



FROM THE PASTOR

Esteemed Alumni,

We are very excited about the many wonderful things taking place here at your alma mater. The parish of St. Francis Xavier is celebrating its 150th anniversary this coming year, and the school itself is celebrating 146 years of existence. We are so blessed that those who have been here before us have built a faith community in Junction City that has stood the test of time. For this we are so grateful.

Because of the blessings we have received, we are now looking toward the next 150 years. To do so, we are holding a capital campaign entitled, "A History of Faithfulness, A Future of Hope. Toward the Next 150 Years." As we hold this campaign we would like to invite you, our alumni, to participate as well, if you so desire. For those of you who have not been contacted about this campaign and would be interested in receiving more information, please call me at the St. Xavier parish office. The phone number is 785-238-2998.

This capital campaign will be raising money for several projects. We will be renovating the basement of our oldest school building into a multi-purpose room that is ADA

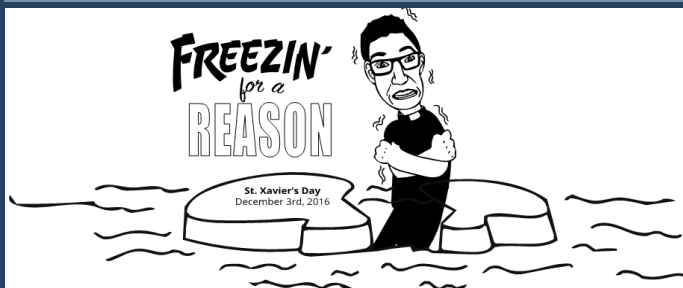
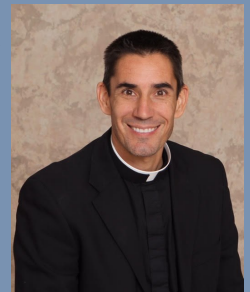
approved, and we will be working on updating the HVAC system in our school. In addition, approximately one half of the school is in need of a new roof. There will also be a few projects to improve the church building itself.

Finally, as you may remember, last year we began our "continue the tradition" alumni appeal and phon-a-thon. Last year we raised around \$7,000 through this campaign and this year we would like to double that amount.

Please look for a phone call sometime during the week of November 20th. We are working to update our database with correct contact information in order to improve the communication we have with those of you we value so much here at St. X – our alumni.

Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

Peace to you all,
Father Gale Hammerschmidt



St. Francis Xavier Parish and School are excited to announce the first St. Xavier's Day that will occur on December 3 at Flagstop Resort and RV Park in Milford.

This is the feast day of our patron saint, St. Francis Xavier, and we are going to celebrate with Mass, a 2-mile Fun Run, Frozen Plunge and a catered lunch.

Students are raising pledges to plunge their teachers, staff and Fr. Gale into the frozen lake on that day.

They are also asking businesses around the Junction City community to sponsor the event.

The day will start with Mass at 8:00 am at St. Francis Xavier Church. Race registration will be from 9:00-10:00 am, with the Fun Run beginning at 10:00 am. (Fr. Gale has promised the students he is the fastest man in the county!)

Following the run, we will plunge the teacher or staff member with the most votes obtained through pledges.

Lunch will be served following the plunge.

T-shirts and embroidered stocking caps will be sold the day of the event.

Alumni, if you are around the area or will be visiting that weekend, we would love to have you join in the festivities!

St. Francis Xavier, pray for us!

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd ('80) Parker, Jr. of Irvine, California, passed away on June 26, 2016. He is survived by his wife Audrey, four children, his mother, Anita, and his siblings **La'Vette ('85)**, **Desaree ('82)** and **April ('89)**.

"Ed" ('51) Gillen passed away on May 21, 2016, in Concordia, KS. He is survived by his children as well as his sisters, **Julia ('65) McCormick** and **Teresa Ann ('67) Ryan**.

David ('70) Odette passed away November 1, 2015. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother **Robert ('75)**.

Roland Engelhardt died on September 21, 2016. He is survived by his wife Delores Vollenweider, a longtime St. X parent volunteer, and their children **Miranda ('06) Vollenweider Wright**, **Yvonne ('12) Engelhardt Chaney**, **Simon ('16) Engelhardt** and **Asa Engelhardt**, currently a junior at St. Xavier.

