

**Bethlehem Catholic High School
Class of 1970 Alumni Newsletter**

July 2018

Celeste's mom was honored on the 80th Anniversary of her graduation

Patricia D'Orsi Casciano '38, was honored at this year's baccalaureate mass for her milestone of graduating 80 years ago. The school held a reception for her and the class of '68. Celeste accompanied her during the celebration. She still had her yearbook and offered it to the school. Patricia is very proud to have attended Becahi and still remembers things about her time there. She will be 98 in August and lives with Celeste and her husband in Lehigh, PA. Celeste said it was a wonderful gesture given to her mom by Holly DeNofa and Connie Druckenmiller. Thanks Holly and Connie.

40 Plus 32 from '58 = 60 Years

Forty members from the Class of '58 reunited to celebrate their 60th Anniversary Reunion at a luncheon at Prime Steak House in Bethlehem on May 19th. Almost half of the class attended the afternoon get-together! Francis Almer gave the toast and Joan Balik read the names of their 32 deceased classmates.

12 From '68 = 50 in 2018

Twelve members from the Class of '68 celebrated their 50th Anniversary at Becahi's recent 2018 Baccalaureate Mass. The scholars from the class, who attended a Social before AND after the service, include...

Rich Baran
Mary Ellen Bush
Sheila Dugan Clark

Katie Edwards
Frances Fatebene Emig
Dave Griffith
Rich and Karen
(Shamenek) Metzger

Gloria Mease Moyer
Patty Potak Mitchell
Donna Ressler Tylanda

188 Graduate in 2018

A total of 188 seniors moved on to the next stages of their lives and graduated early last month at the ceremony held in the auditorium. Of those grads, 151 plan to attend a four-year educational institution and 34 are headed to pursue a two-year course of study. BTW, you can still view the Baccalaureate and Graduation via YouTube on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bethlehem+catholic

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Back in 1970 ...

There were 263 seniors who graduated from our class, and we headed off to employment, to the armed services, and to both 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher learning. Over the years, some of us reconnected and updated each other on their life's journey. In addition, between 1977 and 1980 I was fortunate to serve as a guidance counselor at Beca...and did some research on many graduates. I have some figures I thought you'd find interesting, and realize that although it's an incomplete picture, it's definitely a fascinating one.

So, I can write that "at least" ...

- 6 of us studied at various hospital schools of nursing, like Sacred Heart, St. Agnes, St. Joseph's and St. Luke's
- 7 of us joined the armed forces; Air Force, Army, and the Marines
- 39 enrolled in 2-year programs at such places like Bethlehem Business School, Computer Education Institute, Electronic Computer Programming School, Lehigh County Community College, and Northampton County Area Community College "NCACC".
 - and many continued their educational pursuits at 4-year colleges and universities
- 114 of us enrolled in 47 different public and private colleges and universities
 - and 17 continued on to earn 22 graduate degrees

I look forward to our next reunion so we can fill in the missing pieces along the way!

Most Family Names from 1950 – 1999, Relatively Speaking

Sometimes you read the last name of someone in the paper and wonder if that person went to Beca. Don't you? "Looks like a Becahi grad's name." Anyway, some of our last names are among the most frequent last names of graduates of the 50 years between 1950 – 1999. Did you know there were 37 Ortweins, 34 Horvaths, 32 Gallaghers, 26 Cunninghams, 21 Demyans, 20 Lynchs and 20 Doughertys who graduated from Beca during that time?

