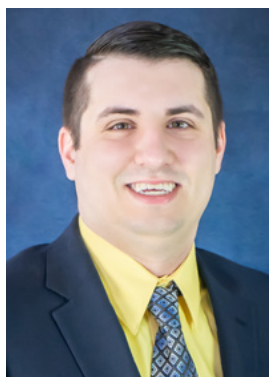


# Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



APRIL 2021

## MICHAEL BRENNAN, CLASS OF 2006, IS OUR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL



The Marian Catholic Alumni Association proudly joins the school's administration and board of directors in welcoming Michael Brennan as our next Head of School.

His selection to succeed the Rev. Allen Hoffa, who has been serving in this position on a temporary basis through the end of the school year, was announced in March.

Brennan is no stranger to Marian Catholic, having graduated in 2006. Since the completion of his collegiate studies, he has been an assistant boys' basketball coach under Head Coach John Paton for the past 11 years. His appointment begins July 1.

Brennan is currently a special education teacher in the Palmerton Area High School, where he also served as the principal intern/practicum during the 2019-20 school year. Prior to that, he was a learning support teacher at Panther Valley Elementary School in Nesquehoning.

"It is certainly a dream come true type of job for me," he said. "As someone who has been around education their entire life, being a principal or supervisor was always something I have strived to be. I told my wife, Ashley, from the beginning of our relationship that the only place I would leave a public school pension and retirement system for was Marian Catholic."

Brennan brings with his experience a great understanding of the Marian family and community, and being in Colt Country is certainly something he will cherish. "It is home to me, and I want it to be home for our two sons (Lucas and Noah), and for many generations to come," he said.

"It is certainly a job that will be very time consuming and very challenging, but I am excited to lead Marian Catholic into the next generation of Colts and Fillies."

Brennan said his goals include continuing momentum established this year and in years past.

"We'll continue to work to increase enrollment," he said. "The school has done a great job with that since September. I plan to work with the advancement department and finance department to make sure Marian is in good hands for current and future students."

He furthered, "My vision for Marian Catholic is multi-tiered. First and foremost, I want to continue the momentum that has been established by Father Hoffa and his leadership team over the past year. It is a very powerful thing to watch the Marian Family come together during this time of COVID-19, and Father Hoffa has done a tremendous job infusing energy and structure into our school, which I will most certainly continue.

"Secondly, I, along with my administrative team will continue to work to move Marian Catholic forward to adapt to new technologies, programs, and trends in all areas of the school, including but not limited to campus ministry, academics, fine arts, facilities, and athletics."

Brennan said he has strong beliefs in the Marian tradition. "It is second to none, in my opinion, but in order for our tradition to be honored properly, we must adapt our traditions to meet some of the needs of students in 2021 and beyond. We will continue in the immediate future to expand our campus ministry and fine arts programs, and establish them further as critical parts of our faith and family based education.

"Finally, our administrative team will continue to work to provide students the services they need no matter what the interest may be. We will always look to add programs and make facility upgrades that are of benefit to our students, and that can help welcome more and more students into the Marian Family."

## ‘CELEBRATION OF A LIVING LEGEND’ HONORING JACK MALARKEY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30



Plans are underway to honor retired Marian Catholic High School Principal John P. Malarkey at a reception on Friday night, April 30, at Marian Catholic High School.

Dubbed “The Celebration of a Living Legend,” the reception will

be a continuance of the November 2, 2020, event when Father Allen Hoffa, Head of School at Marian, announced that morning the naming of the school’s historic gymnasium, the John P. “Jack” Malarkey Gymnasium.

“All successful institutions have people who are pillars of their foundation and giants endeared to the heart of many. For Marian Catholic, Jack Malarkey is an icon, pillar, giant and friend. As teacher, vice principal, principal, booster, parent and grandparent, Jack has been an integral part of the fabric and family that is Marian Catholic,” Father Hoffa said.

Jack is a 1951 graduate of Saint Jerome’s High School, one the four predecessor high schools of Marian, and is the parent of three MCHS graduates (John ’83, Jim ’84 and Joseph ’95) and the grandfather of three Marian graduates (Ryan ’16, Rhiannon ’19 and John ’21).

Proceeds from the reception will bring some needed improvements to “Jack’s House,” focused on gymnasium renovations and the ability for future students to receive a Catholic and Marian education. The goal of this initiative is to raise at least \$150,000 for the gymnasium renovation and to establish a full-endowed scholarship in the name of Jack and his wife, Jane.

“The gymnasium renovation prioritizes the removal and replacement of the original bleachers with state of the art and safe bleachers, updating of the historic championship banners with new vinyl banners that tell our story, and other structural elements that will help the John P. “Jack” Malarkey Gymnasium SHINE! Once we have reached the goal amount for the gymnasium renovation, the additional funds collected will be used to establish the John and Jane Malarkey Scholarship Fund at Marian Catholic High School,” said Patrick Reilly, president of the

Marian Catholic High School Board of Directors and a member of the planning committee.

