

KOSTRZEWA FAMILY FUND



Dan & Ruth Kostrzewa, circa 1966

The Kostrzewa Family Fund was created in 2021, as a tribute to Dan, Ruth, and Mary Kostrzewa, honoring their commitment to Catholic education and their dedication to Sacred Heart Academy.

The Kostrzewa family joined the Mt. Pleasant and Sacred Heart Parish communities in 1960 when Dan was stationed as Commander of the Mt Pleasant Michigan State Police Post.

Dan and his wife Ruth (Bentgen) were committed to Catholic education for their children and, over the course of three decades (1960s to 1980s), there was always at least one – often several – of the Kostrzewa children attending Sacred Heart Academy. Dan and

Ruth's nine children are all SHA graduates: Michael '68, Daniel '70, Thomas '71, Lucy '72, Dorothy '76, Amy '78, James '80, Mark '81, and Julie '82. After Ruth's passing in 1967, Dan married Mary Murphy. Their son Kevin also attended SHA. Grandchildren continued the Kostrzewa family presence at SHA through the 2000s.

For his community dedication, Dan was bestowed the Mt Pleasant Citizen of the Year honor in 1977. Dan was a highly respected community leader in his position as Michigan State Police Post Commander. Whether it was a major community project, or a one-on-one conversation or action, he was known for giving selflessly of his time and talents with a unique focus on those less fortunate. He was instrumental in the creation of Community Memorial Stadium and Union Township's McDonald Park baseball fields. He enjoyed coaching little league ball teams. His volunteer efforts included Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, SHA Athletic Association, and others too numerous to list. He was a loving and proud father of his 10 children.

Ruth would happily tell of her Upper Peninsula heritage and Mary was a proud Beal City graduate. Both were devoted mothers and wives who, like many women of their era, stood behind the scenes, attending to the demands of family life while also dedicating countless hours of support to school, parish, and community. Their daily selfless actions provided the solid foundation for many family accomplishments. Strong and loving women who set daily examples for living, they modeled faith and compassion to their children throughout their lives.

The service-focused lives of these three remarkable people continues to have impact in communities throughout the US through their children and grandchildren.

The Kostrzewa Family is pleased and honored to provide this legacy funding to Sacred Heart Academy, with the hope that recipients will carry forward a spirit of compassionate service into the future.



The Kostrzewa Family pictured in 2003, with Dan and Mary seated at center.



For further information about the Kostrzewa Family Fund or other Named Funds, contact the SHA Foundation at SHAFoundation@sha.net

SACRED HEART ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC.

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