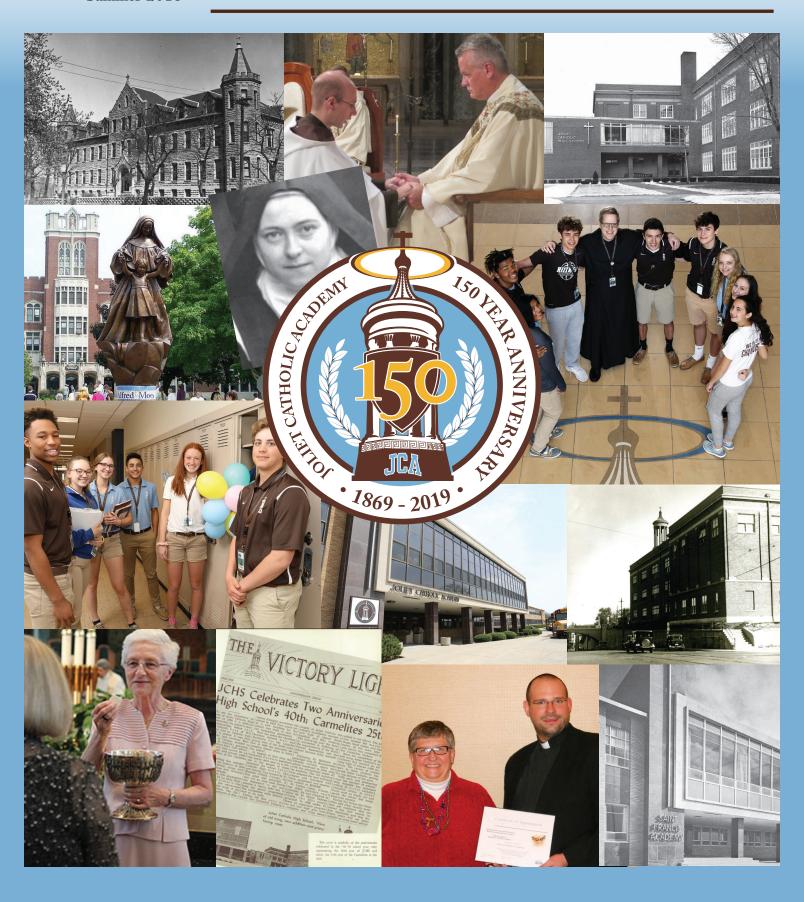
A magazine for the alumni, families and friends of Joliet Catholic Academy Summer 2018

# TRADITION





#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL



Dear Alumni, Families and Friends,

It is always my goal to show my appreciation for all that you do for our school and emphasize how appreciative our students are in regards to your support and generosity. With this said, there are many exciting things happening at our school, which is in direct correlation to all that you have done for us. If it hasn't been through your generous donations, it has definitely been the outward show of support and presence of our alumni, families, and friends at all of our activities that makes JCA a strong leader in secondary education.

As the last school year came to a close, we ended our five-year Strategic Plan... Honoring our Past...Building our Future. We are proud to say

that all five goals and 50 strategies were addressed. During the spring of last semester, with the help of over 100 volunteers, we completed our new Strategic Plan... Onward Together! You can see the whole document on our website at www.jca-online.org/strategic-plan but (as a preview) the following six goals from the document will be addressed over the next five years (2018-2023).

GOAL A: By 2023, JCA will expand curriculum design to afford all students opportunities for well-rounded academic achievement and personal growth.

GOAL B: By 2023, Joliet Catholic Academy will infuse our distinctive Carmelite/ Franciscan identity throughout our community.

GOAL C: By 2023, JCA will elevate the practical competency of our students through curriculum opportunities with service, life skills, and community-based instruction.

GOAL D: By 2023, JCA will continue to improve our facility and seek opportunities to utilize our community resources.

GOAL E: Using established baselines, JCA will demonstrate increased data-driven decision making, by 2023.

GOAL F: By 2023, JCA will increase available resources to expand enrollment and outreach both geographically and demographically.

Once again, please take a look at the complete document on the website to see how the strategies fit in with each goal. We are very proud of the notion that our Strategic Plan is a 'working document' and that there is much ownership in the document by the JCA administration, faculty and staff, Board of Directors, Alumni, students and community.

With completed projects such as the new Chapel, Air Conditioning, renovated Parking Lot, Dance Studio, renovated Weight Room, and renovated Prayer Garden, along with the projected release of a new capital campaign for our Innovation Research Center, the 2018-2019 school year should be just as thrilling as the last.

I hope you and your family will be a presence once again at JCA this year. We look forward to seeing you!

Blessings,

# leffrey R. Budz

Jeffrey R. Budz President/Principal Joliet Catholic Academy

#### **OUR TRADITION**

Published by the Joliet Catholic Academy Communications Office

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Matt Adler, 2008



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# Alumni Spotlight



# In memory of Joseph L. Adler

Joseph L. "Joe" Adler, age 87, of Joliet, left this world June 9. 2018. at Lovola University Medical Center, Maywood. A man of deep faith, he set out each day to fill this world with his love for others and felt a strong need to promote Catholic values though his many philanthropic endeavors.

Joe Adler graduated from Joliet Catholic High School in 1948 and the University of Notre Dame. He and his late wife, Jodie (Biddle), who graduated from St. Francis Academy in 1949 and St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, felt the impact of a Catholic education went well beyond just academics. Upon being honored with the 27th Annual JCA Jubilate Recognition Award in 2012 Joe stated, "Our outlook about the school is we felt it was a vital part of a parent's responsibility to find the best education possible for their children," Joe Adler said. "Our idea of education went beyond the courses."

