

For Alumni of St. Patrick, St. Patrick Central, Bishop McNamara High School,
and Bishop McNamara Catholic School

Irish Update



SPECIAL EDITION

CONTINUING THE
LEGACY

The Centennial Campaign for
Bishop McNamara



HONORING OVER 100 YEARS OF IRISH TRADITION

This special edition of the Irish Update is dedicated to the Centennial Campaign — a historic initiative that will help us meet the needs of our changing student body now and across future generations.

Since 1922, Bishop McNamara Catholic School (BMCS) has been a cornerstone of academic excellence, faith-based community, and service to others. As we look to the future, we need your help to continue to foster a modern learning environment that supports students' personal and intellectual growth.



CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED AT 100 YEAR GALA:

Bishop McNamara embarks on the largest campaign in the history of the school! Among the excitement of celebrating the 100 Year Gala, it was announced that Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara is the single, largest campaign in the history of the school. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, Bishop McNamara Catholic School is in a position of strength. In our quest for continuous improvement, however, we must be innovative and resourceful to meet the needs of a changing student body. To enhance our efforts, Bishop McNamara has embarked on a \$4.5 million capital campaign. Today, we are connecting our storied past to an even brighter future. In the coming months, continued support to the campaign will be vital as we move toward reaching our \$4.5 million goal. We are asking the Bishop McNamara community, which is comprised of board members, current parents, parents of graduates, Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends for their support. Local businesses, corporations and foundations will also be asked to support the campaign. With your help, we will be able to continue to do great things for the future of Bishop McNamara.



IRISH UPDATE

is published semi-annually
(spring and fall).

Alumni Association Board Members 2023

Todd Arseneau '86
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Jim Gerth '80
Vice President

Judy Purcell '78 Todnem
Secretary

Sharon Soucie '56 Jackson
Historian

Dolores Kilbride '54 Arseneau
Dave Raiche '65

Beth Johnson '74 Arocha
Patty Clancy '82

Sissy O'Connor '84

Andy Pallissard '92

Andy Purcell '92

Doug Rorabaugh '05

Nick Elliott '06

Frank Hasik '06

Jared O'Connor '12

Kobe Shutter '16

Liz Marczak '77 Madsen
Coordinator of Alumni Relations

**Interested in learning more
about the Irish Alumni
Association Board?**

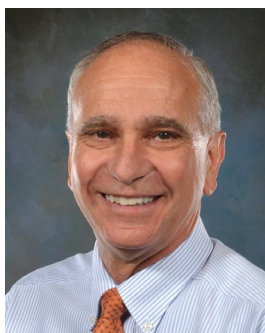
**Please contact any of our
board members or email Liz at
lmadsen@bmcss.org**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Irish Alumni Association
unites more than 9500 of
St. Patrick, St. Patrick
Central, Bishop McNamara
High School, and Bishop
McNamara Catholic School.

Our mission is to preserve
the heritage that shaped our
school, to foster the spirit of
camaraderie among alumni
and to support the mission
and development of Bishop
McNamara Catholic School.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL TERRY GRANGER '76



Bishop McNamara Alumni and Friends,
As we reach the halfway point of our 100th anniversary celebration we provide to you this "special edition" of the Irish Update. This special edition addresses our Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara. This campaign, although aggressive, is an intentional means of addressing specific needs to carry Bishop McNamara into the next 100 years.

As I reflected on this letter, I couldn't help but think of a book written by the well-known journalist, Tom Brokaw, called "The Greatest Generation." In his book Brokaw explores the stories and characteristics of this generation. Who exactly are "The Greatest Generation?" Members of this generation are individuals who were born from 1901 - 1927. It was

this generation that persevered through difficult times brought on by economic stress and a world war. There are those who state that the results of these hardships created a generation who knew how to withstand hardship and build a better world because of it. Brokaw not only hit upon these traits, but he most admired this generation's desire to do the right thing.

I mention this generation because it is this generation that populated our school when it opened in 1922. It was their parents and the students themselves that created the Legacy of Catholic Education and of Bishop McNamara.

What exactly is a legacy? A legacy is built by living our values consistently on a daily basis. A legacy is making the world a better place with one's character, helping one person at a time. One's legacy reflects our understanding of our life's purpose. We must continue the legacy of those who created the legacy known as Bishop McNamara. It is up to us to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations. We should want our legacy to stand upon the youth. We should strive to give knowledge to the younger generation and be an integral part of adding a conscientious value to their lives. In my mind there is no better way to do this than through a Catholic education. Now is the time to ensure the very future of Bishop McNamara Catholic School and to help make a genuine impact on educating the youth of our community.

