

Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY 2023

FROM THE DESK OF OUR ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR



Dear Marian Catholic Community,

How time flies! It's difficult to believe we are already at the midpoint of the school year. Friday, January 20 marked the end of the second quarter for our students. As we reach the halfway mark of our school calendar, I wanted to update you on the impressive accomplishments of our school, students and community in the first half of the year.

At Marian Catholic, we pride ourselves on providing an exceptional education rooted in Faith, Family and Tradition. With those ideals at the forefront of our work every day, we've been able to support our students in their growth – academically, morally, spiritually and socially.

I'm thrilled to report the following from our first semester:

- Enrollment is up at Marian Catholic High School. The school received a Certificate of Achievement from the Diocese of Allentown for a 5.5% increase in enrollment.
- 68% of our students qualify tuition assistance that allows them to receive a Marian Catholic education. These funds are available thanks to those who support our Marian Fund and Pennsylvania Tax Credit Scholarship opportunities.
- Thanks to contributions from our Blue & Gold Club, our outdoor track was refurbished, allowing our student-athletes an improved, safer training and competing surface.
- Both our Performing Arts Program, as well as our Band & Chorus groups, presented fabulously successful and entertaining events in the fall and winter.
- Fall athletes Megan Paisley (volleyball/senior) and Jesse Rodino (football/junior) received All State honors for their hard work and resiliency in their respective sports.
- We proudly inducted 17 new students into the National Honor Society. This group joined our existing 15 NHS members in this distinguished honor. These students exemplify and excel in the areas of service, character,

scholarship, and citizenship.

- Our Fillies Volleyball team brought home their third consecutive District 11 1A Championship title!
- Our Future Business Leaders of America attended the Region 23 Leadership Conference, with nine of our students placing and qualifying to compete at the Pennsylvania FBLA state conference later this year.
- Our students – through clubs, teams and individually – have provided over 2,000 hours of service to those in need. Our students live our mission, allowing them to grow into contributing, self-sufficient citizens who give witness to the Catholic Faith, to Jesus through Mary.

Thank you for joining me in celebrating a successful first semester!

We appreciate you keeping our students, faculty and staff in your prayers for an impactful second semester as we strive to continue with wonderful accomplishments and successes through the end of the school year.

With appreciation and gratitude for your support,

Erin Marek

Marian Catholic Director of Advancement

AFTER 64 YEARS OF POLICE WORK, MARIAN GRADUATES, BROTHERS, RETIRE AS POLICE CHIEFS

2022 was a time to reflect on the rewarding careers of police work for the Soberick family of Lansford, as brothers Jack, Marian Catholic Class of 1981, and Kevin, a 1985 graduate, both retired as police chiefs in their respective communities. Combined, the brothers had over 64 years of dedicated public service as “Men in Blue.”

Jack retired as the Lansford Police Chief after six years in charge, and 37 years overall, while Kevin retired as the Salisbury Township police chief following a 27-year career.

They are the sons of Rosemary (Cannon) Soberick Dahl, Class of 1957, and the late Jack Soberick Sr., a 1958 graduate.

Jack's Career

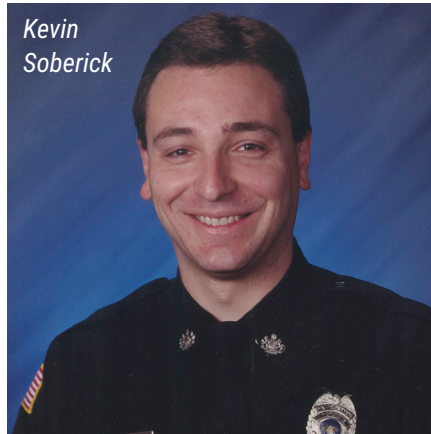
Jack Soberick, who ran the Lansford force for the past six years, retiring in May, saying, “You just know inside, when the time is right.”

