



## Forty-four fulfilling years

*Fr. Frank ready to embrace next chapter in priesthood*



**Fr. Frank Lordemann retires after 44 years in the priesthood.**

A calling to the priesthood is something Fr. Frank Lordemann heard at a young age. In a family of priests, that calling came as no surprise.

“My Dad’s brother was a priest, my great-uncle was a priest, and my great-great-uncle was a priest,” Fr. Frank said. “We always had priests around the house when I was growing up. I started “playing priest” when I was in 3rd grade. It was a longtime interest.”

That interest evolved into a vocation. Fr. Frank was ordained a priest in May of 1972, thus beginning a 44-year career.

“Priesthood has been a very serious vocation, and yet very fulfilling and challenging. I like it very much. I’d do it again in a minute,” Fr. Frank said.

“I had the opportunity to be with people in their happiest and saddest moments. I’ve had the opportunity to walk with people in their faith life. Being encouraging, merciful and compassionate has been important to me throughout my priesthood.”

Life as a priest has taken Fr. Frank all over the world, especially with serving 27 years as a military chaplain.

Fr. Frank entered Air Force active duty in 1977. Upon enlistment, he served four years full-time and 23 years in the reserves. He

retired from the military in 2004.

“It was great. I’d do it again if I could. I’ve been in a lot of different places all over the world,” Fr. Frank said. “I’ve been in about 30 different countries, and many military installations. It was a great opportunity to see the world.”

Regardless of where “home” was for Fr. Frank, he cherished the chances to connect with people and walk with them in their faith. Since January of 2004, when he was assigned Sr. Associate Pastor duties at St. Mary’s Parish, West Point became his home.

For a man always on the move, the 12-plus years in West Point was Fr. Frank’s longest assignment.

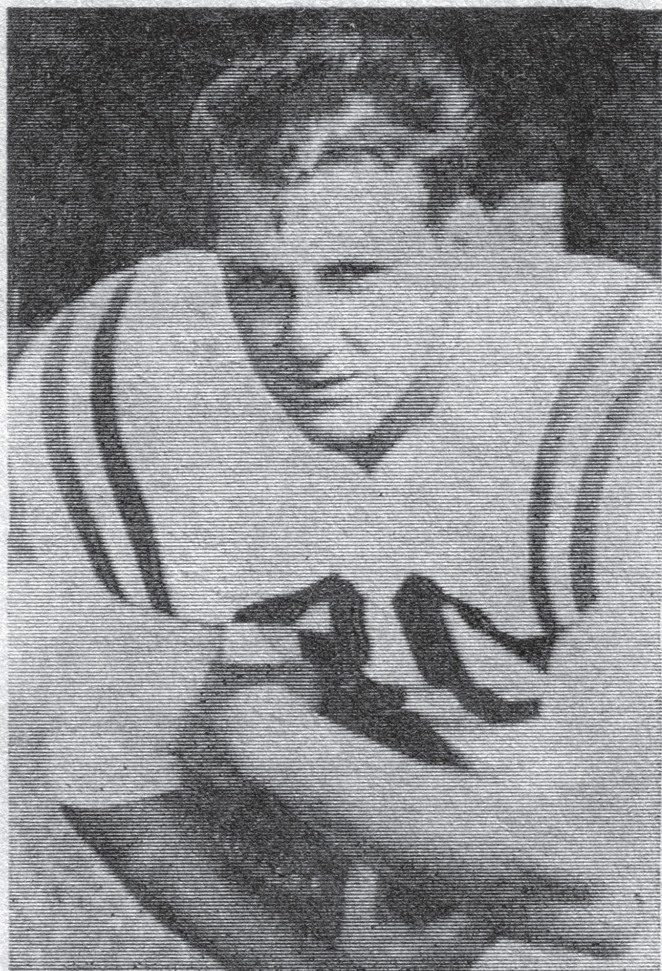
“Until West Point, I had not lived anywhere longer than six years since I left home at age 16,” he said. “Six years was the longest assignment I had in my adult life.”

Moving has never been an issue for Fr. Frank. In fact, he embraces change.