I say thank you to those that have assisted us to reach the level in which we are currently at, but I also offer my sincere gratitude to all of you who will accept our invitation to "Continue the Legacy."

God bless and Go IRISH!

Terry Granger, President, Bishop McNamara Catholic School

FROM OUR ALUMNI BOARD ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT TODD ARSENEAU '86



Dear Fellow Irish Alums,
I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a "Happy New Year"! As we say goodbye to 2022, I reflect on all the alumni and friends that have joined us as we celebrated the first half of our school's 100 Year Centennial Celebrations. Staying connected is what makes Bishop McNamara such a special place. Entering 2023, the New Year brings us events in February, March and April as we continue to celebrate the 100th year of St. Patrick's High School, St. Patrick Central, and Bishop McNamara.

As we continue to celebrate our past, we must plan for our future and the next 100 years of Bishop McNamara Catholic School. About a year ago, we embarked on Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for

Bishop McNamara with a goal of raising \$4.5 million. We have completed the First Phase of the campaign and are well on our way to reaching our goal. As we begin Phase II of this incredible venture, I ask each of you to consider giving back to the school that gave us so much.

The impact that our Irish alumni have on Bishop McNamara has always been remarkable. When the school has asked, we have answered. As the southern-most school in the Joliet Diocese, you know how important it is to have Bishop McNamara flourishing for our students and our surrounding communities.

Our goal is in sight but it cannot be achieved without your help. I am confident with the help of our Irish alumni of St. Patrick's, St. Patrick's Central and Bishop McNamara this is a goal we will not only achieve but also exceed. In the spirit of celebration, honoring 100 years of a school that has done so much for so many, I ask you to please prayerfully consider contributing to the school that you are part of and that is a part of you. Thank you in advance for your contributions, your prayers and your continued support.

GO IRISH!

Todd E. Arseneau '86, Irish Alumni Association Board President

CAMPAIGN EXPLAINED

Why is Bishop McNamara conducting a Capital Campaign now?

The school's most recent strategic plan, carefully considered the needs and challenges facing Bishop McNamara in the years ahead.

What are the objectives of the campaign?

The goal is to raise \$4.5 million dollars that will be used to cover the costs related to projects to be finalized upon the completion of this campaign are a new Chemistry Lab, an Academic Success Center, a School Chapel, the rebuilding of school's outdoor Athletic Complex, along with endowment growth. In addition to these physical improvements, we seek support from alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends in order to keep tuition affordable and low. An increased endowment also allows the school to offer more scholarships and financial aid to deserving students and maintain a diverse student body.

What about Bishop McNamara's commitment for faculty compensation?

A larger endowment will enable the school to strengthen salaries, benefits, and opportunities for professional development. This is vital, if Bishop McNamara is to continue attracting the finest faculty.

Who will be asked to support the capital campaign?

The Bishop McNamara community, which is comprised of board members, current parents, parents of graduates, Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. Local businesses, corporations and foundations will also be asked to support the campaign.

How much should I pledge to the campaign?

Only you can decide how much to give. Your pledge should be based on your ability to give, your understanding of our needs, and your belief in the mission of Bishop McNamara. Keep in mind that with your loyal support, Bishop McNamara will achieve its \$4.5 million dollar goal.

Why increase the endowment?

Gifts to endowment are invested, and only the interest used. Thus, a strong endowment provides Bishop McNamara with funds, which are never depleted. Endowment funds provide the resources Bishop McNamara needs in order to keep tuition affordable and low. An Increased endowment also allows the school to offer more scholarships and financial aid to deserving students and maintain a diverse student body.

Can I specify where I'd like to apply my gift?

Yes. Donors may designate gifts.

Does The Irish Fund need to continue while the capital campaign is in effect?

Yes. A strong annual giving program (The Irish Fund) is required to cover financial aid awards and those portions of the operating budget not funded by tuition and fees.

Will I be notified when the payments on my pledge are due?

Yes. Regular reminders based on intervals you specify when making your pledge will be sent to you.

Are there other ways to give outside of a cash gift?

Gifts of appreciated stock and bonds, real estate, life insurance and charitable trusts, and other planned gifts will be greatly appreciated.

