



Venango Region
Catholic School

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOCATIONS AWARENESS - HEARING GOD'S CALL

VCHS hosted **Vocations Day** on March 26, 2024. Students learned about various vocational states including:

- Holy Orders - the Priesthood and Diaconate with **Fr. Scott Jabo** and **Deacon Nick Cirell**,
- Consecrated Religious Life with **Sister Marian Wehler, OSB**, and **Sister Tina Geiger, RSM** from Catholic Rural Ministry,
- Married Life with **McKenzie + Matt Healy** and **Lisa Cirell**
- and Single Life with **Shannon Goreczny** and **Jessie Pyle**.

Presenters discussed their vocational states and the role that their Catholic faith plays in living them out. The program reinforced the idea that all personal vocational decisions and states have meaning, value, and are blessed by God.

This event complimented Fr. Scott Jabo's vocations presentation, which he offered following a Mass at VC last fall.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Throughout the coming months, please remember in your prayers all of the young men and women of our diocese who are discerning God's call for their lives. May they each have the courage to say **"YES"** to their vocation.

To learn more about vocations, visit erievocations.org and www.eriercd.org/womenreligious.html



Presenters seated at the table from L to R: **Rev. Scott Jabo**, **Sr. Marian Wehler OSB**, **Sr. Tina Geiger RSM**, **Lisa Cirell**, **Deacon Nick Cirell**, **Matt Healy**, **McKenzie Healy**, **Shannon Goreczny**, and **Jessie Pyle**.



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL
FACILITY UPDATES

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
+ TEACHER FEATURE

VC BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Venango Catholic Jr. / Sr. High School
1505 West First Street
Oil City, PA 16301
814.677.3098

Saint Stephen School
214 Reed Street
Oil City, PA 16301
814.677.3035



Photo by: Shannon Goreczny

TEACHER FEATURE

NAME: Mrs. Alicia Daman

EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

I have a bachelors degree from Clarion University (now reconfigured as PennWest Clarion). But most of my expertise comes from what I have learned from being IN the field, putting into practice what I learned in the classroom.

CERTIFICATION: I am Smartboard certified.

OF YEARS TEACHING AT VRCS:

I have taught at VRCS for a total of three and a half years.

WHY DO YOU LOVE VRCS?

The best part about working here at Venango Region Catholic School is that it is very welcoming here. The people here truly love one another—staff, faculty and students alike!

This is such an amazing place to work. It truly feels like home.



SUBJECTS TAUGHT:

My time here at VRCS has been spent teaching preschool and 3rd grade. I have also taught some kindergarten math; 4th-grade social studies; and 3rd-grade social studies, science, and gym.

SHARE A FEW OF SUCCESS STORIES: I could talk about so many stories during my time in education. I started my first real job in education at 17 years old, but I had been babysitting and teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School since I was 12. Over my 18 years of working with children of all ages, I have learned so much. I would say my biggest success story is that I am generally able to make learning fun. I could be teaching a children's message at church, or I could be teaching multiplication... It doesn't matter what it is, I am always able to help my students to have fun while learning. I also enjoy encouraging my students to believe in themselves. I want my students to keep trying and never give up on themselves or their dreams. I have had people in my life that have encouraged me to keep going. It's my goal to be that person for others. I try and help my students to realize that they have potential and that God put them on this planet for a purpose. God has a special mission for each and every one of us!

BEST ADVICE FOR STUDENTS:

Never stop learning. I love to encourage my students to be lifelong learners.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." -Arthur Ashe

I love this quote because it reminds me not to wait for perfect circumstances but instead to take the opportunities you have now, do the best you can, and improve as you learn. It is also a great reminder for people of all ages. It teaches us that you can always want for more but it is important to learn to be content with where you are while you work toward where you want to go.

