

Eagles Forever Alumni Newsletter



St. Ethelreda School

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Alumni Spotlight

Our inaugural issue focuses the spotlight on Class of 1962 Alum Mike Urbut.

Eagles Forever Alumni Newsletter: *What are you doing now?*

Mike Urbut: I am a Director of two companies ...one is public, Darling International and the other is private...FSB Global Holdings. I have had a long career largely in the food industry.

After Ethelreda, I went to St. Ignatius, University of Illinois and finally the University of Chicago where I got an MBA. I also have a CPA.

EFAN: *What's your favorite memory of St. Ethelreda?*

MU: It was a welcoming

place for 6 to 14 year olds. The teachers really cared.

EFAN: *Who was your favorite teacher?*

MU: I don't think I had a favorite teacher. Two of them showed up at our reunion (42 years after graduation).

Probably the most memorable were Sister Margarita (1st grade), Sister Rita (3rd grade) and Sister Clarice (part of 6th grade and a principal).

Florence the traffic lady at the corner of 87th and Ashland was also very nice.

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Mike Urbut
Class of 1962

Reunion 2010...Save the Date!

Hey Alums! Mark your calendars for this year's all-classes Alumni reunion.

The Eagles Forever Alumni Reunion will be held on November 6, 2010, the 83rd anniversary of the official dedication of St. Ethelreda

School from 3 pm to 10 pm.

Rumor has it there's a Class of 1980 time capsule buried in the school's front lawn. Is it really there? What's in it? Find out at the reunion!

Plus, take a school tour, attend mass, enter to win

raffle prizes and enjoy a special performance of the smash hit comedy play *Late Night Catechism*.

Get your registration form at: <http://www.stethelreda.org/alumni.htm> or call 773-238-1757. Spread the word!

Take Note!

- **Eagles Forever Alumni Reunion, November 6, 2010—3 PM—10:00 PM**
- Register your child for Fall 2010 now!
- School's In!
- Website Facelift

A History Lesson: St. Ethelreda's Humble Beginnings

On November 6, 1927, George Cardinal Mundelein officially dedicated a combination school and church building known as St. Ethelreda parish.

But eighty-four years ago, the church actually got its start in of all places, a bungalow basement.

In April 1926, Reverend John L. O'Donnell organized St. Ethelreda Church for Catholics who lived west of

St. Killian Church and north of St. Margaret Church.

A modest bungalow at 8824 S. Marshfield served as a makeshift rectory where masses were celebrated until the new parish moved temporarily into a portable structure at 88th and Paulina Street and then into the combo building.

Four months after ground was broken on the church

and school building, St. Ethelreda School opened in September 1927 with an enrollment of 200 students.

A church was later built at 88th and Paulina and dedicated by Samuel Cardinal Stritch on May 17, 1953. Although the church has closed, the building still stands today. And, St. Ethelreda School opens this fall for its eighty-third school year...a milestone in itself.

Alumni Spotlight, cont'd.

EFAN: *What did you like about the Eagles Forever Alumni Reunion?*

MU: The reunion brought back a lot of memories. The building has been kept up remarkably well. The classrooms looked like a lot of learning was going on.

EFAN: *What does being a St. Ethelreda Alum mean to you?*

MU: I am proud of going to St. Ethelreda but it is more a personal sense of pride.

In my many years as an adult I can't recall anyone asking me 'Where did you go to grammar school' and if they had they would have said 'St. Who?' But growing up at St. Ethelreda shapes you in the most fundamental way during your most formative

years. Loving to read, for example, traces back to my experience at 88th and Paulina many years ago.

EFAN: *How has a St. Ethelreda education helped you in life?*

MU: I think St. Ethelreda was a great foundation to build on. I never felt someone had a better 1-8 experience better than mine.

"It was a welcoming place for 6 to 14 year olds. The teachers really cared." –Mike Urbut

Eagles Forever Alumni Database is at 119...and Growing!

The Eagles Forever Alumni Database officially launched in 2009. Since then, over 100 grads have registered...have you?

If you answered yes, thanks for your support! For those who haven't joined yet, simply visit our Alumni page

at <http://www.stethelreda.org/alumni.htm> and click the registration button. Then fill out the form...it's that easy.

The Eagles Forever Alumni Database is growing and we'd like all St. Ethelreda grads registered. Our goal is to form an Eagles Forever

Alumni Association that will be your one-stop resource for everything St. Ethelreda.

