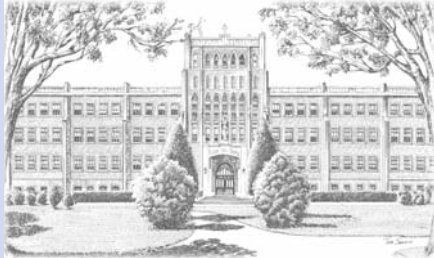




Focus

Celebrating **82** years of educating young women.



The Alumnae Newsletter of
Mount St. Mary Academy

Fall 2010

Mount St. Mary Academy, founded by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women. Within a nurturing and academically challenging environment, the Academy strives to develop the whole person. Guided by our Catholic tradition, and rooted in Gospel values, we educate young women dedicated to lifelong learning, moral integrity and service to and acceptance of others.



MSM Rocks

In recent years, Mount St. Mary Academy has been alive with the sound of music – rock music! MSM may be the home of the only all-girls marching band in New York State (read our story below for more band news), but the school has also gained a rock and roll focus that extends beyond extracurricular activities into the classroom.

Last year, sophomore honor students in the Academy Scholars writing program expressed an interest in researching and writing on the topic of rock and roll. Under the guidance of their teacher, Tim O'Shei, students wrote essays on musical artists and life behind the music. Students conducted interviews ranging from local musicians such as Robby Takac of the Goo Goo Dolls to young rock bands like We the Kings and Hey Monday and even to legends like Peter Dinklage of Peter, Paul & Mary. Their research has explored rock and roll from all possible venues: backstage at concerts, visiting a tour bus, traveling behind the scenes of the Hard Rock Cafe and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and more.

The students have continued their writing project into their junior year Academy Scholars course and expect the finished product Rock Out Loud to be published in the spring of 2011. In addition to preparing their publication, the Academy Scholars will be working on a digital reporting project, Mount St. Mary's own version of Making of the Band. The class will coordinate the auditioning and managing of an all-girl band which will be documented and reported through a series of YouTube videos.

This project was inspired by MSM's most popular event, Mountstock, a Student Council sponsored Battle of the Bands which has been staged for the past three years in the school's student parking lot. Mountstock 2010 will feature five area high school bands seeking to break into the music world. The audience will vote on which band they like the most, with this year's winner receiving a big boost towards stardom -- ten hours of recording time at GCR Audio.

Though Mountstock has regularly drawn hundreds of area teens to the Mount music scene, the event organizers have never had an all-girl band audition. O'Shei's Academy Scholars are hoping to change that.

"We're hoping that our class's documentary project will help provide some diversity to future Mountstocks," says Leah Santiago (2012). "It might also have the added benefit of widening the Mount's audience."

The class's documentary progress is being followed by over 1000 fans nationwide through O'Shei's Live Starring You platform (www.livestarryingyou.com). Stay tuned for the release of the first MSM video clips on YouTube, coming soon!



[left to right]: MSM juniors **Kristian Walker, Maggie Russ, Bryanna Gwitt, Ruth Riggie** (MSM Principal Dawn Riggie's granddaughter and future Mountie), **Leah Santiago, Rachel Willard, Katie Hargrave, Maria Patnella, Jorma Kaukonen of Jefferson Airplane, Jessica Miller, Kaitlyn Marasi, Mary Hartrich**



Students gather around a fire to keep warm at Mountstock

The Beat Goes On...

For the past eight years, Mount St. Mary Academy has been the home of New York State's only all-girl, fully-instrumented marching band. This year our band has grown beyond our wildest expectations to include 140 students, making it our largest marching band ever.

What's even more impressive is that many musicians come to the Mount without ever having picked up an instrument. Students have lessons in small groups and one-on-one sessions with band director, John Hathaway, and his team of teachers who prepare the students for performance-level play.

The award-winning band holds performances year-round, performing as the MSM Concert Band and the smaller Jazz Ensemble during the winter months. This year, the band will also play on Royal Caribbean's Monarch of the Seas cruise from April 16-23. There will be plenty of local concerts, so mark your calendar for these events:

- Christmas Concert, Thursday, December 16
- The Buffalo Jazz Review, Saturday, February 5
- Sweets and Treats Concert, Sunday, March 27





Dear Alumnae, *Kindness Care Compassion*

This year, I have chosen these three words as our theme, the cornerstones of this academic year.