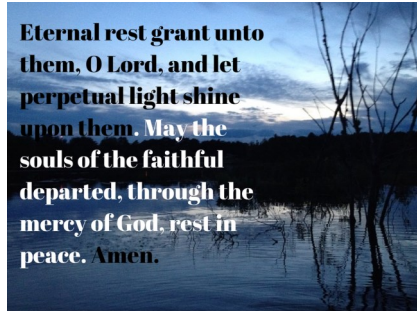
Rosemary Breault, the mother of **Caroline ('59)**, **Larry ('71)**, and **Jerry ('78)** passed away on February 13, 2016, at the age of 94.

Elizabeth (Betty) Briestensky passed away May 29, 2016. She is survived by her sons, Tony and **John ('70)** and daughter-in-law **Pauletta ('71)** and daughters, **Diane ('79)**, Joyce and **Sandy ('73)**, wife of **Bill ('72) Forkenbrock**.

Laura Field passed away April 23, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, and son, **Jack ('64)**. She leaves behind her children, **Tana ('62)**, **Jean ('65) Snyder**, **Rex ('67)**, Mike, **Paula ('72) King**, and **Mary ('74) Legeret**.

Pete ('72) Murphy died February 5, 2014, in Emporia KS. He is survived by his wife, **Mary ('72) Pound Murphy**, and sons Eric and Owen as well as his brother, **Ernest ('66)**.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



BAND TEACHER REMEMBERED

Former St. Xavier music teacher, John Weber died April 13, 2016, at the age of 74 after battling a brain tumor.

Mr. Weber began the band program at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School back in the 1990s, starting from the ground up. He was able to mentor many students throughout the years before passing the baton onto Mr. Stuart Workman in 2009.



Following his tenure as teacher, Mr. Weber was still a huge part of the St. Francis Xavier community as he assumed the role of parish financial manager with Father Al Brungardt. He served in that role up until the time of his illness.

Mr. Weber is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Patricia ('66) Dixon Weber** and their sons Robert, James and Joseph.

John instilled a love of music in many students while nurturing his own love of music.

He played the French horn and arranged and conducted music for The Troubadours, the Junction City Community Band, and the Abilene Community Band as well as many church choirs. John also acted and sang with the Junction City Little Theater.

SCHOOL NEWS

Adam Carpenter was awarded an \$80,000 scholarship for his education by the United States Navy. He will be majoring in Cryptology.

Teresa Balderrama was named the Junction City Daily Union Athlete of the Week in September, 2016. Teresa, a junior, was recognized for her volleyball participation.

Tyler Tanguay was recognized as a Governor's Scholar in May, 2015. The Governor's Scholars program honors the top academic one percent of Kansas high school seniors. Scholars are selected from accredited public and private schools in the state.

Students from St. Xavier participated in the Kansas State Science and Engineering Fair at Butler Community College in April, 2015. The following students placed at the fair: YuEun Cho placed third in Chemistry and was also awarded a \$500 scholarship to the Kansas Academy Mathematics and Science (KAMS) at Fort Hays State University; Sophie Park and Kasea Quinata placed third in Biochemistry; Minseo Park placed third in Engineering Mechanics and Jioh Park and Won Woo Choi placed first in Physics.

The St. Xavier High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted three new members into their chapter in spring 2016. New members include Teresa Balderrama, Avery Whann and Jioh Park.

The St. Xavier Catholic School Band and Choir competed at the State Large Ensemble contest in April, 2015. The choir received a II (Excellent) rating, while the band received a composite score of I (Superior) Rating. Students were under the leadership of band/choir director, Stuart Workman.

Economics class members participated in the Sunflower Community Ambassadors Program and hosted guest speakers throughout the year. As a final project, students wrote an essay on "Economic Development In Our Community." Sunflower Bank selected Tyler Tanguay to receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

SAVE THE DATE

Phon-a-thon—11/20/2016

Freezin' for a Reason—12/3/2016

Blue & Gold Craft Market—3/11/2017

St. Xavier Annual Auction—4/22/2017

Alumni Banquet—5/27/2017

Alumni Basketball Game—2/20/2018

2017 ST. XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET

St. Xavier's annual reunion and banquet will be held on Saturday, May 27, of Memorial Day weekend. The location is yet to be determined. However, school tours will be given once again between 3-5 p.m. and the Alumni Mass will be held at 5:15 p.m. Mass will also be celebrated at 9 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day.