“I can make friends quickly. I can adapt to new situations. I have no fear of change. I find change to be good and to be challenging,” he noted.

But in June, his stay in West Point came to a close as he was once again on the

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST



**Reggie Smith**

*Perfect season...*

**Reggie Smith and the 1965 West Point CC football team was a special group. To read all about the team who posted the school's only undefeated season, see page 4.**



**Teresa Gomez**

## New GACC teachers

**Several new teachers were introduced at Guardian Angels Central Catholic for the 2016-17 school year. Among them was Spanish teacher Teresa Gomez. To read about the other new faculty members that were introduced this fall, see page 3.**

## FR. FRANK: Retires

FROM PAGE 1

move.

Fr. Frank "retired" and moved to Boys Town. And while he's excited about what lies ahead, West Point will always hold a special place in his heart.

"I loved West Point. I still do love West Point. It's a great place to be. It's a wonderful community and a great place to minister," Fr. Frank said. "I liked preaching at the small parishes too. It was always exciting for me. I met a lot of great people and made a lot of good friends here.

"Saying good-bye can be difficult, but the close friendships remain. The real important friendships hang on. Those don't go away."

And like any place he's had to leave, it's the people that he'll remember the most.

"I just have a lot of good memories about the people. Their work and their families, their cares and concerns," Fr. Frank said. "I love to sit and laugh with people, and share stories of the past. There were lots of good memories here."

Now Fr. Frank will have an opportunity to create new memories in Boys Town.

Yes, Fr. Frank retired from the Omaha Archdiocese, but it's more of a semi-retirement as he still will be working.

He no longer has full-time parish responsibilities, but he will still carry out priestly duties at Boys Town, which includes saying some weekday and weekend Masses.

"You never really quit serving as a priest until your health forces you to quit," Fr. Frank said.

Being "retired" will allow Fr. Frank more freedoms, such as meeting new people, catching up with old friends and spending more time with family. He also plans to take advantage of the theatre and classical music opportunities in the Omaha area.

Fr. Frank may have left town, but don't expect him to become a stranger.

"It's been a great life. It's been great serving in West Point. People will see me around. From the garage here to the garage in Boys Town, I'm only 61 miles away," Fr. Frank said.

# Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Celebrates Silver Jubilee

**By Jen Pick**

**Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**

A Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration with ties to your area is celebrating her Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of vowed religious life.

Before entering the FSPA, Sister Marcia Baumert (born in West Point, Nebraska) earned two degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: a bachelor's in home economics and art education and a master's in consumer science and wellness. She went on to teach home economics and art in Nebraska.

Sister Marcia made her first vows as an FSPA in 1991. She then earned a Master of Theological Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois, spiritual direction certification from The Claret Center (also in Chicago), and additional spiritual direction certification from St. Joseph Educational Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

She became a board certified

chaplain after completing four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, Iowa, ministered as a pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Walker, Iowa, and served St. Mary's Catholic Church in Urbana, Iowa, from 1992 to 1995.

In Davenport, Sister Marcia served for two years at Sacred Heart House of Prayer before ministering at Genesis Health System (also in Davenport) as a chaplain and spiritual director for eight years. In 2004, Sister Marcia moved to her family home in West Point to care for her parents, continued serving as a spiritual director, and also ministered for three years as chaplain at Franciscan Care Services in West Point.

In 2014, Sister Marcia moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she serves as a member of the FSPA incorporation team and continues to minister in spiritual direction.

A jubilee celebration was held at St. Rose Convent on June 11.



**Sister Marcia Baumert celebrates Silver Jubilee.**

## GACC School welcomes new faculty



**New faculty members joining the staff at Guardian Angels Central Catholic are, from left, Denise Baumert (Preschool teacher), Sara Wangler (Kindergarten teacher), Karla Throener (Pre-K aide), Leslie Kreikemeier (English teacher), Jean Baumert (Preschool aide) and Pamela Schlickbernd (Spanish teacher).**

## A LOOK BACK AT BLUEJAYS' 1965 FOOTBALL TEAM

### *It took all 11 for WPCC to complete only undefeated season*

Reggie Smith. Rich McGill. Dan Wortman. Bob Neesen. Those were just a few names featured on one of West Point Central Catholic's greatest football teams in the school history.

