

Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



JULY 2020



STRONG CLASS OF 2020 NETS OVER \$2 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Three months after they spent their last days in school together as members of the Class of 2020 of Marian Catholic High School (due to the pandemic), 72 students picked up their diplomas and bid farewell to their alma mater. A Baccalaureate Mass and outdoor commencement ceremony was held on June 12 at Stan Dakosty Field of the Men of Marian Stadium.

The event took on a different look this year. It was shifted outdoors, rather than the traditional school gymnasium setting, and social distancing was in place. The scoreboard appropriately had its timer set at 20:20, while the home and away scores also both showed "20" as the graduates marched into the stadium and took their seats six feet apart. Family members and friends watched from the bleachers.

And while the graduation was very different than in prior years, one thing that didn't change was the impressive scholarship totals racked up by the Class of 2020. Principal Jean Susko, who transitioned as the school's new director of studies for 2020-2021, reported the graduates accepted more than \$2 million in scholarships and grants to continue their education. Ninety-five percent of the class

plans to continue on to higher education or the military; of which 47 students will attend a four-year college, 17 will attend a two-year college, and four will join the military.

Valedictorian Sarah Halupa and salutatorian Samantha Eroh had the honor of addressing their classmates. Using the acronym "STRONG," Halupa spoke of the qualities of the members of the Class of 2020, and encouraged them to define their senior year that way. She said, "Be not afraid to show your 'S' spirit, leverage 'T' teamwork and 'R' respect to seize 'O' opportunity, and remember we survived 'N' Novel COVID-19 because 'G' God is always with us."

She said those qualities will lead to opportunities, especially after those opportunities were limited this year. She said, "God, who has been with us throughout our lives, has been there for us and with us throughout this high school journey. Sometimes, He was difficult to see, especially now, as we endure current hardships. Missing part of our senior year is insignificant in comparison to the sacrifices others are making to keep us safe and present here tonight. Sometimes it is difficult for us to feel God in our lives, but we can

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MCHS GRADUATE, NEW TROOPER, GARNERS TOP ACCOLADES

Marian Catholic alumni, Nick Sully Class of 2015, is one of Pennsylvania's newest state troopers. He was among the cadets who recently graduated with the state's 159th graduating class of the State Police Academy in Hershey.

Nick, who was a member of Coach Stan Dakosty's Colts' football teams, garnered some of the top honors of the class.

He received the American Legion Award, presented to the most outstanding cadet in recognition of all-around academic, physical, ethical, and moral qualifications; the Col. Ronald L. Sharpe Award, presented to the cadet who most exemplifies the qualities of leadership; and the Col. John K. Schafer Award, presented to the cadet who achieved the highest combined score on a series of physical skills tests.

Col. Robert Evanchick, commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, told Nick and his classmates, "The support of loved ones, even from afar, is crucial during the rigorous physical and mental training State Police cadets receive at the Academy, and it will remain vital throughout their careers as troopers. Although proud parents, siblings, spouses, and others could not attend in person, we are grateful for everything they have done to help these men and women reach the important milestone we are marking today."

Nick has been assigned to duty in Monroe County.

CLASS OF 2020 CONTINUED

blatantly feel Him in our real life heroes. Our parents, our teachers, our essential workers, the custodians – these are the people who are the heroes for us, who show us God through their great acts. These people make the Marian Class of 2020 strong. If anything is memorable from my talk, remember that God is your advocate and that He is everywhere, even where you wouldn't expect Him."

Eroh reminded the class members of their talents and spirit... qualities, she said, that make them unique. She urged the members of the Class of 2020 to be confident in themselves and passionate about the things they love and prompted them to always strive to make their families proud.

She said, "As I look out today, I may not be able to see many individual faces, but I sense an incredible vibe that only members of the Marian community can understand."

Stressing that Marian parents, teachers and administrators "have mentored us and prepared us to navigate our futures," she said, "Without a solid foundation, none of us could grow this strong. We appreciate that each one of you has dedicated countless hours towards preparing us for what lies ahead."