"You can get the educational courses anywhere. We were looking outside of the class work, to those less fortunate in the Joliet area – the community service that we felt would set a school apart."

It was for that reason the Adler's sent six children – Daniel ('72), Teddy ('73), Jackie ('75), Chris ('76), Michael ('78) and Jay ('82) through St. Patrick's Grade School, JCHS and SFA. Many of their grandchildren and extended family have attended JCA. They also have supported JCA through gifts to the Jack Adler Scholarship.

He is past president of the J.L. Adler Roofing and Sheet Metal Company, founded in 1926, a 4th generation company with his three sons, three grandsons and a granddaughter continuing the tradition of professional roofing and sheet metal work in Joliet and the Northern Illinois area.

Chris Adler, Joe's son and current president of J.L. Adler Roofing said, "the number one thing my dad asked about everyday at St. Pat's or SFA/Joliet Catholic never had anything to do about grades (that was mom). It was how are you getting involved with your community. How are you helping others around you in need."

Chris also noted that at the celebration of his father's life at the Jacob Henry Mansion following the funeral services at St. Raymond Cathedral, a common story kept popping up among the testimonials. "Even at 87 years old people kept remarking how my father would call them every single day urging them to give back towards specific causes."

Joe's celebration of life included a resume of giving, one that needs to be passed along to the students of Joliet Catholic Academy and our entire JCA community, not for the accolades, but as a model for Christians wishing to live their lives in accordance with Jesus's words: "do unto others as you would have them do unto vou."

Together with Jodie, they were regional directors of Christian Family Movement; started the Will County Conference on Religion and Race; Founding Couple of the Spanish Community Center and received "State of Illinois Senate Recognition" for their work there; Members of the Chicago Catholic Jewish Dialogue Partnership: Founding Couple of the Nationwide "Tip the Maids" Movement; Founding Couple of the Young Christian Nurse's Movement.

Joe was a Past President of the Chicago Roofing Contractors Association; Past Board Member of the Vilaseca Day Care Center and the Boys and Girls Club of Joliet: Founding Member of Will County Habitat for Humanity, Spanish Community Center of Joliet and the University of Notre Dame Senior Alumni Board.

The Rev. Raymond Lescher, officiating



Joseph L. Adler

Joe's funeral mass at St. Raymond, told the story of a prized possession given to Joe and Jodie from Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, the former president at the University of Notre Dame, in recognition for their efforts in being charter members of Notre Dame's Fighting Irish Retired Service Team. The framed photo, an original, depicts Fr. Hesburgh and Martin Luther King, Jr. holding crossedhands singing "We Shall Overcome" at the Walk for Freedom Civil Rights March in 1964. Chris Adler said, "we grew up not knowing the difference between race, and we were able to meet people from different backgrounds and cultures."

Joe once remarked, "We never felt like we were giving a lot, but the more we gave, the more we gained in return. That has been a theme of our lives together, all the way from the Hill and the Academy to JCA."

Memorials in Joe's name are appreciated at Sacred Heart Parish at 337 S. Ottawa Street, Joliet, Illinois 60436, which is in great need at this time. Donors may also give to the Jack Adler Endowed Scholarship in honors of the Adler family's legacy and Joe's father. This endowed scholarship provides tuition assistance for students at JCA. Contact JCA Director of Development Mr. John Horn at jhorn@jca-online.org for more information.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT continued

### Recent graduate Lindsay Kent's band The Millenials gains fame and fans while juggling school

Excerpts taken from Kimberly Fornek's July 2, 2018 Pioneer Press article

Recent JCA graduate Lindsay Kent '18, on her way to study music at Columbia College inChicago, has had a busy summer performing in the Chicagoland area as her band The Mellenials' reputation continues to grow. The Millenials performed at the annual Taste of Joliet on the main stage on June 24. The Taste of Joliet performance capped a busy summer that saw the Millenials perform at the Opening of Buckingham Fountain on May 6, Fitz's Spare Keys in Elmhurst, Shamrock Fest at Palmer Place in La Grange, and last year at St. John of the Cross Parish Fest in Western Springs and DarienFest. Kent, who also served

as the president of JCA's photography club, writes the group's songs along with bandmate Michael Henehan. The group,

primarily a cover band playing rock, pop, and dance music also performs original songs by Kent, which are available for download on ITunes.

The band was also scheduled to perform



for the first time at the Dancin' in the Streets Wednesday concerts in downtown Clarendon Hills' on July 18 and at the Aug. 1 La Grange Park's Under the Stars concert.

### Evie Cora 16 attends Students for Life of America Roundtable

Recent JCA graduate Evie Cora '16 was highlighted in the June 7, 2018 edition of the Joliet Herald news for attending the annual March For Life in Washington D.C. Cora is a sophomore at University of St. Louis and president of the Students for



Life chapter at the university. This was the sixth time Cora went to Washington DC for the March of Life.

Cora was invited to the roundtable with 15 other members of the Students For Life of America to meet with Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen Pence.

Afterwards the vice president invited the group to a reception that included other White House staff.

### **NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS**

### JCA welcomed keynote speaker Mr. Vincent Cornelius in honor of Black History

#### Month

JCA was honored to welcome quest speaker Mr. Vince Cornelius '82 to an all-school assembly on Friday, February 16, 2018 in honor of Black History Month.