These critical attributes are far too often lacking in our world, but they are imperative for us as we live out Mount St. Mary's mission – to educate within a nurturing and academically challenging environment, to develop the whole person, and to encourage young women to be dedicated to lifelong learning, moral integrity and service to and acceptance of others.

The kindness, care and compassion shown to me by the women who for me *were* Mount St. Mary Academy – both the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and my class and schoolmates - are what made me fall in love with MSM oh-so-many years ago. When I think of these attributes, I remember:

- The countless big and little acts of kindness I was the beneficiary of from both the Sisters, and my classmates;
- Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (**Sr. Mary Powell (1937)**) who so patiently taught me –who possesses no fine motor skills whatsoever – to sew and encouraged me as I made my very own yellow dotted swiss, puff sleeved, ribbon trimmed Senior Prom dress;
- Sr. Marcella who helped me to learn Latin declensions with songs, cheers and dances;
- Sitting in the hallways with my classmates and talking, and talking, and talking – their laughter lifting me up when I was down;
- The Sisters allowing me to spend as much time in these halls as I wanted or needed, recognizing how important this all-female environment was to and for me and welcoming me literally day or night;
- Sr. Mary Celestine (Ann McDonough Clancy) and Sr. Madeleva graciously sharing their Biology room before and after school with my best friend, Rosemary Riggie, and me. I cannot fully describe the perfect peace of those moments – knowing I was where I belonged, where I was wanted, where I was known, where I felt safe and secure;
- Learning compassion for my CCD students, compassion for my family, compassion for those who were not as fortunate as I was and am and really, compassion for every person I meet;
- Sr. St. Luke (Sandra McIntyre), Sr. John Nicholas (Maryann Fancher), Sr. Mary Laura, Sr. Katherine Marie and so many more who taught me not only in the classroom but by their lives and in real life experiences -- God's Peace Corps, in our classroom, in school projects and events -- to care for others;
- Taking baskets to families at the holiday time, food and clothing drives, knitting scarves, volunteering in the Perry Projects, at St. Andrew's, at St. Francis of Assisi.



These experiences, and so many more with the Sisters and my classmates, showed me that the *kindness, care and compassion* I could give to others was my response to the love God has for me.

They are all cherished memories of mine and really they hardly scratch the surface of my treasure trove. They are also inspiration and sustenance for all that I do today.

I hope you too have the kind of treasured memories I do and that MSM gave you *kindness, care and compassion*. I ask you to continue to support us as we bring those gifts to new young women in a world where they are desperately needed.

Partnering with families, we help the young girls in our care to grow and blossom, to live kind, caring and compassionate lives – that is our mission together. Thank you for your support – financial support, keeping us in your prayers and your physical presence and participation. This support enables us to continue the work of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and offer a “Mountie” education to young women for years to come. *God bless you.*

Dawn Hurley Riggie (1971), Principal

Dedications

The creation of a memorial scholarship or endowment is a beautiful way to honor a loved one and make it possible for a future Mount St. Mary Academy student to attend our school. We are pleased to announce the most recently-established awards:

The *Diebold Gasiuk Legacy Award* was established by alumna **Margaret Gasiuk Park (1984)** to celebrate the memory of her mother, **Mary Ellen Diebold Gasiuk (1952)**. This partial tuition award will be given to an incoming freshman, with preference to a graduate of St. John the Baptist School in Kenmore who has a family connection to Mount St. Mary. The first award will be issued to a member of the Class of 2015.

The *Furfari Colson Buscaglia Family Scholarship Fund* was established by **Mary Theresa Furfari Colson (1954)** and **Rose Furfari Buscaglia (1960)**. This endowment will be used to create a partial tuition scholarship for a student at Mount St. Mary who demonstrates academic merit and financial need.

Mount St. Mary Academy is very grateful to these benefactors for their generous support. Alumnae who are interested in discussing the possibility of establishing a similar award may contact **Julie Rosenecker Wojick '85**, *Assistant Principal for Institutional Advancement*, at (716) 877-1358 or jwojick@mt-st-marys.org.