The class of '67 will be celebrating their 50th and class of '92 will celebrate their 25th. Other classes celebrating milestone years will be '62, '72, and '77. Please contact the alumni association if you need any assistance with your class list.

More details will be coming in the new year. We hope to see you at the 2017 banquet!

SAINT XAVIER ALUMNI COME TOGETHER IN 2016

St. Xavier alumni met Memorial Day weekend to celebrate their reunion.

Weekend events included a school tour, alumni Mass, social hour, dinner and dance at the Elk's Lodge on Saturday. In addition, several alumni attended the Memorial Day Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery on Monday.

A few classes shared details of some of their activities from the weekend.

Class of 1961

Fifteen members of the class of '61 celebrated their 55th reunion. Of the 32 graduates, there are 6 deceased classmates and 7 were unable to attend. No one knows what has happened to the remaining four classmates.

Classmates gathered on Friday where the highlight of the evening was a notebook presented to each person with their classmates' biographies from the last 55 years that had been submitted to Linda Ehm, wife of Sonny.

Saturday evening they attended the Alumni Banquet at the Elk's with more laughs, memories and promises to keep in touch until the next reunion.

On Sunday the group met for brunch at Cracker Barrel to say their final goodbyes to those from out of town before they had to hit the road.



Pictured from left to right, top row: Mike McDonald, Pete Shandy, Dick Cervera, Larry Weians, Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, Walter Kimball; middle row, Sandy Soder Shandy, Cindy Cole Hamilton, Sharon Culken White, Becky Veltman Foster, Janet Hinit Holcomb, Sonny Ehm, Patty Carr Van Allen, Pat O'Malley; front row, Mark Meseke and Sue Spittles Hottman.

Class of 1966

Sixteen members of the class of '66 gathered at the Elk's Lodge on Saturday night to reminisce. They enjoyed reflecting on the memories of their time at St. Xavier School as well as catching up on each other's lives.



Pictured from left to right, top row: Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, Ernest Murphy, CJ Dunn, Fred Jones, Pat Sears, Tim Teply, and John Minnick; front row, Mary Dixon Stull, Nita Fabia Miller, Carolyn Bean, Pat Shipman Green, Nancy Langvardt Cannon, Denise Nelson Pierson, Steve Pierson, Ray Kamphaus, Karen Forkenbrock Eddy and Kay Nicholson Field.

Class of 1976

Rosie Kane reports that the Class of '76, along with their spouses, celebrated their 40th by gathering at Tallgrass Tap House in Manhattan on Friday for drinks, dinner and great conversation. Some class members hadn't seen each other since graduation, and they all were amazed that there was never a lull in conversation. They enjoyed catching up on the past 40 years and sharing pictures of their children and grandchildren.



2016 ST. X ALUMNI BANQUET

Class of 1976 continued

On Saturday, class members were given a tour of the school and enjoyed reminiscing about past teachers and events. Following the tour, the classmates attended the alumni Mass.



Pictured from left to right, top row: Michael Hackley, Mark Hartung and Don Peters; middle row, Kathy Saunders, Pam Lichtenhan Boller, Julie Deppish and Rosemary Lauri Kane; front row, Chantal Teed-Hartung and Angela Nenow.

The class then met at the traditional alumni banquet for dinner, dancing and more talk. The class of '76 was the last group to leave (much to the chagrin of the class of '81 who challenged the "old timers" as to who could stay out the latest).

Class of 1981

Patty Folwell Blaylock reports that the class of '81 had a blast at their get together this year.



Pictured from left to right are top row { Dorine Lincoln Royce, Jeanette Erickson DeMars, Marie Fiffe Larsen, Jeff Keating, Brenda Riley & Jane Garze Thomas and front row, Mary Boller Diestelkamp, Mary Deppish, John Cameron Mitchell, Yvonne Quinton Cole, Patty Folwell Blaylock & Julie Rosa Taylor.

