



The Michaelite November 2023

Saint Michael Academy Alumnae Association (SMAAA)

"Round his flag we'll rally ever. Nothing can our union sever."

In This Issue

[90 Years as a High School](#)

[2024-Sesquicentennial](#)

[A Memory of Long Ago](#)

[Presentation Sisters
Jubilees and Passages](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

[Shop SMAAA](#)

[Transcripts](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Saint Michael Academy Mission Statement

Rooted in the Catholic tradition and Spirit of the Presentation Sisters, the mission of Saint Michael Academy was to educate young women in a loving and caring community, assisting each to develop her unique gifts and talents to live a fully Christian life.



90 Years as a High School

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the New York State Education Department's Certification of St. Michael High School.

2024 will mark the sesquicentennial of the founding of St. Michael School and we will celebrate this milestone anniversary at our annual reunion on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

The History of St. Michael Academy

Saint Michael Academy was one of the oldest continuously operating Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York. The Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded by Mother Nano Nagle in Ireland, arrived in New York in 1774. The school, established as a grammar school for girls and boys opened in 1874. Originally located on West 32nd Street in Manhattan, it opened with 600 students, mostly drawn from impoverished Irish immigrant families. By the 1880's enrollment reached 1,600 students making Saint Michael's the largest parochial school in the city.

In 1894 the Pennsylvania Railroad negotiated to purchase the old buildings in order to build a new railroad terminal and depot. In exchange, the Pennsylvania Railroad built a new church, school, rectory and convent between 33rd and 34th streets west of Ninth Avenue. In 1924, the girls' high school was established, offering at first a two-year commercial course. This was expanded to a full four-year academic and commercial program in 1926, with a boy's addition following shortly thereafter.

Accredited by the New York State Board of Regents in 1931, and after the requirements for certification were met, the school was registered with the NYS Education Dept as a high school in 1933 (see certificate). The school continued as a combination grammar school and girls' and boys' high school until 1947 when the boy's program was phased out. At the same time enrollment for the girls' high school continued to expand until the mid-1950s when the parish neighborhood shifted from residential to industrial and commercial. In 1971, the grammar school was phased out and Saint Michael Academy became an all-girls Catholic High School. In 1998, SMA, after a rigorous evaluation process initiated by Sr. Kathleen Cusack, PBVM, received accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. This level of excellence continued until our beloved school closed in 2010.

The
University of the
Education  State of New York
Department
Secondary School Certificate

Whereas official inspection shows that the required provision has been made for buildings, furniture, library, apparatus and other equipment and for proper maintenance, and that curriculum offerings, teaching standards and all other requirements of the University for schools of this grade have been met:

Therefore be it known that the University has this day registered

St Michael's School, New York City
as a

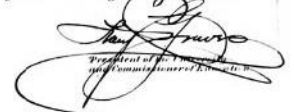
High School

maintaining an approved secondary program covering 9th to 12th years with all the powers, privileges and duties, and subject to all limitations and restrictions prescribed for such institutions by law or by University ordinances

In witness whereof the Regents grant this certificate
no. 1178 under seal of the University, at Albany May 18, 1933




Chancellor


President of the Board of Regents

A Memory of SMA

Norm Jardine, a Power Memorial alumnus (class of 1965), passed on this information regarding his mother, uncle and sister who attended St. Michael Grammar and High School:

I am active with the Power Memorial Academy alumni association (class of 65). Like St. Michael's, PMA closed in 1984. My family has a long history with St. Michael's. My sister, Margaret (Terry) (Nee Jardine) Schultz, when St. Michael's closed in June of 2010, it broke her heart, as she would have celebrated her 50th anniversary in 2011. Terry died on April 27, 2022, just a few months short of her 80th birthday on July 8. She was still friends with her fellow SMA alums.

She followed our mother Margaret (nee Donohue) Jardine in attending St. Michaels. Born May 12, 1916, I suspect my mother graduated about 1932/3. (*She graduated in 1934 per our database*) Terry often commented, once St. Michael's closed, she would miss walking the same hallways as our mother.

Our family history with St. Michael's goes even deeper, our uncle Vincent Donohue attended St. Michael's when it was co-ed. I even attended the annual St. Valentine's day dance in 1965. Upon entering, the St. Michael's student introduced their dates to a line of Visitation sisters. It started immediately, as the nuns recognized the last name and asked of my sister. Then, we reached the "retired" sisters, who never taught my sister, but had taught my mother. They asked of her. It was forever till we got to the gym floor. Trust me, this is one date I never forgot.

Do you have a memory to share? Email us at smaanyc@gmail.com

Presentation Sisters Celebrating their Jubilees



Sr. Clare Roche graduated from St. Michael High School in 1948. This year she celebrates 75 years as a member of the Presentation Sisters. Her story and additional photos are available at <https://sistersofthepresentation.org/news/sister-clare-roche-in-her-own-words>



Sr. Eleanor Joyce graduated from St. Michael Academy in 1962 and was later a member of the faculty. This year she celebrates 60 years in the religious life. Her story and additional photos are available at <https://sistersofthepresentation.org/news/sister-eleanor-joyce-in-her-own-words>

There are several other Sisters celebrating a jubilee this year. Although they did not attend or teach at SMA they have fascinating stories. Go to <https://sistersofthepresentation.org/jubilee> to see their photos and read about their journeys 'In their own words'.

Passages



Sr. Margaret (Mary Barnabas) Muller graduated from St. Michael Academy in 1951. She passed away on October 19, 2023 at the age of 90. She taught in the elementary school. Her obituary is available at <https://sistersofthepresentation.org/news/sister-margaret-mary-barnabas-muller>



Sr. Grace (Mary Vincent) Gately taught at SMA, but we do not have the specific years in our database. She passed away on October 1, 2023 at the age of 64. Her obituary is available at <https://sistersofthepresentation.org/news/sister-grace-gately>

Facebook

We have **TWO** official Facebook accounts:

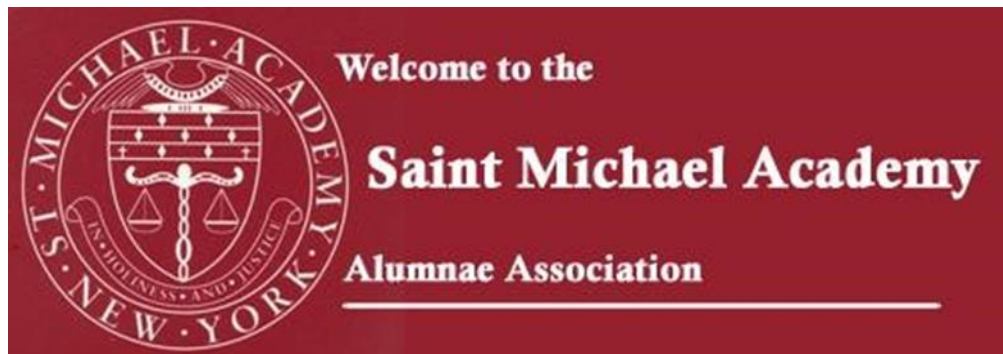
Our **page** is for the organization – please 'like' us:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelAcademyAlumnaeAssociation> We post events and news on this page. We share this information with the group

Our **group** is where you can keep in touch with your classmates and post comments and photos. When you first join this Group you need to give your graduation year and maiden name. We do this to minimize scammers trying to sell unofficial merchandise and posting irrelevant info. Join us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/225037720855638/>

For all classes - if you have not kept us updated with your latest address, phone and/or email, please send that information to us at: smaanyc@gmail.com. Please also include your class year, and maiden because we do have many classmates with the same name. Email us if you think we might have outdated contact information. Thanks!

UPDATE
YOUR CONTACT INFO



Visit our website!
www.SaintMichaelAcademy.com
or
www.SaintMichaelAcademy.nyc
and let the good times roll!

Official Merchandise – Shop SMAAA

*We are St. Michael's, and no one could
be prouder,
and if you cannot hear us...*

Christmas will soon be here. Order in time for Christmas our Christmas Ornament! 3” round, flat and made of clear jade crystal with beveled edge. You can now just open your umbrella to show the world you are a Michaelite!
Or you can give them as gifts - especially to your SMA Family and Friends! The SMA Umbrella opens to a full 42" and folds down to a compact 11". Just the right size to pop into your SMAAA Tote Bag (18"W x 13"H with a 5" base and 29" straps, made of 100% cotton canvas).

You can order these beautiful items online by [going to our website](#) and using the PayPal button, or by mailing a check for **\$30 for a tote OR an umbrella, or \$55 for a tote AND an umbrella. The Ornament is \$25.00** (check made payable to *SMAAA Charitable Foundation*) mail to Kathleen Seyfried, 22 Jefferson Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040. **Please don't forget to include your name and address, and indicate clearly the items and quantity of each you are purchasing.**



Proceeds go to the SMAAA Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund



Transcripts

Need your school transcript? The Church no longer has these documents.

Click link below for the request form at:
[Contact the Archdiocese of New York](#)

Mail the Completed form to:
**Archives of the Archdiocese of
New York**
201 Seminary Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10704



Contact Us

Do you have news to share with your classmates? Want us to publish it in the Michaelite? Are you in our FB group but not on our e-mailing list? If you do not receive the Michaelite in your email inbox send us your contact info at smaaanyc@gmail.com. Include your email, first and last names, address and graduation year. Thanks!

Part of our mission is to keep our classmates in touch – via reunions and our emails.



Happy
Thanksgiving

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



HAPPY

NEW YEAR