He had been a full-time officer with the borough since 1996 and held the positions of detective, detective sergeant and sergeant before his elevation to officer-in-charge and then chief. Previously, he worked part-time for Coaldale, Tamaqua, Summit Hill, Quakertown, Salisbury Township and Lansford and fulltime for Summit Hill.

In 2014, he became the department's officer in charge. Two years later, the borough added the official title of chief.

During his time as chief, Jack used the department Facebook page to notify residents about everything from snow removal to standoffs. He said being accessible to residents was important. “I hope things will continue to move in that direction,” he said.

The department took some proactive measures to prevent crime such as “Coffee with a Cop and code enforcement patrols.



Jack was recently hired as a part-time PA police officer and detective with the Carbon County District Attorney and will also continue to serve as the borough's emergency management coordinator.

He said a lot has changed since he started as an officer in the 1980s. “It was a pleasure to do the job. You felt good when you were out there doing it,” he said.

Kevin's Career

Upon his departure from the Salisbury Township Police Department, Kevin said he “cannot think of a better place for a police officer to work.” He said the support he received from township Manager Cathy Bonaskiewich and township commissioners was exceptional. “It makes a tough job much easier when you have the support of the people you work for.”

He officially retired on Nov. 1, but had given his letter of resignation to the township weeks before.

Kevin started part-time with the department in 1995 and became a fulltime officer two years later. Within five years, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and patrol commander. He ran Salisbury's Special Operations for 10 years and was named acting chief in July, 2019, and chief two months later.



“This is a very hard one for everyone, including Chief Soberick,” said Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners President Debra Brinton. “He's going to be deeply missed.” Brinton continued, addressing Kevin, “Thank you for 27 years of dedicated service.” Addressing an audience of officials, township police officers, family and friends, Brinton said, “He [Soberick] took us through a very difficult time during COVID-19.”

Kevin said when he was promoted to chief he had a major goal to foster “more involvement with township residents.” The worldwide shutdown and isolation of residents to combat the spread of COVID-19 made that much more difficult.

He said the sharpening of the police department's social media and Facebook presence has provided an alternative way of interacting with residents. Kevin said his decision to retire was not an easy one, “It was an emotional day when I walked my retirement papers down to Cathy (Bonaskiewich,)” Soberick said.

Kevin and his wife, Erin, have a son, Anthony, who graduated in 2022 from Marian Catholic High School. Like his father and late grandfather, Anthony gives back to the community as a volunteer firefighter in Coaldale.

MARIAN CATHOLIC GRADUATE HONORED FOR WORK ON BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL



A member of Marian Catholic Class of 1980 who is currently serving as the vice president of the council of the City of Bethlehem has been honored by the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women as one of 18 Outstanding Elected Democratic Women in the Commonwealth.

Grace Crampsie Smith, a Summit Hill native, was among those recognized by more than 200 attendees at a recent brunch hosted by the federation at the Best Western Premiere Hotel, Harrisburg.

She was the successful nominee of the Northampton County Chapter of the Federation of Democratic Women.

The state federation was founded in 1927 to promote the appointment and election of Democratic women to responsible positions within all branches of government, to encourage the advancement of women in both the public and private sectors and to advocate the principles of the Democratic Party.

Crampsie-Smith was born into a very politically and civically active family with her father, the late John L. “Jack” Crampsie, being a Chief of Police, her mother, the late Margaret (Shober) Crampsie, a nurse, and several of her six siblings holding political offices.

She is the mother of three children: Attorney Shannon Smith, Dr. Bridget Smith and Brendan Smith.

The honoree was appointed to city council in September, 2019, and was subsequently elected to a two-year term in 2020 and re-elected to a four-year term in 2022, having been the top vote recipient in both elections. She sits on the first council in the city’s history with a majority of female members.

Crampsie-Smith serves as chairperson of the City of Bethlehem Public Works Committee and a member of the City of Bethlehem Appropriate Mental Health Appeals Board.