"You can handle whatever comes your way," Eroh said. "Take it. Embrace it. Own it. As we prepare to enter the unfamiliar, always remember to stay calm, stay safe, but don't be afraid to veer from home. I take a piece of you with me, and I hope you do the same. Let us take this moment to walk into an uncertain future together."

MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI

We welcome recorded messages from alumni all over the country/world. Similar to Mark Purcell's video, create your own. Send it to us and we will gladly share it on the school's and alumni's Facebook pages. We would love for you to tell us about yourself and encourage you to offer best wishes to the current Marian students and our family.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A few of us were recently on one of those now-convenient "zoom" meetings when the subject of "Marian pride" all of a sudden consumed our time. After all, those of us who are volunteering to set the agenda for the resurrection of the Marian Alumni Association have been witness in recent months – almost on a daily basis – to the great enthusiasm Marian graduates have for our school.

Tammy (Long) Chrin, who really been the "mover and shaker" with regard to the association having secured the services of over 50 graduates to serve as class representatives for us, was quick to remark how every day she sees positive signs from Marian graduates wanting to get involved in helping to make sure a Marian education continues to be available for this generation and the next.

Via emails, telephone calls, personal contact or other means, we acknowledged, each of us have received great vibes that trigger our optimistic outlook for success in the future. The fact that there are so many of you out there who want Marian to be around forever sends us a strong message that alumni value the education they received here.

Having said that, we want to thank you for your dedication to Marian, and invite you to encourage others to join us as we support Catholic education in the beautiful setting around our Hometown campus.

Not long after that call, I was in my garage looking in my toolbox (yes, I have a toolbox) for a pencil to mark a measurement, when I grabbed one that ironically helped reinforce my belief in our school. "MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL ... A PROUD PAST ... A PROMISING FUTURE" were the words inscribed on it.

And, so, I thought, "Wow, just what we believe, and what we've been talking about."



I have to admit, I don't know where the pencil came from, but one thing I do know is this – the pride of Marian's past is legendary, and the promise, obviously profound. The words on that pencil reminded me our predecessors believed the same thing and they thought enough to put their beliefs into words, on something as simple as a pencil.

We talked about expressions of that pride too, and, coincidentally, we are working on a program whereby we will offer Marian Alumni attire (shirts, hats, etc.) to those who would want to proudly let others know they are our graduates. Soon, you will hear more about those opportunities, and how proceeds of that program will go toward a scholarship program at the school.

I believe all of us in the Marian Alumni Association share the same belief – that where we grew up and learned played an important role in cultivating our lives, and that Marian played an important and meaningful role in the lives we are living today.

That, in and of itself, gives me reason to be proud of the past, but, more importantly, hopeful for the future. I hope all Marian alumni feel the same way and I encourage you to play a role in expressing your Marian pride.



MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Alumni Association

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether it's a job promotion, family addition, honors or special occasion – we invite you to share it with us. We will gladly post it on our Facebook page for our followers, and would include any request in our upcoming newsletters. Email us at alumni@mariancatholics.org or send it directly to the Advancement Office, kevina@mariancatholics.org, and we will be happy to share the great news about our Marian family members. Keep up on all school new by visiting our school's website at mariancatholics.org. ***We look forward to hearing from you!***

CLASS OF 2000 VALEDICTORIAN IS AMONG ‘TOP DOCTORS’



The valedictorian of Marian Catholic’s Class of 2000, Dr. David O’Gurek, a native of Summit Hill who is on the medical staff of the Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, has been named one of Philadelphia Magazine’s “Top Doctors for 2020.”

He continued went on to graduate from St. Joseph

University, Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

In Philadelphia, he specializes in family medicine and treating patients afflicted with COVID-19. However, some of his most important work in the city is helping people who are battling drug addiction. Dr. O’Gurek cares for patients in Temple’s office-based opioid treatment program, where he provides acute, chronic and preventive care largely through telemedicine.

O’Gurek directs the TRUST Clinic, as well as a mobile recovery unit, Begin the Turn, which serves a population experiencing homelessness and OUD in the Kensington area of North Philadelphia.

O’Gurek said he considers it “truly an honor to be entrusted with the opportunity to work with the communities of North Philadelphia and to do what I do.” He said his exposure to situations in the city “continuously amazes me, especially the resilience within a community that has been inflicted by so much inequality and injustice.”

