The Leader

A newsletter for benefactors, alumni, and friends of Saint Mary's University



Sullivan continued ...

was characteristic of her and I think many of the wives of my contemporaries; they did a lot of sacrificing for their families."

The two were happily married for 53 years, and also raised a second daughter, Meg. Throughout their marriage, Sandi would follow her husband's career, teaching anywhere they relocated to including Conroe, Texas; Allen, Texas; and Aurora, III.

"Throughout our life, when I was able to get a promotion or a better job, she would pick up, interrupt her career, and find another position," Dan said. "As we moved to Houston and then to Dallas, she taught there, and she was there for about 10 years. Then we moved to Chicago. Soon thereafter it happened again, and we moved to Denver and finally settled down here."

Throughout Sandi's 25-year career, Dan said her solid education from the College of Saint Teresa was evident. "It became obvious, from the people she taught with, her skill level was above many who came from other schools around the country," he said proudly. "She had a passion for teaching kids how to read. She spent most of her time as a first-grade teacher, and most of her teaching years were in Texas in the '70s and '80s."

In addition to teaching, Sandi served as the academic credentials evaluator at the Community College of Aurora, Colo. A candidate for Teacher of the Year in Texas; Sandi was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa (Gamma Nu Chapter) International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators, Texas State Teachers Association, Association of Texas Professional Educators, and American Association of University Women.

By funding an endowed scholarship to honor Sandi, Dan says he has two equal goals:

"The first goal is to help students follow in her footsteps by getting a solid education, in elementary education, along with a sense of ethics to teach from and so they can bring those ethics to the classroom," he said.

"The other goal is because I didn't always appreciate it at the time, but in retrospect, I consider her a hero, and she made a lot of sacrifices, and as time goes on there will be at least one person a year who gets that scholarship who will know who she is, and she'll be memorialized in that way."

Dan hopes the Sandra Lee Fox Sullivan CST'66 Elementary Education Endowed Scholarship will inspire more ethical teachers who will dedicate their careers to helping youth learn. "Sandi really loved what she did, and she was good at it," Dan said. "If the scholarship gives them a little help to get them along, I'd like them to love what they do and to do it well."

Gift supports next generation

As a young man from a small rural area, Dick Deitering '63 learned a lot about life during his time at Saint Mary's then College in Winona — not just from a wide array of liberal arts and business classes, but also from interacting with students from much larger cities like Chicago and Minneapolis.

Although Deitering may not be able to readily recall all of the faculty he had as a student, he is quick to express his admiration. Names like Brother Leonard Courtney, FSC '37, Brother Raymond Long, FSC '43, Mr. William Sullivan, and Dr. Orest Ochrymowycz '57 come to mind — as does a speech class Deitering doesn't believe he particularly excelled in. Public speaking, he explains, isn't his forte. Business was more where his interests and talents resonated.

After earning a degree in business administration (and after being drafted), Dick and his brother took over their father's farm equipment business in north-central lowa, the heart of agricultural farmland. In 1992, his Brother retired from Deitering Brothers Inc., and Dick continued running the business until 2004 before the business passed to the next generation.

Through the years, he and his wife Janice have generously supported Saint Mary's, designating gifts to the Science and Learning Center, Saint Mary's Fund, and the soon-to-be-completed Adducci Science Centers Hoffman and



of business leaders

Brother Charles halls, where science and business will innovatively combine.

"I felt like I got a great education, and it prepared me for the business world, and I would like to see other students get the same opportunity," he said. "With the cost of education today, I don't think students would be able to afford it if they didn't get some help. And I want to help Saint Mary's keep their facilities up to date. I'm fortunate enough to be able to give back — and probably because I had some good education there."

The Deiterings returned to the Winona Campus in 2018 for Dick's 55th class reunion. They had an opportunity to tour the brand new Science and Learning Center and see first-hand how their philanthropic efforts benefit students. "It's a marvelous structure," he said. "It should offer opportunities to anyone interested in the science field. It's both beautiful and practical, and the labs are tremendous."

When the newest business and science facility is open, they plan to return for a tour. The career businessman is interested to see the new business suite.

"The students will have quite an advantage," he said.
"The technical aspects will be very important. In
the farm equipment business, technology changed
dramatically at the turn of the century. It went over my
head, and that's why the new generation took over."