Mr. Cornelius related his life story to current JCA students, and



he gave credit to his mother, Lorrayne Cornelius, a Washington Junior High School teacher for 34 years.

Lorrayne left Pine Bluff, Arkansas - where Vincent was born - in 1966 after Joliet Public Schools District 86 recruited her and other black teachers from the

continued on next page

## NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS continued



South to add diversity to the district, Vincent said. Stepping into Washington Junior High was the first de-segregated school Lorryane had experienced.

Mr. Cornelius also related his own personal story on his high school decision choosing Joliet Catholic High School. As a resident of the East Side of Joliet, Vince was also the only African-American student in his graduating class. Vince said, "living on both sides of the river allowed me to see the humanity in people." He credited numerous teachers and coaches, including Gordie and Mike Gillespie, for mentoring him when he wasn't sure about staying at Joliet Catholic. He also reflected on the strong alumni connection with his JCHS classmates and fellow alums both in business and socially over the past 36 years.

Mr. Cornelius' overall message included a family motto: "that's a good excuse, but not as good as getting it done." This motto has allowed Vince to accomplish extraordinary things in his career, including becoming the first person from Will County (and first African-American) to be named president of the Illinois Bar Association.

Vincent has lived a life of service and leadership to the legal profession, his church, his family, his community, and to the schools he attended. He has served diligently on Governor's Commissions, Supreme Court Commissions, legislation committees, and university boards. He has given dozens of keynote speeches to numerous organizations, including a keynote to the Illinois Supreme Court at its judicial conference. Vincent has served the legal profession and other institutions at the highest levels. He is prepared to serve Will County as its next Circuit Court Judge, as he faced no opposition in the March Democratic primary to replace retiring Will County Judge Carla Alessio Policandriotes.

### **Service at JCA**

# JCA Baseball Program "Steps Up to the Plate for ALS Awareness"

On Saturday, April 28th the Joliet Catholic Baseball program participated in the first annual "Step Up to the Plate for ALS" awareness fundraiser.

All three levels from freshmen to varsity wore t-shirts in honor of Mr. Tom Kemp (father of JCA baseball sophomore head coach Bart Kemp) and Mrs. Cindy Marion (grandmother to JCA baseball sophomore Vinny Defilippo) during their doubleheaders against St. Patrick's High Schoool.

Also during school, JCA students put on a bake sale during lunch periods, and also participated in a \$2 dress-down day. On Saturday during the lower level home games a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, and concession stand all raised awareness and donations for the ALS Greater Chicago Chapter.

A special thank you went out to current JCAmothers Peg Roesel, Jill Batusich and all the Hilltopper families that helped organize this wonderful event this spring.

The month of May was also ALS Awareness Month. The following donation page is available for all members of the Joliet Catholic Academy and Joliet community to "Step Up to the Plate" to help the ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter advocate for investments in research, access to equipment, quality of life, increasing benefits, and caregiver support to provide people with ALS and their families an active and strong voice in the nation's capital and state capitals. All donations will go directly towards the ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter.



The donation page will remain open throughout the year, and will be highlighted once again during next year's Second Annual "Step Up to the Plate" fundraiser.

All donations will go directly towards the ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter. To donate, visit www.jca-online.org.



# **JCA Hall of Fame Induction/Staff News**

### JCA Inducts new Hall of **Fame Members**

Joliet Catholic Academy's Hall of Fame was established in 2009 to honor men and women who have given at least ten years of service to St. Francis Academy, De La Salle High School, Joliet Catholic High School, and/or Joliet Catholic Academy; live and/or continues to live the mission of JCA; and value and support Catholic education.

The names of the honorees are kept confidential until the presentation although family members are notified so they can attend. As the inductees were introduced, family members entered the Student Activity Center.

This April, JCA inducted retired Theology teacher Mrs. Jane (Scheuber) Nolan ('66 SFA), current JCA Business Office employee Mrs. Mary Lou (Egizio) Catalani ('77 SFA), and Faculty and Operations Vice-Principal Assistant Mrs. Suzanne Kairis. Congratulations ladies and thank you for your service to JCA.



L to R: Mrs. Suzanne Kairis, Mrs. Mary Lou Catalani, Mrs. Jane Nolan



### Dan Sharp ESCC Hall of Fame

Congratulations to current JCA Athletic Director and retired Joliet Catholic Football head coach Mr. Dan Sharp on his induction into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Dan Sharp announced his retirement as the head football coach at JCA following 20 seasons, 199 victories and six state championships. Sharp, who returned to the school as the football coach in 1997 after a four-year run as head coach at Minooka (where he also led the Indians to unprecedented success), stepped down as head football coach but remains the JCA athletic director. He capped a 39-year coaching career, which included stints as an assistant at Joliet Catholic and the University of St. Francis under fellow Hall of Champions honoree Gordie Gillespie. He retires with a 223-69 overall mark as a head coach and the six state titles. This marks the second Hall of Fame in the past year Sharp has been inducted into, as he joined the JCA Hall of Champions in the fall of 2017.