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Terry Granger '76

BMCS President

Areca Van Mill

BMCS Director of Advancement

Chris Stiles

Campaign Counsel - Partners In Mission

Todd Arseneau '86

Irish Alumni Board President

Irish Fund Committee

Kyle Benoit '04

Past School Board President

Progressive Raffle Leadership Team

Danielle Vollmer '04 Benoit

Progressive Raffle Leadership Team

Claire Chaplinski '02

Irish Fund Committee Chairperson

Nick Elliott '06

School Board President

Finance Board

100 Year Gala Chairperson

Meghan Billadeau '06 Elliott

100 Year Gala Chairperson

Jim Frogge '68

Foundation Board President

Hall of Honor Inductee

Past Faculty

Maggie Hansen '68 Frogge

Hall of Honor Inductee

Jim Gerth '80

Irish Fund Committee

Lisa Azzarelli '80 Gerth

BMCS Advancement Specialist

Sharon Soucie '56 Jackson

Irish Alumni Board, *Historian*

Elizabeth Marczak '77 Madsen

BMCS Coordinator of Alumni Relations

Bob Malpasuto

Finance Board President

Foundation Board Member

Institutional Advancement Committee

Sandy LaMotte '82 Malpasuto

Liaison to 100 Year Committee

Institutional Advancement Committee

Mike O'Brien '92

Institutional Advancement Committee

Nikki Hoevet '92 O'Brien

BMCS Administrative Assistant

Kim Osenga '01 Piggush

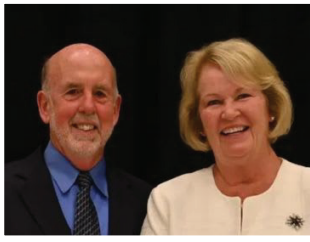
Institutional Advancement Committee

Scott Piggush '01

Finance Board

Institutional Advancement Committee





Jim '68 and Maggie Hansen '68 Frogge

"Bishop McNamara Catholic School has served as a pillar of excellence in education for 100 years. Countless students and their families have been part of the rich and supportive environment provided by the school. The entire Kankakee region is stronger and more vibrant with Bishop McNamara as an educational resource. And with your generous support, that significant impact will continue for many more years."

~ Jim and Maggie Frogge



DEVELOP AN ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER.

The Bishop McNamara Academic Success Center will assist us to make sure that our students are "Future Ready." The Academic Success Center will create an environment that will empower all students to reach their full academic potential and access the transformative power of education in an inclusive and equitable environment. The Academic Success Center will be a space in which students can go for academic support. The Center will be designed so students, who need additional support and resources, will be able to access these critical components to ensure self-esteem and academic success. Whether it is through a tutoring program or simply having the opportunity to study quietly, complete homework or research college admissions requirements, the Academic Success Center will have the necessary technology and academic programs as well as career and college counseling programs, all in a very comfortable setting.



RECONSTRUCT THE RICH ZINANNI STADIUM/ATHLETIC COMPLEX.

Our athletic programs have always been a point of pride within the Bishop McNamara school community. Numerous wins, a few losses, but most importantly, life lessons echo from our stadium. Unfortunately, as our program continues to thrive, our stadium is crumbling. Lockers rooms are outdated and uninspiring. Remnants of busted concrete are permanent throughout the grandstand causing safety issues. In addition, restrooms and fan amenities are inadequate to meet the needs of alumni, families, and friends in attendance. The significance of the athletic complex rebuild will not only enhance our pride but lift the campus infrastructure to a new level. The focus on the project would be to build a first-class athletic complex, one in which multiple sports could occupy to restore and reinvigorate our physical school plant. This athletic complex will be a new front porch to our school campus, inspiring "Pride of the Irish" in our current students, our prospective students, our alumni, and the entire Bishop McNamara Community.



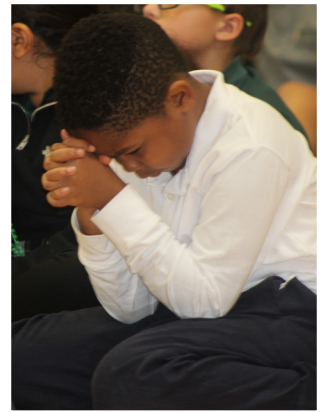
RENOVATE AND EXPAND THE SCHOOL CHAPEL.

Renovating the existing library space into a chapel will provide a place where our community will serve and glorify God. It will be the centerpiece of our school. Not only will we practice our faith on campus, but we also will send our students out into the world to make it a better place by following the teachings of the Gospel. Learning to give back in grace and gratitude is a hallmark of a Bishop McNamara education. Our students serve others, so they experience and share the love of Christ firsthand. These opportunities will be plentiful, and our students will be prepared. This “chapel in the round” will be centrally located and be a focal point for our students to remind them of our Catholic foundation in developing moral character while delivering academic and extra-curricular programming.



RENOVATE THE CHEMISTRY LAB.

