

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The seeds of sharing, caring and learning to use God's gifts to our greatest potential took root and are flourishing in SRS Class of 2006 alum Zachary Bokuniewicz. A 2014 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a BFA in Graphic Design, Zach is currently working full time as the Motion Graphics & Video Producer in the Advancement Office at the University of Rochester and is simultaneously working on his MBA. His mission at work is to develop marketing and recruiting materials that highlight the programs, culture and opportunities at University of Rochester to both internal and external audiences. He also works on marketing campaigns with top level benefactors which has led to increased charitable gifts to the University including a billion dollar donation to fund medical research being conducted at the University.

When asked about his favorite memory of St. Rose School Zach said it is difficult to choose just one. He mused about the old hall and the many school functions held there such as the pancake breakfast to celebrate Mardi Gras and kick off the Lenten Mission. He also recalled all the fun field days and most important he remembers being part of a family where everyone rolled up their sleeves to make our school feel like a second home. "We knew we were safe and loved. Role models like Monsignor Bob taught us not to be afraid of hard work because we can accomplish great things. Mrs. Van Zanten emphasized the importance of responsibility and said that if we are called to do something we should do it with our whole heart."

Zach recalls the lasting example his mother, Mrs. "Bee", has made on his life. He remembers her volunteering at the school and then eventually becoming the beloved First Grade teacher and eventually the Fourth Grade teacher. He said, "her passion and caring for what she does reminds me every day to always trust the path God has planned for you and to find joy in every situation."

At St. Rose School Zach learned that you can always make a difference in others' lives, directly or indirectly, because we all have something to contribute. While he was in high school Zach offered an after school drawing class to SRS students as his way of giving back. Currently he volunteers with the Alzheimer's Foundation.

When asked what advice he would give to current upper grade students as they prepare to go forth, Zach said to remember that the world is a big place. Whether you see only a small part of it or get to go many places, you will meet many different people. Always respect others and love them as Christ would. "For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7.

May God continue to bless you, Zach. You always have a second home at SRS!