

Marian Catholic

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



JANUARY 2022

HOMEcomings SLATED FOR OCTOBER 8

Similar to 2021 when we moved one of our Friday night home football games to a Saturday in order to allow more alumni to make it home for the weekend festivities, we will be doing that again in 2022.

The annual Homecoming game this year will be played on Saturday, October 8, at the Men of Marian Stadium against Shenandoah Valley.

We are seeking alumni to serve as committee members to help plan the event and make it a smashing success like it was last year.

We are also looking for volunteers and ideas for future alumni events at Marian (Christmas Mass, Spring Musical, 50-year class celebration), etc. To volunteer, email us at alumni@mariancatholicshs.org.

We will "Zoom" again at 4 p.m. February 8 and welcome participation from all Marian alumni. The Zoom link is: Description: Join Zoom Meeting,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8275115344?pwd=d1Bz-V3l1T1hHMGlxN2lyL21wa3FFUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 511 5344
Passcode: Marian

2021-2022 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY

Representatives of the Marian Catholic High School Alumni Association, including class representatives, kicked off 2022 with a "Zoom" meeting in January, during which time plans for the year were discussed and updates on the current membership campaign were provided.

As has always been the case, our mission remains the same, to promote Marian Catholic High School and its students, and to reconnect our graduates with the school as a means of working together to make sure Marian Catholic continues to be a viable educational option for boys and girls and their parents for years to come.

Our membership campaign starts in the Fall each year and runs consistent with the school year. If you have not yet joined us, please consider doing so.

To date, 310 graduates have opted to join the association, resulting in \$10,580 having been raised for the school. All of the revenue that is generated through the Alumni Association is used for financial assistance. We encourage everyone to

please relay to parents considering their son's or daughter's high school education to "let us show you how a Marian Catholic education is affordable" to them.

We have 53 class representatives representing 37 classes who have graciously volunteered to assist us with helping to locate their class members. After all, we believe classmates know better than anyone else where their classmates are.

One of the goals we set during our January meeting is to work in 2022 to secure as many email addresses of graduates as possible. That way, we can continue to stay in touch with them, primarily through our regular newsletters.

Graduates who would be willing to help us in this regard can obtain a class list from our Advancement director, Kristine Evina, at kevina@mariancatholicshs.org.

We hope you will also reach out to classmates and ask them to update their contact information by going to www.mariancatholicshs.org/alumni.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

We're interested in hearing from alumni and would like to share news about your families, careers, etc. with your classmates and friends. Whether you are planning a reunions or just want to locate a classmate, send us an email at alumni@mariancatholicshs.org and we will be more than happy to help you reunite with the Marian Catholic family.



**DID YOU KNOW?
YOUR TAX
DOLLARS CAN
HELP MARIAN
CATHOLIC
AND OUR
STUDENTS**

Pennsylvania taxpayers and businesses have a unique opportunity to assist Marian Catholic High School and its students by designating their state taxes go to the school.

The program for the 2022-2023 school year is now open for enrollment and will remain open until March 15.

This year, over 60 percent of our students receive tuition assistance through the PA tax credit program.

By participating in this amazing program, you can make a Marian Catholic education possible for our students next year and for years to come.

The Allentown Diocese has helped by making this process simple, quick and easy. For more information on how the program works and how you can participate in it, contact Director of Advancement Kristine Evina, kevina@mariancatholic.org, or call 570-467-3335, extension 115.

**PERSPECTIVE: MORALS,
VALUES AND QUALITY EDUCATION**

By Megan Majetsky, Class of 2002 representative

Catholic school wasn't always a part of my life.

I attended public school up until the fall of ninth grade. Being in school was a massive catalyst of anxiety for me on a daily basis. I had close friends but hated being away from my mother, especially during my elementary years. I spent many school days at the nurse's office due to being so uncomfortable at school.

The year was 1999 and I started my ninth-grade year in a local public high school. My cousin and best friend at the time attended Marian Catholic. The thought of a smaller school interested me tremendously and I began begging my parents to send me to Marian Catholic.

One day, after begging my parents for what felt like forever, I came home to my mother informing me that I would be starting at Marian Catholic the next day. For how I dealt with anxiety on a daily basis, it was a surprise to not feel anything but anticipation and excitement.

Being a student at Marian Catholic brought me an immediate feeling of love, acceptance, and peace. Everyone was so accepting of others. Jesus was a major focus, having good morals and values were not only taught but expected, and more parents were heavily involved regarding the school career of their children.

