



# PSO NEWSLETTER

## From the P.S.O. President

The PSO began 2004 with a great meeting on January 13. There were many creative ideas about fundraising, cultural diversity, and stewardship. The Executive Board presented a draft of a strategic plan for the PSO which included everything from amending our bylaws to an outline of PSO-sponsored events throughout the year. We discussed ways in which the PSO might help classes fund field trips so that individual classes could limit their fundraising activities. We discussed the need for better communication with parents regarding fundraising activities and the need for a consistent schedule of events so that parents could better anticipate the events (fundraising and other) throughout the year.

We also discussed the Stewardship Committee as a vehicle to help students understand that their talents are needed in the community. The Stewardship Committee has sponsored wonderful projects throughout the year that don't involve asking parents for money, but rather challenge students to use their God-given talents to help those in need.

As one change to our bylaws, we are proposing that the current Vice President position be replaced with a President Elect. This person will serve on the Executive Board for two years, first as President Elect, then as President. This change will allow for better continuity from year to year. It is not too

early to think about serving on the Executive Board for 2004-2005. If you are interested in learning what such a position would entail, please call me or one of the other Executive Board members. I can honestly say that this year has been one of the most exciting and rewarding years for me at St. Mary Magdalene, and with the completion of the new building, next year will be even better. Imagine what we'll be able to do with all that space!

We are looking for parental input on the PSO's strategic plan. If you would like a copy, please let me know. We would all very much appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Taggart  
303-1294  
[andreataggart@bellsouth.net](mailto:andreataggart@bellsouth.net)

## Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation Committee brought some holiday cheer to the STMM Staff at the annual Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 15th. A traditional holiday meal was served with many home made items prepared by our talented committee members. The great food and holiday Nutcracker decorations were enjoyed by all! Our Committee looks forward to 2004 and will hold a meeting on January 22nd to review plans for the coming months.

## Community Relations

Thank you notes have been mailed to all donors and sponsors of the 2003 Fundraiser. Work continues on the school/parish business directory. It will be available in hard cover in the near future. Copies can be obtained in the school office.

## VIPS

A tremendous THANK YOU to the tireless volunteers who answer the many calls for help! Your contributions, both big and small, help the school accomplish greater things than otherwise possible.

Looking for ways to get involved at SMM in the New Year? A number of opportunities are currently available, and more will be coming soon.

Immediate needs include: Jump Rope for the Heart event, Career Week committee, lunch program, math tutors and school productions.

To be included on e-mail communications about current and future openings or to obtain information about a specific volunteer opportunity, please contact Linda Labaza, VIPS Chairperson, at [llabaza@nc.rr.com](mailto:llabaza@nc.rr.com) or 462-9307.

Please remember that all volunteers must complete 2 requirements before volunteering at the school: complete VIPS training (either this year or

in a previous year) and have a Diocese Volunteer Release Form on file for the current academic year. All families are also encouraged, but not required, to complete a VIPS Volunteer Information Form. Contact Linda Labaza for more information. Thank you for your cooperation!

When you volunteer at the school, please also remember to check-in/out at the office and wear a nametag. VIPS volunteers who have completed training and a Release Form have personalized nametags in the school office. Please return all nametags (personalized and generic) to the office when you check-out.

Again, thank you for all of your support!!

### Hospitality

The hospitality committee is working on a welcome wagon letter for incoming families. Very shortly we will be working on the grade 6-8 honors recognition and the national honor society recognition. Three open houses for prospective students are coming up and we will be providing light refreshments. We need help from ALL of our volunteers to make these events successful. Please contact Nancy Donovan 557-0759 or Bernadette Watkins 567-3248 if you can help.