### JCA English teacher Mrs. Maria Fischer earns Doctoral Degree

Current JCA English Department member Mrs. Maria Fischer earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in the fall of 2017 from the University of St. Francis. Dr. Fischer's Doctoral Dissertation was titled "The Impact of Project Based Student Learning on Student Achievement and Student Satisfaction in an American Literature Classroom." Dr. Fischer (nee Mellinger) is a 1988 graduate of St. Francis Academy, earned her undergraduate degree in English Language and Literature/Letters from Governors State University ('94), and also holds Master's Degree in Education from the University of St. Francis ('10). She has been employed since 2013 at JCA and is involved in several extra-curricular clubs including The Accepting Cultural Diversity Club, which promotes Civil Rights and Social Action at JCA. Dr. Fischer also coordinates JCA's English as a Second Language (ESL) program, working closely with JCA's international students from China. She has also served as an Adult Leader over the past three years at the Catholic Heart Work Camp, an annual mission trip attended by several JCA students and staff members.



## umni Career Day

Thank you to the 35 alumni who spoke to JCA students at the annual Career Day today. Alumni from JCHS, SFA, and JCA ranging from the graduating class of 1966 all the way up to 2014 volunteered to discuss their current professions, the path that led them into their various industries, and the impact a Joliet Catholic Academy education had on their development.

JCA's annual Career Day aims to make the students more goal-oriented which will greatly assist them in deciding the next steps toward a career path, encourages alumni to become connected to the mission of the school, and fosters direct participation of the Alumni community in the lives of JCA students

A special thanks to JCA Director of Alumni Relations Mrs. Sue Bebar on her work in scheduling our successful alumni to present to current students and to the following alumni who were able to attend.



NAME	CLASS YEAR	PROFESSION	TITLE	EMPLOYER
Mark Babcock	1995	Executive Sales	Partner Sales Manager	Microsoft
Rob Bailey	1990	College Professor	Senior Professor of English	South Suburban College
Matt Bannon	2011	Construction Management	Project Manager	Residential Capital
Lois Babich	1982	TeacherSt. Joseph		
Kevin Bayci	2005	Engineer	Project Engineer	EN Engineering
Matt Bertani	1980	Judge		State of Illinois, Will County
Brian Bottomley		Civil Engineer		Hamilton Engineering
James Brusatte	1970	Legal Retired Judge		
Jennifer DeGeus, MD	1991	Medical	Pediatrician	Lake Forest Pediatrics
Moira Dunn	1995	Assistant States Attorney	Felony Prosecutor	Will County States Attorney
Joseph Egizio	1989	Lieutenant	JNU/Tactical Unit	City of Joliet
Lauren Staley-Ferry	1996	Elected Official	Board Member/Commissioner	County of Will
Jacob Gancarczyk	2000	Attorney	Associate	Spesia & Taylor
Joshelle Gildon-Willian	ns 1990	Advocate-Social Services	Assistant Program Manager	Service, Inc.
Bill Gwodz	1983	Pilot	Captain	Southwest
Michael Ivlow	2014	Teacher	Social Studies	St. Xavier
Vincent Johnson	1992	Photojournalism	Photojournalist	various newspapers
Kathleen Kempf	1997	Marketing	Marketing Manager	IDN, Inc
Monica Lorimer, MD	1981	General Surgeon	Physician	Little Company of Mary Hospital
Brien McHugh	1974	Communications Professor	Associate Professor	University of St. Francis
Julieta Meyer		School Nurse	BSN	Newark Community
Katie Michel	1987	Industrial Real Estate	Vice President	Pritzker Realty Group
		Acquisition and Development		
Katie Nelson	1986	Teacher	Primary Teacher	St. Paul the Apostle
Nicholas Niziolek	1998	Investments	Chief Investment Officer (CIO)	Calamos Investments
Jim O'Connell	1989	Restaurant Manager		Cheesecake factory
Matt Peksa	1994	Firefighter	Battalion Chief	Lemont Fire Protection District
Dan Petrosko	1966	Information Technology (Business)	Retired	College of Lake County
		or Teacher (Community College)		
John "Kevin" Russell	1966	Investment Portfolio Manager	Senior Vice President-	Hammond Associates (retired)
			Portfolio Manager	
Mark Siefert	2006	Public Utilities	Director of Water and Wastewater	City of Crest Hill
Christopher Thomas	2008	Airline Pilot	First Officer	Republic Airline
Jeff Thompson	1974	Business Ownership	President	Northern Insurance Service, Ltd.
Jim Trizna	1976	Civil Engineer	Director of Public Works	City of Joliet
Gretchen Troha	1988	Pharmacist	Pharmacy Manager	Osco Drug
Lawrence Wiers	1966	Educator	Asst. Professor &	Lewis University
			Director of School Partnership	-
James Whitmer	1969	Investigator Police Oversight	Investigator	Civilian Office of Police Accountability (Chicago
			· · ·	1



This fall we will celebrate the 150th year of Catholic Secondary Education between

the Franciscans and Carmelites at Joliet Catholic Academy. Combined, the two orders have accumulated over 200 years of Catholic High School education in the Joliet-area (St. Francis Academy 1869-1990; Joliet Catholic High School 1933-1990; Joliet Catholic Academy 1990-2018).

#### **Beginnings**

Mother Alfred Moes, a well-known Franciscan sister for having laid the foundation for the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, founded St. Francis Academy in 1869 in a small stone convent on Broadway and Division streets. In 1882, SFA moved to a new building on Plainfield Avenue, and a new wing at Taylor Street was completed in 1915. Prior to this date, most students were boarders. The curriculum offered six specific courses of study, while English, mathematics, Latin and religion, of course, were the required subjects.

St. Francis Academy moved to 1200 N. Larkin Avenue, the current site of JCA, in 1956. This allowed for the expansion of academic programs in science, math, language, religion and physical education. Sister Hilary Tures, OSF was named principal. Lay teachers and modern trends in education enriched the school. Modular scheduling, team teaching and four-year sequences in language, science, math and fine arts complemented religion, and advanced senior classes for college credit also were initiated, all occurring by 1966.