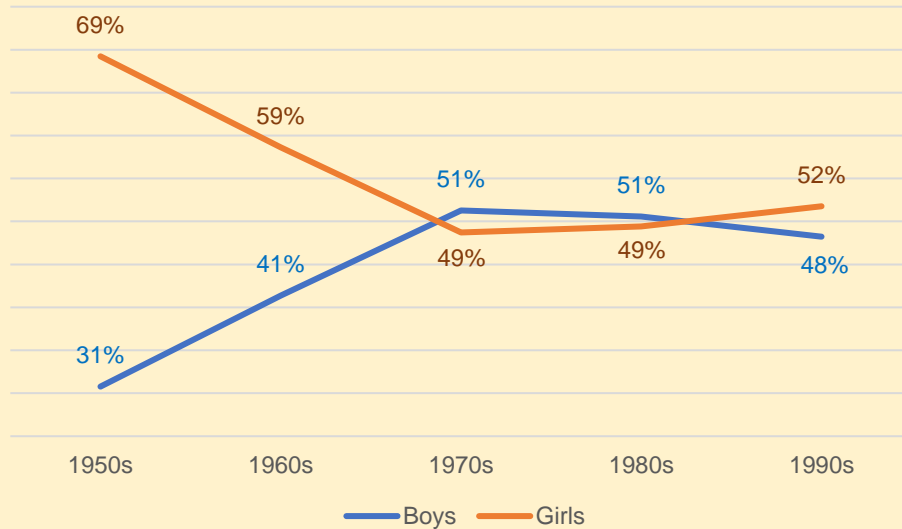
Can you guess the other 4 last names that occurred at least 20 times during that period? Hint: Last names are scrambled below...

37 HTSMI 25 LYELK 25 NATRIM 20 ELODNOLN'

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Another interesting observation...

Between 1950 and 1999 (50 years), approximately 8,463 scholars graduated from Beca! Overall, the girls outnumbered the boys, 53% to 47%... here are the differences by decade:



Graduates by the numbers...

	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	Totals
Boys	261	613	1,162	1,024	889	3,949
Girls	587	868	1,104	1,001	954	4,514
Total	848	1,481	2,266	2,025	1,843	8,463

**“Fides et Scientia” Award for 2018 goes to...
Maureen McGonigle Thorley ‘74**

The “Fides et Scientia” Award was established in 1995 and is presented annually to a person or persons who have given at least 10 years of dedicated service to the Bethlehem Catholic community. Recipients of this award are those who live their lives in a manner that exemplifies Christian values, dedication, loyalty and service to Bethlehem Catholic.

Maureen McGonigle Thorley ‘74 was chosen as the 2018 award recipient on June 5th. Maureen, who earned a BS in Math from Cedar Crest College and a MS in Math from Penn State University, has been a teacher in the Diocese for about 30 years, most which was spent at Notre Dame Elementary School in Bethlehem. Maureen is an active

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parishioner at Notre Dame – she runs the parish Soup Supper during Lent, she's the charter representative for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and she's the liturgical coordinator for the school. All four of her kids went to Notre Dame and Beca...

- **Michael Thorley '07**, earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Drexel University and is now a Project Engineer for Intertek in York, PA.
- **Alyssa Thorley '09**, who earned a BS in Math and Theology from the University of Scranton, is now known as Sister John Paul with the Sisters of Christian Charity and teaches calculus and geometry at Moore's Catholic High School in New Jersey.
- **Lauren Thorley '10**, who received a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Scranton, now teaches the 4th graders at Notre Dame Elementary School in Bethlehem.
- **Paul Thorley '12**, who received a BS in Chemistry from Mount St. Mary's University, is back at Beca teaching chemistry. Paul had spent a year serving with Beaches Habitat for Humanity as a construction crew leader as an AmeriCorps member building low income homes for families in the Jacksonville, FL area.

Congratulations Maureen!

A Short Story

Try to remember back in the late sixties when we (the boys) were taught by the Holy Cross Brothers. In freshmen year, 1966-67, some of us were taught by Brother Robert Short, C.S.C. I recently reached out to him to catch up on his life's journey, and the following are excerpts from his reply...

