

# Comet Alumni Spotlight



## Mrs. Ann Pfeiffer Kube St. Thomas Class of 1990

**Educational Background:** Attended STS kindergarten through 8th, Graduated from PNDHS in 1994, Attended Saint Louis University in the direct-entry Physical Therapy program, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy in 5.5 years (January of 2001). Licensed to practice PT in Illinois and Missouri.

**Recent Achievements:** I have always felt God put advocacy for the sanctity of human life on my heart. As a physical therapist, my area of expertise was geriatrics, and I worked in home health and skilled nursing facilities throughout central IL to provide for the physical rehab needs, and advocate for the independence and dignity of seniors. About a decade ago, I became involved in Women's Care Center of Peoria, and this pro-life pregnancy resource center enables me to advocate for the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person on the other end of the life spectrum. I am now the President of the Board of Directors of WCC, the largest, and most successful pregnancy resource model in the U.S. We now serve 1 in every 5 pregnant women in Peoria with educational, material, and supportive resources they need to be empowered to choose life and build sustainable families.

**Family:** My sister (Amy Pfeiffer Birnbaum) was also a Comet, but because she is 9.5 years younger we just missed attending STS together. Her kindergarten year was my freshman year. My mother taught 7th grade CCD at STS for many years and taught 4th grade at STS for 8 years. My father sat on the STS education commission for many years and was elected president of the commission for 10 of those years. I followed in his footsteps serving on the STS education commission, but served as president for only one. Both of my parents set great examples of family service to this parish as I grew up, so I learned what being a part of a spiritual family meant. When my husband and I were married in July of 2001, St. Thomas was building the new church and Mass was being held in the gym. Msgr. Watson married us at a different church, but when we moved back to Peoria almost 17 years ago, with our 3 children, we re-joined St. Thomas. All 3 kids are STS alumni, Clare (18 y/o) and twins Katie and Richard (16 y/o). Clare graduated from PND last year and attends the University of Dallas, a faithfully Catholic school in TX, and the twins are juniors at PND. My husband and I are deeply grateful for the excellent academic preparation for high school and faith foundation they received at STS.

**Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:** Being told that God made us all different, and gave each of us different gifts and talents on purpose. It was up to us to discern our gifts and find ways to use them to serve God and His people for the glory of God. This seems simple, but it has had a profound impact on my life, at times encouraging me, and at others admonishing me toward positive change and action. I also remember attending the Mary Celebration/May Crowning always drew me closer to Our Lady, and the all school Masses reminded me that STS is a big school family.

**St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:** It is impossible to choose just one teacher that made an impact on me, because I can honestly say every teacher did. I would have to highlight Mrs. Karen Bahnsen, the 5/6th grade science teacher and Mrs. Barb Heiser, the 7/8th grade science teacher. These two women turned me on to science and made me feel like I was smart and capable in that arena, long before it became popular to encourage girls in STEM. Their creative and encouraging approach to teaching science lessons is the reason I chose to study in a STEM field later.

**Piece of advice for current Comets:** Take the knowledge that God made you who you are, gave you the gifts and talents He gave you, and placed you here and now for a reason to heart. Don't waste time envying anyone else's gifts, cultivate your own. When you are using what you have been given in a way that glorifies God and shows His love, mercy, and forgiveness to others, you will be living your best life. Stay close to God in all things.