The experience was unlike anything I could have ever hoped for. The next few years of school went entirely too fast. Graduation day quickly arrived and I was then considered a 2002 Marian Catholic Alumni.

Having gone to Marian Catholic and now being a mother, I realize how important Catholic education is. My son is currently in kindergarten at St. Jerome's. I could not be happier with the decision I made to send him to a private school. He is not only being delivered a good, quality education but he is being shaped into a good person. As a mother, I couldn't ask for anything better.

(Note: The Marian Catholic Alumni newsletter welcomes contributions from all Marian graduates. Do you want to share your thoughts with our readers? Want to tell the world what Marian means to you? Please do! Contact us at alumni@mariancatholic.org.

CLASS REUNION PLANS

The Marian Catholic High School Class of 1965, which had been unable to reunite in the past two years due to COVID-19, has planned its reunion for June 26 from 1-5 p.m. at Capriotti's Banquet Hall, Tresckow.

YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE: '84 GRAD FINDS REWARDS IN U.S. PARK SERVICE POSITION



Jacque Lavelle at work on a fire in the Kootenai National Forest.

Editor's note: In this month's issue, we highlight the career of 1984 graduate Jacque Lavelle of Lehigh, who has found a rewarding career with the U.S. Park Service, currently working in Montana. The series, "You can get there from here," will be designed to share the good news of alumni in various life endeavors upon attaining a Marian education. We welcome the opportunity to tell similar stories from Marian Catholic alumni who can contact us at alumni@mariancatholic.org.

Jacque Lavelle didn't exactly follow a straight path towards her professional career, but she had the opportunity to work in as many as five states before landing in Montana.

The 1984 Marian graduate, one of four children of Attorney Marianne (Shutack) Lavelle of Lehigh and the late President Judge John P. Lavelle of the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas, Jacque moved on from Hometown to the University of Rochester in New York and then the University of Virginia, attaining a bachelor of arts degree in history and a master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning, respectively.

A career with the U.S. National Park Service followed.

"I started working for the National Park Service in the summer of my junior year in college as a Student Conservation Association Resource Assistant," Jacque said.

The program places students in National Parks where they gain experience and work for housing and a stipend.

Her position was in the Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, VA.

Upon graduating, Jacque was hired as a museum technician on a one-year appointment. Later, she continued her pursuits with the Park Service moving to various jobs, including park ranger, wildland fire fighter, education specialist and concession specialist, having worked in Maryland, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and Washington, D.C., before relocating to Montana.

In the "Big Sky" state, Jacque currently serves as superintendent of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, where duties include leading a team of educators, ranchers and craftsmen who are preserving and telling the story of cowboys in America and sharing heritage skills with the public. She is also a public information officer on a Wildland Fire incident management team.

Jacque looks back on her Marian experience and says, "I was never a great student, but I found a place with the drama club and stage crew. I think this helped me realize my love of the arts and working with creative people."

Marian graduates, she says, who aspire to a career similar to hers, could find many related opportunities. Jacque said, "The National Park Service is a federal government agency and hires through an online system at USAJobs.gov. Pennsylvania is home to 19 National Park units, including Gettysburg, Valley Forge, Independence Hall, and Flight 93."

Jacque is married to Jeff Pinkard for 24 years. He is a retired law enforcement officer with the National Park Service. The couple has two fur babies, Eddie, an orange tabby, and Dixie, a black lab.

Her older brother, John, Class of '81, and younger brother, Jim, Class of '87, are both attorneys while her sister Marianne, Class '77, is a journalist who writes for Inside Climate News, a Pulitzer Prize-winning news organization that provides essential reporting and analysis on climate change, energy and the environment.



Walking with the draft horse team is Marian Catholic graduate Jacque Lavelle, joining in a parade to protect children from getting under hoof.



MARIAN QUARTERBACK CLUB HOLDS BANQUET

Members of the Marian Catholic Colts' football team were honored at a banquet held January 23 at the Mountain Valley Banquet Hall in Barnesville hosted by the Marian Quarterback Club. Four senior players and two senior managers were among those recognized, including, front from left, Matt Rehrig, co-captain; Paris Sevinsky, manager; and John Milosh, co-captain; and back from left, Jake Fenstermaker, Marian Catholic's Scholar Athlete; Head Coach Stan Dakosty; Peter Dubravski, a 2016 graduate of Marian Catholic who went on to play for Dickinson College, guest speaker; and Ethan Smith, recipient of the Delrose Awards Sportsmanship Award. Missing from the photo is senior manager Madilyn Rick.