What did MSM give to you

This September, Mount St. Mary Academy celebrated its 83rd birthday. We were overwhelmed to receive over 200 birthday greetings from our alumnae on Facebook. Many of these well-wishers took the time to offer thanks for all the Mount has meant to them and the impact their MSM education had on their lives. Here are just a few of these messages:

Jennifer Lea Huer (2001) Happy 83 wonderful years educating some of the most wonderful, educated, and empowered women this world has ever seen!!!

Barbara Malinowski-Smith (1961) I am one of the privileged to have attended MSM for 12 years. There was a grammar school attached to the high school.....I am a true MSM graduate! Lots of wonderful memories Happy Birthday, MSM Academy.

Stephanie Kurth (1999) Happy Birthday to a place that not only taught me a lot, but brought me the most wonderful people in the world. The people I met in the Mountie halls are people I respect, love, and miss very much. Thank you for all you have done.

Francesca Harvey (2014) Happy birthday Mount! This school was one of the best decisions of my life:) Love every minute I have spent there as a freshman and more memories to come.

Susan Stievater (1956) When I was going to Mt. St. Mary's I could see it from my bedroom window I lived so close during my school years. It was the best place to be for my high school years. I have many fond memories of it. I thank the Sisters of St. Mary for the wonderful presence there and for their foresight.

Why did you choose MSM? What has MSM given to you? Share your experiences! Send us an email at alumnae@mt-st-marys.org or letter to MSM, 3756 Delaware Ave, Kenmore NY 14217 to share your thoughts and experiences. Help us spread the word to our community about the good work of MSM!

As you think back on what MSM has given to you, please take a moment to think of what you give to MSM. Every dollar you give helps one more young girl have the experiences and gifts you had as an MSM graduate.

It is through your generosity that MSM continues in her mission to provide a high-quality education in a nurturing and accepting environment.

This gift is from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____-_____

Email: _____

I/We enclosed a gift of:

\$1000+ \$100-199

\$500-999 \$25-99

\$200-499 Other _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Alumnae Scholarship.

I would like to donate \$ _____ to Mount St. Mary Academy.

____ I wish my gift to remain anonymous

____ Enclosed is my check

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

Charge Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to:

Mount St. Mary Academy

*Remember as the holidays approach, give in joy,
give in sadness, give in honor of those you love.
Any donation may be dedicated as you choose.*

Mount St. Mary Academy is registered with the New York State Office of Charities as a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Alumnae Scholarship

Each year, the Alumnae Board awards scholarships to incoming freshmen who exhibit great academic promise and are related to an MSM alumna.

This year, the Board awarded two Alumnae Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 a year for four years to Ellen Hamlett, daughter of **Trish Brennan Hamlett (1982)** and niece of **Beth Brennan (1976)** and Leah MacPherson, daughter of **Susan Whistler MacPherson (1984)**, niece of **Brenda MacPherson Burke (1977)** and **Lisa MacPherson Gould (1978)**, and cousin of **Kelly Burke (2009)** and **Maddie Waldron (2009)**.

"My freshmen year is going great so far," Ellen commented. "I was very surprised at how fast I made so many new friends and how comfortable I feel here. It was so easy to adjust to the atmosphere here. I love it so much; I absolutely made the right choice choosing Mount St. Mary!"

"There are many things that I love about Mount St. Mary Academy," Leah said. "First and foremost is the amazing faculty and student body. Everyone at the Mount is so welcoming. I love how spirited the upperclassmen are, and how caring, understanding, and friendly the teachers are."

"When I first walked into the school, I was very impressed with how nice and outgoing the students, faculty and staff were. They made my experience at open house and shadowing fantastic. The people at this school definitely stood out more than all the other schools I looked at. I feel very proud and privileged to be a part of this wonderful family at the Mount," she continued.

If your daughter, niece or granddaughter is in 8th grade and considering MSM, please note that this year's placement exam will be held on November 20. Call Katie Stubbe (2002), Admissions Coordinator, to arrange for testing.



Choosing to Continue Tradition

by Alexandra Kogler Fussell (1996)



Gerry Kogler (1955) crowns the statue of Mary.

