

Dear Sabre Alumni & Friends:

The movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” epitomizes the “ripple effect”. Most of us have seen this fabulous movie usually shown at Christmastime. In the movie, George Bailey, (played by Jimmy Stewart) wishes he had never been born. An angel from heaven grants him his wish and the character soon discovers the impact that his life has had, not only on his family, but on his neighbors, the townspeople and the nation! George soon realizes had he not been born, many people would not have existed, or would have died, and those that lived would have had a miserable existence.

I humbly believe that the family of St. Brendan High School and its founding principal Fr. Thomas Dennehy has had that same “ripple effect” on the lives of those in the community, the city, the country and the world! Our graduates for the most part have made a mark for themselves and have carried themselves in an honorable, giving, charitable, loving, courageous and Christian manner, not only in our immediate city but in the world. Whenever I travel or speak with others I am amazed to find out what our graduates are doing from Washington, D.C. to Sydney, Australia!

As a teacher at St. Brendan’s for the past 28 years I have been privileged to witness first hand the impact the school has had on many of our graduates. Successful students have become more successful individuals. Less successful ones, those with serious family problems, students with learning disabilities, students with tremendous obstacles to overcome have done so with the help of Our Lord, their families and I believe the family of St. Brendan High School.

St. Brendan High School has been a source of education, refuge, love, attention, dedication, to more than 12,000 individuals who have gone into the world and who have in turn caused their own ripple effect. I believe that St. Brendan’s has taught its students more than just academics, it has taught compassion, love, unselfishness, individuality, leadership, integrity, dedication, generosity, charity, responsibility and love of fellow man.

I have hundreds, possibly thousands of stories of students who have come back to genuinely thank the school. In many cases, they give complete credit to the school for not only “turning their lives around” but also for helping them to become what they are today. A particular story comes to mind of a young man who was unable to afford the school because of dire family problems and financial difficulties. Fr. Dennehy, as he did for many students, “carried” him until he finally graduated from St. Brendan’s and is a successful family man and doctor today. There were many “kids” that Father Dennehy “carried” and “helped” and thus were given the opportunity and privilege of attending St. Brendan High School, those kids were changed forever, in turn, they have helped to shape the world.

I have never asked alumni for money, certainly not for buildings or other “educational” material things. However, I ask that you support the Fr. Dennehy Fund that funds scholarships. The fund invests in lives for the future (our best investment and most important natural resource). Sydney Harris the syndicated columnist once said: “Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.” Fellow Sabres, don’t let this opportunity to invest in a young person become a regret in your life. Please give whatever you can and ear-mark it as the Scholarship Fund.

Mahatma Gandhi said it succinctly “Be the change that you want to see in the world.” I challenge all of you to be the change you want to see in the world, the change that the little ripple effect caused by St. Brendan and Father Dennehy has been in your lives. Please stay in touch as well. It gives us great joy to hear from you and about you and your families.

Many blessings and love to you and your families.

In Christ’s Love,

Martha C. Adams
Science Dept. Chair
Fr. Dennehy Memorial Fund Honorary Campaign Chair

Father Dennehy Memorial Fund

When Fr. Tom Dennehy founded Saint Brendan High School in 1976, he set out to shape the hearts and minds of future generations to come. He was known for being a tough disciplinarian, dedicated principal, and always had a student first mentality. Legend has it he would take the yearbook home with him in the evenings and try to learn the names of all his students. His hard work paved the way to what St. Brendan High is today. It is no coincidence that many of the traditions he set in place have been passed down through the years. A testament of his work is the fact that over 1/3 of the St. Brendan faculty are alumni. Many of whom were students of Fr. Dennehy.

Part of his dedication to the student body was a little known tradition that Fr. Tom started early in his career. When a student, or the family of a student, approached the school with financial hardship issues that would entail having to pull their son or daughter out of St. Brendan, Fr. Dennehy always found a way to keep them home. Reasons were usually the loss of a parent, family member, or business. Father Tom would meet the student and the family half way. Instead of just giving them a free ride, he would lower the tuition to an affordable rate and ask that the student come to school one Saturday a month to assist in school projects. Countless students were able to finish their high school careers at St. Brendan because of this initiative. It truly is a part of St. Brendan's beautiful legacy.

In 1998, when Fr. Dennehy passed away in Ireland, St. Brendan dedicated the gym in his honor. At the dedication ceremony, a group of alumni banded together and committed to continuing the legacy Fr. Dennehy started. They created the Fr. Dennehy Memorial Fund with the mission of raising funds from alumni to support any student with urgent need. It is the last resort for any family who is faced with an urgent situation and cannot afford the tuition.

The Fund has always been operated by an independent Board of Directors consisting of alumni, faculty, and staff. Today, the Fund is a subset of the new St. Brendan High Alumni Association and its Board of Directors. When the administration is approached with a student in need, they conduct the proper diligence on the matter and present the request to the Fund's Board of Directors, who then have final approval on awarding the scholarship.

Since 1998, the Fund has supported over 10 graduates who have gone on to successful college and professional careers. By making the Fund a subset of the new Alumni Association, the Board plans on expanding the scope of the Fund to support more students and ensure that no Sabre will ever be forced to leave our beloved Alma Mater. All donations to the Fund are tax deductible and all proceeds go to students in need. Donations are accepted year round.



Donation Form

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name	Year of Graduation
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	Apt#	City
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	State
Business Title/Profession/Occupation	<input type="text"/>	Zip
<input type="text"/>	Company/Employer Name	

I would like to pledge to the Fr. Dennehy Annual Fund.
(Check only the box that applies)

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000 - Fr. Dennehy's Circle	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500 - Gold Sabre	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250 - Green Sabre	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 - Baby Sabre Society	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 to \$99 - Sabre Friend	\$ <input type="text"/>
		Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	My company has a matching gifts program.	\$ <input type="text"/>
		Amount

Payment by Credit Card	
Credit Card Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
Card Number	<input type="text"/>
Expiration Date	<input type="text"/>
Name On Card	<input type="text"/>

Payment by Check	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check Enclosed (Make check payable to Fr. Dennehy Memorial Fund)

*All contributions are tax deductible.

Fr. Dennehy Memorial Fund
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