Under Sister Jane Marie Meara, OSF, principal from 1968-74, and Sister Martha Connor, OSF, principal from 1978-85, significant changes were made. The emergence of girls athletics, a retirement program for employees and the first co-ed classes being held were notable. SFA's pom-pon program won four national championships from 1986-1990.

Meanwhile, following SFA being chartered, Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago directed the Christian Brothers to renovate the old parish hall of St. Patrick's Church to open De La Salle. Prior to this time, there was no Catholic high school for boys living in Will County.

Beginning in 1918, 45 boys occupied the two classrooms on "The Hill" overlooking the City of Joliet. In 1922, Cardinal Mundelein attended the first De La Salle graduation. A new building on the hilltop overlooking Bluff Street was built in 1927. DLS won the national basketball championship that same year, but by 1933, the Depression hit.

The Carmelite order assumed ownership of De La Salle and, as a tribute to the people of Joliet, renamed the school as Joliet Catholic. In 1934, JCHS won the National Catholic Basketball Championship. By 1956, under Father Shane Tahney, O. Carm., the school expanded, with a new wing for students and a new priory built for the Carmelites.

#### **Combining Traditions**

The President of the Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis in Joliet and the Provincial of the Order of the Carmelites of the Province of

the Most Pure Heart of Mary announced in 1990 the formation of Joliet Catholic Academy, with the new school opening in the summer of 1990 at the corner of Larkin and Ingalls avenues. JCA was born to carry Catholic, Christian, social and educational principles into the 21st century.

#### **Onward Together**

Over the past twenty-eight years, Joliet Catholic Academy has seen many changes, including the completion of a state-of-the-art Computer Center and a 25-acre mega-sports complex (the "Fields of Dreams"). We are very proud of our state championships in football, volleyball, and baseball, and numerous record-breaking seasons from our athletic and academic teams, including soccer, tennis, track, golf, cross-country, math, scholastic bowl, etc. JCA reached a new level with the success of the first ever Capital Campaign "Directions of Excellence...Forging a New Frontier", bringing the Joliet and Will County community the reality of the Student Activity Center, plus several new classrooms, signifying a new chapter in the life of JCA. Throughout 28 years as a combined school, the Joliet Franciscan Sisters have also generously provided discounted rent for the property at 1200 N. Larkin Ave., allowing the school to continue to prosper financially.

What has not changed, however, is Joliet Catholic Academy's commitment to its students and to academic excellence. Last year, 99% of JCA graduates went on to pursue higher education with \$15 million in scholarships, grants, and awards earned, equating to approximately \$92,500 per student. 70% of students successfully passed A.P. Examinations, well above the state and local averages. Since 1990, JCA has produced 5 National Merit Scholars, 7 National Merit Scholarship Winners, 12 National Merit Finalists, 13 National Merit Semi-Finalists, 64 National Merit Commended Students, 1 National Merit Hispanic Finalist, 2 National Merit Hispanic Recognition Scholar, 757 Illinois State Scholars, 15 AP Scholars with Distinction, 43 AP Scholars with Honors, and 74 AP Scholars. The achievements of these students, coupled with a solid, value-centered education, are JCA's proudest accomplishments.



Dr. Jeffrey Budz and Fr. Ed Ward, O.Carm. present the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Carmelite Scholarship to incoming freshman Michal Ascencio and Daniela Chavez



This summer, thanks to the generous donation of LaVerne and Dorothy Brown, the JCA Chapel has been moved to the former library on campus. This beautiful renovation will be finished by the end of the summer, paving the way for a renovation of JCA's current Technology Center and a transition of the old Chapel into a state-of-the-art Innovation Research Center as part of the upcoming "Onward Together" Strategic Plan.

We will spend the year celebrating our legacy at JCA and understand how that history informs our future. Please join us for the events of this sesquicentennial celebration. We will be posting the events for the 150th Anniversary Celebration Year, starting with Homecoming Week Festivities September 24-30, including the 150-year Celebration Alumni Mass on Saturday, September 29 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mary, Our Sister Chapel. Honor our past and celebrate our future together to make this celebratory year one of memories.

#### MARY, OUR SISTER Chapel

Submitted by the Franciscan and Carmelite Board of Members Sr. Dolores Zemont, OSF, Chair; Sr. Rosemary Fonck, OSF; Sr. Mary Jane Griffin, OSF; Fr. William Harry, O. Carm.; Fr. Carl Markelz ('80), O. Carm.; Fr. John Welch ('56), O. Carm.

Both the Franciscans and the Carmelites have a long tradition of special devotion to Mary. The title of the Franciscan sisters is "Sisters of St Francis of Mary Immaculate." The Carmelites identify themselves as "The Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel." Consequently, dedicating the new JCA Chapel to the Blessed Virgin Mary recognizes both traditions.

In 1974, Pope Paul VI issued guidelines for devotion to Mary observing that traditional devotional forms were showing "the ravages of time" (Marialis Cultus). He challenged the whole church to be creative in revising Marian devotion. "We would like this revision" he wrote, "to be respectful of sound tradition and open to the legitimate desires of today's people."

#### Our Sister

Pope Paul described Mary as "a woman who did not hesitate to proclaim that God vindicates the humble and the oppressed and removes the powerful people of this world from their privileged positions." The Pope writes, "Mary, in fact, is...truly our sister who as a poor and humble woman fully shared our lot."

