



THE MORNING STAR REDUX

St James High School Class of 1964



Greetings Classmates!

February 2014 Vol.1 No. 2

February - Finally, and here is your copy of the second issue of the Morning Star Redux, the newsletter of the St James Class of 1964 – 50th Reunion. Plans for the reunion are going well! Thanks to those who have made their reservations to attend. All of you who plan to attend should do the same as it will force you to start making your plans now.

According to Chuck Pelzl, our Treasurer, we have enough in our account now to cover existing expenses, but he informs me the two of us will have to cancel our trip to Maui unless we can convince a lot more of you to send in your registration money now. You know I am not serious!. We are hoping for the largest reunion since we graduated. Even though some of us may think they will live forever, most of us know that is not true and we realize this might just be the last reunion we will have. It is your chance to get together with your old classmates and remember the times we had a St James fifty plus years ago.

Class Book

The Reunion Committee decided to publish a class book again for this reunion. It will be a digital edition, naturally. It will be available in a password protected PDF after the reunion. In order to receive a copy you must participate by completing the online survey. We have put together a list of questions to help you tell us where life has taken you over the last years. Some of the questions are mandatory and some are there just as guidelines. So far we have received only five completed surveys – Thank you Jim Farmer, Mary Jo Huard, Marilyn Dailey O'Gorden, Mary Ulrich Robinson and Bill McKinnon. We also would like a current digital photo of you which you can send to us at [email us here](#). Take a few minutes right now and visit the online survey and tell us about yourself:

Find the online Class Book Survey here:

<http://sjh64reunion50.com/ClassBook/ClassBookSurvey.htm>

Please note that all of these links are available from the Reunion website: <http://sjh64reunion50.com/>

50th Reunion Registration Information is Now Available

We know you have all been waiting with anticipation for the 50th Reunion Registration Information. Well, the wait is over! We suggest you make your needed reservations with the host hotel – Canad Inn - now. Hotel reservations can be cancelled with no penalty if done so 48 hours before arrival date. Complete your registration form, include your check and mail as directed. Registration fees are fully refundable if requested no later than August 14, 2014. Here are the links:

Here is a link to the Main Registration

Page: <http://sjh64reunion50.com/Registration/Registration.htm>

Find the Registration Form

here: <http://sjh64reunion50.com/Registration/StJamesReunionRegistration%20Form.pdf>

Find the Canad Inn Reservation Information

here: <http://sjh64reunion50.com/Registration/Canad%20Inn%20Reservations%20Instructions.pdf>

Want to Bring Your Pet Along to Grand Forks While You Attend the Reunion?

A member of the Reunion Committee recently had a question from a Classmate about whether the Canad Inn is pet friendly. Unfortunately, it is not, but there are several hotels in Grand Forks that are. Thanks to Mary Dale Youngern Hansen you can find a list of those hotels by [clicking here](#). You can find a list of all Grand Forks hotels at this website: https://www.visitgrandforks.com/lodging_



We Lose Another Classmate

With sadness we regret to inform you of the recent passing of former classmate Joe Murphy. Joe passed away December 16, 2013 at age 67. He finished his senior year of high school at Northwest Agricultural School in Crookston, MN in 1964 and went on to receive degrees from UND, including a Master's Degree in Geography. Joe worked for many years for the state of North Dakota. Joe had spoken to Mary Dale Youngern in November and said he was looking forward to attending the reunion this year. We will miss you Joe. Find Joe's full obituary along with other classmates who have passed at the *In Memoriam* page on the website:

<http://sjh64reunion50.com/Photos/InMemoriam/InMemoriam.htm>

Old St Michael's School Photo Found

Many thanks to Chuck Pelzl for sending along an old school picture from the St Michaels Grade School Days. Chuck said he could name everyone in the photo except the last person in the top row on the right. Can you help? Could that be Mike Blackmun?



Thinking about old photos – We would be very happy if you would send us some of your old St. James snapshots if you still have any. We would love to share them in future newsletters. If they are in digital jpeg format send them to [Email](#) or write us and we can give you alternative ways to share your photos.

Inviting My Favorite St James Teacher to the 50th Reunion

By John Wavra

Once the Reunion Committee had met, and plans were well along for the 50th Reunion, I thought it might be fun to try to contact my favorite St James sister/teacher and invite her to attend the reunion, I wondered if I could locate her. The idea originated from one of the questions for the Class Book Survey. - “Who was your most favorite teacher at St. James?”