While that team had some big-name players, the 1965 Bluejay football team wasn't about one or two players. It was about an entire team. Teamwork, and hard work, was the foundation for their success.

The team's rushing leader, senior running back Reggie Smith, can attest to that. Smith was named to the 1965 All-State team, but to this day, he is awfully quick to give credit where credit is due.

"It wasn't one person. It was a total team effort. I got the yards but the line opened the holes," Smith said. "Bucks don't run without a hole, and [Rich] McGill doesn't throw passes without blocking for him.

"The offensive line and defensive line were key to our success. They had to do a lot of dirty work without the praise."

McGill, who played behind a big and bruising Bluejay line, was considered one of the top quarterbacks in the area.

"Rich was darn good, and probably one of the best basketball players to graduate from West Point CC," Smith said.

And with a team filled with "darn good players," the 1965 football team, which was in its 12th year of the program, capped off an undefeated season. That accomplishment remains a highlight for players on that team, and for good reason.

Fifty years later, no other team in Bluejay football history has matched the feat of finishing unbeaten. WPCC has had a few undefeated regular seasons, but no perfect season other than the 1965

team.

"Those were the days before state playoffs, but it was still neat. It's something that can't be beat," former WPCC QB Rich McGill said. "There's always a part of me that would have liked to play for a state title, but it doesn't take away from what we accomplished."

"It all started with our coaches," McGill added about head coach Lyle Nannen and assistant Ed Nitz.

Not only was the 1965 team undefeated, they earned the Class B runner-up honor as voted on by Gregg McBride, who was the Omaha World-Herald sports writer at that time.

"The big difference was Reggie. He was just so much better than everyone else. We had Rich who was so intelligent. He recognized things on the field that others couldn't. And then we had a bunch of old farm boys on the line," said Dan Wortman, who was a junior on that team.

York edged West Point CC for the Class B state championship. And according to McBride in a story following the '65 season, he wrote, "West Point Central Catholic pressed for top honors and might have won with a stronger schedule."

In the 1965 season, WPCC posted a 9-0 record with wins over Columbus Scotus, Oakland, Clarkson, Hartington CC, David City Aquinas (their toughest game that year), Omaha H.N., Wayne, Wahoo Neumann and Pender for a perfect 9-0 record.

The Bluejays averaged 38.2 points per contest, while holding their opponent to 9.7 points per game.

"We had so much experience. A lot of starters had been playing for a long time. It was an attitude more than anything else," Wortman said. "It wasn't a cocky attitude. It was just the confidence you were going to win."

### **Smith an all-time great for WPCC**

West Point CC (now GACC) is known for producing great athletes. But one name will forever be cemented into Bluejay sports history as an all-time great.

That name is Reggie Smith, a 1966 graduate of West Point Central Catholic.

Not only is Smith recognized as one of the best athletes at WPCC, but in the entire state. Smith was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame as an athlete in the Class of 2013.

Being in such elite company is an honor that Smith will forever cherish.

"It was very gratifying — very shocking. It meant a great deal to know somebody thought I was worthy of an honor like this," Smith said.

Being selected to the Hall-of-Fame is just one of several prestigious awards Smith received throughout his athletic career.

One major accolade included Smith being the first football player in Nebraska to be named to the Parade Magazine All-America Second Team as a senior. Smith was also a two-time Class B All-State running back, and as a senior, he was named to the AP All Class All-State team.

As a senior, Smith posted a 9.78 yards per carry average as he rushed for 1,566 yards on 160 carries. Smith also scored 26 touchdowns.

Editor's Note: Both stories were part of a football feature in the West Point News.

# 'By this sign you will conquer'

+ *IN HOC SIGNO VINCES* +

"For the past year I have signed my bulletin articles with the tag line "+ In hoc signo vinces +". We also started the last school year by outfitting the faculty and staff with tee-shirts emblazoned with the same message.

The literal translation "By this sign you will conquer" is a reference to the vision of the Cross

received by Constantine before entering a pivotal battle that ultimately ended with his ascendance as the new emperor of the Roman Empire.