You can't hide that Eagle Pride! Register today and let's make the future Eagles Forever Alumni Association one of the biggest and best ever!

Alumni Spotlight, cont'd.

The school was part of a parish that truly was a community. People cared about each other.

EFAN: *What advice would you give to today's St. Ethelreda students?*

MU: The kids should set their sights as high as possible. They should be proud of their school and know that they can 'go up against' kids from magnet

schools or richer private schools and compete.

The world needs scientists, mathematicians and engineers so study hard and you can be the 21st century's Jonas Salk, Bill Gates, Neil de Grasse Tyson or Ernest Wilkins.

EFAN: *What inspired you to donate to the Eagles Forever Scholarship Program?*

MU: I have very favorable

memories of St. Ethelreda so I was happy to donate.

--Interview by Pam Jefferson-Waits

Thanks to Mike Urbut for such a great interview! He's a true example of how St. Ethelreda educates students with "Tender Learning Care (TLC)" and lives up to its motto of "Educating Tomorrow's Leaders."

Look for more Alumni interviews in every issue!

Reunion 2009...Off to a Great Start!

Last October, the first Eagles Forever Alumni Reunion was held at St. Ethelreda. Proud Eagles of several decades from the 1950's through the year 2000 were represented at this annual event.

The classes of 1959 and 1969 marked two milestone anniversaries: 50th and 40th respectfully.

Festivities kicked off with an inspirational mass celebrated

by Reverend Monsignor Kenneth J. Velo, an Archdiocesan priest and president of the Big Shoulders Fund.

A self-guided school tour took Alums on a trip down memory lane. Classroom visits, class photos and reconnecting with classmates had grads reminiscing about the good 'ole days.

Alum Uncle Rail, a popular

comedian, performed his unique brand of comedy for his fellow Eagles.

Alums won great prizes like overnight hotel stays, electronics, gift cards, framed school prints, cell phone and more in the raffle.

If you missed all the fun, join us on November 6th for an even bigger and better reunion this year!



Eagles Forever Scholarship...Take a Student Under Your Wing

Did you know that you can give the gift of a St. Ethelreda education to a financially-challenged student?

Through the Eagles Forever Scholarship Program, you or your classmates can help sponsor a St. Ethelreda student for just \$1,000. Think

of the value of a St. Ethelreda education has had in your life. Your generous individual or joint donation will make an impact in the lives of well-deserving students and the viability of our school.

Thanks to the generosity of a

special Alum donor, we awarded the first Eagles Forever Scholarship to a student this school year.

And thanks to Alums who attended the reunion and other Alums who donated—another thankful recipient will be chosen soon!

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*Educating Tomorrow's
Leaders*

**A Benedictine University
Educational Partner**

School's In!

St. Ethelreda opened for its 83rd school year on August 23rd with an enthusiastic Principal Spells ringing the school bell to signal the start of a new year. It was a back-to-school party on Paulina with prayer, singing and a walk on the red carpet. This year, our school website got a facelift that features our new "*Tender Learning Care*" (TLC) campaign launched earlier this year.

Please let me know what you think of our first Alumni newsletter. Send your comments and suggestions to Pam Jefferson-Waits by letter, e-mail or phone. I'd love to hear from you!



St. Ethelreda Adopted by BUUF's BU Cares

Forty student volunteers from Benedictine University Unity Foundation (BUUF) spent a Saturday afternoon in May sprucing up St. Ethelreda School as part of their Adopt-a-School program.

"We were looking to adopt an entire school, so we chose St. Ethelreda," said Jasmine, BU Cares Chair. "I love it here!"

University students helped Principal Denise Spells and and fourteen of her students plant flowers, spread grass seeds and paint window railings. Andrea, a BU Cares volunteer enjoyed working

outdoors with students and thought teaching them how to pull weeds was "fun." The kids also liked interacting with university students. Greg, a six grader thought everyone helped make the school look better.

Eighth grader Janae made new friends and felt planting and painting was her way of giving back to the school.

Carol Swett, Director of International Programs at Benedictine University stated that adopting St. Ethelreda School will help keep the school viable and build relationships. The

program will continue throughout the next school year. "We'd like to bring one more service project and maybe even a big brother and big sister program," remarked Swett.

Principal Spells felt that the program was "great" and "an answer to a prayer" for her school.

"It brings more than academics to our existing Benedictine University partnership," Spells said. "It also provides mentors and a multi-cultural experience for our kids."