

Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



DECEMBER 2020



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR ALUMNI! THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO MARIAN CATHOLIC

As Christmas is about to arrive this week, members of the Marian Catholic family – administration, faculty, student body, coaches and, of course, our Alumni Association Directors – want to wish all of you a blessed holiday season that includes good health and safety in the days ahead.

There's no question that 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. But as the Christmas season evolves, we are reminded this is a special time of happiness and thanksgiving. In that respect, the Alumni Association prays that your households will be filled with the peace, love and joy of Christmas.

On behalf of the Marian Catholic family, we want to thank every one of you who has helped make a Marian Catholic education available for our young men and women. All of us play roles, no matter how big or small. And it is only through the collective commitment of the thousands of you – most especially Marian Catholic graduates – that we are able to continue the providing “an exceptional education rooted in faith, family and tradition.”

Thank you, and may each of you remain healthy during this holy season of the coming of Christ!



MALARKEY TRIBUTE IN PLANNING STAGES; DONATIONS HONORING FORMER PRINCIPAL ARE RECEIVED

We were more than happy to report to in our last newsletter that the Marian Catholic administration, advisory board and family announced plans to name our high school gymnasium the “John P. “Jack” Malarkey Gymnasium,” in honor of our coveted former principal’s many years of dedicated service to Colt Country.

Since that time, many have inquired about the dedication ceremony which is in the planning stages for the spring of 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions that come with it, only tentative plans have been set. But we will update you as more information becomes available.

The gymnasium will undergo a complete renovation in Mr. Malarkey’s honor in conjunction with recent renovations that have already been completed to the stage.

Since the announcement, many of Mr. Malarkey’s former players, students and teachers have expressed a desire to play a role in honoring him. You can do so by contacting Kristine Evina, MCHS Advancement Office Director, who is overseeing the receipt of various donations to this project. Donations are being accepted in Mr. Malarkey’s name for gymnasium renovations, a scholarship fund set up in his name, or for whatever cause the donor feels is necessary.

Kristine’s email address is iskevina@mariancatholichs.org.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S COMMITMENT TO MARIAN CATHOLIC EXCEEDS \$25K

Thanks to our members, we are proud to announce the Marian Catholic High School Alumni Association has contributed more than \$25,000 to the school in as part of its ongoing commitment to assist with financial aid and the operational costs of a Catholic education.

“We continue to be pleasantly surprised by the unrelenting dedication that Marian Catholic alumni have shown toward the school,” said William O’Gurek, Class of ‘73, Chairman of the Association. “Our membership has grown from 300 in the first year to 445 this year; with 54 graduates serving as representatives of 37 classes. These representatives have diligently worked to update contact information of their classmates. We anticipate that membership will increase substantially as we enter the 2020-2021 school year,” he added.

At a recent check presentation, we were pleased to be able to present another \$10,000 to the Rev. Allen Hoffa, Marian Catholic Head of School.

“The funds represent part of the recently-acquired fees and donations from the current membership campaign; and will be used by the school for tuition assistance and other expenses within the school’s budget,” said Tammy Chrin, Association Director.

“The response we have received from graduates has been amazing. It’s truly impressive how Marian Catholic graduates from all around the country continue to show appreciation of their MCHS educations by helping to make sure others have the same opportunity,” O’Gurek said.

Thank you, Alumni Association members! It is only through your generosity and commitment to Marian Catholic that we are able to play a small, but significant, role in helping Marian Catholic to prosper.

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.mariancatholichs.org and click on “Alumni” and “Join” to become a member today!

TWO ADDITIONAL MARIAN CATHOLIC TEACHERS REAP REWARDS OF RETIREMENT

Earlier this year, we reported three longtime Marian Catholic teachers bid farewell to our school – Maureen Heffelfinger, Stan Dakosty and Theresa Sheer. But now two additional teachers will be pursuing retirement life after having had tremendous impacts on our student body.

We congratulate and thank Lou Ceci and Joseph Dougherty are for the roles in helping thousands of Marian Catholic students through their many years of service.

The Rev. Allen Hoffa, Head of School, pointed out the five now-retired teachers gave more than 200 years of service to Catholic education.

“It’s bitter sweet,” he said. “We are sad to lose them, but happy they can now relax and enjoy their retirements after serving for so many years. They will always be a part of our Marian Catholic family.”



Mr. Lou Ceci

Lou Ceci, a 1970 graduate of Marian Catholic, came to work in 1978 when Principal Jack Malarkey hired him to teach Physical Science. Working under then Science Department head Sr. Bernard Agnes, who later became our Principal, Lou brought a lot of practical ideas into his teaching of this course.

Later in his years at Marian Catholic, “Cheech” moved into the Physical Education Department, teaching not only physical education, but Health, to the boys as well.

Through the years, Lou took over the maintenance duties in the school. He knew where every pipe and wire in the building was and where they led in the building. When Mr. Malarkey relinquished the sewer plant reporting, “Cheech” stepped in to do this crucial report to the state.

Sister recalled how “Cheech” saw a practical need in the building and organized a group of guys who he named the “Media Crew!” He formed a “home room” with them, and they became the work horses of the school. They set up for all major events including Mass. They took care of any media need for the teachers and took responsibility for the appearance of the school.

Many alumni may recall that over the years, there were requirements to be in the club and candidates had to interview to be accepted. “Cheech” taught them skills they

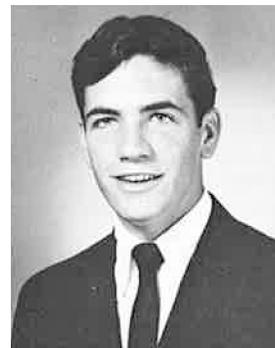
would use throughout their lives – practical repairs and maintenance. He also developed a Media Club during the activity period to help more students learn the trade.