The reception will give the many people who love Jack and have been affected by his life at Marian Catholic the opportunity to say, “Thank You,” said Bill O’Gurek ’73, chairman of the school’s growing Alumni Association.

Former Principal Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Sacks and former Vice Principal Rev. Joseph T. Whalen are serving as Honorary Reception Chairs for the event, both having served when Jack Malarkey was Vice Principal and Principal, respectively.

Members of the Honorary Reception Committee include all of the living priests in the Diocese of Allentown who are Marian graduates: Rev. Msgr. Thomas Baddick ’73, Rev. Giuseppe Esposito ’00, Rev. John Hilferty ’70, Rev. Martin Kern ’86, Rev. David Kozak ’74, Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin ’64, Rev. Msgr. John McCann ’77, Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Orsulak ’80, Rev. Msgr. Stephen Radocha ’69, Rev. Eugene Ritz ’00, Rev. Philip Rodgers ’73, Rev. Msgr. Walter Scheaffer ’56, Rev. Michael Stone ’64, Rev. James Ward ’64, Rev. Msgr. Daniel Yenushosky ’69, Rev. Msgr. Vincent York ’60 and Rev. Msgr. Edward Zemanik ’73.

Members of the Reception Leadership Committee include Bill ’76 and Janet Bonenberger, Bill “Angel” ’63 and Maureen Yorke ’64 Donovan, Larry Furey ’79, Leo Marzen ’79, Sister Rose Mulligan, IHM ’84, Bill O’Gurek ’73, Parent ’01, ’03 (and president of the Marian Alumni Association), Patrick Reilly, Parent ’98, ’02, ’11, Jim Sauka ’66, Parent ’93, ’94, ’96 and ’00; Lee Schilling ’57, Bruce ’76 and Terri Svetz ’77 Shickora, Parents ’03, ’04, ’08, Bruce Svetz ’83 and Attorney Joseph Velitsky ’62.

More information about the reception, The Celebration of a Living Legend, can be found at [www.mariancatholics.org/post/malarkey-celebration](http://www.mariancatholics.org/post/malarkey-celebration), or by contacting Kristine Evina, Director of Advancement at Marian Catholic High School at 570-467-3335, ext. 115 or at [kevina@mariancatholics.org](mailto:kevina@mariancatholics.org).

“Given what we know now and informed by the guidance of state and local public health officials, we expect the event for Jack and Jane Malarkey to take place in-person, in accordance with appropriate health and safety protocols. We believe at this time that we will be able to safely host this event - with some modifications, of course - for those who love Jack and who love Marian. As the date draws closer, we will assess the situation and keep you informed. At this time, we hope to be able to also welcome a limited number of guests for this celebration. We are also developing plans to offer our alumni all over the world and other guests the opportunity to be part of the celebration virtually as well,” said Father Hoffa.



## CELEBRATED WITH THEIR COACH

When members of the Class of 1966 got together to celebrate their 70th birthdays, their special guest was none other than their Coach Jack Malarkey, who in his first season at the helm of the Colts in 1965 (their senior year), he led the Blue and Gold to the co-championship of the Anthracite Catholic Football League. Celebrating with their beloved coach, seated-center, were, front, George Bimler, Mr. Malarkey and Charlie Vacarro; and back, Joe Colancecco, John Quashnoc, Jim Shober, Andy Lesniak, Tom Vacarro, Kevin Herman, Denbnis Boyler and Steve Roman.

## GAME PROGRAM REMEMBERS '65 COLT CHAMPS

Members of the Class of 1966 who were members of Coach Jack Malarkey's Colts in his first season in 1965 will be on hand to help share his legacy on April 30 when we honor him for his dedication and commitment to Marian. Among them are these players shown on a game program in the year when Mr. Malarkey led the Colts to the co-championship of the Anthracite Catholic Football League.

They are, Row 1, Joe Colancecco, Tom Vacarro, Joe Castagnola, Neil Citro; row 2, Jim Shobe, Tom Skrabak, Dennis Boyle, Steve Roman, Dave Milot; row 3, Bernie McMullen, Coach Malarkey, Coach Walt Mazur, George Bimler; and row 4, Charlie Vacarro, John Quashnoc, Kevin Herman.



## HOW YOU CAN CONGRATULATE, THANK MR. MALARKEY

Opportunities to congratulate John P. "Jack" Malarkey, former Marian principal, at the 'Celebration of a Living Legend' event on April 30 are available to anyone and everyone whose lives were touched by Jack during his amazing tenure in Colt Country. A congratulatory ad costing \$50 will allow you to send him your personal best wishes. The committee is also offering Full Page (\$500), Half Page (\$250), Quarter Page (\$125) ads to be part of a four-color, printed commemorative program book celebrating Jack's 37-year relationship with Marian Catholic High School. Also available are sponsorships of the event, ranging from \$5,000 (which includes 10 reception tickets) to \$100 (which includes one event ticket). For more information, contact Kristine Evina, Director of Advancement, 570-467-3335, ext. 115 or at [kevina@mariancatholichs.org](mailto:kevina@mariancatholichs.org).