Mary, as Our Sister, can be a companion who walks the journey of faith with young people. She can be the elder sister whose wisdom and

More information about the anniversary events will be on our 150th Website at www.jca-online.org. We hope you will visit this website for news, archival photos and historical information and consider sharing your memories.

#### Did You Know? The

Carmelites and Franciscans have Merit-Based Top Scorer Scholarship for the JCA

Entrance Exam named in their honor. Also, both orders sponsor significant need-based scholarships via the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Carmelite Scholarships and the Helen McKeon Scholarship.



The Joliet Franciscans have generously donated a 6'6" San Damiano Cross as the centerpiece of the new Mary, Our Sister Chapel. The cross was constructed and hand painted in Assisi. In depth explanations of the cross and relics located in the newly renovated chapel will be present upon completion in August.

encouragement give strength. She can be a sister in solidarity with all who struggle and are oppressed.

Since Vatican II, the emphasis in Marian devotion has been to under-

stand Mary as one with us on our pilgrimage of faith. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, helped inspire this approach when she wrote:

For a sermon on the Blessed Virgin to please me and do me any good I must see her real life, not her imagined life. I'm sure that her real life was very simple. They show her to us as unapproachable, but they should present her as imitable, bringing out her virtues, saying that she lived by faith just like ourselves.

Mary, Our Sister, pray for us!





# Academic Excellence continues at JCA with Class of 2018

The Joliet Catholic Academy Class of 2018 was honored on Wednesday, May 16 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond's during the annual Baccalaureate Liturgy and Honors Ceremony. Graduates took part in a mass led by Fr. William Harry, O.Carm, and then received awards highlighting the numerous accolades the Class of 2018 garnered during their high school careers.

The highlight of the program was the final awards announced: JCA's Angel of the Year and Hillman of the Year, and the presentation of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Joliet Catholic Academy's most prestigious award recognizes the two students who have upheld the highest standards of honesty and reliability, courtesy, concern and respect for others, have carried out their accepted responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication, influenced their peers by their positive attitudes, and have given witness to the Gospel values.

**VALEDICTORIAN**: Caitlyn Spreitzer

**SALUTATORIANS:** Margaret Runde and Julius Quilarto

**JCA ANGEL OF THE YEAR AWARD:** *Margaret Runde* 

JCA HILLMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: Matthew Gochee

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS: Amanda Nelson and Margaret Runde

JCA SPIRIT AWARDS: Sarah Nahas and Walter Osterberger

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS: Caitlyn Spreitzer and Aidan Tyrell

The Joliet Catholic Academy community is extremely proud of these seniors and congratulate them and their parents for this great accomplishment. They join the select few of previous candidates who have attained this tremendous academic distinction.

Joliet Catholic Academy's Class of 2018 graduated on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at 3 p.m. in the Student Activity Center at JCA. Visit www. jca-online.org and click on "News Headlines" to see a complete listing of student awards from the Class of 2018.

These are just a few of the prestigious colleges Angels and Hilltoppers from the **Class of 2018** will be attending in the fall: Loyola-Chicago, DePaul, Tennessee, Illinois, Butler, Notre Dame, St. Francis, Lewis, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama, Dayton, St. Louis, Fordham, Iowa, Columbia-Chicago, Stony Brook, Creighton, Ball State, Auburn, Oklahoma State, North Central, LaSalle, Coastal Carolina, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Bradley, Rutgers.

- 79 students in the Class of 2018 graduated with a "Perfect Record"
- 27 students graduated as members of the JCA Honors Program
- 31 students were named Illinois State Scholars
- 67% of the Class of 2018 earned over \$15 million in college scholarships





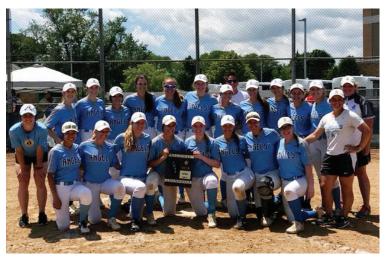
# **Winter/Spring Athletic Roundup**





#### Dance –

- 1st Place Waubonsie Valley Invitational
  - IHSA Sectional Champions
- In their inaugural foray in the IHSA State Competition the Angels brought home 4th Place in Class 1A competition.

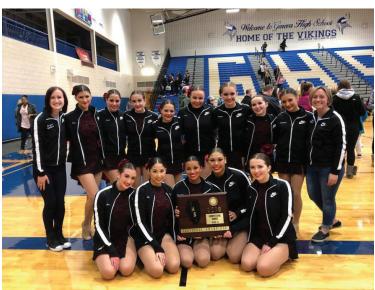


#### Softhall –

- JCA Softball had a banner year under second-year head coach Tina Kinsella, going 24-10 overall, finishing in second place in the ultra-competitive ESCC and reaching the Sectional Championship game.
- Junior Jen Krizka, and seniors Caitlyn Spreitzer and Maddy Szymanski were named to the ESCC All-Conference team; Krizka and Szymanksi were named First-Team Herald-News All-Area and Second-Team All-State in Class 3A.

#### Wrestling -

- Freshman D.J. Hamiti made history winning the IHSA Class 2A State Title at 106 lbs., the first freshman in JCA history to win a state title in wrestling, and the first Hilltopper to capture a title since Pat Mudron in '67.
- Freshman Jack Finnegan finished in 5th Place at the IHSA Class 2A State Finals at 113 lbs.
- Excitement abounds within the Hilltopper Wrestling program after the first year of Associate Head Coach Ryan Cumbee's tenure. Cumbee is joined by an excellent staff featuring long-time head coach Cory Mc-Laughlin and assistants Jim Lancaster, Adam Gleason, and Jim Kappas.