"I wear many hats... mom, wife, teacher, friend, daughter, sister, artist... I love that I have many different areas in my life that God has blessed me with and that mix together to make up who I am!" -Mrs. Alicia Daman

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This month we are shining the light on VC faculty member, Ms. Goreczny. Shannon is a graduate of St. Stephen School (Class of 2013) and Venango Catholic High School (2017). After college, she returned to her alma mater to begin her teaching career.

NAME: Ms. Shannon Goreczny (VC '17)

EDUCATION:

Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Science in Education, Majoring in Early Childhood Education and Special Education

CERTIFICATIONS:

- Preschool-4th Grade (General Education)
- Preschool-8th Grade (Special Education)
- Secondary English (7th-12th Grade)

OF YEARS TEACHING: 3

SUBJECTS TAUGHT: Currently, I teach grammar, literature, theology, and gym class for 7th and 8th grades. I have taught history for those grades, as well.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

I have coached junior high volleyball my first two years of teaching with my coworker and friend, Ms. Jessie Pyle. I didn't expect to coach once I became a teacher, but it is one of my favorite things about the school year.



BEST THING ABOUT TEACHING AT VRCS:

I like that I get to know my students and see them grow even after they leave my classroom.

I love my coworkers. We help each other, cheer each other on, and support each other. I wouldn't want to work with any other people. They are truly the best. My students and my coworkers make me smile even on difficult days.

BEST ADVICE FOR OUR CURRENT VCHS STUDENTS:

If you have an opportunity to make corrections on an assignment or test, always take that opportunity. You will be able to grow and meet expectations and do better in the future.

Your teachers would prefer you ask a bunch of questions rather than stare at the instructors without any discussion or questions.


SHARE A SUCCESS STORY:

I will always remember teaching poetry my first year. I had a combined class of 7th and 8th graders and they were assigned a personification poem. Poetry can occasionally be a tough subject to grasp for students, but that specific assignment every student exceeded my expectations. I remember bragging to my family, coworkers, and others of how awesome my students were (and are!).

FAVORITE QUOTES:

“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

“The world can be a dark place sometimes,” said Tiny Dragon. “But where it's darkest,” said Big Panda, “your light will make the most difference.”

COOL FACT: My brother is also a Viking alumni, class of 2015! 

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION PROGRESS

St. Stephen School is in the midst of a self-assessment process that includes feedback and input from the full school community.

Families were recently asked to complete a short, anonymous survey. The data collected will be used to evaluate the goal criteria for SSS's continued accreditation by the **Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools**.



ANNUAL HERITAGE GALA RAISES FUNDS TO BENEFIT CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Shown here (fifth from the left) is **Ms. Shannon Goreczny**, alongside other VCHS alumni at the March 16, 2024 Heritage Gala. Can you spot **Dr. Ray Feroz** and **Mr. Bob Puleo**?

***Some alumni who attended the Gala were not present when this picture was taken.



OIL CITY AMERICAN LEGION ESSAY CONTEST HONORS

Congratulations to Venango Catholic ninth grader **Sophie Dinovitz**, who was awarded second place for her essay on why the First Amendment is important in the United States.

Sophie read her essay on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at a dinner meeting at the **OC American Legion James Henderson Post #32**.

Her proud parents, **Mark Dinovitz** and **Nellie Scanlon**, accompanied her (photo at far left).



APRIL 2024

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL UPDATES

April 5, 2024

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Board Members,

Here is an update on recent progress at St. Stephen:

ROOF PROJECT

We have received six (6) different bids to re-roof St. Stephen School. The next step will be comparing the estimates in terms of construction specifics, materials, cost, timeline, warranties, etc. We hope to make a decision by the end of April.

HUMIDITY ABATEMENT


We have received advice from two vendors that the problem we have with humidity will not require external digging down to the foundation, but rather will involve internal improved ventilation and dehumidification. We are identifying and costing out those improvements.