While John Cameron Mitchell did not graduate from St. X, he attended from 8th grade though part of his sophomore year. His classmates were honored that he returned to celebrate with them. John is an actor, writer, and director. His siblings Colin and Christopher also attended St. Xavier.



Class of '81—Patty Folwell Blaylock, Marie Fiffe Larsen and John Mitchell pore through old yearbooks.



There may no longer be "smokin' in the boys room", but '76 members Julie Deppish, Rosie Lauri Kane and Angie Nenow are still joking around in there.



Class of '66—Pat Shipman Green, Nancy Langvardt Cannon, Denise Nelson Pierson and Kay Field.



Class of '81—Jeff Keating, Mary Deppish, Marie Fiffe Larsen, John Cameron Mitchell, Yvonne Quinton Cole and Patty Folwell Blaylock on the school tour.



Class of '56 members Mary Kay Hinitt Paxton and Margaret McGuire Deppish celebrate.



Dan '04 Zoeller visits with John '68 Gustafson.



Class of '66—C.J. Dunn and John Minnick.



UPDATE BY BECKY '08 KEATING

To say the past year has been a whirlwind would be a complete understatement. Since I received the life saving miracle of a double lung transplant, I've had the opportunity to accomplish some of my wildest dreams!

I've started a new job at Kansas Best Real Estate, watched my brothers perform in marching band competitions, celebrated my sister's graduation from Fort Hays and my god-daughter's birthday as she turned four! I have held baby tigers, traveled around the country and even been given the chance to fall in love again.

But most significantly, I've taken up the high school youth ministry program for our Church. I was inspired to start SPARK one afternoon while at a conference with the youth group. As I sat there watching these kids experience God's presence, it finally dawned on me what I could do with my second shot at life. I now spend my days planning and helping our youth learn about and appreciate the beauty of life and having God be a part of every single moment of it.

I don't know what the future holds, but I do know that because of my wonderful donor, all of your prayers, and the grace of God, I'm alive, and loving every moment of life!



One of Becky's favorite memories post-transplant with her siblings - Lene', Josh, Becky, Jacob and Kim Keating.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Lyn Jones has been a beloved member of the faculty at St. Xavier Catholic School for many years, having joined in 1990.

While he may no longer be coaching football, he is still teaching social studies to the middle and high school students at our school. He loves catching up with his former students.

Debbie Breidenstein, former counselor on staff, has now been teaching theology to our high school students since 2000.

She is taking high school youth to Christian concerts and events in the area as well as continuing in her role as STUCO sponsor.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The 2016-17 school year is off to a great start at St. Xavier! We are excited about our new and returning staff as well as improvements to our school. St. Xavier continues to be a school where parents want to send their children because of our strong Catholic faith-based education, family environment, individualized instruction, high academic standards and athletic/academic extracurricular activities. The first quarter has quickly and successfully flown by, and we look forward to what the rest of the year brings.



St. Xavier continues to provide the very best staff for our school. We have several new faces this year who are already making their mark on our school by getting involved and helping out with activities and events. Our new teachers are Bray Jermak (Pre-K), Hannah Savage (K), Julie Copeland (1), Kara Shaheen (2), Abby Donart (MS Religion), Maria Tesch (MS & HS Math), AJ Vinent (PE/Health) and Karlie Brown (Art/Parish Director of Evangelization). They all came to St. Xavier to be part of a family environment where students have the opportunity to grow not only academically, but in their faith. They are all working together in continuing to move St. Xavier Catholic School in an even more positive direction.

The beginning of this school year has also blessed us with new technology and curriculum materials as well as a new gym floor. We were fortunate to obtain funding from a Bramlage Grant, and matching funds from the St. Xavier Foundation, to update two labs with new computers. Students and teachers are thrilled with this upgrade. We also had the opportunity to purchase seven new laptops for our teachers with a grant from the Salina Diocese and we are continuing to update staff computers.

Another major improvement to St. Xavier School is a new curriculum for K-5 reading, new textbooks for 6-9 English, and new 5th and 6th grade social studies books, along with improvements in our religion and science curriculum. We look to continue to update our curriculum.

