

# SERAPHIM *Legacy* SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Gift Planning News—St. Bonaventure University | Spring 2021

## MOVING FORWARD

During the past few months, we have had some terrific news, including the continued positive trend in enrollment, the opening of the new home for the School of Health Professions and the fact that our men's basketball team won the Atlantic 10 Tournament Championship for the second time in school history. We have also had some very difficult news as well with the heartbreaking loss of our president, Dr. Dennis R. DePerro.

Since COVID-19 began, many people (including me) have updated their estate plans. This pandemic has reinforced one certain thing: We are all mortal.

Here at St. Bonaventure, our Seraphim Legacy Society has seen an increase in activity and membership. If you have updated your estate plans, I hope you included SBU as a beneficiary. If you are in the process of updating your estate plans, please consider an estate gift to St. Bonaventure.

In this issue, we highlight the importance of scholarships and share the story of Jo Anne Johnson, Class of 1972. I hope you noticed and like the refreshed look of the newsletter. Please contact me if I can assist in any way!

*Robert F. Keenan, '74*

Robert F. Keenan, '74  
Associate Director of Planned Giving



Photo by Jeremy Castro, Class of 2021

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**DID YOU KNOW?** *For the price of a stamp to return the enclosed reply card, you can receive our "Personal Financial Affairs Record" and our "Better Estate Planning" booklets.*

# JOHNSON HONORS PARENTS THROUGH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Curious. Adventuresome. High achieving. These are traits Jo Anne Johnson, '72, has embraced throughout life.

The second of seven children, she was born in Washington, DC, and raised in suburban Maryland. While most of her friends chose to attend in-state colleges, Jo Anne turned her attention north to St. Bonaventure.

"I wanted to travel outside the DC metropolitan area and meet people from different states," she said, "and I wanted to hear the male perspective in the classroom."

The last time she'd sat in a class with males was in the sixth grade. Following that, her education in parochial schools within the Archdiocese of Washington was girls-only.

"It was interesting to hear the male viewpoint at Bona's, particularly during the tumultuous years of 1968 to 1972 when my male classmates were facing the draft lottery and the Vietnam War," Jo Anne explained.

Her academic credentials earned Jo Anne a scholarship that covered half her tuition. She worked as a security monitor in Friedsam Memorial Library and as a reader for Dr. Louis Leotta, a blind history professor, to help cover her remaining college costs.

Known as "JJ the DJ," she also hosted a weekly one-hour radio show on WOFM (now WSBU), ending each show with Norman Greenbaum's "Spirit in the Sky."

Jo Anne graduated magna cum laude in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in history; due to an administrative error, the honor wasn't listed in the Commencement program. Apologizing for the oversight, Fr. Reginald Redlon, O.F.M., then university president, personally took her



Mary and Edward Johnson

diploma, had the magna cum laude inscribed in calligraphy on it and mailed it back to her.

"My parents were impressed that he took the time to do this," Jo Anne said. "That was so thoughtful of him."

Jo Anne's academic achievements and strong work ethic were a point of pride for her parents. Her 35-year career in personnel, training administration and management analysis was spent primarily in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

While both of her parents were native Washingtonians, Jo Anne's paternal great-grandparents hailed from the Finger Lakes region. That small tie to New York State became a strong bond for father and daughter. Road trips spanning 46 years brought them to campus from the time she was a senior in high school through her father's 92nd year in 2014.

Her mother loved the campus as well, enjoying its peacefulness and seeing in its architecture the familiar tile roofs of her parents' hometown in the Calabria region of Italy.

Both parents enjoyed watching Bonnies' basketball and were thrilled when the team reached the Final Four.

"They hosted me and several classmates during the 1970 NCAA Tournament at Maryland University's Cole Field House," she said. "My parents loved Bona's and were happy to have us students staying in their home that weekend."