Dick is also grateful for the education his family has received from Saint Mary's. The legacy Deitering family also includes Dick and Janice's son, Keith '93, and daughter, Jennifer (Deitering) Mann '95. Jennifer's son, Adam Mann, also attended Saint Mary's in 2020.

"I probably encouraged them," Dick said. "My son went to college somewhere else but moved to Saint Mary's after the first year. My daughter went there to visit and just fell in love with the campus. She's the one who encouraged her son."

Dick hopes that Saint Mary's forward-thinking, new facilities, and new programming will help both the university — and its students — thrive for many new generations. "I hope this new B.A. in Nursing and the Physician Assistant program with Mayo Clinic will draw people, and that Saint Mary's undergraduate and graduate programs will continue to flourish and grow. And, I hope that Saint Mary's will send graduates out into the business world who are honest and have a great sense of ethics."



Saint Mary's former administrative assistant-turned financial adviser gives back

When Shirley Curbow '84 started her career at Saint Mary's as an administrative assistant, she spent hours printing paychecks, then ensuring computers were turned on. Eventually, she worked on a significant capital campaign that would change the course of Saint Mary's. Through each and every project, she gained confidence, both in herself and her abilities. She began to realize she was capable of much more.

Shirley's daughter, Becky (Hazelton) Bratulich '94, said Saint Mary's is such an important part of her mother's life because the college built her into the woman she is today. "Her mentors, supervisors and co-workers gave her the confidence to believe in herself," Becky said. "She started believing in herself and doors began to open." Not only did Shirley work at Saint Mary's, in the mid-1980s, she also earned her business degree.

After working with an executive team at Saint Mary's, Shirley realized she liked thinking big.

"While she was working at Saint Mary's, she learned things that couldn't be taught," Becky said.

Shirley agrees. "I wanted to continue helping people set and meet goals," she said. Shirley felt empowered to pursue an administrator opportunity at a Winona-area Edward Jones branch office. "I saw that Saint Mary's and Edward Jones had so much in common. Both organizations thrived by helping their constituents find success and realize their potential," she said.

Shirley began to realize her own potential — that she desired to be a financial adviser through Edward Jones. Hard work, research, and studying for multiple tests proved successful. When an opportunity to work as a financial adviser at a branch office in Anoka became available, Shirley packed her bags and headed north.



"This opportunity changed the entire trajectory of my life," she said. "And it all stemmed from the confidence I gained at Saint Mary's — through my working career and by earning my degree."

Shirley, who's now retired, pursued a legacy gift at Saint Mary's as a way to give back. She set up a \$100,000 endowed scholarship in her estate. This planned gift will provide opportunities for future Saint Mary's students in the form of scholarships.

"Saint Mary's changed my life.
They did the hard part, by instilling knowledge and confidence in me,"
Shirley said. "This — the giving back — this is the easy part. It's so important for me to give back to an organization that built me. This will ensure future generations have the same opportunities I did."

When Shirley retired a few years ago, Becky stepped into her mother's shoes, taking over part of the business at the Anoka Edward Jones office. A teacher for 20 years, Becky saw that her mom had found both success and fulfillment in financial advising. And, she remembered that her mom had continually found similarities between the Lasallian teaching values at Saint Mary's and the financial teaching values at Edward Jones.

"I started to see that this role could be a good fit for me," Becky said. "I realized I could continue in my mom's footsteps by helping people set goals and developing purposeful plans."

ABOUT THE LEADER

The stories and successes shared in each issue of *The Leader* highlight the extraordinary impact benefactors are making on the programs and people at Saint Mary's through their leadership gifts. *The Leader* is a quarterly publication.

For more information about any of the stories printed in this publication or how to make a gift to Saint Mary's University, contact:

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Vision, compassion, and commitment are all characteristics of leadership. Each year hundreds of alumni, parents, and friends provide leadership support to Saint Mary's. The Leadership Society recognizes generous individuals and organizations who give \$1,000 or more to Saint Mary's University on an annual basis. The generosity of this group enables Saint Mary's to enhance

the outstanding academic, leadership, and service-learning experiences we offer our students. Whether left unrestricted to the Saint Mary's Fund or designated to specific initiatives, leadership gifts make a real difference in transforming the lives of our students.

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