2022 GRIDIRON SCHEDULE

- August 8 - Week of heat acclimation begins
- August 20 - home scrimmage vs. Holy Redeemer
- August 26 - at Schuylkill Haven
- September 2 - at Minersville
- September 9 - Catasauqua
- September 16 - Sayre
- September 23 - Nativity
- September 30 - at Mahanoy Area
- October 8 - Shenandoah Valley (Homecoming)
- October 14 - at Williams Valley
- October 21 - Tri-Valley
- October 28 - at Pine Grove

EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD FOR MEMBERS OF CLASS OF 1972

The year 2022 looms as an exciting one for members of the Class of 1972 of Marian Catholic High School, who plan to reunite on Friday, May 27. That's the night when the 50-year reunion will take place from 5-10 p.m. at Capriotti's Banquet Hall, Tresckow.

The reunion is being spearheaded by Edward and Debby (Blew) Brezinski class members who live in Mesa, AZ. In the invitation send to nearly 200 class members, they write, "Can you believe it has been 50 years since we left Marian Catholic High School and ventured out to broader life experiences? Now, it's time to reconnect and reminisce on those years." Helping the Brezinskis plan for the event has been class member Peggy B. (Kennedy) Murray.

Details, photos and more about the reunion can be obtained by visiting the class' event website: www.myevent.com/mhs72reunion. Your alma mater is ready to celebrate your class! Members of the '72 class are invited back to Marian Catholic to lead the members of the Class of 2022 into the gymnasium for their graduation exercises.

Those who can attend will take part in a reception in the business center of the school before the graduation ceremonies. Need additional information? Contact Kristine Evina at kevina@mariancatholic.org. Look for your "Save-the-Date" in the mail next month!

MARIAN '79 FOOTBALL TEAM SENIORS GATHER FOR A UNIQUE REUNION

The seniors of the Marian Catholic Colts' 1979 football team had hoped to hold a special 40th anniversary reunion last year, but COVID-19 moved the goal line and caused a delay of game.

The winning Colts team finally got the chance to get together and reminisce about their days on and off the gridiron in October at The Lakeside Ballroom.

There is a bond among classmates that gets renewed when a reunion is held, but when it comes to sports, there is something extra for the players who practiced and played as a band of brothers or sisters.

There were 19 seniors on the Colts' football team in 1979. They played 11 games, ending with a 9-2 record, shutting out Line Mountain, Mahanoy Area and Jim Thorpe, and only losing to Pottsville Area and Panther Valley.

The senior team members included Kory Bates, Peter Bubel, Jeff Butala, Frank Castellana, Brian Cinicola, David Coury, Paul Creedon, Sammy Cusanelli, Tony Damiano, Paul Davidavage, Carlos DeAngelo, Jack McFarland, Tim Ryan, Mark Santo, Mike Sema, Dave Shober, Pete Stanakis, Mark Stelmack and Chuck Tinninis.

"When I graduated from college, I went back to Marian Catholic as a teacher and a coach for a couple of years until I applied for a special agent position with the FBI and DEA," said McFarland, who helped organize the reunion. "I was a DEA agent for 32 years. I had a mandatory retirement in 2018."

The original location for the reunion was Chantilly's in Barnesville, owned by Bates, but with the renovation and reopening of the ballroom, it was moved to that location, which is co-owned by Bates.

McFarland said after their 40th-year class reunion was canceled last October,



he and Paul Davidavage spoke over Thanksgiving and came up with the idea of having their own 42nd football reunion.

"We called five of the guys and they loved the idea, and called the rest and they loved it. They all said let's do this thing," he said.

McFarland said the reunion idea fit because those involved were good friends in their playing days.

"We were a very tight-knit group back in the day," he said. "We just had that powerful of a team. We just lost to Pottsville and Panther Valley that year. We had them beat, but we fell short. It was a group of players who were student-athletes and also people who cared about each other."

Prior to the reunion, Stanakis said he was looking forward to it.

"We never had anything before. This is a nice thing we're going to do," he said. "I haven't seen a lot of those guys for a long time. I've probably seen only about five of them since I graduated in 1980."

Stanakis said Stan Dakosty took over as football coach in 1977, and he was part of the team that gave him his first three winning seasons.

