

# LOCAL NEWS | 3A

## { YOUR TURN }

With MICHELLE TERWELP

**When I was a kid, I wanted to be ...** a teacher just like my wonderful teachers at St. Dominic School.

**What would you rather be doing right now?** Relaxing on the beach enjoying the sunshine.

**Shhhhhh! Don't tell anyone that ...** I hate bacon. Many people think that's weird.

**What was your proudest moment?** Graduating college and getting my first big-girl job.

**It really stinks when ...** people are inconsiderate to others.

**What word in the dictionary would your face be next to?** Considerate.

**I always laugh when ...** I'm spending time with friends.

**Invite any three people, living or dead, to dinner. Who are they?** Jesus Christ, because He is a great teacher and it would be an amazing experience; Ellen DeGeneres, because she would make dinner very entertaining. She is funny, kind and has a big heart; and my mom, because I always enjoy catching up over dinner with her.

**At the end of a really long day at work, I like to ...** relax in front of the TV.

**People who knew me in high school thought I was ...** shy.

**My most unforgettable brush with greatness was ...** sharing cookies with the Cubs' bullpen at Wrigley Field.

**I would drop all my plans tonight if I had the chance to ...** go to a Cubs game.

**If someone gave me a million dollars, there is still no way I would ...** quit my job. It is not enough to give up something I enjoy and the great people I work with.

**America should be more concerned about ...** the national debt and spending only what we can afford. We cannot continue to put it on our future generations. Let's take care of our country first and not give so much aid to foreign countries.

**I'm OK if there's ever a national shortage of ...** T-shirts. You can never have too many.

**When I'm on the Internet, I always go to ...** Facebook or Pinterest. Facebook seems to be the only way people communicate these days, and I enjoy seeing pictures of my friends' kids. I am always looking for new recipes or crafts to try on Pinterest.

**What is the most useful piece of advice you have ever received?** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It's a Bible verse, Philipians 4:13.

**When I'm cruising down the road, I'm likely listening to ...** '80s music, especially hair bands, but I love it all.

**I always get sentimental when ...** I see military men and women reunited with their families.

**The older I get, the more I realize ...** everything in life is easier when you don't concern yourself with what everybody else is doing.

**If I had one "do-over," I would ...** not take it. My decisions have made me who I am today.

**My favorite item of clothing is ...** my safety yellow volleyball T-shirt from five years ago. It's probably one of the softest T-shirts I own.

**If I've learned anything at all ...** it is to be thankful. For God, my family, my friends and all those who are a part of my life in some way or another. We don't find happiness alone, and being appreciative of all life's blessings is important.

**Michelle Terwelp, 30, is marketing director for the Quincy Family YMCA.**

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# Sisters of Notre Dame honored

**QUINCY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION:** Order named 'Friend of Catholic Education'

By EDWARD HUSAR  
Staff Writer | 217-221-3378

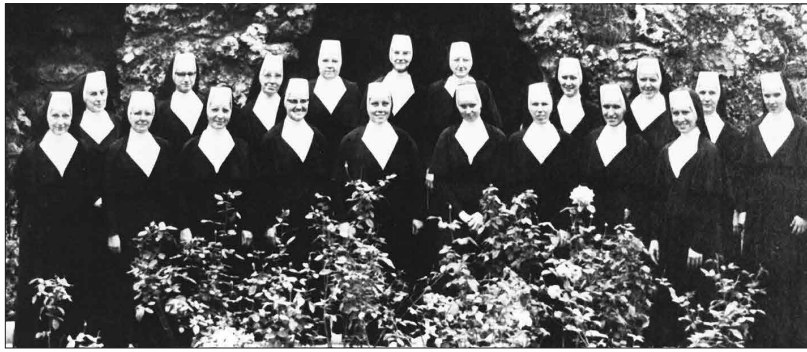
**QUINCY** — The School Sisters of Notre Dame have been selected to receive the 2015 "Friend of Catholic Education" award.

The award, sponsored since 2009 by the Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Foundation, recognizes an individual, couple or organization whose contributions have significantly fostered and strengthened Catholic schools in Quincy.

Paul Rittorf, executive director of the QCES Foundation, says the School Sisters of Notre Dame fit that criteria.

"Their story is pretty amazing," Rittorf said this week. "The School Sisters of Notre Dame have continually had a presence in the Quincy community since Nov. 1, 1859."

More than 1,040 sisters from the religious order have filled various teaching and administrative positions in Quincy's Catholic schools. The sisters also have done ministe-



The School Sisters of Notre Dame have had a continual presence in the Quincy community since Nov. 1, 1859, including in this 1967 faculty photo from Notre Dame High School. The School Sisters of Notre Dame will be honored as the 2015 recipients of the QCES Foundation's Friend of Catholic Education Award. | Submitted Photo

rial work in the city's Catholic parishes and served in a variety of outreach programs in the community.

Rittorf said more than 100 young women from Quincy have joined the School Sisters of Notre Dame over the past 155 years.