Like many Mounties, I grew up with a very strong family connection to MSM. My aunts, Clare Marie Kogler and Geraldine Kogler had graduated from the school in 1952 and 1955. As a child, I remember visiting the convent when my aunt Clare Marie, Sr. Mary Vincent, was home from the missions. I was fascinated by that unknown convent community, but also by the school on the other side of the building.

While I had heard stories of their high school experiences, I knew that I would be allowed to choose where I went to high school and growing up in Buffalo meant I had a lot of options from which to choose.

It may shock my high school friends to hear this – but as an 8th grader, I was terribly shy and very anxious about shadowing. I shadowed at Holy Angels and felt completely lost in the midst of high school girls too busy talking to each other to talk to an 8th grader. I shadowed at Sacred Heart with a freshman almost as shy as myself and was pretty much ignored by her equally shy, quiet friends.

And then I shadowed at Mount St. Mary Academy, where I was teamed with **Joanna Deyell Eberl (1995)**. I felt like I was Joanna's new little sister. She was not only welcoming and embracing. She was effervescent and joyful. Joanna's friends included me in every discussion and they talked of the Mount like it was the greatest place in the world (which it turns out, it is).

I raced home talking about all the wonderful things about MSM and quickly set out on the road of becoming a Mountie. As I continued through my school years, I discovered that my shadow experience had exposed me to the true Mount St. Mary Academy – kind, loving people who still to this day, define this school and make its existence possible.

I was proud to be continuing a family tradition. The weight of that connection was important to me. I was blessed to wear the same ring my aunts had worn, presented by my Aunt Clare Marie at Junior Ring Ceremony. I wore the medal she had worn throughout my senior year. And on graduation day, I wore her dress.

In the end, I chose MSM not for the sake of continuing a family tradition but because it was right for me. I find myself wondering how many people who are part of an MSM tradition would say the same thing.

Only after I started school did I realize how important that family tree was. The joy of sharing experiences with my family is something that I hope to one day share with my daughter. Since I'm a happy witness to the continuation of MSM's nurturing and accepting spirit, I am confident that my daughter will someday be welcomed here just like I was.



Clare Marie Kogler (1952) on May Crowning day, pictured with Sr. Mary Peter Mulvihill.

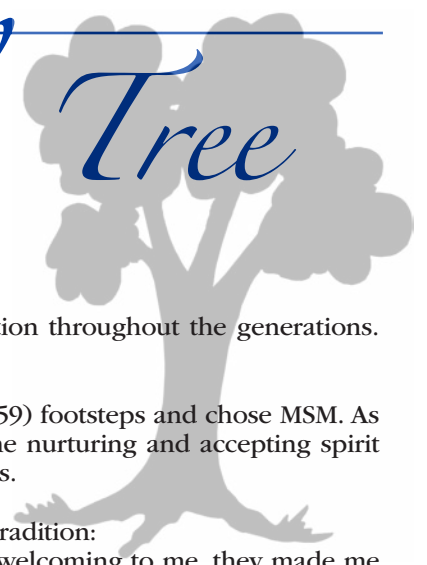
Our library is asking for magazine subscriptions. If you would like to make a donation in the amount of a magazine subscription, please contact **Bonnie May at (716) 877-1358 ext. 306** or bmay@mt-st-marys.org. Our librarian, Alison Kurzel, and our students have requested the following magazine subscriptions:

New York Times: UpFront (approx. \$10)
 The Bible Today (approx. \$35)
 Health Magazine (approx. \$10)
 Choices (approx. \$20)
 The Virginia Quarterly Review (approx. \$32)
 Teen Vogue (approx. \$10)
 Runner's World (approx. \$15)
 Time (approx. \$20)
 Newsweek (approx. \$39)
 Dance Magazine (approx. \$35)
 American Cheerleader (approx. \$15)
 Sports Illustrated (approx. \$40)





The Deyell Family Tree



Over the past year, we have paid tribute to families who have continued the MSM tradition throughout the generations. This month, we would like to honor the Deyell Family.

Michele (Shelly) Boutet Deyell (1962) followed in her sister, Yvonne Boutet Pohlman's (1959) footsteps and chose MSM. As a graduate of St. John's grade school, Shelly and her family were already familiar with the nurturing and accepting spirit of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the choice to continue that education was obvious.