Not only were we blessed with technology and curriculum improvements this year, we were also given funding that enabled us to refinish the gym floor. Josephine ('45) and Ruth Rago, parishioners at St. Xavier, donated funds to make this gym floor a reality for us.

We are ecstatic about how supportive alumni, parishioners, parents, and the community are toward our school.

St. Xavier School continues to be an integral part of the community. We are excited about what lies ahead. We want to thank all alumni who have made this possible and ask for your continued prayers and support as we grow as a family of faith in our Catholic education.

Shawn Augustine



*Educating the whole person...
body, mind and spirit.*

ST. XAVIER GRADUATES NINE IN 2016

St. Xavier class of 2016 has nine members who graduated this past May.

Nichole Betancur plans to attend University of West Oahu in Hawaii to receive her BS in International Business.

Adam Carpenter is joining the US Navy and training in their Cryptology Collection Division.

YeEun Cho is attending Indiana University in Bloomington and majoring in Accounting.

Meagan Fernandez is attending Barton County Community College as she begins her education in Speech Pathology and Linguistics.

Simon Engelhardt is attending Barton Community College and is considering joining the US Navy.

Logan Madrigal is attending the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth and majoring in Accounting. She is also a member of their track team.

Andrew Schwanke is beginning his general education classes at Barton County Community College.

Cheyenne Stratton is studying at Cloud County Community College. She then plans to continue at K-State and major in graphic design or architecture.

Tyler Tanguay is attending Benedictine College in Atchison. He plans on majoring in engineering.



Left to right: Cheyenne Stratton, Simon Engelhardt, Logan Madrigal, Tyler Tanguay, Meagan Fernandez, Andrew Schwanke, YeEun Cho, Adam Carpenter and Nichole Betancur.

ALUMNI NEWS

Christopher ('03) Breidenstein and wife Jessica welcomed their second daughter Isabelle on April 14. She joins big sister Anastasia at home. Chris was recently promoted to detective with the Junction City Police Department.

Lindy ('69) Grant Rubash retired after serving 30 years as preschool teacher at St. Xavier Catholic School. Lindy started the preschool program at St. Xavier School in 1986. She has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of her students, their parents and her co-workers, many of whom sent wishes to be presented at her retirement party.



Rustin ('01) and Mary ('03) Kelly Bobzien welcomed baby boy Henry Rae on August 11, 2016. Henry joins big sister, Abigail, 7, at home.

Keonya ('12) Jackson graduated from University of Kansas in May and has accepted a job with Parkwood Day School in Lawrence.

Julie ('99) Cofield Mitchell, and her husband Casey had a baby boy, Beau Andrew, born on June 26, 2016. Beau joined his siblings Finley, 5 and Greyson, 2, at home.

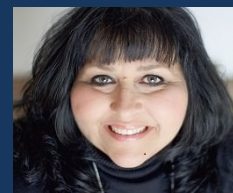
Peter ('15) Paras is a proud member of the K-State Marching Band—the Pride of Wildcat Land. He is playing tuba for the K-State Band after studying under John Weber and Stuart Workman at St. Xavier from his 5th-12th grade years.



Lindsay ('96) Gatz Bourisaw and husband Jeff are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Lexi Lauren on July 11, 2016. Proud grandmother **Kay ('68) Schippert Gatz** is enjoying the new addition as well.

Jerry ('58) and Connie Frakes have relocated to Topeka, KS, after many years serving the St. Xavier parish community. Their presence will be greatly missed and they report that they will miss their friends and church.

After more than 20 years in the real estate industry, **Martha ('84) Payne**, has launched her own business Payne/LaCerte Real Estate Team with ERA High Pointe Realty in Manhattan. Martha is fluent in English and Spanish and serves Junction City, Manhattan, Topeka and surrounding areas. She is also a Director for the Manhattan Association of REALTORS (MAR). Alumni and friends can contact her at martha.payne@era.com.



Janet ('61) Hinitt Holcomb and husband Rick celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. They are the parents of **Gregg ('86)** and **Nicole ('93)** Haynes.

Please send us your news to be included in a future issue of the newsletter via USPS or e-mail alumninews@saintxrams.org.



Continue the TRADITION

The second year of our fundraising campaign "Continue the Tradition" begins November 20.