As emperor, Constantine allowed Christianity to be publicly celebrated throughout the empire. From that time in history, "+ In hoc signo vinces +" has become a standard for Christians throughout the world; a reminder that through Christ's sacrifice we have been given the ultimate gift of salvation which we are called to share through our own time, talent and treasure.

Thus it seems providential that this year we celebrate our Mass for Homecoming week on the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. As we gather to commemorate the power of the Cross and offer praise and thanks to God, the reality of this truth

is made evident in the generations gathered as the living Body of Christ. You and your ancestors who have so faithfully witnessed to the power of the Cross by your support of Catholic education embody "+ In hoc signo vinces +".

Please know that your sacrifices which support the mission of Guardian Angels Central Catholic are greatly appreciated!

It is both humbling and inspiring

to be called to serve such a faith-filled community with such a solid foundation rooted in the power and promise of the Cross.

Together let us pray that through God's grace we might offer ourselves to the mission of the Cross that future generations will be offered the same hope that we have received.

+ In hoc signo vinces +  
Fr. Steve

## GACC PRESIDENT

Fr. Steve Emanuel



*Clocking an 8-second ride!*

Brian Preusker ('09) had a big night at the Cuming County Fair bull riding event. He posted scores on both rides. With two successful rides, Preusker repeated as the Cuming County Fair bull riding champ. He is the son of Jim and Alice Heimann.

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# Youth show plenty of love

*St. Mary's Parish shines as host of 'Love Begins Here,' so do the kids*

For St. Mary's Parish Youth Minister Lisa Hunke, she truly believes, "loving and serving starts right here at home."

That belief of love and service fueled the decision of West Point hosting the 'Love Begins Here,' mission trip July 17-19.

A total of 15 middle schoolers from rural parishes in the Omaha Archdiocese, including four students from West Point, answered that call during last week's four-day, three-night mission project.

"Our mission was to serve those right here at home. That's what 'Love Begins Here' means," Hunke said. "Even though not everyone was from West Point, we wanted to do things that each kid could take back and do in their community."

Serving members of the community was a big part of the mission trip. Some of those projects included yard clean-up, painting and serving lunch.

Hayley Ortmeier of West Point, who was one of the 15 students, said the service projects were her favorite part of the mission trip.

Serving is nothing new to this community, Hunke stated.

"Volunteering is just a way of life for this community. It's something that most of our families are used to doing," Hunke said. "With these kids, we just wanted to take that one step further. We wanted them to step up and serve others in ways to radiate Christ."

For Hunke, completing the work projects were important, but really, there was something even more meaningful.

"Developing a relationship with those who you are serving was the most important thing with these service projects. Service really opens the door to building relationships with people," Hunke said.

"That person you're helping, you



**Tobias Steffensmeier serves a plate of food at the West Point Senior Center.**

never really know what's going on in their heart and in their life. Through serving them, you have a chance to really share the love of Christ."

Once all the service projects were complete, there was a cook-out at the park that included the individuals who were helped out by the mission students.

"What was so neat about that was seeing the kids reaching out to those whom they served. They talked and visited, and were just like neighbors," Hunke said.

West Point resident Virginia Vrba was blown away by the entire group of kids. Vrba not only had some yard work done as part of the project, she was able to play Bingo with the kids as well.

"They were just an amazing group of kids. Every single one of them. They were so respectful. They treated us like grandparents,

like they had known us for years," Vrba said. "They were the best group of kids I've been around."

Before and after going to the worksites, students had an opportunity to attend Mass, pray, reflect and bond with each other.

With this being the first time the Omaha Archdiocese has sponsored the 'Love Begins Here' mission trip, Hunke wasn't sure exactly what to expect.

After the event concluded, she wasn't disappointed.

"It was great. All the feedback we have received was positive," Hunke said. "I witnessed the interaction and relationships that were being formed. That is something the kids were able to take away and will always remember."

West Point was selected to host the mission trip by Jennifer Moser, who is the Director of Youth Ministry for the Omaha Archdiocese.

"She knew West Point was a very generous and hospitable community when it came to youth ministry and youth based activities," Hunke said.