For over 40 years under the helm of Stan Dakosty, “Cheech” was also an assistant football coach. Not only did he coach, but he was responsible for making sure all the equipment was packed and ready to go for each game.

Not surprising, when AFLAC began its National Assistant Coach of the year Award in 2002, Lou was among the first in the country who was selected for the honor.

The award is given to assistants who “give 100 percent effort all the time with little recognition.” The criteria also recognized “longevity, knowledge, long-term success, special contributions to the school and/or community and overcoming.” For “Cheech,” it was an honor well-deserved!

In the words of Sr. Bernard, “Cheech was definitely an invaluable asset to Marian Catholic! I don’t know how I would have managed without him!”



Mr. Joe Dougherty

Joe Dougherty, MCHS Class of 1966, completed a 13-year career in Colt Country, having joined our faculty in 2007 after being a 12-year member of the faculty at Bishop Hafey in Hazleton.

After graduating from Marian Catholic, Joe enrolled at Mt. St. Mary’s College in Emmitsburg,

MD, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in history in 1970. He earned a master’s degree in special education from American University in Washington, D.C., and did post graduate work in school administration, receiving his administrator’s certificate.

Joe taught at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, an all African American parish and school in the southeast section of D.C. from 1970-77. He moved on to Pleasantville Jr. High School, Pleasantville, N.J. (1977-79). At Incarnation School in New York City (1979-94), he was a teacher and an Assistant Principal for a student body of 689 students, of whom 95 percent were children of recent immigrants from the Dominican Republic.

We want to wish Lou and Joe good health and happiness in their retirements, and want to thank them for their great service as members of the Marian Catholic family.



FILLY NET SQUAD BRINGS HOME PIAA SILVER MEDAL

Congratulations go out to Dr. John Fallabel, his staff and our Marian Catholic Fillies who advanced to the PIAA state volleyball championships in Mechanicsburg this fall.

The District 11 champion Fillies ended the season with the silver medal, dropping the finale to state champion Clarion.

During their successful and exciting ride, the Fillies qualified for the Schuylkill League playoffs, won a District 11 title, picked up two PIAA state tournament victories, and played for a state championship.

Despite the setback in the state final, Coach Fallabel summed up the season, saying, "How can we be upset? I feel blessed we were even able to have a season – and then to have this

type of season – there is no way we can feel down right now."

"We started out practicing in August on the grass in front of the high school because regulations prevented us from going inside the gym, and now we are finishing out November as one of just two Class A teams in the state still playing. So I'm thankful and happy."

This year's district championship was Marian Catholic's 15th since 1999, and 11th in 18 years under Fallabel.

This year's appearance in the championship game was the Fillies' seventh state championship game during that span. Our Fillies, of course, won it all in 2003 and 2013.

FORMER COLT HELPS LEAD PA SPORTS HALL OF FAME'S NE COMMITTEE

Danny McGinley, a member of the Class of 1970, is the founder and president of the Carbon County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. A resident of Jim Thorpe, Danny played on the early Colt basketball teams piloted by Coach Bob Fulton, which paved the way for unparalleled success in the region, including the state championship in '70-71. Under Fulton, Danny and his Colts teammates had a record for the most wins in a season, including "first wins" against rivals Mahanoy Area,

St. Gabe's and Panther Valley.

Dan was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019. During his years serving for the Hall of fame, he has been responsible for helping to "enshrine" many former Marian Catholic athletes and coaches. Dan was recently notified by the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame authorities that he has been selected to serve as one of three vice presidents of the Hall's Northeast Chapter. Congratulations Danny!

IN MEMORIAM

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of the following Marian Catholic High School alumnae:

Eileen M. Karlavage: 66, Trenton, Schuylkill County, Dec. 16. Daughter of the late Eleanor (Riley) and Edward Karlavage Sr. Graduated in 1972 from Marian Catholic High School. Preceded in death by two brothers, Edward Jr. and Kenneth.

Andrea M. McGuire: 54, Blakeslee, died on Nov. 30, 2020. She was a 1983 graduate of MCHS and a sister of Joseph P. Lencovich, and his wife, Valerie, Annette, wife of Tony Boyle, Catherine, wife of Raymond Taurino, Carla, wife of Matthew Weise, and Tresa Parsley.

Eugene A. Nalesnik: 79, Springfield, IL, formerly of Jim Thorpe, died on Nov. 17, 2020. He was a graduate of MCHS and for many years was a devoted and dedicated fan of Marian sporting events.

John L. Porambo: 82, Palmerton, Dec 18, 2020, in his home. He was the husband of Margaret A. (Gieniec) Porambo and was a 1956 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Master Sgt. Joseph J. Tinninis: 67, of Mahanoy City, passed away on Nov. 18, 2020. He was a 1971 graduate of MCHS and the brother of Susan Tinninis, Lois, wife of Michael Wallauer, and Charles "Chuck" Tinninis, and his wife, Marci.

William J. Walinchus: 56, Mahanoy City, passed away on Nov. 29, 2020. He was a 1983 graduate of MCHS and a brother of Caroline Mlynek and Peter, and his wife, Ann.



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@mariancatholichs.org or send it directly to the Advancement Office,

kevina@mariancatholichs.org, and we will be happy to share the great news about our Marian family members.

Keep up on all school news by visiting our school's website at mariancatholichs.org. *We look forward to hearing from you!*



WWW.MARIANCATHOLICHS.ORG    

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