KITCHEN REFRESH

We have had a walk-thru by Nutrition Inc, and they specified what equipment and modifications would be needed for them to transfer their operation from VCHS to St. Stephen's kitchen. On April 2, a state licensure inspector from the PA Department of Agriculture inspected the kitchen and agreed with the proposed modifications. Next we will meet with Nutrition, Inc. to identify vendors, costs, and equipment availability for the upgrades. Our ultimate goal is to be able to reinstate the availability of hot student lunches.

PLAYGROUND

A playground committee has been meeting to move this project forward, using the \$40 K grant received from the Phillips Trust. We hope to have the groundbreaking in April.

We are making progress! 

Easter blessings,



Ray Feroz, Ph.D.
VRCS Interim President



Bob Puleo
VRCS Board Chairman

VOLUME 2 † ISSUE 4

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF MEMBERS

Ray Feroz, Ph.D. (VC '68)
VRCS INTERIM PRESIDENT +
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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PRINCIPAL

Beth Metz (VC 2000)
BUSINESS MANAGER

Misti Kresinski
SS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Juliette Zimmerman
VC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Shannon Kluck (VC '99)
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Jim May
MAINTENANCE & CUSTODIAL
SERVICES

Leslie Pacior
SS CUSTODIAL SERVICES

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MISSION ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR

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ENROLLMENT CMTE CHAIR

Dr. Rick Sabousky (VC '79)

Abigail Watson-Popescu

Amie Wood-Wessell (VC '92)

McKenzie Healy
PRESIDENT, HOME & SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



**VC HS ALUMNI
BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT**

April 13, 2024

3:00 PM

3-ON-3 (TEAMS OF 4 OK)
GRADES 9-12 ARE ALLOWED TO
PARTICIPATE

CONTACT AD SHANNON KLUCK
FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALLING ALL ALUMNI (AND CURRENT 9-12TH GRADERS).
JOIN US THIS SATURDAY IN THE VC GYM
FOR A 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT.

CONTACT SHANNON KLUCK
(SHANNON.KLUCK@VENANGOCATHOLIC.ORG) OR
CALL THE SCHOOL (814-677-3098) FOR MORE INFO!

VC BASEBALL SPRING 2024 SCHEDULE

All games start at **4:00 PM**, unless otherwise noted.



- APR. 12** @ Forest
- APR. 13** @ ACV/UHS: Moniteau & Union
10:00 AM & 11:00 AM
- APR. 16** @ Keystone
- APR. 20** @ KC: Clarion DH
- APR. 23** @ Union

- MAY 3** Rocky Grove @ VC
- MAY 6** Union @ VC
- MAY 10** Forest @ VC (*Senior Night*)
- MAY 11** Cranberry @ VC (DH)
- MAY 14** Keystone @ VC

FACULTY & STAFF

Ms. Mary McDonough
PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Leslie Pacior
PRESCHOOL AIDE

Ms. Jackie Wice
KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Heather Harmon
FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Andr e Sporer (VC '82)
SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Alicia Daman
THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Martina Love
FOURTH GRADE

Ms. Mary Anne Oliver (VC '76)
FIFTH GRADE

Ms. Jill Lander
SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Gregory Knox
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Mary Beth Hutchinson
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Ms. Elizabeth Schmude
ART DEPARTMENT

Ms. Shannon Goreczny (VC '17)
ENGLISH, HISTORY, & THEOLOGY
DEPARTMENTS

Mrs. Emily Hicks
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT;
DEAN OF DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Alicia McMillen
HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Jessie Pyle
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Ron Shoup
SR. HIGH MATH CONSULTANT

Mr. Brian Slider
THEOLOGY & LANGUAGE DEPTS;
DEAN OF ACADEMICS

Mrs. Tiffany Warner
JR. HIGH MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