We are grateful to those of you who generously donated to our initial "Continue the Tradition" Phon-a-thon last year.

The appeal last year raised more than \$7,000, which is quite an accomplishment in light of the difficult times experienced by many people. We were also able to use this as an opportunity to update our alumni records.

We hope that you, as a proud alumnus, alumna or friend of St. Xavier Catholic School, will consider contributing to our appeal and help make a difference in the lives of our students and faculty/staff.

If you have any questions regarding a donation that you may be considering, please contact Father Gale Hammerschmidt by e-mailing him at pastor@saintxparish.org or call him at (785) 238-2998.

If you do not receive a call from us, please consider sending in the pledge form below or contributing online at our website—www.saintxrams.org/alumni/.

Continued blessings to you as you prayerfully consider our request.

We invite you to visit our website and/or Facebook page to keep in touch with the St. Francis Xavier community!

Remember that we would love to hear from you personally. Consider stopping by or sending us a short message.

2016 AUCTION SUCCESSFUL

Chris Paxton, auctioneer and son of **Mary Kay '56 Hinit Paxton**, called out bids and the crowd responded at the 30th annual auction fundraiser for St. Xavier Catholic School.

A crowd of more than 250 enjoyed the dinner and auction that was held on Saturday, April 16, in the Bradley gym. The funds raised from this event help support our school.

"For our school, events like this are absolutely essential," said Father Gale, priest at St. Xavier Parish.

The St. Xavier Parish Foundation graciously matched the "itemless item" project assigned at the auction. This year's project was year 2 of a 3-year plan to install air conditioning in the gym so that our students, staff and visitors can enjoy events in comfort (and perhaps future alumni banquets can be held in the gym).

Alumni are encouraged to attend next year's auction which will be held on April 22, 2017.

More information will be sent out to alumni in the new year and friends in the new year. We greatly appreciate the support.



Phil '78 Boller and Allison '09 Coy work the 2016 St. Xavier Auction.



Collette '69 Fiffe Matthews

CONTINUE THE TRADITION PLEDGE

Please accept my gift of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2000 \$5000 Other

I would like to fulfill my entire pledge today.

I'll make an annual commitment over the next ___ years, with the first installment enclosed in amount of \$_____.

I prefer to be billed annually beginning _____.

Name _____ Alum Year _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Check Enclosed (Payable to St. Xavier Catholic School)

Credit/Debit Card _____ Expiration _____

Name on card _____

**Gifts can be given securely online at <http://www.saintxrams.org/alumni/>.

Please contact the Parish Office at 785-238-2998 with any questions regarding your gift to St. Xavier School.

OUTREACH

St. Xavier students have been working hard in and outside of our school this past year.

Students in Pre-K through 12 donated non-perishable food items during a winter food drive to the Geary County Food Pantry.

Students raised more than \$300 for Army Community Services by donating \$5 each to wear purple t-shirts and jeans.

Future Business Leaders of America spent their day off cleaning the school hallways as a service project.

High school students worked alongside staff, parents and grandparents to give the locker rooms a much-needed makeover during the summer.

National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America students spent after school hours on a service project refinishing tables, painting podiums and the admissions stand and washing windows.

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40



St. Xavier youth participated in the Salina Diocese's Prayer and Action program held in June and July in Hays and Junction City. The Prayer and Action program provides meaningful opportunities to high school students who do mission work within the boundaries of the Salina diocese. It allowed the students to reflect on their faith and they also become aware of how many people within their own communities are in need of assistance. Several youth worked for more than one week of the mission, giving back in both Hays and Junction City.

During Spring Break 2017, the Senior class will be taking a mission trip to Gallup, New Mexico. They will be hosted by the Missionaries of Charity, St. Teresa of Calcutta's religious order, where they will serve in a homeless shelter. The week will include prayer, formation, service and fun. The Class of 2017 is excited to leave their mark on St. Xavier Catholic School. Please continue to pray for them as they fundraise and prepare for the mission trip.



- We want to connect with you!
- To learn how your St. Xavier experience has impacted and served you
 - To update your records with the school
 - To ask for your annual support to help continue the St. X tradition
- Answer the call and help keep our future bright.

Week of November 20

Return Service Requested

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St. Xavier Alumni Association

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