While the Temple leaders are quick to extol the work of its physicians, O’Gurek put a different perspective on work in the hospital. “There are definitely amazing people in the area doing amazing work,” he said, noting, “Hospital work amidst the worst pandemic ever is challenging for not just doctors, but everyone on the payroll.”

He continued, “I truly appreciate the outpouring of appreciation to health care workers. However, amidst a pandemic, we are all in this together. There is no role greater or smaller than another. Focus on the hospitals go to the health care providers, but we could not do our jobs without the security guards, maintenance workers, housekeeping staff, cafeteria workers, patient transport staff, receptionists, and so on.”



MARIAN FBLA MEMBER ELECTED TO STATEWIDE OFFICE

The Marian Catholic High School Future Business Leaders of America chapter has been highly-successful through many years. Maxwell

Schwabe, Class of 2021, was elected president of Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America.

“The moment I was elected president the amount of congratulations messages poured in from classmates, family and friends was incredible. I am so blessed and thankful to have their support over the past three years,” said Schwabe, of Hazle Township.

In the top role, he will oversee 300 commonwealth chapters with about 13,000 students and will represent Pennsylvania at the National Leadership Conference.

Schwabe has been involved with the FBLA since his freshman year at Marian Catholic and has held state positions before.

Schwabe successfully campaigned for the position of vice president at large in 2018 and represented the state at that year’s National Leadership Conference in Baltimore. During his sophomore year, he earned the position of state reporter and was in charge of writing the online newsletter, “Penn Pal.” He represented Pennsylvania at the 2019 National Leadership Conference in San Antonio. He was joined by Marian Catholic student Thomas Betterly (Class of 2020), who qualified by placing fourth in impromptu speaking at the 2019 State Leadership Conference.

The Marian FBLA chapter has been under the direction of adviser Trish Patton.



OUR DEDICATED CHAPLAIN OBSERVES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations are in order to the Rev. Brian Miller, pastor of St. Joseph, Frackville, and St. Charles Borromeo, Ashland, and our chaplain here at Marian Catholic High School.

He recently celebrated his 10th anniversary in the priesthood, having been ordained on June 5, 2010, in Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, by Bishop John Barres.

A former assistant pastor at cathedral, St. Patrick's, Pottsville, and St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, and administrator at St. Joseph, Shepton and St. Mary, Ringtown, Father Miller is a constant presence here in Hometown. We give thanks to God for giving Fr. Miller to us, and thank him for his commitment and dedication to the Marian family.

OUR CONDOLENCES

We ask our alumni to keep in their prayers several the following persons who passed away recently, as well as their families:

The Rev. J. Michael Beers, 70, Berkeley Springs, W. Va., passed away on Feb. 26, 2020. He was a former member of advisory board of Marian Catholic High School.

Mrs. Florence C. Bubel, 89, of Tamaqua, passed away on June 11, 2020. She was the mother of Marian graduates Charles Yuskas (‘70), Diane Macchiano (‘71) and Dr. Anita Yuskas (‘73).

Cody Decker, 28, of Mahanoy City, passed away on June 8, 2020. He graduated from Marian High School, Class of 2010. He was a son of Barry Decker and the late Joy (Frie) Decker and among his other survivors are a son; a sister, Courtney Tamagini (‘08), a brother Chris (‘07).

Mrs. Sharon F. Dever, 62, of Tresckow, passed away on July 9. She was the widow of James E. Dever Jr., who died on March 29. They were the parents of Erin Dever Porambo (‘05) and her husband, James Porambo (‘04); and Dana Dever (‘10), and her partner, Chris Erno II.

Mrs. Anna Marie Klotz, 81, formerly of Lehigh, died on Friday, June 19, 2020, in Florida. Anna and her husband, James D., are the parents of Stephen D. (‘76), Michael J., James C. (‘81), Karen M. Didyoung and the late Barbara Ann Gelatko and Robert John, some of which include Marian graduates.