Mine was, without a doubt, Sister John Mary. I was not alone in my choice. She was held in such high regard, the Signet student staff dedicated the [1964 Signet Yearbook](#) to her. She was my teacher in both Junior and Senior English class and my Home Room Teacher Junior and Senior Year.

She was a great teacher! Knowledgeable of the books we were required to read and possessing a fun sense of humor that allowed for a good deal of laughter in the classroom along with serious discussions. It was one of the few classes that I looked forward to attending. She was secure enough in her own person and allowed class discussions to stray from the planned subject when she thought we were learning from it.

I was fortunate, along with others, I am sure, to have her recommend several “non-approved” books, including *The Catcher in the Rye*, to read and report on. In short, Sister John Mary was the kind of teacher and person who really cared about students and was able to place a lasting stamp on many of her students, including me.

Thinking about her now I felt remorse that in all the years since graduating from St James I had let life’s normal struggles take precedence, and I had never once made the effort to contact her. I had forgotten the kindness and influence she had shown me in my high school years. I was unsure how to begin to try to find her 50 years later. Perhaps I could find her through the Sisters of St Joseph? I had no idea if she was still a nun, but it was the most logical place to start. So I searched the Internet and soon found the website for

the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates – St Paul Province. Perhaps if I contacted someone there they could help find her, especially if she was still a nun. I sent an email to the contact address on their website and crossed my fingers:

Greetings,

I may not be writing to the correct location, but thought I would start here. I am trying to locate Sister John Mary, Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet, who taught English at St. James High School, which was located in Grand Forks, ND and closed in 1969. Sister John Mary taught from 1961 to at least 1964 and was a very respected and well-liked teacher. In fact, the class dedicated our yearbook to her in 1964.

We are holding our 50th reunion of St James High School Class of 1964 in August 2014 and we would like to invite her to our reunion or at least discover where the world has taken her.

Could you provide any information on her or direct me to another contact that would be able to provide us with information as to her whereabouts today.

Many thanks!

John Wavra

Within a day I received a message back from Mary Kraft, the Sisters of St Joseph Archivist::

John,

I do have an address for Sister John Mary now Shirley Klecker. Not sure how current it is. Since we do not release info about former members, I encourage you to send the reunion information to me and I'll forward it to Shirley.

Hope the planning goes well!

mary

Well, I had a promising contact for her and decided I would send the reunion information to Mary Kraft with the hope that the former Sister John Mary, now

Shirley Klecker, would receive it and respond in advance of the reunion. Before I sent the information, however, I decided to do some sleuthing on the Web to see if Shirley Klecker turned up in a search so I could contact her directly.

It did not take me long to find the name Shirley Klecker Karel in the search engine results. The first result was a Marquette University's page showing she had graduated in 1968. Then, the same name was listed in another entry. It was an [obituary link](#). I feared I had found Sister John Mary, but still was not totally sure it was really her since Mary Kraft, the SJS Archivist had not used the last name Karel. I wanted to be certain this was indeed, the former Sister John Mary. So instead of sending reunion information to Mary Kraft I sent the following:

Mary,

Thank you for the quick reply. I thought it would be a much more difficult task to find Sister John Mary. Sadly, however, I think I am too late. I did a quick Google for her after I received your message. I came up with the attached obituary which seems to be hers. I did not know she had left the sisterhood, but I am not surprised. I don't suppose you can verify by checking her birth date (I think 1936) in your records or any other information you might have that matches with her obituary?

She was my favorite teacher of all time and she took the time to point me in the right direction. I will forever be grateful to her. I am sad to learn she may have passed as I know all of my classmates will be. I should have tried to contact her sooner.

John

Mary responded the next day:

John,

Thanks for sending Shirley's obituary. And the funeral was held right here at our chapel! You'd think I'd remember that! The two (Shirley and S. John Mary) are one and the same!
mary



Sister John Mary



Shirley Klecker Karel

I had waited too long to contact her! There is a lesson to be learned in this story, which you all may know, but bears repeating. If you have not contacted an old friend or fellow – don't wait any longer – call them and reconnect. Our time is running out fellow Classmates. Incidentally, that is another reason why you should send in your registration to attend the 50th Reunion today!

Until next month! John Wavra, Editor

Copyright © 2014 St James High School Class of 1964 50th Reunion, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a 1964 graduate of St James High School in Grand Forks, ND

Our mailing address is:

St James High School Class of 1964 50th Reunion
16761 Y Street
Omaha, NE 68135

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp