

EMBRACING SISTERHOOD
IN FAITH & SERVICE

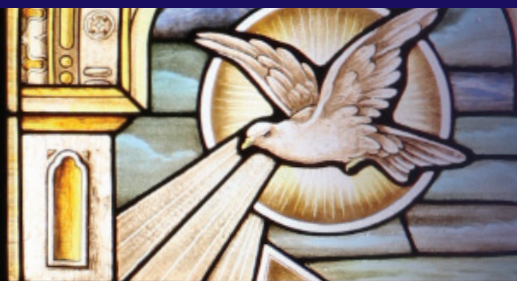
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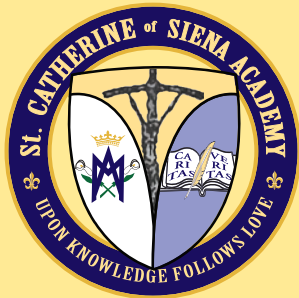
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A Tradition Worth Sharing

The stories in this edition of *Sororitas* celebrate the traditions that define St. Catherine of Siena Academy—our Catholic faith, exceptional educators, service to others, enduring friendships, and the generations of women who continue to carry our mission into the world. Thank you for being part of our story.

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A Message From the President and Principal

To the Sisterhood of St. Catherine of Siena Academy,

One of the greatest blessings of St. Catherine of Siena Academy is watching traditions take root. Although ours is a young school, the values that have guided us since our founding in 2010 have already become a lasting legacy, shaped by every student, alumna, teacher, parent, benefactor, and friend who has been part of our story.

As you turn the pages of this third edition of *Sororitas*, I hope you will see that tradition at SCA is not simply about honoring the past. It is about carrying forward the values that have always defined our school: a love of Christ, a commitment to academic excellence, joyful service to others, and the confidence to lead with wisdom and courage. Whether through the beauty of our chapel, the achievements of our students, the dedication of exceptional faculty, or the generosity of those who make our mission possible, these traditions continue to shape the lives of young women every day.

Thank you for being an important part of the SCA family. Your prayers, encouragement, and support help ensure that future generations of Stars will continue to discover their God-given gifts and share them with the world. Together, we are preserving a remarkable legacy while preparing young women to become the faithful leaders our world so greatly needs.

Lia Johnston

Lia Johnston
President

Dear Members of the St. Catherine of Siena Academy Sisterhood,

There is nothing quite like the excitement of the start of a new school year at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. This fall, we were delighted to welcome the Class of 2030 as our newest Stars. At our annual Convocation, we gathered as a school community to recommit ourselves to the ideals of St. Catherine of Siena and to embrace this year's theme, **Cross the Threshold. Find Your True North.**

Campus is already full of activity. Our fall sports teams are competing, clubs are welcoming new members, our robotics team is preparing its newest robot for fall competition, auditions for the fall play have concluded, and HOSA students are exploring this year's competition categories. And yes, classes are well underway! This is also the first year every student at SCA has known only our collegiate 4x4 block schedule. Since its introduction in 2023, the schedule has expanded opportunities for Dual Enrollment through Madonna University while giving students greater flexibility to explore electives, discover new interests, and prepare for college.

I look forward to welcoming you back for one of our alumnae events this year. Please know that you are always welcome on campus. If you visit during the school day, we would love to have you join us for daily Mass at 10:40 a.m.

Judith B. Hehs

Judith Hehs
Principal

Through Him, With Him, In Him.

Enter the doors of St. Catherine of Siena Academy and you'll find yourself at the chapel.

When our school was designed, the chapel was placed at its physical center, reminding us that Christ is at the center of everything we do.

Each morning at 10:40 a.m., students, faculty, staff, parents, and visitors pause for Daily Mass. As the day fills with classes, tests, college applications, friendships, victories, disappointments, and all the emotions that come with being a young woman in high school, our students step away from the demands of the day to spend time with Jesus. They hear His Word, receive Him in the Eucharist, and are reminded they are loved by the One who created them. They return to the classroom with a renewed sense of peace, ready for whatever the rest of the day may bring.

Our mission is to provide every young woman with the opportunity to know Jesus Christ through the life of the Church and the grace of the sacraments. Every Mass, every opportunity for Adoration, and every Confession is an invitation to encounter Christ, who is Truth itself.

Throughout the year, the chapel is home to liturgies that celebrate both the Church's calendar and the life of our Academy. Fathers join us on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, mothers on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and our benefactors on the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena. These celebrations, together with Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, strengthen our community in faith.

During senior exit interviews with Principal Hehs, students overwhelm-

ingly identify the faith community as the best part of St. Catherine. No matter where they begin their faith journey, many leave saying Daily Mass was one of the greatest gifts of their high school experience. For many of our graduates, those quiet moments in the chapel remain some of their favorite memories of St. Catherine.

None of this would be possible without the generous priests who faithfully celebrate Mass for our community.

As you read this issue of *Sororitas*, we invite you to keep our priests and chaplains in your prayers. Their faithful ministry is a tremendous gift to our Academy. Please also pray that God will continue to bless St. Catherine with holy priests who will celebrate the Mass and accompany our students for generations to come.



Through the Window of Faith.

The story of our Stained Glass

Featured on the cover of this edition of *Sororitas* is *The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, one of two historic stained glass windows in the Chapel of St. Catherine of Siena Academy. Along with *The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple* (shown above), the window was originally installed in St. John Cantius Parish in Detroit, a church that served generations of faithful from 1902 until its closing in 2007. Preserved for future generations, these sacred works of art continue their original purpose today—lifting hearts and minds to God in prayer.



The mission of the St. Catherine of Siena Academy Alumnae Association is to grow as sisters and disciples of Christ. We are dedicated to creating an alumnae body that fosters communication, services, and activities for alumnae, as well as helping with programs and events at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. Not only is it our goal to provide support and service to our alma mater, but also to continue to shine the light of Christ through service to other fellow communities.



Save the Dates

Week of Gratitude

October 19-23, 2026

Day of Giving

October 22, 2026

Annual Benefit Gala

November 6, 2026

After Hours: Alumnae Reunion Social

November 24, 2026

Home for the Holidays: Alumnae Mass + Cocoa

December 15, 2026

Pay It Forward Raffle Ticket Sales

January 25 – February 1, 2027

Benefactors Mass

April 29, 2027

Hall of Fame

April 29, 2027

Fore the STARS Golf Outing

June 21, 2027

How To Submit Updates

- Message the SCA Alumnae Association on Facebook or Instagram.
- Email Bridget Dulzo at bdulzo@saintcatherineacademy.org.
- Visit saintcatherineacademy.org/alumnae to complete the registration form.

Join the 2010 Club

Founded in 2010. Sustained by You.

- The 2010 Club is our alumnae giving society, created to help ensure future Stars receive the same faith-filled education that shaped your life. Join today and help carry the mission of St. Catherine of Siena Academy into the future.

Stay Connected



@scaalumnaeassociation



facebook.com/SCAAlumnae



linkedin.com/school/st-catherine-of-siena-academy/



Scan to learn more.

Brand U:

A Brand New Tradition

Every SCA girl leaves with a story. **Brand U** is a new tradition designed to help her take that story with her into whatever comes next.

This spring, the Class of 2026 gathered for the first-ever **Brand U: Senior Success Workshop**, a day focused on helping seniors feel confident as they prepare for college, careers, and life beyond SCA.

Seniors polished their LinkedIn profiles, took professional headshots, brushed up on networking and interview skills, and had the chance to ask questions about everything from professional dress to making a great first impression. And, of course, they learned from women who have been in their shoes—SCA alumnae and local professionals who generously shared their time and advice.

A special thank you to Director of Advancement Bridget (Dewan) Dulzo '15 for coordinating **Brand U**, and to alumnae Kate Dewan '20, Alex Worth '16, Erin Bonasso '15, Katie Higgins '21, and Samantha Zielinski '16, along with our community partner, Ashgrove Marketing Agency, represented by President Kelli Monahan, for sharing their professional experience and encouraging the next generation of Stars.

We think this new tradition is one worth keeping. After all, the best traditions bring generations of SCA women together—and **Brand U** is already doing just that.



Left to right: Samantha Zielinski '16, Erin Bonasso '15, Kelli Monahan, Bridget (Dewan) Dulzo '15, Kate Dewan '20, Alex Worth '16, and Katie Higgins '21

A New Chapter in a Tradition of Service



*Wait for the Lord; be strong, take courage,
and wait for the Lord.*

PSALM 27:14

For many St. Catherine of Siena Academy alumnae, the mission trip to the Dominican Republic remains one of the defining experiences of their high school years. It was there that many Stars discovered the joy of serving others and learned that a life rooted in Christ is always a life lived for others.

This past spring, that tradition entered a new chapter.

During EPOCH Week, ten students, accompanied by Principal Judith Hehs, Learning Specialist Julie Rzepka, and Fr. Matthew Kurt, traveled to Arecibo, Puerto Rico, for SCA's first mission trip with Catholic Mission Trips, Inc.

While the destination changed, the purpose remained exactly the same: **to encounter Christ by serving others.**

Like many who traveled before them, the students arrived not knowing exactly what their work would be. They packed work clothes, gloves, masks, and willing hearts, trusting that God would reveal the mission once they arrived.

Their assignment was to repaint the exterior of a neighborhood chapel in Barceloneta that had been damaged by Hurricane Maria nearly a decade earlier. Although funds had once been allocated for the project, years passed and the repairs were never completed. Working side by side, the students



transformed the weathered building into a renewed place of worship for the parish community.

The project was about much more than paint.

During a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the completion of the work, Fr. Roberto of Our Lady of Carmen Parish reflected on Psalm 27:14 -

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, take courage, and wait for the Lord."

He spoke of the patience and resilience of the Puerto Rican people and thanked the students for answering God's call with generous hearts and willing hands. For a parish made up largely of elderly members, their service was a tangible reminder that God provides in unexpected ways.

For the students, the week became an education that could never be replicated in a classroom. They prayed together each day, celebrated Mass, shared meals with missionaries, and experienced the joy of serving

alongside a community whose faith had endured years of hardship. In giving their time and talents, they discovered that they were receiving just as much in return.

Mission trips have always been an important part of the formation received at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. Whether in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, or wherever God may lead in the years ahead, these experiences invite our students to live the mission of St. Catherine in a profound way. They learn that leadership begins with service, that compassion requires action, and that authentic encounters with others have the power to shape a lifetime.

As we begin this new chapter, we remain grateful for the alumnae who built this tradition through their own witness of faith and generosity. Their legacy continues today in the lives of the young women who said "yes" to serving in Puerto Rico, carrying forward the same spirit to a new place and a new community.



Wherever we go.

One thing never changes at SCA: wherever our students go, the Mass goes with them.

Whether serving on mission in Puerto Rico, walking the streets of Rome, competing in athletics, or traveling for school activities, we gather around the altar. This year, our mission team celebrated Mass with the faithful of Puerto Rico before beginning each day of service. Earlier in the year, after an unexpected travel delay, our pilgrims returning from Italy gathered for one final Mass at their Delta gate in the Atlanta airport.

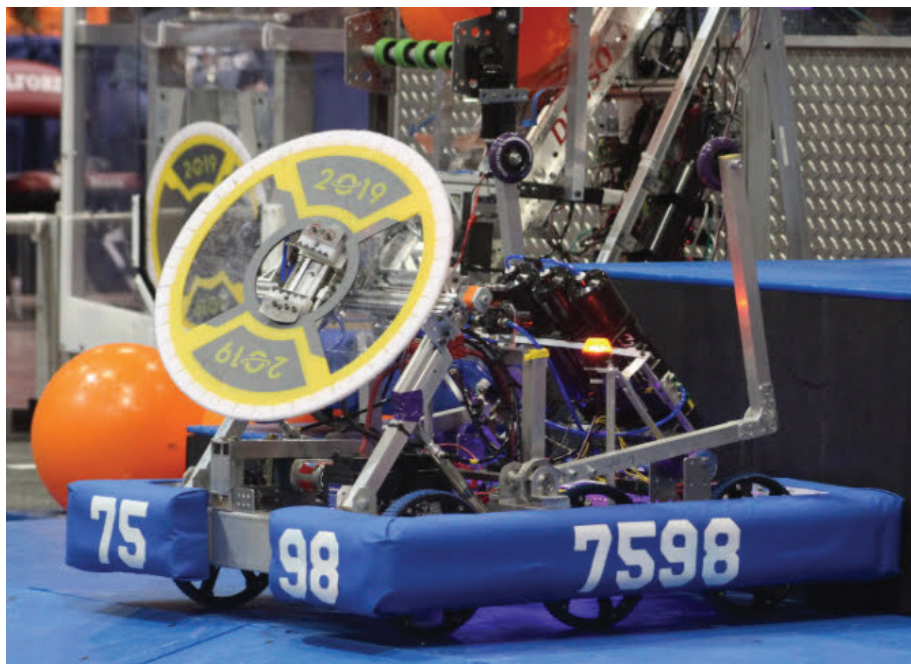
The location changes.

The Eucharist does not.

This has been one of SCA's quietest and most beautiful traditions. Christ remains at the center of every journey because He is the center of every life.



Constellations: *Built to Last*



In 2018 a small group of St. Catherine of Siena Academy students founded the Constellations Robotics Team with a vision of creating something that would last. They organized a team, found sponsors, developed their identity, and learned what it would take to compete in FIRST Robotics.

Since then, each graduating class has added to that foundation. Students have shared what they learned, mentored younger teammates, and continued the traditions that make the Constellations successful both on and off the competition field.

The Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 has been part of one of the strongest periods in the team's history. Over the course of four years, the Constellations competed in 11 official FIRST Robotics competitions during the regular

season and participated in seven additional offseason events. The team earned the FIRST Impact Award, Engineering Inspiration Award, Judge's Award, three Team Spirit Awards, two Imagery Awards, Event Finalist, Event Winner, and celebrated two FIRST Leadership Award nominees. During that time, the Constellations also earned two blue banners, completed their collection of FIRST competition medals, and served as FIRST Like A Girl ambassadors.

This past season was another exciting chapter. The 2025–2026 Constellations advanced to the playoff rounds at both district competitions, earned the FIRST Impact Award, received the Team Spirit Award at the Michigan State Championship, and qualified for the FIRST Championship in Houston, where they competed with teams from around the world.

How did we get here?

For Gina (Adragna) Jaklic '20, one of the team's founding members, those

accomplishments are especially meaningful because she remembers how the program began.

"When I think back on the start of the team, five of us had started the team after doing robotics for two years prior, learning how the FIRST robotics schedule and season operates. Wanting to get the school fully involved, we found other girls were interested and were able to register our team. It was a lot of hard work from every member to get the team organized, gather sponsors, and work on our own team branding in addition to the regular season's build, programming, and outreach requirements.

We were in the workshop every evening for most of the six weeks of the build season, where during competition our hard work continued, earning us the **Rookie All-Star Award** up to the state level, qualifying us to compete in the world competition that first year. Those practices could be very long, but the whole team contributed to ensure we designed a great robot to complete the competition tasks, skillfully execute its build, program its functions to operate properly, create a cohesive image for our team, and submit several award packets. While lots of work, it laid the groundwork to continue several traditions and passing of knowledge that keeps the team running to this day."

Today, each new class adds its own chapter to the story, building on the foundation the founding team created.

"While lots of work, it laid the groundwork to continue several traditions and passing of knowledge that keeps the team running to this day."

GINA (ADRAGNA) JAKLIC '20




**FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION**

**FIRST
IMPACT AWARD**

2026

**FIRST IN MICHIGAN
DISTRICT
TRAVERSE CITY E**



Founding members of the Constellations during the team's inaugural season (2018–2019) with their Rookie All-Star award. Photo courtesy of Gina (Adragna) Jaklic '20.

Blessings Big and Small:

Alumnae Milestones

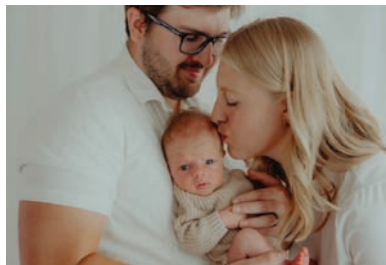
Class of 2014

Lauren Dallo married Matthew Abbo on November 8, 2025.

Patricia (Schimeck) Flory welcomed Augustus Michael on March 23, 2026.



Anna (Herzog) Duffy welcomed Miles James on August 28, 2025.



Leya (Maliekal) James welcomed Theo on October 1, 2025.



Angela (Mascari) Wilkerson welcomed Adalynn Mary on November 12, 2025.



Megan (McGrath) Okdie welcomed Kendall Margaret on June 18, 2026.



Class of 2015

Erin (Gries) Bonasso welcomed Dominic Michael on September 28, 2025.



Leah Manimalethu married Shawn Mathew on November 22, 2025.



Mary Peters married Dominic Brophy on September 27, 2025.



Class of 2015 (cont.)

Kerry (Prowse) Finn welcomed John "Jay" Joseph IV on September 12, 2025.

Emma (Reilly) Brown welcomed Oliver on December 19, 2025.



Anna Theeck married Ryan Nevin on May 9, 2026.



Class of 2016

Genna Rose Skalski married Jordan St. Jean on August 1, 2025.

Ciera (Weaver) Kallo welcomed Milani Christina on August 25, 2025.



Class of 2017 (cont.)

Gabrielle Lincoln married Christian Tutt on November 15, 2025, in Brighton, Michigan.



Class of 2018

Anna Hass married Connor Matlock on August 16, 2025.

Class of 2019

Carmen Denja married Nate Fronckowiak on September 27, 2025.

Class of 2022

Grace (Curtin) Hahnenberg welcomed Declan Thomas on February 11, 2026.



Class of 2017

Marykate (Bodien) Mascioli welcomed Oliver Louis on August 21, 2025.





Share Your Good News with Us!

Alumnae, we want to celebrate you! If you'd like to be featured in next year's Sororitas Magazine, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your update to Bridget Dulzo '15 at bdulzo@saintcatherineacademy.org and you could be featured in our next issue!



Business Directory

We're proud to spotlight the businesses owned and run by our alumnae and SCA families. When you support them, you're supporting the sisterhood.

Aaron Builders, Inc. – Vince Ivezaj, Parent (Class of 2018, 2019, 2026)

Alina Brooke Cosmetics – Alina Tinsman, Alumna (Class of 2018)

Ash Beauty – Ashlyn Sinishtaj, Alumna (Class of 2019)

Automation Controls & Engineering, LLC – Predrag Lazic, Parent (Class of 2023)

Benchmark Beverage Company – Auday Arabo, Parent (Class of 2030)

Blackstone Landscaping – Vincent Stempien, Parent (Class of 2029)

Bravo Payment Systems – Elias Mazzi, Parent (Class of 2029)

By Kelly Kathleen – Kelly Liszewski, Alumna (Class of 2016)

ChoiceScripts – Jerome Adragna, Parent (Class of 2029)

CJ Systems – Joanne Gutowsky, Parent (Class of 2026)

Corporate Travel Services – Joseph DiFranco, Parent (Class of 2027, 2029)

Dinverno Sprinklers – Benjamin Dinverno, Parent (Class of 2029)

Express Employment Professionals – Rajwan Kaji, Parent (Class of 2020, 2022, 2024, 2028)

Financial Focus – Steven Arnold, Parent (Class of 2029, 2030)

Food for Goodness Sake – Brianna Belanger, Alumna (Class of 2016)

Fresh Farms Market – Larry Najjar, Parent (Class of 2030)

Greenway Carpet Cleaning LLC – Jason Parr, Parent (Class of 2028)

Hair by MaryMargaret – MaryMargaret Weeks, Alumna (Class of 2020)

Halt Fire, Inc. – Todd Lincoln, Parent (Class of 2017)

Hungry Howie's – David & Kim Plait, Parent (Class of 2025); Grandparent (Class of 2024, 2029)

IMA Sports Novi – Donat and Juliana Fradlis (Class of 2030)

In Detail Interiors, LLC – Colleen Moscone, Parent (Class of 2018)

Italia Bakery – Theresa & Robert Imperia

JAD Communication, Ltd. – Dan Gutowsky, Parent (Class of 2026)

Jennifer Newell, Private Chef – Parent (Class of 2023)

Jonna's Market Taylor – Joseph Bahri, Parent (Class of 2027)

Keystone of Michigan – Jeffrey Crawford, Parent (Class of 2017; Class of 2019)

Law Offices of Joseph A. Lavigne – Joseph Lavigne, Parent (Class of 2016, 2023)

Livonia Liquor & Fine Wine – Kudama Asmar, Parent (Class of 2029)

Mary Forbes Photography – Mary Forbes, Alumna (Class of 2018)

Merlo Construction – Perry Merlo, Parent (Class of 2021)

Metro Sewer Inspection – Donald Janda (Class of 2028)

Milford Counseling – Rhett Reader, Parent (Class of 2022)

Mimmo's Italian – Dino Grossi, Parent (Class of 2027, 2030)

Missy and Mel's Salsa – Jack Page, Parent (Class of 2026)

MMG's Awaken Anesthesia Staffing, LLC – Mary Margaret Gulowski, Parent (Class of 2018, Class of 2022)

New You Counseling Services, PLLC – Jennifer Dulchavsky, Parent (Class of 2022, Class of 2024)

NorthWest Labs – Brenda Kassa, Parent (Class of 2026)

Paul Lehnert's Golf Shop – Paul Lehnert, Parent (Class of 2021)

Peace Love & Little Donuts, Northville – Kathy & Frank Isgro, Parent (Class of 2022, 2030)

Petrol Vintage – Amanda Sinishtaj Austin, Alumna (Class of 2015)

Pinter's Greenhouse – Michael Pinter, Parent (Class of 2024)

Premier Pet Supplies – Michael Palmer, Parent (Class of 2021)

Rebel Hair – Dina Karim, Parent (Class of 2028)

Relax Relentlessly – Carri Griffin, Parent (Class of 2025, 2029)

Rosebrook Child Development Center – Melanie McPeake, Parent (Class of 2027)

Salon Orchard – Likaa Mikhail, Parent (Class of 2021)

Saroki's Inc. – Sandi Saroki, Parent (Class of 2021)

Shawarma Grill, Inc. – Ziad Battah, Parent (Class of 2026)

Solomon Plumbing, Co. – Larry Allor, Parent (Class of 2028); Sean Smith, Parent (Class of 2027)

South Lyon Tent Rental – Brian Lally, Parent (Class of 2023)

Special T's Packaging LLC – Andrea & Leonard Wenderski, Parents (Class of 2025, 2026)

Stay Pressed Custom Nails – Makenna Mackie, Alumna (Class of 2015)

StorTronics – Mario Said, Parent (Class of 2021, 2024, 2028)

Success Mortgage Partners – Owen Lee, Parent (Class of 2017)

Summer Band – Eva & Munther Farance, Parents (Class of 2027)

Sure Life Financial – Patrick Yono, Parent (Class of 2029)

Szott Auto Group – Thad Szott, Parent (Class of 2018)

The Charm Between – Allie Barsh, Alumna (Class of 2015)

The Law Offices of Vincent Lorelli, PC – Vincent Lorelli, Parent (Class of 2028)

The Law Office of Romi F. Mezy, PLLC – Romi Mezy, Parent (Class of 2030)

Treehouse Creatures LLC – Chloe Bensinger, Alumna (Class of 2015)

USA Bio Care – Steve Ventura, Parent (Class of 2022)

Wireless Superstore of Grand Rapids LLC – Baghdad Kaskorkis, Parent (Class of 2020, Class of 2021)

101 Salon – Rene & Husam Bodo, Parent (Class of 2029)

Alumnae Come Home

Alumna Bianca Ivezaj '19 Returns to Inspire the Class of 2026

You are not behind. You are not lost. You are just getting started.