As a council member, she said, “I have devoted much of my life to representing and serving others, always showing compassion for others, and being a tireless advocate and a voice for all as a city councilperson.”

Her council initiatives include her priority of “Homelessness/Affordable Housing.” She initiated and co-chaired the Inclusive Bethlehem/Affordable Housing Task Force.

Crampsie-Smith is a graduate of Lehigh University with a master’s degree in Secondary School Counseling and previously earned her undergraduate bachelor of arts degree in social welfare from Bloomsburg University.

She is currently a counselor at Easton Area High School. Her other work experience includes working as an addictions counselor, coordinator of Lehigh County Services for those with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness, and serving as a college instructor on ADA and IDEA legislation.

'71 CLASS MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE 70TH BIRTHDAYS

The Marian Catholic High School Class of 1971 will be celebrating their 70th birthdays at the home of Lorraine and Ronald Blickley in Tamaqua on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at a picnic-type reunion in the afternoon. Committee members are seeking contact information, preferably email addresses, for the following classmates: Mark Houser, Marie Kassak Hude, Margaret Ann Sharpe Schwoyer, John Simcik and Elaine Trusky Zimmerman. Anyone with contact info should send it to mhscolts1971@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

Our alumni are important to us – we want to know how you are doing! Share any important news or updates from our Marian Catholic alumni that occurred throughout the year in 2022 by emailing us at alumni@mariancatholic.org.

QB CLUB HONORS '22 COLTS, FOUR SENIORS

The tradition of Marian Catholic Football continued on January 14 when the Quarterback Club held its annual banquet for the 2022 Colts at Capriotti's Banquet Hall, Tresckow.

Four seniors – Rawlin Melendez, Joe Walko, Matt Martin and Andrew Baran – were recognized as being the newest graduates of the Colt program.

The guest speaker was Joe Damiano, a member of the 2014 Colts who attained All State honors and went on to be a three-letter winner at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, where he is currently an assistant coach.

He recalled his days of playing in the "Blue and Gold," stressing to the team the time-honored maxim of Colt football, "Use football as a means to an end, to get in school." He suggested, "Have fun, enjoy it, it's a sport, but remember that there's a right way to win and you have to have that never give up, never give in attitude."

Head Coach Stan Dakosty congratulated the departing seniors, thanking them for the perseverance they showed as the program continued to rebuild through their careers. To the younger players, he stressed the importance of "hitting the weight room" to become bigger and stronger. Dakosty said the 2023 Colts have adopted the motto "Playmakers, not excuse makers" for the upcoming season.

The head coach spoke with pride about his team members, saying, "We have great young men on the field and great young men off the field."

While the QB Club presented gifts to the seniors, individual awards were also handed out. Walko received the "Pancake Award" for his dominant defensive play, while Melendez was named "Chairman of the Board" for offensive lone players. Nova McGuire and Adan Milkovitz received the Kevin



Four seniors on the Marian Catholic Colts' football team were among those honored during the annual Quarterback Club banquet held January 15 at Capriotti's Banquet Hall, Tresckow. Pictured are, front, from left, Andrew Baran and Matt Martin; and back, Head Coach Stan Dakosty, Rawlin Melendez, Joe Damiano, 2015 Marian graduate who went on to play and coach at King's College, main speaker, and Joe Walko.

Trice Memorial and Ken Snerr Memorial awards, respectively.

Special recognition went to junior Jesse Rodino who attained All State and Super 16 Dream Team honors.

Assistant coaches J.D. Hackenberg, Billy O'Gurek and Jim McHugh also spoke, Hackenberg also extolling the virtues of off-season workouts. O'Gurek spoke about the overall strength of the program, saying the "signs of a healthy football program is the JV program." He said the team he headed up had a very competitive season, winning 2 of the last 3 games, noting "It's great to see the growth of the program. It shows the future is bright."

O'Gurek also named the "Iron Colts" who have made consecutive workouts.