Shelly's oldest daughter, Rachel Deyell (1990), faced the choice of continuing her family tradition: "I remember attending Open House," says Rachel Deyell. "Everyone was so friendly and welcoming to me, they made me feel a part of the 'Mountie' family."

"I knew from the time that I was little, that I was going to be a 'Mountie.' I remember hearing my mom [Shelly Boutet Deyell (1962)] and my aunt [Yvonne Boutet Pohlman (1959)] reminisce about the wonderful education they received at the Mount and how nice all the girls who went there were," Rachel continues.

"The decision I made, in choosing the Mount, has been the best decision of my life. Over those four years, I received a first rate education, from many wonderful teachers. Although I was a little scared to go at first, I was sad when graduation came because I knew I would be leaving some wonderful friendships and memories behind."

As Rachel started her education, Shelly made a decision to continue her family's MSM tradition in a new way, and returned to the Mount as an art teacher. Younger daughters Joanna Deyell Eberl (1995) and Margaret Mary (Molly) Deyell (1997) found the Mount to be a second home and gladly carried on the tradition.

Sadly, only son Andrew was left out of the MSM family tree... until he married Maria Velasco Deyell (1995), completing the family connection!

Not only are the Deyells fixtures at all MSM events, Joanna Deyell Eberl pledges the dynasty will continue. Her daughter Grace will be in the Class of 2023.



Michele Boutet Deyell - 1962



Maria Velasco Deyell - 1995



Margaret Mary Deyell - 1997



Yvonne Boutet Pohlman - 1959



Rachel Deyell - 1990



Joanna Deyell Eberl - 1995



AlumnaeNOTES

Engagements & Weddings

Jessica Fischer (1994) married to Robert Dean Spoor on September 18, 2010.

Dawn Blickenstaff (2001) got married May 22, 2010 in Jamaica! The happy couple flew down with 20 family and friends and got married on the beach. Dawn's sister, **Amy Blickenstaff Merrifield (2003)** was maid of honor.

Erin Donohue (2002) married Christopher Todd Brough of Calgary, Canada on September 5, 2010 at the Copper Beech Inn in the CT River Valley.

Claire Marren (2003) married Rob Crean on July 17, 2010. Classmates **Kara Vogt (2003)** and **Natasha May Zeal (2003)** served as bridesmaids.



Kara Vogt (2003), Claire Marren (2003) and Natasha May Zeal (2003)

Mary Chameli married Scott Everett on August 14, 2010. Mounties **Brianna Mango (2009), Jenna-Marie Mango (2003)** and

Natasha May Zeal (2003) were in attendance.



Brianna Mango (2009), Mary Chameli Everett (2003), Jenna-Marie Mango (2003) and Natasha May Zeal (2003)

Births

Jennifer Ortner Hahn (1998) welcomed her first baby, a girl named Emma Leigh, on January 16, 2010.

Natasha May Zeal (2003) and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their first son, Ethan Zachariah on June 15, 2010.



Ethan Zachariah Zeal

In Memoriam

Please pray for the following members of alumnae families who have died.

Jack Bisantz, June 13, 2010, husband of **Judy Czaja Bisantz**

(1959); brother-in-law of **Barbara Czaja Robertson (1954)** and **Dr. Sara J. Czaja (1971)**.

Genevieve Donaruma DeNisco, July 6, 2010, mother of **Marianne DeNisco LoDestro (1972)** and **Genevieve DeNisco DeCarlo (1976)**, and mother-in-law of **Kathleen Hacherl DeNisco (1969)**; grandmother of **Dawn DeNisco (1997), Joelle LoDestro (2002), and Danielle LoDestro (2006)**.

Theresa DiMaria, June 2, 2010, mother of **Barbara DiMaria Pianowski (1965)**.

Peter J. Evans, June 2010, husband of **Marie Bauer Evans (1981)** and brother-in-law of **Susan Bauer Rubio (1986)**.

Vito Fortunate, August 13, 2010, father of **Joelle Fortunate Croom** and **Jessica Fortunate (1996)** and volunteer coach of the MSM Volleyball team during the 1990s.

Judy Macdonald (1960), July 11, 2010, mother of **Maurita Macdonald Potoczak (1977), Shari Macdonald Cardinale (1978), and Lisa Macdonald Munoz (1980)**.