Mrs. Catherine Oakes, 83, formerly of Mahanoy City, passed away on July 6, 2020. She was the widow of Donald J. Oakes Sr. and the mother of Catherine (‘82), wife of Chris Vaul, Donald (‘83), and his wife, Crystal, Mary, and her husband, Duane, and the late Patti Oakes Freiler (‘86), the latter having been a former Fillies’ basketball player who was inducted into the Marian Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mary Ann Owens, 66, of Summit Hill, passed away on Monday, June 30, 2020. A daughter of the late Daniel and Dorothy (Meterko) Gieniec, she was a 1971 graduate of Marian High School. She leaves two daughters, Sarah Owens and Jennifer Owens, and siblings, Carol McGinley, Dottie Gieniec and Diane Gieniec. A brother Daniel preceded her in death.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Stumpp, 78, of Pottsville, passed away on June 21, 2020. She was the wife of James H. Stumpp. A daughter of the late Edward and Elizabeth Niadna Burnett, she attended St. Jerome School, Tamaqua, and graduated in 1959 from Marian High School. She leaves daughters Jeanie Lynn (spouse, Bob) and Kelly Brown (spouse, Harry); and a sister, Regina Valentine.

Christopher Jude Wickkiser, 33, of Coaldale, passed away on June 5, 2020. Formerly of Weatherly, he was a 2005 graduate of MCHS. He leaves his wife, Samantha; parents, Paul and Annette M. (Grega) Wickkiser, a son, Jaxon J.; two daughters, Nora R. and Olivia R.; a brother, Ryan M. (‘06), and sisters, Noelle M. Rossi and Kristyna M. Keifer.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES WELCOMED AND SOUGHT...

As we move forward with our second “revived” year of the Alumni Association, numerous graduates have agreed to help us by taking on roles as class representatives. The success of any organization is cooperation, communication and the ability to work together. In that respect, we sincerely welcome graduates who will be serving as representatives of their individual classes. A class representative will work with class lists to update information about their classmates. They will encourage classmates to join the association, welcome input from alumni and work with the association advancement office with regard to how their class or individual class members can help Marian.

The class representatives as of this newsletter include:

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|------|--|------|--|
| 2019 | Courtney Kovatch, Courtney.kovatch29@gmail.com | 1992 | Tara McCarroll Stauffenberg, tstauff921@hotmail.com; Heather Lawson Setettler, livsmom74@hotmail.com |
| 2015 | Gabriella Sacco, gmsacco@email.msmary.edu | 1991 | Angela Bielen Meiss, ajmeiss@aol.com |
| 2009 | Cortney Buchman, buchman 8989@yahoo.com | 1990 | Melissa Fredericks, melmik@gmail.com |
| 2006 | Kelly Stauffer, kellymariemc87@gmail.com; co-2006: Kayla Gursky Heiser, kaylaheiser326@gmail.com; Brian Rogers, longjumpman19@yahoo.com | 1988 | Margaret Zimmerman, ltzboo@aol.com |
| 2005 | Maria Bruni Schulz, mfbbschulz@gmail.com; co-2005: Ashley Rogers Securda, amrogers12@yahoo.com | 1987 | Pam Hosak Polakovic, ppolakov@ptd.net; co-1987: Kathy Reinhardt, chinacat@ptd.net |
| 2004 | Angela Rutch Chromiak, angelarutch@hotmail.com | 1986 | Mary Dugan-Figura, mfigura@wssd.org; co-1986: Paula Anceravige Kuczynski, pmk73168@yahoo.com |
| 2003 | Patrick Boyle, pboyle01@gmail.com | 1985 | Theresa Scatton Bruno, tess@kartune.com; co-1985: Sue Anceravige Morrison, suz618@yahoo.com |
| 2003 | Erin O’Gurek, eogurek@gmail.com | 1984 | Sr. Maureen Donati, sistermo0814@gmail.com; co-1984: Sr. Rose Mulligan, s.rose.mulligan@gmail.com |
| 2002 | Megan Majetsky, megspegs113@yahoo.com | 1983 | Sharon Gillespie Choley, scholey@msn.com; co-1983: Trish Spillman, tspillman@dunnemanning.com; and Michael McCall, mmccall@ptd.net/mmccall2529@gmail.com |
| 2001 | Billy O’Gurek, billyogurek@gmail.com | 1982 | Chris Eroh, ceroh64@gmail.com |
| 2000 | Alicia Pieracini, apieracini@hotmail.com | 1981 | Jackie Majez Lopata, mjlopata@ptd.net |
| 1999 | Mike Bartholomew, mikeybart15@yahoo.com; co-1999: Rose Holland McGlone, rmcglone@bhservices.com; and Sheilann Weiker, seweicke@hotmail.com | 1979 | Kathleen McCabe, mccabek79@gmail.com; co-1979: Lawrence Furey, lfurey@partnersinmission.com |
| 1998 | Angela Strauss, anglielou152@hotmail.com | 1977 | Maureen Costello, mcostello@mariancatholics.org |
| 1997 | Tammy Long Chrin, tammychrin@gmail.com | 1975 | Joseph Cannon, mecannon@ptd.net |
| 1996 | Jen Shober, jsteigerwalt@leighton.org co-1996: Gretchen Coles Stern, gsterns@gmail.com; and Kellie Hanrahan Giannelli, nellie04@ptd.net | 1974 | Cynthia Conroy Long, tclong@ptd.net |
| 1995 | Magdalene Karpovich Riggins, magkarp@msn.com; brian.nardini@allstate.com | 1973 | Bill O’Gurek, williamogurek@gmail.com; Mary Bonner Dakosty, sksm1@ptd.net |
| 1993 | Maria Slog McGinley, paslog@hotmail.com | 1969 | Elinor Potosky Dirnberger, dirnbergerelinor@gmail.com |
| | | 1966 | James Sauka, jsauka@ptd.net; co-1966: Joseph Dougherty, joedoh@ptd.net |