The Bishop McNamara Academic Success Center will assist us to make sure that our students are “Future Ready.” The Academic Success Center will create an environment that will empower all students to reach their full academic potential and access the transformative power of education in an inclusive and equitable environment. The Academic Success Center will be a space in which students can go for academic support. The Center will be designed so students, who need additional support and resources, will be able to access these critical components to ensure self-esteem and academic success. Whether it is through a tutoring program or simply having the opportunity to study quietly, complete homework or research college admissions requirements, the Academic Success Center will have the necessary technology and academic programs as well as career and college counseling programs, all in a very comfortable setting.



ENDOWMENT

We are called to serve, and it is important for our Catholic education to be accessible for all who seek it. Growing a vibrant Endowment will keep the cost of tuition affordable for future generations of families. By investing in this portion of the campaign, we are making Bishop McNamara Catholic School viable and sustainable for years to come. Some may not have the means today to move the campaign needle, but by considering a planned gift supporting this endowment initiative, they can make a transformational impact on tomorrow. A Planned Gift will grow our endowment and support Bishop McNamara into perpetuity.



ALUMNI FAMILY

ANDY AND SHERRI CRYER



Andy Cryer is a 1991 graduate of Bishop McNamara High School. Along with his wife Sherri, he has two children at Bishop McNamara in grades 1 and 5. Andy's family business, Momenca Pallet Corporation, has always chosen to be stewards of their community, staying involved and giving back whenever possible.

As an alum and current parent, Andy was happy to share his thoughts regarding the Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara.

"Bishop McNamara means the world to our family. My mom and dad sent me to McNamara for the faith-based education, as they knew the demanding curriculum would help form me into a better adolescent and assist me in becoming a future leader. My wife Sherri and I send our children, Brynn and Leo, to Bishop McNamara for this same reason and more. We choose BMCS for the educators and administrators, many of whom I still see at the school 30+ years later. They care for and really push students towards excellence.

Sherri and I give to Bishop McNamara for the fact that we want nothing but the best for our children, their classmates, friends, and relatives that attend. We believe in the direction the school system is heading and the people leading it. How can we expect so much from a small private school if we don't assist it when we have the means?

As an alum, I honestly think I am a better person because of Bishop McNamara. Not only because of the awesome education I received, but as much for the amazing friendships I formed. To this day, I speak with many former classmates on a weekly basis. If you believe Bishop McNamara helped mold you into the person you are and you can contribute to this fantastic campaign, please do so and help benefit BMCS students, both today and in the future. Having the ability to improve the lives of others, especially our youth, is a great way to reinforce our own personal values and beliefs.

Our family has met many fascinating families through BMCS. We've gained friends for life. We have witnessed the profound improvement of our children's academic learning through the challenging yet rewarding curriculum."

FOUNDATION DONOR

LEIGH-ANNE KAZMA

KAZMA FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Kazma Family Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships and supports education initiatives and other charitable activities. Gerald and Margaret Kazma established the foundation in 1997. At that time, their daughter, Leigh-Anne Kazma, was named president and sole employee. Providing financial assistance to students and families in need is the primary mission of the Kazma Family Foundation. Through their extreme generosity, 88 Bishop McNamara students have received Kazma scholarships.

When asked her thoughts regarding the Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara, Leigh-Anne Kazma responded:

"The Kazma Family Foundation has been long time supporters of BMCS. Our relationship began over 20 years ago when we established a scholarship program through the Diocese of Joliet with the purpose of providing scholarships to financially needy students attending one of the high schools within the Diocese. Over the years, our relationship with Bishop McNamara has grown and strengthened due to the loving, caring, and passionate McNamara community. We always felt welcomed and treated as part of the school family. We do not live in the community, but we feel as if we do. The passion and genuine love I see from the leadership at Bishop McNamara speaks to me and inspires me to do more. We are proud to be a part of this exciting Centennial Campaign. We have been blessed in many ways and as Catholics, we feel it is not meant to keep but to give away. It is the greatest gift we can give. Every child deserves to have the best education with every opportunity, and it is the school, the community, donors, and friends that they rely on to make that possible. Bishop McNamara is moving towards the future, and I urge those that share the same passion I have about education to consider being a part of the BMCS journey in any way you see fit. You can never lose if you bet on education. Education is knowledge, and knowledge is forever."



FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

ROHR AND LEWIS FAMILIES



Neither golden helmets nor family traditions called the Rohr Family to Bishop McNamara. For the Rohr's it was simple – they wanted quality, faith-based education and stability for their family. Now, Jim and Sandy Rohr's six grandchildren all attend BMCS. Nic and Tracy Rohr have four children in grades 5 through 12: Alexander, Magnus, Max and Ellery, while Scott and Bonnie (Rohr) Lewis have two children at BMCS: Jordyn, grade 4 and Jamison, grade 5.

