

Salvatorian roots

An alumnus of our Salvatorian St. Nazian Seminary, Walter Gartman, or as friends call him, Wally, isn't shy to tell the stories of his life. The walls of his pristine garage and his meticulous home office in Sheboygan, Wis. Are covered with photos and mementos of the life he and his wife Judy have shared for more than 60 years. One photo in particular stands out. It's a photo of Wally, as a teen, playing basketball for his St. Nazianz team.

A graduate of Holy Names grade school in Sheboygan, Wally looked into St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and then, on the advice of his Pastor, considered and ultimately attended St. Nazianz. "When you live together and go to school together, you learn how to work with people. I learned how to solve problems," said Wally. "I owe the Salvatorians a debt of gratitude for my time there."

He ultimately decided not to pursue religious life after minor seminary, sharing, "There were a lot of reasons, but also I think I was too young to make a decision that important that would impact the rest of my life." Wally credits his successful career to his Salvatorian education. He had learned about a job opportunity at work but it required a college degree. He applied anyway. The hiring manager, noticing that Wally had attended St. Nazianz, gave him the job because he held the Salvatorians in such high regard. Wally's career in manufacturing management was launched, taking him around the country and the world. "I applied the skills I learned at St. Nazianz and they helped me be successful," he said.

Wally and Judy have slowed their lives down a bit now that they are in their 80's, but they remain committed to giving to charity, including the Salvatorian mission and ministry, and staying true to their Catholic faith. "I've had a really great life."



Walter Gartman (Wally) in his hey-day on the courts at St. Nazianz High School! Salvatorian lessons not forgotten – pictures from St. Nazianz still line the wall of his home in Wisconsin.