Those were the words alumna Bianca Ivezaj '19 shared with the Class of 2026 as she stood on the commencement stage, just days after graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Seven years earlier, Bianca had been sitting in the very same seats, preparing to begin the next chapter of her own life. Her return as the Thirteenth Commencement speaker was a homecoming and a reflection of her family's enduring commitment to Catholic education.

The Ivezaj family has been part of the St. Catherine story for many years. Bianca followed her older sister, **Sophia Marie '18**, through the halls of St. Catherine. Last year's graduating class included her younger sister, **Julia Ann '26**.

Three daughters. One school. One shared foundation of faith, academic excellence, and sisterhood.

We are grateful to the Ivezaj family for entrusting their daughters to St. Catherine and allowing our school to be part of their family's story. Their experience reflects the hope of Catholic education: that young women leave our halls grounded in Christ, confident in their gifts, and prepared to live their faith in the world.

In her address, Bianca spoke honestly about the uncertainty that can come after graduation. She reminded the Class of 2026 that God's plan unfolds in His time and encouraged them to remain rooted in the faith they received at St. Catherine.

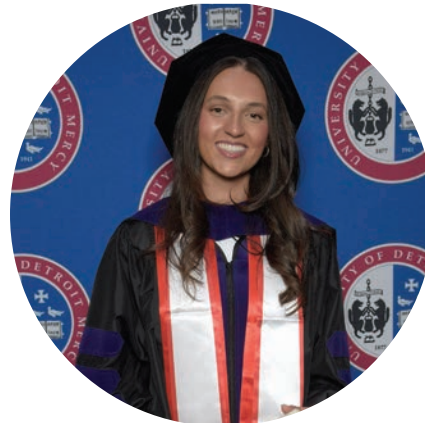
She challenged the graduates to embrace the feminine genius, to lead with courage and compassion, and to remember that their identity is found first in Christ, not in accomplishments or titles. She also reminded them that the sisterhood they found at St. Catherine does not end at graduation.

Thank you, Bianca, for coming home and for sharing your wisdom with your sisters in the Class of 2026. And thank you to the Ivezaj family for the many ways you have been part of the life of St. Catherine.

Bianca's words were a fitting reminder that an SCA education does not end at graduation. Our alumnae carry the mission with them, and many return to encourage the young women who follow.



Scan to
listen to Bianca's
address.



Alumnae Come Home

Since 2020, St. Catherine has welcomed an alumna back to campus each year to serve as commencement speaker.

- 2020 Leya Maliekal '15
- 2021 Katrina Coley '15
- 2022 Mary Kinney '16
- 2023 Elizabeth Dulzo '18
- 2024 Paige Buckberry '19
- 2025 Kayla Sawa '19
- 2026 Bianca Ivezaj '19



Four years can shape a lifetime.

For the Class of 2026, those years at St. Catherine of Siena Academy have been filled with academic challenge, leadership, service, faith, friendship, and sisterhood. Now, these young women are taking all they have learned and all they have become into their next chapter, heading to colleges and universities across the country. We are proud to celebrate their destinations—and the bright futures ahead.



Adrian College

Bowling Green State University

Central Michigan University

Cleary University

Eastern Michigan University

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Grand Valley State University

Hillsdale College

Hope College

Madonna University

Marian University

Miami University

Michigan State University

Michigan Technological University

Oakland Community College

Oakland University

Purdue University

Saint Mary's College

Samford University

The Catholic University of America

University of Dallas

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Kentucky

University of Michigan

University of Michigan—Dearborn

University of Mississippi

University of Toledo

Wayne State University



Archbishop Gala



Home for the Holidays!



Reverse Raffle Attendees!



2025-26 Career Day Speakers. Thank You!



Maura Lee '17 speaks at the 2025 A Jubilee of Light Benefit Gala in November 2025.



Shaping the Future: *SCA Alumnae Make Waves*

Maura Lee '17

From SCA to the mountains of Utah! Maura is Director of Operations at Holy Cross Hospital – Salt Lake and Holy Cross Hospital – Davis, overseeing Imaging, Oncology, Respiratory Therapy, PT/OT/Speech, Wound Care, Environmental Services, Food & Nutrition, Facilities, Lab, and Security. She previously directed Ancillary Services for CommonSpirit's Mountain Region and began as an Administrative Fellow after earning her B.S. in Science Business (minors in Compassionate Care in Medicine and Theology) from Notre Dame and her Master of Health Administration from Cornell. Last November she returned to campus as a speaker at the 2025 A Jubilee of Light Benefit Gala. Off the clock you'll find her skiing, playing volleyball, watching rom-coms, or cheering on the Lions and Red Wings with her Michigan family and golden retriever, Sugar.

Ria Mercy (Manimalethu) Richards, MD '14

Delivering babies (and excellence) wherever life takes her! After completing her Obstetrics & Gynecology residency at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Ria

is now settling into the suburbs of Atlanta, where she will be delivering babies at Northside Gwinnett Hospital. Since graduating from SCA, Ria earned her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Food Science from Wayne State University before earning her M.D. from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 2022. Outside of medicine, Ria enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, running, reading, singing, traveling, dancing to Bollywood music, and hunting for the best new restaurants. From Wixom to Washington, DC, and now Georgia, Ria continues to make her mark in women's health!

Rachel Johnston, DPT '18

Helping little ones move, grow, and thrive! Rachel earned her B.S. in Exercise Science (Clinical emphasis) with a minor in Biology from Grand Valley State University, then her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Charleston Southern University. She now practices as a physical therapist in the North Charleston, South Carolina area, specializing in working with children. This year she returned to SCA as a guest speaker in a science class. Keep crushing it, Rachel!

Crystal Poota, JD '18

Objection sustained—Crystal is making her mark in the legal world! After SCA (Class of 2018), Crystal earned her law degree and is now with Kas-Mikha Legal Group, P.L.L.C. in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. She even snagged a CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Property (Transactions and Land Use) during law school. From the SCA courtroom debates to real-world practice—Crystal is arguing her way to success!

Mary Green '14

Rising through the ranks in Motown medicine! Mary has been serving as Chief Resident at Detroit Receiving Hospital during her third year of residency and recently returned to campus to help with the softball camp—proving once a STAR, always a STAR. Keep leading the way, Mary!

(Note: **Bianca Ivezaj '19** is featured earlier in this issue as our inspiring 2026 Commencement speaker—fresh off graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law!)

If you would like to be featured in future editions of *Sororitas*, please reach out to Bridget Dulzo via email bdulzo@saintcatherineacademy.org.

Athletic Commits



EMMY KARA

Lacrosse / Madonna University



SYDNEY SCHAFFER

Hockey / Adrian College

Celebrating Our Scholar-Athletes

St. Catherine is proud to celebrate **Emmy Kara** and **Sydney Schafer** as they continue their athletic journeys at the collegiate level. Emmy will join Madonna University's lacrosse team, bringing with her a love of the arts and an impressive 11 years in the SCA drama program. With Madonna right in our backyard, Stars will have plenty of opportunities to cheer her on.

Sydney, a three-sport athlete at SCA, competed in varsity golf, ice hockey, and lacrosse while also playing club hockey. A true scholar-athlete, she will continue her passion for ice hockey as an Adrian Bulldog. She joins fellow Stars **Caitlin Griffin '25** and **Hannah Lisch '24**, who also compete at Adrian, continuing a growing tradition of SCA women making their mark at the collegiate level.



Take a walk down memory lane. The new athletic entrance celebrates the tradition of Stars athletics and the student-athletes who have represented St. Catherine with courage, teamwork, and excellence. Next time you're on campus, stop by and see if you recognize a familiar face.

2026

Leading our STARS.



We honor Carlos Calderon, named MIAAA Region 13 Athletic Director of the Year (2025–2026).

In his seventh year at SCA, his leadership and commitment to excellence in girls athletics continue to make a lasting impact.



Carlos has built his career in education-based athletics through mentorship, opportunity, and unwavering commitment to student-centered leadership. During his time at SCA, he has seen significant growth and restructuring of athletic operations, ensuring high standards of compliance, equity, and student-athlete support during a period of sustained program expansion.

Carlos is a shining example of a hardworking, dedicated, and proficient athletic director. His ability to lead and inspire both staff and students sets him apart as a true leader in his field.

BRANDON MALINOWSKI, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

The Michigan Independent Athletic Administrator Association (MIAAA) recognized Carlos with a Dedicated Service Award in 2024. This award recognized his service to interscholastic athletics throughout the state. The Catholic High School League presented Carlos with the 2022 Tom Kelly CHSL Athletic Director of the Year Awarding.



Forming Minds. *Forming Hearts.*

At St. Catherine of Siena Academy, exceptional teaching has always been about more than academics. Our teachers are called to form young women in faith, truth, and virtue, helping them discover the gifts God has given them and the vocation to which He calls them.

That commitment has been recognized across the Archdiocese of Detroit through both the **Amazing Catholic Educator Award**, presented by the Catholic Foundation of Michigan, and the **Bishop John Quinn Teacher of the Year Award**, presented by the Catholic High School League.

Since 2020, five St. Catherine educators have received these prestigious honors:

2026 – Dr. Lucia Eisner	Bishop John Quinn Teacher of the Year Amazing Catholic Educator
2025 – Jennifer Zbytowsk	Amazing Catholic Educator
2022 – Katie Brandt	Amazing Catholic Educator (Honorable Mention)
2021 – Anneke Houbeck	Amazing Catholic Educator
2020 – Barbara Kirwan	Bishop John M. Quinn Secondary Teacher of the Year



The Bishop Quinn Award

The Bishop John Quinn Teacher of the Year Award is presented annually by the Catholic High School League and the Archdiocese of Detroit to one outstanding high school educator.

For St. Catherine of Siena Academy, this recognition carries special meaning. Bishop John Quinn was an original member of the Academy's Board of Trustees and returned to serve on the Board following his retirement as Bishop of Winona-Rochester.

To have one of SCA's own educators receive an award bearing his name is a meaningful reminder of the Academy's enduring commitment to excellence in Catholic education.



Bishop Quinn Award Recipients in action: Barb Kirwan (left), Lucia Eisner (right)

A Tradition of Excellence: *Celebrating Dr. Lucia Eisner*

Dr. Lucia Eisner is one of those teachers students remember long after graduation. For the past 11 years, she has taught, mentored, encouraged, and inspired hundreds of young women at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. This spring, her dedication was recognized when she was named the **2026 Bishop John Quinn Teacher of the Year** by the Catholic High School League and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Students know her as "Ms. Lucia." They know her classroom door is open before school, during lunch, and long after the final bell. Whether they need help preparing for an exam, advice about college, or encouragement, they know she will make time for them.

Now in her eighteenth year as an educator, Dr. Eisner has helped shape SCA's science program while opening doors for future healthcare professionals. She developed the Academy's healthcare internship partnership with Henry Ford Providence Hospital in Novi, giving students valuable real-world experience before they graduate. She also serves as advisor to SCA's HOSA chapter, where students regularly compete at the regional, state, and national levels while exploring careers in medicine and the health sciences.

Her academic credentials are impressive. Dr. Eisner earned a degree in Human Biology from Stanford University, a master's degree in Biomedical Sciences and Biomedical Ethics from Barry University, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology from the University of Florida. She completed post-doctoral research at the University of Virginia and is certified in every science discipline. Yet those who know her would say her greatest gift is not her knowledge, but her willingness to

invest in every student who walks through her classroom door.

Earlier this spring, Dr. Eisner was also recognized as a Catholic Foundation of Michigan Amazing Catholic Educator.

Dr. Eisner's influence extends beyond science. She attends daily Mass with

Lucia is an approachable and diversely talented educator. She goes above and beyond any expectation we have of our teachers. Lucia models her faith-life beautifully. She professes her faith quietly yet publicly. Lucia challenges her students to be who they are meant to be, developing their gifts as women created in God's image.

PRINCIPAL JUDITH HEHS

students, advises clubs, volunteers at school events, and models the integration of faith and reason that is central to the Academy's mission.

Through her faith, generosity, and commitment to her students, Dr. Lucia Eisner has become part of St. Catherine of Siena Academy's tradition of excellence.

At a Glance

Stanford University – Human Biology

Barry University – Biomedical Sciences & Biomedical Ethics

University of Florida – Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics & Microbiology

18 years in education

11 years at St. Catherine of Siena Academy

Founder of SCA's Henry Ford Providence Healthcare Internship

Advisor, HOSA

Catholic Foundation of Michigan Amazing Catholic Educator

2026 Bishop John Quinn Teacher of the Year



Stewardship Report Data: 2025–2026

Traditions endure because people choose to invest in them. Your philanthropic support strengthens all aspects of the education of our STARS. We appreciate each contribution, no matter the size; each gift helps to create a sustainable future for St. Catherine Academy. We invite you to consider a number of ways in which you can become involved and support the school.

Annual Appeal: *Make an Immediate Impact*

The Bridge, our Annual Appeal, begins July 1 and runs through June 30 of the following year. Your donation can be made into monthly payments or a one-time gift, for either the fall or spring appeal. The annual budget restarts July 1, so any donations made after that date will credit the next school year.

Student Fundraiser: *Strengthening the Sisterhood*

The annual Student Fundraiser is way our current STARS and alumnae support the sisterhood! Your participation in these days of giving go directly to fund tuition assistance, ensuring all girls have an opportunity to receive a St. Catherine education.

Signature Events: *Celebrate With a Purpose*

A Night in Siena is our Annual Benefit Gala and our school's largest fundraiser that brings our community together to raise money for specific needs of the school.

The Fore the STARS Golf event and Reverse Raffle are additional opportunities to come together in to support our STARS in a fun and engaging way.

Endowment: *Ensuring the Future*

Giving to the Fr. Elmer Endowment secures the future of St. Catherine Academy. Managed by Ave Maria Mutual Funds, the endowment reflects Catholic values in its investments.

The President's Leadership Society

The St. Catherine of Siena Society: Gifts of \$10,000 or more

- Anonymous
- Coretek, Inc.
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- Ehlers Heating & Cooling
- Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ruth Griffin
- Mr. Terry J. and Mrs. Judy Griffin
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- Mr. Michael and Mrs. Nancy LaMarra
- Mr. Owen and Mrs. Heather Lee
- Mr. Charles Nemes
- Nemes Rush
- Ramser-Morgan Foundation
- Raymond M & Jane E Cracchiolo Foundation
- Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathleen Rosowski
- Solomon Plumbing Co.
- Mr. John and Mrs. Kathleen Wyeth

The Dominican Society: *Gifts from \$5,000 to \$9,999*

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- Mr. Paul and Mrs. Dawn Kueber
- Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Kimberly Lisch
- Most Reverend John M. Quinn
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The Dialogue Society: *Gifts from \$2,500 to \$4,999*

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- RDM Associates

The President's Circle:**Gifts from \$1,500 to \$2,499**

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- Mr. David and Mrs. Stephanie Skown

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Principal's Club:**Gifts from \$500 to \$1,499**

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- Mr. Raymond Krahe
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- Mr. George and Mrs. Kristine Zrinyi

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- Mr. Richard and Mrs. Colleen Burke
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- Mr. Robert and Mrs. Elizabeth Theeck
- Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Maria Valenton
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Purple Club:**Gifts from \$100 to \$249**

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- Mr. Connor Dewan
- Ms. Bridget Dewan Dulzo '15
- Ms. Addison Finck-Gouine '17
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- Mr. Michael and Mrs. Jill Kara
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- Mr. Donald Krueger
- Ms. Lily Kueber '21
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- Mr. Sam and Mrs. Laura Manjo
- Mrs. Megan McGrath Okdie '15
- Ms. Carolyn Moscone '18
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- Mr. Milford Woodbeck Jr
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- Ms. Jessica Wyeth '19

Gold Club:

Gifts from \$50 to \$99

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- Dr. Lucia Eisner
- Mr. Troy and Mrs. Hope Field
- Mr. John Fillicaro
- Ms. Lorraine Lalicata
- Ms. Lauren Marie Lavigne '23
- Ms. Nicolette Lowry
- Ms. Lauren Melanson
- Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Susan Perrier

Lilies of St. Catherine:

Gifts up to \$49

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Annual Gala

GALA SUCCESS

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, St. Catherine of Siena Academy celebrated its 14th Annual Benefit Gala, A Night in Siena: A Jubilee of Light. We are grateful to all who supported the evening through sponsorships, donations, advertisements, auction contributions, or volunteering.