"What a nice surprise to hear from you. The Beca High experience seems both far away and close on any given day. I've often hoped to get back for a visit but that hasn't yet happened... Here are a few biographical highlights... I'll use bullets to keep it in a, hopefully, semi readable form:

- *Holy Cross - the experience with/in the Brothers was a wonderfully positive and formative time in my life. I left in my late twenties and a few years later married Shirley Mendes, my wife of now more than 40 years*
- *Our oldest child, Alyssa, came along a little over a year later. When she was just 4 months old, we left to join Maryknoll in Ossining, NY for four months of training and then on to Cochabamba, Bolivia where we lived and worked for 3 years.*
- *Since that time, apart for working in a Boston based Catholic healthcare system for about 10 years, I've been with Maryknoll in different capacities of leadership, formation and overseas mission - This time with two of our children to a poor barrio on the outskirts of Quito, Ecuador.*

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- *Presently, I'm the Executive Coordinator of the Maryknoll Affiliates. The Affiliates are one of four branches within the Maryknoll family (Priests/Brothers, Sisters, Lay Missioners and Affiliates) and have almost 50 chapters throughout the world - 32 of them in the U.S. Maryknoll's Global vision and commitment to the poor and disenfranchised grabbed from the beginning and have stayed with me.*
- *Shirley and I have three children...and are now living in southeastern CT.*

So, John, that's a skim along the surface view of my life since being at Bethlehem Catholic. While I'm sure a great deal has changed in and around the School, I'm guessing that the essence of what is most important has remained. It was a brief stay for me as a young Brother but I'm very grateful for that time in my life."

Reminder: The Class of 1978 is planning their 40th Reunion on...

...Saturday, October 27th at the Steel Club from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Contact Sally Kammetler for more information sallykamm@gmail.com

Class of 1998 plans set for their Reunion...

The 20-Year Reunion for the class of '98 is set for September 22, at the Tavern at the Sun Inn in downtown Bethlehem. There will be a cash bar and appetizers will be available. The price is \$20.00 (that's only a buck a year!) and the link to sign up is... <https://bethlehemcatholic98.myevent.com/>

"Wanna go to Bermuda next April?" asked an Angel.

The second annual alumni cruise sets sail from New York City next April 28, 2019. Angel Rivera '71, has provided an attached flyer for your reading pleasure and planning for this 7-Day Bermuda from New York escape.

I read in the paper that:

Ron Semanick '79, who received his BS in Accounting from Moravian College and his MS in Finance from Wilkes University, and is now CPA and CFO of the Hyman Group in Allentown, was recently elected to serve on the Pennsylvania CPA Foundation Board. One of the board's mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in accounting.

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Sports Update:

Molly Ehrig '18, was recently named the Lehigh Valley's most outstanding tennis scholar-athlete for 2017-2018.

The **Girls' Softball Team** advanced to the finals of the PIAA 4A State before falling to Punxutawney by a score of 2-0. The girls finished the season with a record of 21 – 6.

New Wrestling Coach Chosen

Rick Thompson, a two-time NJSIAA state champion, who guided the Phillipsburg Stateliners to a 268-54-1 record and eight state championships, is taking over as head coach at Becahi next season. The position came open when Jeff Karam resigned in April, after helping build the Golden Hawks into a national power. Karam spent 10 years at Beca, finishing it off with a PIAA 3A team title this year, when the team went 16-1.

Passings

Classmates	Class	Passed Away	Age
Anna Kacmar Kurtz	1947	6/23/2018	88
Theresa Ortwein Roebuck	1952	6/11/2018	83
Jean Pursell Belinski	1952	6/28/2018	83
William Zaun	1959	6/04/2018	76
Andrew Kalata	1960	5/15/2018	75
Grace Orban Ritter	1962	6/11/2018	74
Christopher Moore	1978	6/26/2018	58
David Cordero	1983	5/30/2018	53

Family and Friends

- Helen Berezny Vargo, mother of Edward, **Maryanne (Berezny) '72**, grandmother of **Kahli '03, Edward '07** and Richard, on 6/12/2018
- John Brooks, father of **John '72, Dave '74, Keith '76**, Mary Catherine and Nancy, on 6/15/2018
- **Dave Cordero '83**, brother of **Luis and Billy '78, Lilly '81, George '84** and Maria
- Daniel Griffin, husband of **Margaret Toth Griffin'47**, father to **Tom '71, Daneen '79**, Colleen and Meg, on 6/17/2018
- Robert Littner, grandfather of **Maxine '13** and Grace, on 6/10/2018
- **Jean Pursell Belinkski '52**, mother of **Barbara Boligitz '72, Rich Boligitz '76** and Anne; sister of **Rosalie '53** and **Marie '57**