## **GAINS HONORS, SPREADS GOSPEL MESSAGE**

Alynn Franklin, Class of '13, has been named to Who's Who of Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois. She is currently a chemical engineer II with the Honeywell Corporation.

Alynn is a member of the recording group A4L (All For Love) that was featured on WTTW for Black History Month. A4L is comprised of four sisters whose mission is to share their love for Christ through gospel music.

"The word gospel means good news," said Alynn. "So it's great to be able to share a message of hope and encouragement to people."

You can read more at <https://news.wttw.com/2021/02/16/sister-group-a4l-talks-about-impact-gospel-music>

## **FORMER COLT SWIMMER QUALIFIES FOR NCAA COMPETITION**

Danny Berlitz, a Marian graduate and four-time Times News Swimmer of the Year, will compete in two events at the NCAA Swimming Championships.

The University of Michigan sophomore finished second in the 400 Individual Medley at the Big Ten meet to qualify in that event. Berlitz posted a time of 3:41.45 to punch his ticket to the NCAAs. The time was also the 10th fastest in school history. He is seeded 10th in the NCAAs, which will be held from March 24-27 in Greensboro, NC.

Berlitz was also a member of the winning 800-yard freestyle relay at the Big Ten championships. The foursome finished in a time of 6:13.00, with Berlitz's split at 1:33.71. The relay team will be ranked seventh at the NCAAs.



In addition to those accomplishments, the former high school standout also placed seventh in the 1,650 freestyle (15:03.97) and ninth in the 200 IM (1:44.15) at the Big Ten meet.

His performance earned him a spot on the All-Big Ten First Team.

## **CLASS OF '68 TO GET TOGETHER**

Members of the Class of 1968 are planning to hold a picnic/reunion this summer.

Calling it the "70 plus 1 picnic," the class will reunite on Saturday, Aug. 21, at the West Penn Rod and Gun Club. For more information, contact Lennora (Schaeffer) Goida, 570-778-3827, or Donna (Vaccaro) Kane, 570-778-4149.

## IN MEMORIAM...

*Please join us in offering our condolences to the families of the following:*

**Rose M. Barlett:** 95, of Tamaqua, passed away on Jan. 27, 2021. Born in Lansford, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Kamenicky) Jakubco, and was a graduate of the former St. Ann's High School, Lansford.

**Marie G. Beltz:** 72, of Walker Township, passed away on Feb. 26, 2021. She was the widow of ZMsark G. Beltz. She was a 1966 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

**Eugene P. DeCindio:** 50, of New Ringgold, passed away on Feb. 17, 2021. Born in Pottsville, he was a son of the late Eugene DeCindio and Jacqueline (Quinn) DeCindio of Tuscarora and the late Eugene DeCindio. He was the husband of Melisa M. Hoshauer. He was a graduate of Marian High School.

**Marianne McDonald Frazier:** 77, passed away on Feb. 11, 2021. Born in Coaldale, she was a daughter of the late George and Mary (Domin) McDonald, and was a 1961 graduate of Marian High School, Hometown.

**Emmett Gallagher:** 78, of Valencia, PA, passed away on March 13, 2021. Born and raised in Coaldale, he was a son of the late Patrick and Gladys (Halkyard) Gallagher and graduated in 1960 from Marian High School. Among his survivors are his wife Sara.

**Maureen Ginda:** 63, of Philadelphia, passed away on March 15, 2021. Born in Coaldale, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Irma (Camerini) Ginda, and was a 1975 graduate of Marian High School.

**Richard W. Kantor:** 72, of Tamaqua, passed away on March 4, 2021. Born in Coaldale, he was a son of the late Emil W. and Jeanne L. (Rinkenber) Kantor, and was a 1966 graduate of Marian High School.

**John M. Karnish:** 58, of Nesquehoning, passed away on Jan. 27, 2021. He was the husband of Alison Karnish of Nesquehoning. Born in Coaldale, he was a son of the late John Karnish and the late Marie (Klimock) Karnish Krutsick, and was a graduate of Marian High School.

**James R. King:** 77, of Ashland, passed away on March 6, 2021. He was the husband of Sara (Nahf) King. He was a xxxx graduate of Marian High School.

**William D. Linkhorst:** 69, Tamaqua, passed away on Feb. 3, 2021. Years ago, "Billy" faithfully attended Men of Marian meetings, for whom he sold tickets every month, and worked some at fundraising events.

**George Semko Jr.:** 66, of Tamaqua, passed away on March 5, 2021. He was the husband of Kathy (Boyle) Semko. He was a 1972 graduate of Marian High School.

### ***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.mariancatholics.org](http://www.mariancatholics.org) and click on "Alumni" and "Join" to become a member today!



[WWW.MARIANCATHOLICS.ORG](http://WWW.MARIANCATHOLICS.ORG)



Marian Catholic High School, 166 Marian Ave. Tamaqua, PA 18252 | 570.467.3335 | [alumni@mariancatholics.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholics.org)