#### **Boys/Girls Basketball –**

 Freshman Emma Jay in girls hoops and junior Conor Ward with boys hoops both qualified for the IHSA 3-point Sectional competition.

#### Basehall –

- Varsity baseball finished the season 32-6 overall (16-2 in ESCC play) capturing a conference title before losing in the sectional final. Ranked #1 in the state preseason, the entire program went 78-11 overall in 2018 as head coach Jared Voss captured his 500th career victory and ESCC Coach of the Year honors.
- Senior Aidan Tyrell, heading to Notre Dame, was named the ESCC Most Valuable Player. The 2018 Hilltoppers featured 12 collegiate commits on the roster, 10 who will go on to play at the NCAA Division I level.

#### **Bovs Volleyball –**

• Sophomores Dan Mangum and Max Toborg were named to the ESCC All Conference team for a youthful Hilltopper group. Toborg was also named to the Herald-News All-Area Second Team.



### **5th Annual Hall of Champions Class/Upcoming Reunions**

Joliet Catholic Academy has announced its fifth Hall of Champions class, which will be inducted during Hall of Champions Weekend September 7-8, 2018. Members will be introduced at the Annual Alumni Golf Outing on Friday, September 7, 2018 at the Joliet Country Club. They will be honored and inducted at the annual Hall of Champions Dinner on Saturday, September 8, 2018 in the Student Activity Center at JCA.

The previous classes made up of a "Who's Who" of athletics in the Joliet area with Gordie Gillespie, Bill Gullickson, Allie Quigley, Jim Stefanich, Tom Thayer, Mike Alstott, Terry Gannon, Mark Grant, Patricia Carbery, Jane Condon, and Dave Sims among them.

JCA president/principal Dr. Jeffrey Budz announced the following as the 2018 class: Coby Fleener '07, Chris Michalak '89, Kelly Murphy '08, Samantha Quigley-Smith '06, and Jack Schimanski. We will also be honoring Andrew Matichak '53 as part of our Legends category, Detailed biographies on all honorees are available at the JCA website and through the Joliet Herald News.



Samantha Quigley-Smith



**Coby Fleener** 



Chris Michalak



Jack Schimanski



**Andrew Matichak** 



**Kelly Murphy** 

#### **Fall 2018 Celebrating Reunions**

SFA Class of '58 - Plans are set for a class reunion luncheon on Saturday, September 15th. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Judy Batis at ibatis@comcast.net. Save the dates went out in July, if you did not receive one, please contact the JCA Alumni office to update your information.

**SFA/JCHS Class of '61** – Make your plans to attend a 75th Birthday party like no other. Saturday, November 3rd the Class of '61 will get together to reminisce old memories and make some new ones. Save

the date cards went out in June, if you did not receive one, please call the JCA Alumni office to let us know. If you have any questions, please contact either Tom Jurkovich at thomasjurkovich@aol.com or Chris Kirincich Boban at christyb613@comcast.net.

JCHS Class of '63 - Invites were mailed and emailed with information for the 55th Class Reunion celebration taking place on Saturday, September 15th at Cemeno's Pizza in Joliet. If you are able to come and would like to reserve your spot, please send \$20 pp to Joe Collins or go to www.ica-online.or/alumni/reunions (under JCHS '63) to

**SFA/JCHS Class of '66** – An evening of fun and reminiscing to celebrate our 70th Birthday party on Friday, September 28th at Syl's Restaurant from 6 – 10 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person with cash bar. Invites were mailed in May. Questions? Please contact Linda Cassineri at lcass516@aol.com.

SFA Class of '68 - Join your classmates for an afternoon of laughter and story telling on Saturday, September 29th at Harrah's Joliet - Vegas Room in downtown Joliet, Illinois beginning at noon. An optional tour of JCA will take place at 5:30 p.m. at JCA for those interested. Cost is \$50. Questions, please contact Mary Ellen Kenney Pemble at mellenpem@ yahoo.com; Rita Heenan at ritacl3@att.net; or Sheila Fonck Allen at sallen2635@gmail.com. Invites were mailed in June.

**JCHS/SFA Class of '73** – Save the date for the 45th Birthday party of the Class of '73 on Saturday, September 29th. For questions contact Mary Carlin at Betsey.1207@gmail.com or Patty Mulvihill Blackburn at hair716@yahoo.com.

**SFA/JCHS Class of '78** – Say it ain't SO, how can it be the big 4-0? Invitations went out in June for the 40th Reunion party at American Italian Cultural Society on Saturday, September 29th. Other fun activities are happening that weekend too, so check your mail and send in your reservations. If you did not receive one, please contact the JCA Alumni office and we will mail yours out. Questions, contact your reunion committee, Toni Vallera Muren, Patty Johnson McCoy, Patty Lambert Torres, Steve Carbery and Deanne Nonnie Stanton.

**SFA/JCHS Class of '83** – Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend the 35th Class Reunion on Saturday, October 6th at the Croatian Club. Invitations will be mailed soon. Questions, contact Todd Moore at 815-922-4592.

**SFA/JCHS Class of '88** - Save the date for a fun-filled evening at the Joliet Renaissance Center on Saturday, September 22nd. Invitations will be mailed soon, if you have any questions please email Dovie Shelby or April Moore at sfajcatholic1988@gmail.com.