Membership in the religious order has dwindled over the years. Today, just four SSND members

continue to minister in the Quincy area. They are Sister Jeanette Feldt, a teacher at Quincy Notre Dame High School; Sister Jacqueline Sellmeyer, a pastoral care assistant at St. Vincent Nursing Home; Sister Joann Volk, a substitute teacher for Quincy's four Catholic elementary schools; and Sister Jane Wand, a massage therapist.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame will be honored at the seventh annual Friend of Catholic Education Award dinner Jan. 31 at the Holiday Inn, 4821 Oak. A 6:30 p.m. social hour will precede the dinner.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person. Corporate table sponsorships are available for \$1,000 and include eight dinner tickets. The deadline for corporate sponsorships is Jan. 13. The deadline for individual reservations is Jan. 24.

Revenue from the dinner is used for the foundation's tuition assistance fund for students enrolled in one of Quincy's four Catholic elementary schools. The foundation has awarded more than \$450,000 in tuition assistance since 2009 to families with students attending Blessed Sacrament, St. Dominic, St. Francis or St. Peter schools.

Anyone interested in buying tickets, sponsoring a table, or donating to the foundation should contact Rittorf at 217-779-3157 or p.rittorf@cospq.org.



Chris and Liz Solaro practice their dance moves for the International category for the upcoming Dancing With Local Stars competition. The husband-and-wife team will be one of 20 couples competing in the Feb. 6 dancing competition. | H-W Photo/Michael Kiple

## Twenty couples prepare to swing, sway, swirl

**DANCING WITH LOCAL STARS:** Largest field ever will compete at fifth annual contest to benefit Cornerstone

By EDWARD HUSAR  
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**QUINCY** — The largest-ever field of contestants will be featured in the fifth annual Dancing With Local Stars event Feb. 6 at the Ambiance, 5225 Koch's Lane.

The dancing competition, combined with a dinner and award presentation, has quickly become the year's largest fundraiser for Cornerstone: Foundation for Families, a Quincy-based agency that provides counseling services to individuals and families.

With tickets selling out each year and standing-room-only crowds filling the Ambiance, the dancing event has raised plenty of money for Cornerstone along with awareness about the agency's mission.

Dancing With Local Stars featured its first "all-star" edition last year. All 34 participants — paired as 17 competing couples — had danced at some point during the first three contests. Emerging as winners were Kathleen Birsic and Kris Kutcher.

This year, all 40 of the participants — paired as 20 couples — are new.

Donna Smith, who serves on Cornerstone's Board of Directors and is chairman of DWLS, says most of

this year's dancers agreed to take part because they've attended the event in the past and saw how much fun it can be.

"If you can raise money for a good cause and have fun at the same time, it's a win-win for everybody," Smith said.

Among those stepping forward this year were Liz and Chris Solaro. Liz runs an art gallery in the old Dick Brothers Brewery complex, while Chris is a local physician.

"My husband signed us up. He's not even a dancer," Liz said. "Everyone else is 20 and fit. It's the most fit group they've ever had. A lot of these people are real dancers or they run marathons or they are young and can go up stairs and not fall over."

One of the Solaros' neighbors is Sam Karoll, who will be dancing with Talia Miller. Karoll runs a cross-fit business.

"He can stand on one hand and do a push-up. This is our competition," Liz said. "We go up the steps three times, and we're winded. So I said to Chris, 'All we can do is be funny, because that's the only thing that will go well.'"

Liz Solaro said she and her husband are getting coaching from a relative who operates a dance stu-

## AT WHIG.COM

For a list of the dance teams who will be competing, go to [whig.com](http://whig.com) and click on this story.

### Ticket information

Tickets cost \$50 until Wednesday, when the price rises to \$60. A ticket includes admission to Cornerstone's annual dinner at the Ambiance, where Dave Ulrich will be honored as humanitarian of the year. The event begins with a 6 p.m. social hour followed by the meal at 7 p.m. The competition begins about 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at [www.cornerstone-quincy.org/dwls](http://www.cornerstone-quincy.org/dwls) or by calling Cornerstone at 222-8254.

dio in St. Louis.

"Either we'll both go down there (to the relative's studio), or I'll go down there and then work with Chris because his schedule is so crazy. We've even done a Skype thing" with the instructor, she said.

The Solaros usually rehearse in a large, empty space in Liz's multi-story gallery.

Liz says they are still working out the details of their dance routine. Already quite a few of their friends have bought tickets to the event so they can watch the couple perform.

"They think it's going to be hys-

terical," she said.

Also getting ready for his first-ever dance competition is Mark Aleman, who will be dancing with Deena Kroeger. Aleman manages the Tony's Too restaurant in the Quincy Holiday Inn. He's been a Cornerstone supporter for years and found it difficult to say no when approached by Smith, the organizer.

"It's for a good cause," he said. "Cornerstone does great work in town, and Donna was very persuasive." Aleman admits he is a "nondancer" but is doing his best to become one for the dancing competition.

"This is definitely out of my comfort zone," he said. "It will be fun. I just hope I don't embarrass myself too bad."

Aleman and Kroeger already have rehearsed about five times with Amy Terwelp, a dance instructor with Cindy Vancil Studio, before taking a break for the holidays.

"We're going to be hitting it hard as soon as the holidays are over," he said.

Also providing volunteer dance instruction for the event are Cheryl Loatsch Studio, Q Dance and Heinze Dance Academy along with independent dance instructor Amy Veach.