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- Anna Rengel, mother of **Debbie '79** and Patricia, on 6/23/2018
- **Theresa Ortwein Roebuck '52**, mother of Teresa, Mary Frances and **Bob '73**
- Jack Zieger, husband to **Anna Marie Delgrosso '58**, on 4/22/2018

LinkedIn is an online platform that people use to build social networks with other people who share similar personal or career interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. Many of our classmates have profiles on LinkedIn that are viewed by and shared with the public. In future newsletters, some of those profiles of Becahi grads will be posted so we can continue to share our stories and connections with each other. It's a great way to market the school and the alumni. The following grads were found on LinkedIn this year:

From our Class:

Tony Bambu, who received his BS from Penn State University, is now Realtor® Agent/Owner eXp Realty, LLC. in the West Palm Beach Florida area.

Jeff Cassano, who received his BA from Moravian College and earned a MS and MEd from Lehigh University, is now retired after serving over 2 decades in Adjunct Professorships at both Northampton Community College and DeSales University.

Pete Walsh, who received his BS in Electrical Engineering from Tufts university and both his MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is now the Chief Emerging Technology Engineer at ESPN in Bristol, CT.

From other Class years:

Stephanie Olexa '68, received her BS in Biology from Chestnut Hill College; her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Temple University; and her MBA from Lehigh University, and is now a Certified Leadership Coach and an Adjunct Professor and workshop leader at the Baker Institute for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation at Lehigh University.

Kevin Connors '71, received his BA from St. Joe's, his MFA from The City College of New York, and his JD from Villanova, and currently lives and practices law in the greater Philadelphia area.

Tom McGonigle '78, a Mechanical Engineering grad from Penn State university and an MBA recipient from Case Western Reserve University, is the President and Founder of Modular Chemical Systems in Austin, TX.

Robert McGonigle '80, who received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University and earned his MBA from Duke University, is the Chief Executive Officer for The Martin-Brower Company in the greater Chicago area.

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Thomas Calvo '81, who graduated from the University of Scranton, is currently a Claims Specialist for Nationwide Insurance Company in Bethlehem.

Gina Alloggio Althouse '88, who attended Kutztown University, is a Senior Administrative Assistant at Dun and Bradstreet in Center Valley.

Stephen Kochenash '93, who attended Northampton Community College, the University of Pittsburgh and earned his Doctor of Pharmacy at Temple University's School of Pharmacy, is a Pharmacist at Cardinal Health.

Siva Raja '93, MD, PhD, is Surgical Director of the Center for Esophageal Diseases and a staff thoracic surgeon in the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. He received his undergraduate degree from Muhlenberg College and his MD from the University of Pittsburgh.

Carlos DaSilva '94, a graduate of Lehigh University, founded and is president of LB Industries, Inc., a Pennsylvania based-corporation that provides construction and engineering services for water and sewer treatment plants, pump stations, water storage facilities and other mechanical systems located in Allentown.

Andy Hitz '94, a graduate of Penn State University, is Area Vice President at Dun & Bradstreet in the Lehigh Valley area. He has over 18 years of experience in sales, and 12 years in B2B national sales experience.

Erman Tasci '94, graduated from Penn State University and is a Vice President, Senior Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, a Bank of America Corporation, in Allentown.

Alison Neimeister Hoffman '96, who earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton and working toward an MBA at Moravian, is a Production Sales Executive at the Xerox Corporation in the greater Philadelphia area.

Meagan Cunningham '06, a graduate of Keystone College, is the Marketing and Human Resource Manager at West Side Hammer Electric, Inc. in Bethlehem.