Jim's father, Ken Rohr, started Ken's Truck Repair in 1963, and even though the family business keeps the Rohr/Lewis family very busy, they are very generous to Bishop McNamara Catholic School with their time, talents, and treasures. Recently asked about their thoughts on our Continuing the Legacy; The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara – this is how the family answered:

"We have always been aware of the rich tradition of Bishop McNamara Catholic Education has brought to many generations of families in our surrounding area. Our children and grandchildren are the first in our family to be enrolled in Catholic education. Our journey began simply wanting the best faith-based education in the most stable environment for our children. We must rely on the educators and administration of BMCS to help us guide our children. We place this trust in the faculty and staff of BMCS and have been very pleased with the result.

Our family feels compelled and honored to give to BMCS in many ways. From the beginning, we've felt BMCS has been very honest and truthful with the necessity of financial support from the families that attend BMCS. With the rising cost of education and the necessity to maintain facilities we understand that BMCS is constantly fighting what seems like an uphill battle. We believe one of the most beneficial aspects of financial support at BMCS is that you are allowed to play an active role in the process if you wish to be involved. We do feel that this experience is unique to BMCS as it is becoming more difficult in society to feel like you can make a direct impact to your community. Involvement in BMCS for our family directly confirms that it is possible to make a difference.

It is our belief that it is important to support the Centennial Campaign simply because it is up to all of us to make sure that the rich heritage of Bishop McNamara education continues for many years to come. Having the ability this year to reflect on the past 100 years of Catholic Education at BMCS should offer us all a great reminder. It should remind current and alumni families alike of the legacy that we have an opportunity to leave in this community. The Centennial Campaign offers anyone that has received current or past benefit from his or her time at BMCS the opportunity to secure the same experience for many generations to come.

It feels wonderful to be part of a greater family of individuals who all share the common goal of doing as much as possible for our children and grandchildren."

WAYS TO GIVE

The Campaign for Bishop McNamara offers a wide range of opportunities for donors at all levels to make a difference in the quality and future of Bishop McNamara Catholic School. You can participate in the campaign by making a commitment that permits both flexibility and time to complete payment. Because the school's needs are urgent, we hope that most commitments will be completed within 36 to 60 months. However, if you require a longer period of time, we would be pleased to work with you to arrange such a gift. There are a variety of ways you can make a gift to Continuing the Legacy: The Centennial Campaign for Bishop McNamara. Each presents certain advantages. All, of course, are tax deductible within the limits specified by the IRS code. We recommend that you consult with an attorney or financial advisor when planning your commitment.

Gifts of Cash

Gifts of cash qualify for a charitable deduction in the year given and are limited to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income annually. Any amount given over this limit is eligible for a five-year carry over.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities held for more than one year permit a donor to use the full value of the security at the time of donation as a tax deduction, while avoiding the capital gains tax that would be imposed if the security were sold.

Gift from a Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution, (QCD), also known as a charitable IRA rollover, is a tax -efficient method for giving large and small gifts. You transfer a gift directly from your individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity. It counts towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and you avoid income taxes on the amount transferred.

Gifts of Property

Gifts of property, including residence, farm, vacation home, jewelry, art, etc., can provide significant benefits to the school and to the donor. The specialized help of appraisers and tax advisors is necessary to make such a gift.

Gifts of Life Insurance

Gifts of Life Insurance can provide a way to make a sizeable gift at a relatively low cost. Again, consulting with your attorney or tax advisor is important. Bequests and Life Payment Plans Bequests and life payment plans are excellent ways to participate in the campaign at levels you might not ordinarily consider. These include a bequest in one's will as well as various trust instruments.

Members of the Advancement Team at Bishop McNamara will be happy to assist your own financial advisors in finding an attractive plan for your particular situation. The main consideration in making any type of gift to the campaign is to find a way that brings joy to you and your family – joy in supporting a cause in which you believe and value.

**To learn more on this campaign
and how you can become involved,
go to bishopmac.com/legacy.**





BISHOP MCNAMARA

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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WATCH YOUR MAILBOX....SPRING IRISH UPDATE COMING LATE APRIL

100 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

IRISH ATHLETIC CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

MADCAPS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
APRIL 14-15, 2023

For more information about each of
these events, visit
www.bishopmac.com/100years.

UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS

FIGHTIN' IRISH KEN KLIPP CLASSIC

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

37TH IRISH ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023

JACKIE KELLER MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023

40TH ANNUAL GALA SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023