"In our sophomore year, he went 6-5,

junior year it was 6-4-1 and our senior year we were 9-2," Stanakis said.

He noted the losses to Pottsville and Panther Valley, the latter of which he recalls being ranked fifth in the state at that time.

"We lost to them by a touchdown. And even with a 9-2 record, we didn't make the playoffs," he said. "The conference had that screwy point system. We came in second place to Minersville that year. We knew we were better than them. Well, if you don't think you're good, you shouldn't be playing. And Pottsville was the only one that year that shut us out."

Stanakis said the team did well with its running game, only throwing the football about four or five times a game.

"We let everybody know that we played smash-mouth football," he said.

There was a great sense of camaraderie among the players on and off the field, which also made the '79 team special.

"We were like a band of brothers. We really were," Stanakis said. "We were together all the time. We got along. There wasn't any player that disliked another. There was nothing like that. And we just liked to play football. Stan was a great coach. We were just good friends."

Continued on next page

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Marian Catholic alumni and friends are asked to keep in their thoughts and prayers the families of the following:

William M. Coombe: 79, of Hamilton, Ohio, passed away on Jan. 10, 2022. He was the son of former Marian Catholic music teacher William Coombe and the brother of Paul Coombe, Class of '67 and our former vice principal.

Charles R. Gouldner: 88, of Tamaqua, passed away on Jan. 14, 2022. He was the husband of the late Jane (Der) Gouldner and graduated in 1951 from St. Jerome's High School, Tamaqua.

John M. Hylan: 63, of Frackville, passed away on Dec. 15, 2021. He was a 1977 graduate of Marian Catholic High School Tamaqua.

Rosemary Papanek: 63, of Ocean City, N.J., formerly of Lansford, passed away on July 22, 2021. She was the daughter of the late Robert and Pauline Papanek. She graduated in 1977 from Marian Catholic High School.

Mrs. Anna Louise Racko: 81, of Lansford, passed away on Jan. 25. The former Anna Louise Hydock was a 1959 graduate of Marian Catholic High School and the widow of John J. Racko.

Mrs. Evelyn T. Sheer: 93, of Drums, passed away on Jan. 4, 2022. She was the widow of Joseph Sheer, the mother of Marian Catholic teacher Teresa Sheer and her husband, Stephen, members of the Class of 1969, and the grandmother of four of their children who are Marian Catholic graduates.

Mrs. Ann S. Vandembord: 83, of Jim Thorpe, passed away on Dec. 30, 2021. The widow of Donald E. Vandembord, and daughter of the late Hugh and Anna (Martino) Sweeney, she was a 1956 graduate of Mauch Chunk Catholic High School.

Paul D. Warner III: 48, of Beebe, AK, passed away on Dec. 7, 2021. He was the son of Paul Warner Jr. and Rose (McCarroll) Warner of Andreas. He was a 1991 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

MARIAN '79 FOOTBALL TEAM

Continued from previous page

The team also signed a football and auctioned it off, with the \$200 raised donated to the current Marian Colts football team through Dakosty, the current coach who was also head coach in 1979.

Looking back, McFarland said, "That year, we had 60 to 65 players dress for a football game and that didn't even include the freshmen. I'm trying to give a tribute to the '79 seniors. We battled all of our years together. We're a very special group."

This story appeared in a recent edition of the Standard Speaker, Hazleton.

BE A CLASS REP!

Because class members know their classmates better than anyone, and a lot have continued to keep in touch with each other, the alumni association seeks class representatives to help us grow the association. The role of a class representative is to help connect their classmates with the school by informing them about what is going on currently at the school and within the association and engaging them through events and reunions. For

more information on the association and how you can help your Alma Mater, contact Alumni chairman Bill O'Gurek, Class of '73, at alumni@mariancatholic.org.

We know our alumni are proud about the education they received at Marian Catholic!

Join our Alumni Association today for a nominal membership fee of \$10 per year. In an era when Catholic schools are facing continuous challenges that have prompted many to close their doors, our alumni strive to be there for the next generation and for years to come. If each of us can do just a little, together we can do great things for our Alma Mater!

Go www.mariancatholic.org and click on "Alumni" and "Join" to become a member today!



WWW.MARIANCATHOLICHS.ORG



Marian Catholic High School, 166 Marian Ave. Tamaqua, PA 18252 | 570.467.3335 | alumni@mariancatholic.org