

# Our Family News

SPECIAL

Edition



## GRADUATION 2019

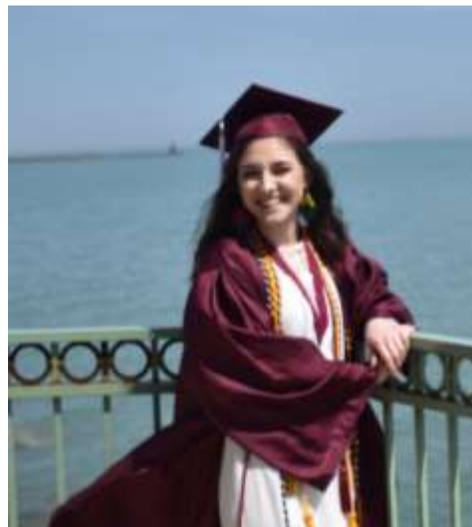
### THE MAKING OF A CATECHIST

by Tina McCue

If anyone would ask me what my greatest joys in life have been, besides being a wife and mother, I would have to say being a cantor and catechist. I feel the closest to God when I sing, especially in the proclamation of the psalm. Music was my first real connection to God and it was through music that I fell in love with the Liturgy. Many of you may have heard this story before, but back in 1990 when Sr. Yvonne Horning announced that she was being transferred out of St. William, she asked me if I had ever considered being a director of religious education. I have to say that this had never crossed my mind. As a teenager, I was a teacher's aide for Mrs. Carol Potts and Mrs. Mary Jane O'Shaughnessy to name a few, but I had never taught what was then considered CCD. I said, "Oh! No Sister, I am not qualified to teach CCD, let alone lead other catechists." While she left St. William, she never stopped encouraging me to pursue teaching religious education.

I can remember the call as clearly as if it happened a moment ago. During Mass, I was sitting in the second row, singing "Here I

Am, Lord" by Dan Schutte and know, we were blessed with Sister Mary Cora who also began to keep after me to become a teacher. Eventually, after a few years of God tapping me on the shoulder, I began talking with Sister Mary Cora about how to begin this process of teaching. Well, I think that was back in 1995 or 1996, and



I have not looked back. In the past twenty three years, I have taught third grade and second grade as well as Sacramental Preparation. God continued to bless me as Father Balash brought me onto the staff at St. William Parish as Youth Minister and Pastoral Associate. Ask any teacher, words cannot

express the joy of watching children grow and blossom into adults. This joy is magnified during the season of graduation. In thinking about this newsletter, I thought, what better way to share my joy than to share with you what lies in store for the Class of 2019 and hear from some our young adults from the Class of 2015. I hope you enjoy reading their stories found within this newsletter supplemental.

Upon commencement at Loyola University Chicago, graduates are urged to "Go forth and set the world on fire." When I heard these words, I could not help but think of the words of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as recorded by Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in



*Catechist (Continued on page 4)*

## KENT STATE GRADUATE

**Haley Foster** ~ A third generation member of St. William, Haley Foster is the daughter of Greg and Margaret Foster and granddaughter of the late Steve and Peggy Timko. Haley was a 2015 Salutatorian of Champion High School. During her years at St. William, she was a member of youth choir, a server, and a lector. She has continued to lector during her summer breaks from Kent State.



Graduate

*My name is Haley Foster and I have been going to St. William since eight days after I was born. I recently graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in Comparative Politics and International Relations and two minors in French and Business. I graduated as both an Honors Scholar and a Founders Scholar. I was part of the Honors College at Kent, as well as the Kent State Undergraduate Student Government, my sorority Tri Sigma, and the Panhellenic Council, which governs all of the sororities on campus. In my last semester at Kent, I studied in Washington, D.C. while working in Congressman Tim Ryan's office on Capitol Hill. This was such a rewarding experience and I'm blessed to have been able to participate in such a wonderful program.*

*During my years in college, I took some time away from the church to figure out my faith. I began to question if continuing the faith in which I had been raised was what I really wanted to do. For a while, I thought it was, but eventually I felt an aching in my heart to be closer to God, and I knew that I needed to come back to the church and strengthen my faith. This past semester when I was in D.C., I had the privilege of going to Ash Wednesday mass on Capitol Hill with several members of Congress, including Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, who is best known as Hillary Clinton's vice presidential nominee. To see someone further along in the career path that I want to follow maintain his faith was amazing to me and inspired me to continue my journey with God.*

*After graduation, I will be heading to Woodstock, Virginia in July for training with my sorority's national headquarters to be a traveling consultant. In this position, I will be working with collegiate women across the country to guide them in leadership and character in accordance with my sorority's values. I feel so blessed to be able to travel and experience the world while helping others and giving back for all of the wonderful opportunities that Tri Sigma has given me.*

## CHAMPION GRADUATE ~

Bridget DePascale is the daughter of Joe and Christine DePascale.

A 2019 Valedictorian at Champion High School, Bridget will attend the

Honors College at Youngstown State University to pursue a degree in nursing. Bridget is a server, cantor, member of the choir, an active member of Youth Ministry, and has attended several summer mission trips. She has been accepted as a member of the National Catholic Youth Choir for two years. She is a recipient of the 2019 Eagle of the Cross award.



## CHAMPION GRADUATE ~

Stuart Hovanic is the son of Jeff and Patty Hovanic, and grandson of founding members Adrian and Carol Hovanic. A graduate of Champion High School, Stuart plans to pursue a degree in IT Forensics at Kent State University Trumbull Campus. Stuart has a love for music and can often be found at the keyboard or with his guitar composing.



## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE



**Anna McCue** ~ was a 2015 Valedictorian of John F. Kennedy Catholic School. She is the daughter of Brian and Tina McCue and granddaughter of the late John and Rose Makosky. Anna was a member of Youth Choir, a server, and a lector during her time at St. William.

*This May I graduated magna cum laude from the Interdisciplinary Honors Program at Loyola University Chicago with a B.A. in Women's Studies and Gender Studies, as well as a B.A. in Global and International Studies. I minored*

*in African Studies and African Diaspora, a program which encouraged me to study abroad in Ghana in the spring of 2018. While attending classes full-time, I was involved in several Campus Ministry programs and events. I participated in the 9pm Mass choir every week and maintained a student leadership position as a regular cantor and lector. After participating in a first-year student retreat in the fall of 2015, I became involved as a retreat leader in 2016 and 2017, and was selected as a senior captain for first-year retreats in 2018.*

*I knew of Loyola's Jesuit legacy that instills its graduates with a strong commitment to education and social justice. I didn't attend Loyola because I wanted to pursue a degree in Theology - I didn't even necessarily care to learn more about Catholicism or my connection to it. Instead, I took classes in literature, political science, feminist theory, sociology, environmental science, and countless other disciplines, and learned how to apply my faith to issues like racial injustice, gender discrimination, climate change, etc. I was able to grow as a student, as a Catholic, and as an individual when these issues intersected with my faith background. I discovered that being an informed, well-rounded person in fact makes me a better Catholic and it prepares me to see the world from perspectives that are not my own.*

*I'll be taking this interdisciplinary education with me into my future. Next year I might be enrolled in a master's program for Library Science and Information Systems in Chicago. I might be in Rome taking classes for a Master's in Jurisprudence, I might be elsewhere in the world doing research with the members of the vast African diaspora, or I might be here in Chicago, working hard and saving money until I find out what God's plan is for me.*

*I am blessed and privileged to have had a Jesuit education, and, ad majorem dei gloriam, I hope to use what I've learned to make the world a better place*

### CHAMPION GRADUATE ~

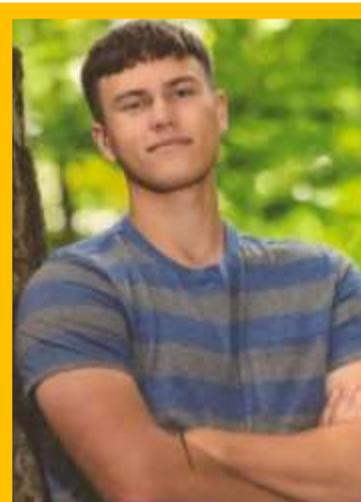


Skye Kennedy-Snodgrass is the daughter of Melissa Kennedy-Snodgrass and the late Justin Kennedy-

Snodgrass. A graduate of Champion High School, Skye plans to attend Youngstown State University to pursue a degree in biology. Her love of working with animals may lead her to a career as a veterinarian. Skye filled her high school career as a member of the band, marching band, and color guard as well as playing softball and soccer. Skye has been a member of Youth Ministry.

### BRISTOL GRADUATE ~

Chase Kufchak is the son of Mike and Danielle Kufchak and grandson of Barb and the late Mike Kufchak, Sr. Chase is a graduate of Bristol High School and will be attending Kent State University Trumbull Campus to pursue a degree in nursing. Chase is an altar server and served two years as the Youth Representative for Parish Council. Chase is a 2018 recipient of the Eagle of the Cross.



## YSU GRADUATE

### **Tiffany Jones ~**

Granddaughter of founding members of St. William, Leonard and Lillian Kalman, Tiffany Jones is the daughter of Phil and Diane Jones. Tiffany shares with us a little update on her life.

*Upon graduating high school, I began my undergraduate career at Youngstown State University and am furthering my education as an Early Childhood Intervention Specialist. Through my studies I have gained many opportunities to observe, assist, and teach students of diverse abilities and cultures. This May, I completed my pre-clinical semester with a 2nd grade class in Warren City and am excited to announce that I will be moving onto student teaching this fall.*

*Along the way I began working at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown as an Assistant Teacher for preschool and school age students throughout the school year. I was also a Senior Camp Counselor during the summers, and when time allows, I babysit. While going to school, studying, and completing field hours, I also joined Delta Zeta Sorority. Through my sorority, I was given the opportunity to volunteer at the Painted Turtle, a camp for kids with serious and chronic illnesses.*

*With my time as an undergraduate student approaching an end, I look forward to finally obtaining my bachelor's degree as an Early Childhood Intervention Specialist and fulfilling my dream of becoming a teacher!*



*(Continued from page 1) Catechist*

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” My prayer for these graduates and for each of you is that you keep your heart open to God as he taps you on the shoulder and listen for how he wants to use you to set the world on fire...to make disciples...to love as He loves. Who knows, perhaps this tap will lead you to become a catechist and find joy beyond measure as you allow God to use you to help others become closer to Him. In my daughter Anna’s words, *ad majorem dei gloriam*, all for the greater glory of God!

### **CHAMPION GRADUATE ~**

Elizabeth O’Shaughnessy is the daughter of Dan and Denise O’Shaughnessy and the granddaughter of the late Pat and Mary Jane O’Shaughnessy. Elizabeth is a graduate of Champion High School and will be studying engineering at The Ohio State University.



### **LORDSTOWN GRADUATE ~**

Bethany Wilson is the daughter of Brian and Patty Wilson. She has been active in softball and cheerleading and is an alter server at St. William. She attended TCTC and completed the exercise science program. She was a member of the Beta Club. She enjoys working out and attends the gym regularly. Future plans are to attend Kent State Trumbull and area of study is undecided.