Hillary Emrock '06, who holds an Associate Degree from Northampton Community College and a Bachelor's Degree from Alvernia College, is involved in Sales/Logistics at Blend-Pro, Inc. in the Lehigh Valley area.

Rachel Baldassare '10, who graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a BS in Business Administration & Management, is a Senior District Manager for ADP in the Myrtle Beach, SC area.

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Ryan Bartelt '10, who received his BA in Economics from Villanova University and studying for his MBA from DeSales University, is a Business Analyst for Guardian Life in Bethlehem.

Domenica "Nickie" Mosco '10, who earned her BSBA in Marketing from the University of Pittsburgh, is Marketing Manager at The Surrey at Denihan Hospitality Group in the Greater New York City area.

Sara Napierkowski '10, who graduated from Saint Mary's College with a BA in Global Studies and Italian, is an Operations Partner at Innovatemap in the greater Indianapolis, Indiana Area

Zachary Roger '10, who received his BS in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from East Stroudsburg University, is an Exercise Professional and Rehabilitation Aid at Keystone Pointe Health and Rehabilitation.

Gabriel "Gabe" Zurek '10, who studied international business and foreign languages at West Chester and Belmont Universities, offers social media channel management and content marketing services at Gabriel Zurek Digital Marketing.

Nicholas Acampora '12, who graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in Computer Engineering, is a Software and Controls Engineer at Williams International in Walled Lake, Michigan.

Lesley Tintle '12, who received her BA in Environmental Studies at Lafayette College, is attending graduate school at Lehigh University and is a Graduate Teaching Assistant there.

Todd Yildiran '12 received his BS in Finance from Penn State University and is now an Applications Cloud Consultant at Oracle in Austin, Texas.

Maxine Littner '13, who received her Bachelor of Applied Sciences from Edinboro University, is a Recruiter for Miller Brothers Staffing Solutions in the greater Erie, PA area.

Recent College Graduates

(Source: newspapers, etc.)

Michael Kropf '07, Northampton Community College, AAS Marketing

Connor Abrams '14, Moravian College, BA Business Administration

Kelly Angelucci '14, DeSales University, BA Dance, Sport & Exercise Physiology

Christopher Bianco '14, Lehigh University, BS Mechanical Engineering

Vanessa Campbell '14, Immaculata University, BS Dietetics & Nutrition

John Gulick '14, Lehigh University, BA Psychology

Sarah Horwath, '14, Northampton Community College, AAS Early Childhood Education

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Alexandra Madison '14, Lehigh University, BA Psychology
Patrick Mergel '14, University of Scranton, BS Accounting
Jonathan Neupauer '14, University of Notre Dame, BS Chemical Engineering
Lauren Posch '14, Lehigh University, BS Accounting
Dominic Santanasto '14, St. Joseph's University, BS Finance & Risk Management
Kiran Singh '14, Lehigh University, BS Business & Economics
Brandon Spence '14, Villanova University, BS Math & Computer Science
Victoria Tesone '14, Lafayette College, BA Political Science and Government, English
Madeleine Titus '14, Lafayette College, BS Chemical Engineering
Hannah Cummings '15, Northampton Community College, AA Theatre
Mark Hlavinka '15, Northampton Community College, AAS Nursing, RN

Reflection

I found this passage on line and wanted to share with all of you.

"Heavenly Father.

Please keep us and our families healthy and safe. Cover us with your protection. Send strong angels to guard our children. ...Help us to love you and to love others as you love us. Bless us financially and materially, but most of all bless us spiritually so that we are close to you. Bless us in every way and we will give you all the glory and thanks."

And now...

Despite every effort to prevent errors, sometimes they occur. If I inadvertently misinterpreted a story or fact, or if your name has been omitted or misspelled, please notify me and/or the Advancement Office and accept my sincerest apologies, and...

If you have any stories, comments, concerns, opinions, etc., that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Sincerely,
JohnnieO (John O'Boyle)
jobisob1@yahoo.com

Key Points of Contact at the school:

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