- Mr. Jerome and Mrs. Barbara Adragna
- Airborne Adventure Park
- Altar'd State

- Mr. Vince and Mrs. Dianna Kazimierczuk
- Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Ann Kenyon
- Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Kilcoin
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- Mr. Paul and Mrs. Dawn Kueber
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- Mrs. Suzie Merucci
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- Mr. David and Mrs. Andrea Mooradian
- Mrs. Ashley Moore
- Ms. Reta Mourad
- Mrs. Amy and Mr. George Munday
- Mr. Timothy and Mrs. Avita Nafso
- Mr. Christopher Naidoo and Mrs. Alessandra Konopczyk-Naidoo
- Mr. Charles Nemes
- Mr. Chris Nemes
- Mr. Joe Nemes
- Mr. John Nemes
- Nemes Rush
- Mr. Gregory Nickel
- Noreen Owens Photography
- Mr. Michael and Mrs. Johanna O'Connor
- Mr. Jayson and Mrs. Tammy Oliver
- Ms. Mige Orentas '19
- Mr. Jack and Mrs. Bridget Page
- Ms. Carolyn Palka
- Ms. Allison Pargoff
- Mr. Chris and Mrs. Christine Parnin
- Ms. Tricia Patti
- Mr. Alan Pawlik and Mrs. Maggie Nelson
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- Mr. Marvin and Mrs. Venice Petrous
- Planet Rock Ann Arbor
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- Dr. Jacquelin Pozdol '16
- Precision Garage Door Service of Southeast Michigan
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- Most Reverend John M. Quinn
- Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Jennifer Quint
- Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Stephanie Ritz
- Mr. David Rizer
- Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathleen Rosowski
- Mr. Eric and Mrs. Melissa Rothert
- Royal Oak Golf Center
- Ms. Meghann Rutherford
- Dcn. John and Mrs. Judy Rybski
- Mr. Raghed and Mrs. Linda Samona
- Reverend Michael Savickas
- Mrs. Kelly Schimeck
- Schoolcraft College
- Mr. Scott and Mrs. Maureen Sisco
- Mr. Lance and Mrs. Claudia Sitto
- Mr. David and Mrs. Stephanie Skown
- Ms. Natalia Smerage '19
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- Mr. Steven and Mrs. Nicole Vincent
- Mr. Brian and Mrs. Catherine Wallace

- Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Gena Wegienka
- Whitecaps Community Foundation
- Reese Woloszyn
- Wolverine Pickleball
- Ms. Alex Worth '17
- Ms. Jessica Wyeth '19
- Mr. John and Mrs. Kathleen Wyeth
- Mr. Mike Zalusky
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Spring Sponsors

Thank you to our Spring Events sponsors whose generosity made the Reverse Raffle and Fore the STARS Golf Outing a success.

- **Gold Sponsor** - Solomon Plumbing
- **Silver and Golf Ball Sponsor** - Coretek
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donate.

Fr. Elmer Endowment

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- Mr. Enrico and Mrs. Kathy Digirolamo
- Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Maureen McFarland
- Mr. Raymond Krahe

Hermann-Wallace Endowment

- Hermann-Wallace Teacher Support Fund

Ramser-Morgan Endowment

- Ramser-Morgan Foundation

Shirley Digirolamo Scholarship Endowment

- Mr. Enrico and Mrs. Kathy Digirolamo

Capital Campaign Gifts

- Mr. Terry J. and Mrs. Judy Griffin
- Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Marnie Michel
- Mr. Robert and Mrs. Kathleen Rosowski
- Mr. Brian and Mrs. Catherine Wallace

**PLAY >>> IT
FORWARD**



Scan to
learn more.

Memorial Gifts

- **Daniel Allor**
Mrs. Patricia Saah
- **Lucienne Borkowski**
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Mr. Ken Castel
- **Donna Decker**
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- **Shirley Digirolamo**
Mr. Enrico and Mrs. Kathy Digirolamo
- **Fr. Richard Elmer**
Dr. Edward and Mrs. Margo Schulte

Honor Gifts

- **Carolyn Moscone '18**
Mr. Donald Krueger
- **Class of 2026**
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Jennifer Quint

Financial Summary



Benefit Gala	35%
Capital Campaign	19%
Annual Appeal	17%
Student Fundraiser	13%
Endowment	9%
Fore the Stars	4%
Live Purple Give Gold	3%

One Family's Gift: *Generations of Impact*



Shirley DiGirolamo
Sep 20, 1935 — Dec 18, 2025

A Family's Commitment to Catholic Education

In February 2026, St. Catherine of Siena Academy received a remarkable gift to establish the Shirley DiGirolamo Scholarship Endowment.

The gift came from Enrico and Kathleen DiGirolamo in memory of Enrico's mother, Shirley, a lifelong supporter of Catholic education. Although Shirley was not an SCA graduate, her family believed in the mission of Catholic schools and wanted to help provide that same opportunity to future generations of young women.

Shirley's life was centered on faith, family, and education. She was a graduate of Immaculata High School in Detroit and made sure her children received a Catholic education. Her family's connection to Catholic schools continued through the next generation, including her

granddaughter Lynn, a proud 1997 graduate of Mercy High School.

When establishing the endowment, Enrico shared that his mother "believed deeply in forming young women through strong academics grounded in faith." That belief aligns closely with the mission of St. Catherine of Siena Academy.

The Shirley DiGirolamo Scholarship Endowment will provide financial assistance to SCA students with the greatest need, helping more young women experience an education

*Mom believed deeply
in forming young
women through strong
academics grounded in
faith.*

ENRICO DIGIROLAMO

rooted in faith, academic excellence, and community.

We are grateful to the DiGirolamo family for choosing to support Catholic education and for creating a lasting opportunity for St. Catherine students.

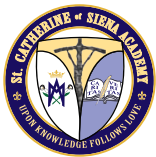
Every Gift Tells a Story

Some donors give because St. Catherine shaped their own lives. Others give because they believe in the importance of Catholic education. Together, these gifts help ensure that future generations of young women have the opportunity to grow in faith, pursue excellence, and discover their God-given gifts.



Scan to
donate.





St. CATHERINE *of* SIENA ACADEMY
28200 Napier Road, Wixom, MI 48393



Our mission is to educate young women
to develop their feminine genius—their
unique dignity, identity, and gifts as women
created in the image of God.

Our vision is to transform the culture by
equipping young women to be leaders as bold
witnesses of the Gospel, rooted in the love
of God and formed by faith and reason.

To schedule a tour, please e-mail admissions@saintcatherineacademy.org.

28200 Napier Road, Wixom, MI 48393 ✨ SaintCatherineAcademy.org ✨ (248) 946-4848