Head of School Michael Brennan thanked the parents for "making the sacrifice" to send their sons to Marian Catholic. He complimented the 2022 Colts, saying they are "role models for the next generation of Colts."

Academic coach Annette Rollo spoke of her role in the program, overseeing the academic status of the players. Saying she believed Marian is the only high school in the area that has an academic advisor on staff," she said she was happy to report that all team members "work to their potential in the classroom and on the field."

"Use football as a means to an end, to get in school. Have fun, enjoy it, it's a sport, but remember that there's a right way to win and you have to have that never give up, never give in attitude."

JOE DAMIANO, CLASS OF 2014

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS 17 STUDENTS

Seventeen students at Marian Catholic High School, Hometown, were inducted earlier this year into the Robert F. Kennedy Chapter of the National Honor Society during an impressive Mass held in the John P. "Jack" Malarkey Gymnasium of the school.

Senior Eliza Bauder and juniors Brady Bobrowski, Gianna Corrado, Morgan Kelly, Abigail Kluck, Sophia Lombardo, Anna Lombardo, Frankie Martinelli, Mason Mattrazzo, Julia Meiss, Madison Miller, Carly Minchoff, Jakob Mummey, Alex Porambo, Megan Reaman, Lachlan Segedy and Mikayla Tom were officially welcomed by Ashley Pleban, president of the chapter, who told them, "National Honor Society membership is not only an honor, but also a serious commitment. It is a privilege, not a right. Membership is not only a recognition of accomplishments, but of a call to serve. A call to use our God given talents in service wherever we are, and wherever we go."

The Rev. Bob George, pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church of the Panther Valley, Summit Hill, and chaplain at the school, celebrated the Mass in front of the student body, faculty and parents, assisted by the Rev. Robert Finlan, pastor of St. John XXIII Parish, Tamaqua. Father George noted the induction being a part of the weekly school Mass made the ceremony special. He said, "As a small Catholic school, we try to form the entire person, physically, spiritually and academically. Therefore, we try and include God in all of our activities. By including God in all of our activities: academics, sports, the arts, community service and leadership roles, we remind our young men and women that everything they accomplish now and in the future, is because of God's goodness. All of their gifts, talents, abilities and blessings are a free and loving gift from God that makes them unique and special and should be



New members of the Robert F. Kennedy Chapter of the National Honor Society at Marian Catholic High School were welcomed by society officers following a Mass in which their inductions took place. Pictured are, front, from left, Morgan Kelly, Abigail Kluck, Julia Meiss, Megan Reaman, Mikayla Tom, Gianna Corrado and Eliza Bauder; middle, Frankie Martinelli, Carly Minchoff, Madison Miller, Brady Bobrowski, Lachlan Segedy, Alex Porambo, Mason Mattrazzo and Jakob Mummey; and back, the officers, Kerrigan Digris, Ashley Pleban, Megan Paisley, Alexis Fellin. In front left is Rev. Bob George, school chaplain, who was assisted in the Mass by the Rev. Robert Finlan, front-right.

always use in a way that gives God, great, honor and glory."

According to Dr. Kimberly Fetter, faculty advisor of the society, the induction continues the long-standing tradition of celebrating scholarship, character, service and leadership established since Marian Catholic received its NHS charter in January, 1974. She said, "As we recognize our 49th anniversary as a chapter, we are grateful for our God-given gifts and talents. In gratitude, we embrace our duty to share these God-given gifts in our communities. Specifically, our current members offer tutoring as a primary service to the Marian Catholic community as a foundation for a lifetime of community service. We are also grateful to our alumni members who continue to bless their communities with the skills and ethic of the Marian Catholic National Honor Society."

Head of School Michael Brennan praised the new inductees, saying, "Being inducted into the society is a tremendous achievement for each student who was selected. These students not only achieve excellence in the classroom within our rigorous

academic program, but they also display leadership in the hallways and in their communities. I am very proud of these students and thank Dr. Fetter for the excellent job she does in maintaining the high standards of the Robert F. Kennedy Chapter of the National Honor Society here at Marian Catholic."