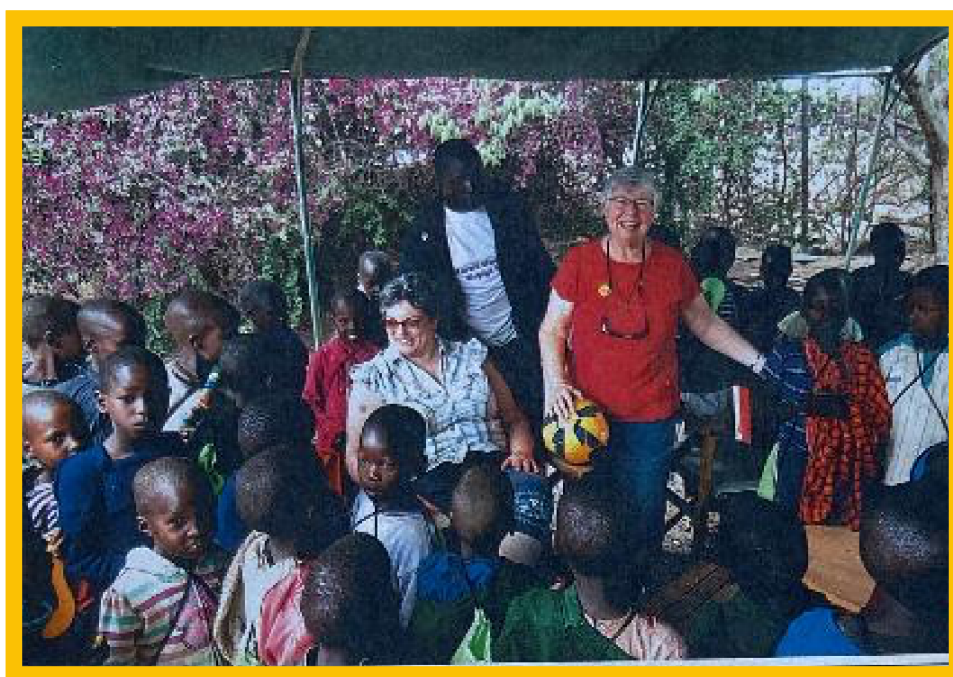
Mrs. Christie Rihel
TITLE I READING TEACHER

Mrs. Melissa Ace
Mrs. Amanda Mott
Mrs. Suzanne Reed
Mrs. Lacy Shoenfelt
Mrs. Cathy Tarr
ACT 89 PROFESSIONAL STAFF
(RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE UNIT 6)

Mission/Educational Trip To Tanzania, East Africa

Sr. Marian Wehler, OSB and **Sr. Tina Geiger, RSM**
of Catholic Rural Ministry invite you
to consider joining them **November 7-21, 2024.**

Experience the culture. See the beauty of Africa.
Meet the people of Tanzania.



Visit the children in a Tanzanian village, where the students (and adults) in our deanery helped to raise funds for the “Life-Saving Water Project” in 2023.

**For more info, call
the Sisters at
814.677.2032.**

Informational meetings will be held:

April 11, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Rectory Living Room, 84 Rectory Lane, Lucinda

April 18, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Our Lady of Clarion Center, 720 Liberty St., Clarion

April 24, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

St. Stephen School Cafeteria, 214 Reed St., Oil City



Venango Region Catholic School



Spring into Summer Cash Raffle

Sponsored by: Seaway Window of Erie

Prizes Drawn May 16, 2024 @ St. Stephen
School Spring Concert

PRIZES

1st \$1,000 CASH

2ND \$500 CASH

3RD \$250 CASH

Donation: \$10 per ticket

Tickets available
from all school
families or at the
school office

Proceeds benefit all students of St. Stephen &
Venango Catholic High school

SGOC Lic. # 1420



NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION APRIL 26, 2024*

Now accepting students in preschool
through grade 8 for 2024-2025

*Or anytime by appointment.

Call today for more information
or to schedule a tour.



814-677-3035 VENANGOCATHOLIC.ORG
214 REED STREET OIL CITY

TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

ALL FAITHS WELCOME

FULLY ACCREDITED

**MUSIC, ART, TECHNOLOGY,
ROBOTICS, ATHLETICS AND CLUBS**

SMALL CLASS SIZES

