

The Mary Simonis Rush Scholarship Fund

Mary was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1978, to Mark and Christina Simonis. Mary was very close with her siblings Joanna, Florence, and Matthias, as well as her aunts and uncles. She was the love of her husband Stephen's life, whom she married on February 9, 2013.

She had a life-long love of classical learning, particularly literature and the Great Books. She delighted in her own education, which included New Covenant Academy (Mansfield, PA), the University of Notre Dame (BA, English Literature), and University College Dublin (MA; Anglo Irish Literature and Drama). Some of her most studied and favorite classical authors included Jane Austen, James Joyce, Flannery O'Connor, and Canon Patrick Sheehan, the latter being the subject of her Master's dissertation. She was an active member of the Jane Austen Society of America.



“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.” - Philippians 4:8-9

She was an educator and taught in several Catholic Schools in suburban Philadelphia, with most of her career being spent on the English faculty at Merion Mercy Academy in Merion Station, PA. She was loved by her students and her faculty colleagues. For her students she was a positive role model, with a gift for evoking the beauty of classical literature, illuminating connections to Christian teaching, and, in doing so, imparting enduring life lessons to her students. She often escorted her students to Great Britain and Ireland to add an enriching context to their lessons. She was the faculty advisor for the Women for Life & Love student club, which included escorting students to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. She developed close friendships with her fellow faculty, who found in her a close and trusted friend.

Throughout her entire life, she was deeply faithful. She loved the writings of Pope John Paul II, and attended seminars and training on the Theology of the Body. She had a particular devotion to St. Thérèse de Lisieux.



She was an avid runner, and enjoyed knitting, cooking, traveling, reading on the beach, as well as playing with her Golden Retriever Pip. She will never be forgotten by those who loved her. Her legacy will live on through the many young people she taught and mentored.

Mary passed from this life to the next on January 5, 2014. The purpose of this scholarship is to honor her by providing a

student at Martin Saints with the opportunity to obtain a classical Catholic education that will serve, influence, and anchor them for their entire lives, as it did for Mary. On behalf of her family, our prayer is that her legacy as a Catholic educator to hundreds of young people will be continued through this effort.

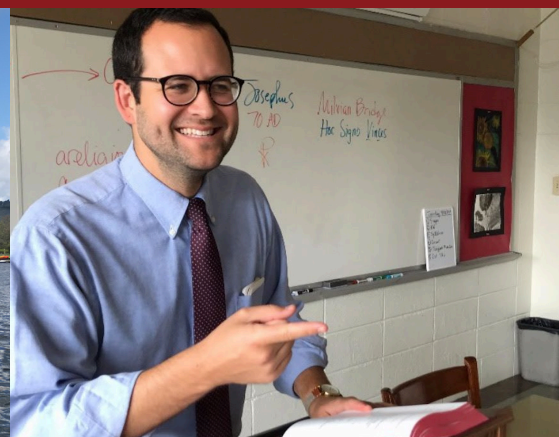
– *The family of Mary Simonis Rush*

About Martin Saints Classical High School

Our goal at Martin Saints is to provide a rich and holistic Catholic education— one that forms the whole person and presents the faith in ways that are beautiful, intelligent, compelling, and convincing. We strive to glorify God by cultivating students with a richly-formed sacramental imagination, young men and women who are “fully alive” in their Catholicism.

Paramount to a Martin Saints education is the integration of knowledge, unifying all learning through our commitment to the Catholic faith. Whatever is good, true, and beautiful—that is what we want to study. Whether Augustine and Aquinas, Chesterton and Austen, Renaissance art and Gregorian chant, or modern math and science—we want to learn from the best minds from classical times to the present. Committed to rigor and high standards, we are convinced that the Catholic faith provides the perspective to integrate the wisdom of our civilization.

To donate to the Mary Simonis Rush Scholarship Fund, checks can be sent to Martin Saints at 121 Allison Road, Oreland PA 19075. Credit card donations can be made online at whymsc.org/support#scholarship. For more information about Martin Saints in general, please contact Deacon Christopher Roberts at croberts@martinsaintsclassical.org or visit the school's website, whymsc.org.



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