At Marian, students, teachers and administrators participate in the celebration of Mass every Wednesday. Special ceremonies such as the NHS induction, Student Council installation and other awards and honors are incorporated into the Mass.

In addition to Pleban, chapter officers welcomed the new inductees, including Megan Paisley, vice president, Kerrigan Digris, secretary, and Alexis Fellin, treasurer. Other members of the society are Rebecca Boyle, Alexander Cornmesser, Emily Eroh, Jenna Goff, Jaclyn Guth, Trinity Hoover, Addison Pan, Angela Pan, Taylor Ryba, Fatikha Tikhtova and Frank Valente.

Pleban said the society's service project theme this school year is "Local Poverty Relief," focusing on supporting those in the community who may be less fortunate."

COLT LINEMAN GAINS ALL STATE STATUS



Marian Catholic junior Jesse Rodino was named to All State Football Team earlier this year, being named to the Class 1A team.

The Colts' 6-3, 210-pound defensive end was a huge playmaker this season, finishing with 80 tackles, seven sacks and 17 tackles for loss. Rodino also was a factor on special teams, where he blocked an incredible five punts this season.

"Jesse is as deserving as any All-State player we've had during my time coaching," said Coach Stan Dakosty. "He was a dominate player the entire season, and I'm extremely excited about what the future holds for him. He is definitely a game-changer on the field. "On the track team, Jesse runs the 4x100

relay, and in football he plays defensive end and center. I think that tells you all you need to know about his combination of speed and strength."

REUNION FOR ALL CLASSES PLANNED WITH NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS

Victoria (Leskosky) Goodman and Marie D'Angelo, 1976 alumni, are our Marian Catholic reps for the **Northern Schuylkill County Class Reunion** that includes graduates from Marian Catholic, Cardinal Brennan, Mahanoy Area, North Schuylkill and Shenandoah Valley high schools. The event takes place on **May 28, 2023, from 4-10pm at the Lakeside Ballroom and Winery, 40 Crystal Lane, Barnesville**. All Marian Catholic graduates are invited! Tickets are \$50 and include dinner, soft drinks, entertainment and NSCCR memento. Contact Vickie at vgoodman5@hotmail.com or call 570-573-8753.

IN MEMORIAM...

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

Joseph P. Swolensky: 75, Nesquehoning, passed away peacefully on Dec. 8, 2022. He was the husband of Kathleen (O'Connor) Swolensky and was a 1964 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

William J. Polakovich: 74, Summit Hill, passed away on Nov. 11, 2022. He was the husband of the late Nicolene (Bocchichio) Polakovich and was a 1966 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Margaret K. Romano: 78, Tamaqua, passed away on Jan. 4, 2023. She was the widow of Joseph A. Romano and was a 1962 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Andrew J. DiBuo Jr.: 72, Summit Hill, passed away on Dec. 30, 2022. He was a 1969 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Joan Shimkus: 85, of Mahanoy City, passed away on Jan. 2, 2022. She was the widow of Leonard Shimkus and was the mother of Suzanne, wife of Charles Connely, Lenore, wife of Joseph Schell, Barbara, wife of Kevin Mailey, Bernard, husband of Bobbi, and John Paul, husband of Patti,

Mrs. Marcella Philomena Gill: Arizona, passed away on Jan. 23, 2023. She was the wife of Frank A. Gill Sr. and graduated in 1968 from Marian Catholic High School. She was the mother of DruAnn, wife of Marc Hill, William Jr., Amanda, wife of Toshaun Kerdzaliev, Francis, and his wife, Jessica (Sisak), Jesse, and his fiancée, Nikki Yost, Patrick, and his wife, Jessie (Harris), and Stephen and his wife, Taylor (O'Neill). Sister of Marie (Sherkness), wife of Tony Ford.

