning different styles of teaching.



Q: Were you always a good student?

A: Not always no. Surprisingly, I was particularly bad at chemistry. I was lost most of the time, and that is why I am so good at helping students get unlost, because I was in their exact situation.



Q: What advice would you give to high school students?

A: They have to learn to ask questions and what it means to study. I would also say to try to keep up. Cramming the night before, while better than nothing, is not as effective as just looking at the material five minutes on the day that you learn it.

Q: What do you like to be in your free time?

A: I love to fish and make maple syrup. My hobbies are very seasonal; however, once school is in session, I don't have much free time.

Q: If you were in a talent show, what would your talent be?

A: I don't really have any talents; however, I do cantor at my church in West Bend.

Q: If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?

A: The first thing I would probably do is pay off the student loans for my kids. I would also like to put money into places like Springs and the University of Mary, because I like Catholic institutions that serve young people.

Q: Who are your favorite celebrities/singers?

A: The singers I like are really old, so someone like Roger Hodgson.



Favorite quote: Love people, use things.

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