If you have volunteered to help as a representative of your class, and we somehow did not enter your name into this list, or if your class is not listed and you are willing to take the lead as its representative, please contact Tammy Long Chrin at tammychrin@gmail.com or alumni@mariancatholics.org.

REUNIONS

Class of '80 Reunion

Members of the Class of 1980 are planning to hold a 40-year reunion on Saturday, October 24, at Dean Anthony's banquet hall, 1122 North St., Jim Thorpe. The event will get underway with a "meet and greet" from 5-7 p.m., followed by the dinner and a social until 10 o'clock. Entertainment will be provided from 6-10 o'clock by DJ Ann Marie Calabrese. For more information, class members can contact Mary (McFadden) Sexton at Mary.Sexton@morganstanley.com.

Class of '65 Reunion

The Class of 1965 will hold its 55-year reunion on Oct. 4. For more information, contact Beverly (Brezinski) Ogradnick, at bevogr10@verizon.net.

Events postponed

Members of the Class of 1968 had been planning to have a picnic later this year. The event has been postponed. The 70th birthday celebration of the Class of 1969 has also been postponed.

Let us help with your reunion plans!

Our Advancement Office can help Marian Catholic graduates planning and/or organizing their individual class' reunions! Contact director Kristine Evina, kevina@mariancatholic.org or alumni@mariancatholic.org. We offering those who attend your reunion tours of the school. A representative can also attend your event and take photos to share on social media. We'd also treat classmates to a light reception at the school and, depending upon the availability of a priest, we could schedule a Mass for your class members.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN REDIRECT YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS TO MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs provide tax credits to eligible individuals and business contributing to the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation (EPSF).

The EPSF awards nearly 1,500 scholarships to students attending elementary and secondary schools, special learning centers, and pre-kindergarten programs within the Diocese of Allentown during the school year.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? You can keep Pennsylvania state taxes in your community. If you own a business or

are a Pennsylvania tax payer, you can help build a brighter future for deserving students at Marian Catholic High School by participating in this amazing program.

Individual or business contributions are used by the Foundation to provide tuition assistance in the form of scholarships. EPSF provides financial assistance to families at Marian Catholic High School to help cover the cost of tuition.

Your support of Marian through the Pennsylvania State Tax Credit Program benefits qualified families. We are grateful for your support!

To learn more about how you can participate in this program, contact Kristine Evina, Director of Advancement, at advancement@mariancatholic.org or call 570-467-3335 x.2219.