And West Point lived up to that reputation.

"Individuals and businesses in this community were extremely generous in donating to make this happen," Hunke said.

Hunke said the goal is for West Point to host this mission trip again next summer, and then hopefully have different sites host in the future.

The hope is that a 'Love Begins Here' mission trip will also begin for high school students in the future.

West Point's Mary Brune, Tobias Steffensmeier, Hayley Ortmeier and Isabel Kaup all attended the mission trip.

"They loved it, and they're telling their friends about it for next year," Hunke said.

## Prayer request

A prayer request has been made for 94-year-old Sister Martin (de Porres). She is a former GA High teacher in the 1950's-1960's era, and is battling cancer.

Her address is: Holy Family Convent; 2409 S Alverno Road; Manitowoc, WI 54220.

## On stage at Nebraska Theatre Awards night

**By Delores Meister**

Grace Nieman and Kristine Batenhorst represented the local high schools on stage at the Holland Center, Omaha, for the Nebraska High School Theatre Association Awards Night, June 9. They were part of the Showcase Ensemble, which performed in the opening and closing numbers of the program.

GACC senior Grace Nieman said, "I encourage students to try out for plays, to sing in choirs, to become involved in the arts if you have a chance."

Guardian Angels Central Catholic and West Point-Beemer Public have combined their talents for the Spring musical for the fourth year under the on-stage direction of Tabetha Vogt WP-B and music director Chris Frisbie.

"The kids pull it together. We

just love how you can't tell who is from what school," Vogt said.

This is the West Point schools' third year in membership. The Nebraska High School Theater Association is in its fourth year.

Vogt said, "We pay to register and this allows us to compete with the Omaha, Millard and other 51 high schools. They choose 10 top actors, supporting actors, actresses and supporting actresses. We tell them when our productions are, and they send unannounced judges to our performances."

Grace said, "At the joint school musical "Into the Woods," we were told before the performances the NHST would be judging our musical, but we did not know which performance."

While the local group did not have a top ten award this year, (Adam Perry was top supporting actor last year) each school could send two students for a four day rehearsal for the choreography performances for the June showcase awards night.

Grace said, "Once there we did hours and hours of chorus and choreography. We students were the opening and the closing of the Thursday night performance. We met Nebraska's finest. It was a week of making new friends."

Grace's message: If you have the opportunity in high school, go for it.

### Staff

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### BIRTHS

#### NEW TO THE NEST

**Brittany Leffler '01 & Brian McKee:** daughter Willa Leffler McKee born 7/24/2016

**Brandt '09 & Katie Wimer:** son Preston James born 8/6/16

**Matt '00 & Erin Ridder:** son Gabriel John born 8/2/16

**Jesse & Christa (Wolff) '04 Carr:** son Reid Walter born 8/10/16

**Ryan '02 & Hilary Wolken:** son Cooper Ryan born 7/18/16

**Eric '94 & Amanda (Gould) '04 Doescher:** daughter Victoria Mae born 7/2/16

**Nathan & Ashley (Iden) '00 McKown:** daughter Kathleen River born 5/28/16

### WEDDINGS

**Chelsea Franzluebbbers '08 & Taylor Werner:** married 6/18/16  
**Alyssa Kreikemeier '08 & Griffin Hatten:** married 7/2/16

**Jaci Mowinkel '08 & Brad Pessicka:** married 7/23/16

**Nichole Wordekemper '06 & Brett Bender:** married 8/6/16

**Alex Wagner '04 & Jacque Sloth:** married 8/6/16

**Katie Siebrandt '04 & Andrew Lamson:** married 9/3/16

**Whitney Uhing '10 & Alex Stieren '11:** married 9/17/16

### DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

**Arthur Kreikemeier:** Date of death 6/17/16

**Mildred Emanuel:** Date of death 6/30/16

**Carol Kampschneider:** Date of death 6/14/16

**Richard Batenhorst:** Date of death 7/8/16

**Clarence Heimann:** Date of death 7/5/16

**Clement Knobbe:** Date of death 7/7/16

**Lawrence Gentrup:** Date of death 7/11/16

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