In May 2019, Jo Anne established the Edward and Mary Johnson Endowed Scholarship to honor their memory. Mary passed away in 2002, Edward in 2017.

"I'm pleased to honor my parents in this way and help students as I was once helped," she said.

# ARE YOUR ESTATE PLANS UP TO DATE?

Many life changes—big and small—may require you to examine your long-term plans. Review the following checklist to ensure your estate plans reflect your wishes for you and your loved ones.

1. Have you given serious thought to your long-term financial plans?
2. Do your existing plans account for changes in your family makeup, such as births, marriages and loss of loved ones?
3. Have you assessed the value of your assets since you last visited your plans?
4. Have you taken steps to authorize access to your digital accounts, records and assets.
5. Are those who assisted you in the past still able to help carry out your wishes?
6. Have you considered including charitable interests you care about, such as St. Bonaventure, in your plans?

If you answered “no” to any of the above questions, your overall estate plans may be due for a review.

**Dr. Dennis R. DePerro**

**February 18, 1959 - March 1, 2021**

**“It is ours to give the world our very best. I hope this is how we can educate our students.”**

Dr. Dennis R. DePerro, the 21st president of St. Bonaventure University, shared those words during his introductory news conference before taking office in June of 2017. They are also words he lived by throughout his impactful presidency. He tragically passed away on March 1 after a lengthy battle with COVID-19. He was 62.

St. Bonaventure community members and friends have rallied to ensure that those words and his legacy will live on.

Not long after he passed, Dr. DePerro's family established the Dr. Dennis R. DePerro Memorial Scholarship, which will provide financial assistance in perpetuity to young learners and seekers. Generous donations from students, parents, alumni, university employees and others pushed the scholarship beyond the endowed level of \$50,000 within days. Over \$150,000 has been raised.

Dr. DePerro's strong leadership fueled excellence in all areas of St. Bonaventure's campus. The many good works he put into motion will touch the lives of students and their families for generations to come — just as the scholarship in his memory will do.

If you would like to make a gift to the Dr. Dennis R. DePerro Memorial Scholarship, please visit [www.sbu.edu/drdeperro](http://www.sbu.edu/drdeperro) or contact Diane Frick, director of Advancement Operations, at (716) 375-7884 or [dfrick@sbu.edu](mailto:dfrick@sbu.edu).

**By Michael Hogan, '21**

*Michael Hogan is a senior journalism major at St. Bonaventure University. Along with his role in the Office of University Advancement, he covers local stories for TAPinto Greater Olean and the Tennessee Titans as an intern for AllTitans at SI.com.*



# PROVIDE FOR THOSE YOU LOVE

Through your estate plans, you can help plan for the future well-being of your family and others you care about. Your will or living trust can provide for a spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings and friends. It can also include gifts to St. Bonaventure.

As a result of tax law changes, fewer people will be subject to federal estate taxes than ever before. Because of this, many are reconsidering who should receive their assets after their lifetime. After first providing for loved ones, here are some ideas for including St. Bonaventure in your will or living trust:

- After fulfilling gifts to others, you can make a gift in your will or trust from what is left. Making charitable gifts from this amount—known as the “residue” of one’s estate—does not affect your family’s future security. You may provide that all, a specific amount or a percentage of the remainder of your estate becomes a gift to St. Bonaventure after other specific bequests have been fulfilled.



- Though there are many ways to give through your will or trust, a gift of a fixed dollar amount or a specific property is the simplest. Cash, securities, real estate and personal property can all be given through a will or trust.
- To be sure your charitable gifts remain in proportion to other bequests, you may decide to designate that a specific percentage of your estate be given.
- You can arrange any of these gifts in memory or in honor of someone special, such as a spouse, family member or other loved one. And remember that you can add charitable gifts to your existing plans through a “codicil,” or amendment.

For more information, or if we can answer any questions about the charitable aspects of your plans, confidentially and with no obligation, contact us.

## MORE INFORMATION



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