Joan Murzynski, Ph.D (1954), August 31, 2010, sister of the late **Patricia Murzynski Johnson (1955)** and **Antoinette Murzynski Andolina (1959)**.

Joan B. Saleh, December 2009, mother of **Margaret Saleh (1977)** and Dolores Saleh-Funke, former math teacher at Mount St. Mary Academy.

AlumnaeNOTES

1960's

Lois Cummins McCormick (1956) and her husband, Larry, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church on Hertel Ave. in Buffalo on June 25, 1960.

1970's

Maureen McCarron (1971) retired in June 2010 from more than 30 years full time practice as a speech-language pathologist. Maureen and her husband, Mark Deprez, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on May 24 2010. On August 12, 2010, their oldest daughter, Kate and her husband Jared Ransom, celebrated the birth of Maureen's first grandchild, Erik Mark. Maureen writes, "I am really enjoying being his grandma! Our youngest daughter, Anne Deprez, lives in North Buffalo, not far from 'the Mount.' We live in rural Conesus, NY (south of Rochester) on 23 beautiful acres. I look forward to gardening, travel and catching up with my MSM classmates now that I'm retired and have more

free time. Alumnae are encouraged to contact me via email anytime: Maureen.mccarron@gmail.com.

1990's

Kara Hoadley Bishop (1996) and her husband Derrick welcomed Reagan Jane on August 7, 2009. Kara says, "We are moving back to Niagara Falls ON this month and look forward to reconnecting with old friends. I am currently working with Vanguard Pharma as the Ontario Regional Sales Manager and my husband accepted a Sr Director position for Allstate Insurance Canada."

2000's

Nola Cornett (2001) graduated in May 2010 from University at Buffalo School of Law and was awarded the Women Lawyers of WNY Award.

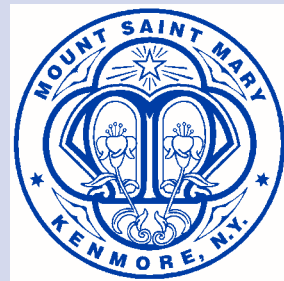
Liza Schnitzer (2002) is opening a dance studio in Lancaster, NY and would love to invite her fellow alumnae to stop by! Contact: Dansations WNY School of Dance & Acrobatics 5360 Genesee St.,

Lancaster, NY. Phone: 694-5196 or visit us at: DansationsWNYdance.com

Dawn Marinaccio (2006) graduated from Daemen College in May 2010 with her Bachelors Degree in Social Work. She is now attending the University at Buffalo in the Advanced Standing Social Work program, expecting to graduate with her Masters Degree in May 2011. Dawn has recently become engaged to Brian Seguin, and the two plan to wed in September 2011.

Nicole Dudek (2006) will be finishing up her degree in Sport Management with a minor in Communications from SUNY Cortland this December. She is currently interning with USA Triathlon in Colorado Springs, CO with the United States Olympic Committee Intern Program until the end of the year for her degree. Also, Nicole just completed her 19th year of baton twirling, with a three-time NYS Twirl-Off Championship, Advanced Miss Twirlmania at Disney World, and several top 10 finishes at Nationals at Notre Dame University.

**Place Your Ad Here!
and be heard.**



MSM is now offering advertisement space in our Focus Newsletter.

For pricing and details, please see our website: www.mt-st-marys.org



Focus

MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY
3756 DELAWARE AVENUE
KENMORE, NEW YORK 14217

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Save the Date

For Ladies' Night!

January 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Night is a Chrysalis Gift-Gathering Party
sponsored by Classics V

Bring a gift to be auctioned at Chrysalis
and enjoy dinner for free

Mark your calendars for Chrysalis - April 2, 2011!

Save a Tree!

**Would you like to receive a
paperless copy of the Focus Newsletter?**

To receive your newsletter by
emailed link, please email alumnae@mt-st-marys.org!

Focus

*The Alumnae Newsletter of
Mount St. Mary Academy*

We welcome your comments!

Please send them to:

Focus

Mount St. Mary Academy
3756 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14217



VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.mt-st-marys.org
(716) 877-1358