JCA Class of '98 - Plans are underway for a class reunion celebration on Saturday, September 29th. Save the Dates went out in early July and invitations will be mailed shortly. Questions, please contact Jill Meader Sunderson at jillsunderson@hotmail.com.

JCA Class of '08 - Save the Date on Saturday, September 29th to celebrate with the Class of '08. Details coming soon!! Questions, contact Zak Pedersen at zak.pedersen46@gmail.com.

### Jubilaté 2018 – "A Night in Old Havana"



On Saturday, March 3, 2018, "A Night in Old Havana," which was the theme for JCA's 33rd Annual Jubilaté, opened a new world for our event chairs, committee and guests. At Bolingbrook Golf Club, we experienced delicious Cuban-style food, casual themed attire, salsa dancing, mojitos, Havana cigars and vintage cars. They call Cuba the Holiday Isle of the Tropics and our committee worked hard to get our guests to immerse themselves in the history, culture and music of this enchanted island. Thanks to Amy (Funk '85) Holbrook, Jubilaté's designer and decorator for her efforts. As you made your way into the ballroom, you thought you were in the Plaza de Armas with its awesome palm trees and flickering white lights all due to Amy's planning and vision.

Our Event Chairs, Alex & John Quinn '86, Colleen (Graham'87) & Tom Dow '85 and Nicole & Mike Murray were the reason for Jubilaté's success. As for our committee, all parent volunteers, their enthusiasm and dedication to this event was commendable. Our JCA students were on hand to greet guests, sell raffle tickets and assist with other duties on the evening of March 3.

Thank you for the commitment that Kim (Furman '76) and Jim Roolf



have made to JCA. Congratulations again and again to them for being the recipients of the 2018 JCA Recognition Award.

Muchas gracias to the Joliet Franciscans, the Carmelites, Mr. Jeff Budz and our administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, friends and our community. We are grateful to everyone that purchased an ad, a ticket to the event, purchased a raffle ticket and donated or purchased an auction item. You have all given generously and selflessly to this fundraising event.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- First Day of Classes: August 17, 2018
- Alumni Golf Outing: September 7, 2018 at the Joliet Country Club 11 a.m. shotgun start, scramble format. Register at http://www.jca-online.org/golf-classic/ Questions? Contact Sue Bebar sbebar@jca-online.org or 815-741-0500, x269.
- Hall of Champions Induction: September 8, 2018
- Homecoming: September 23-29, 2018; Alumni tailgate, September 28th at the joliet park district softball fields (weather permitting). Alumni all class mass at 4:30 pm in the JCA Chapel. Homecoming Mass **September 29, 2018**
- Open House for Prospective Families: October 28, 2018; November 9, 2018
- 2018 Incoming Freshman Entrance Exam: December 1, 2018

JUBILATÉ 2019 - Paris is coming to Bolingbrook Golf Club. Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 9, 2019. This will be our 34th year for Jubilaté. Debra & Ellis Kennedy '86 along with Amy (Lausch '87) & Ken Mihelich '83 will be your tour guides to the Eiffel Tower. If you would like to be on our committee, please contact Christine Voss at JCA.

**GRANDPARENTS MASS -** On Tuesday, November 20, 2018, we will be recognizing and giving thanks for all of our JCA Grandparents. This is our third annual year for giving gratitude for these wonderful role models. All grandparents of freshman and sophomore students are welcome to join their JCA student for a Mass of Thanksgiving at JCA's Student Activity Center. Invitations will be issued.



# **JCA Alumni Association announces Annual Alumni Awards**

Joliet Catholic Academy Director of Alumni Relations Sue Bebar and JCA Alumni Board President Jeff Phelan recently announced the 2018 JCA Alumni Awards. This year's honorees include - JCA Alumni of the Year Award: Dr. Tom '85 and Colleen '87 (Graham) Dow, JCA Career Achievement Award: Dr. John Kahler '65, Rev. Paddy McGowan Award (for athletic achievement): Mr. Josh Ferguson '11, JCA Honorary Alumna of the Year: Mrs. Sue Hansen, and the Sr. Marie Becker Service to JCA Award: Mrs. Maria Acosta. This year's award winners were honored at a dinner and program Thursday, May 10, 2018 at the Jacob Henry Mansion Victorian Ballroom.

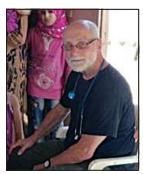
Tom and Colleen Dow exemplify the JCA spirit through generous



Tom and Colleen Dow

donation of their time and leadership. Tom is the current Chairman and long-standing member of the JCA Board of Directors, and together they were Co-Chairs for JCA's largest annual fundraiser Jubilate in 2018. They are true advocates for JCA internally and to

the broader community. The Dows have dedicated particular energy toward the development of JCA's award-winning Drama Program, of which their daughter, Katie '18 has been a star contributor. Both the Dow and Graham families have been deeply involved in supporting JCA, with Colleen's parents, Pat ('59) and Patty (Liker '60) Graham, receiving the 2017 Jubilate Recognition Award.



Dr. John Kahler

Dr. John Kahler is Chicago-area Pediatrician, and winner of Chicago Magazine's 2017 Man of the Year award, along with his partners, for his medical work in Syria as part of the Syrian American Medical Society. John has repeatedly risked his own life traveling multiple times to Syria to provide medical assistance to the citizens of this war-torn country. He has also been to Haiti and Pakistan to assist those populations in

recovering from natural and man-made disasters, a true example of selflessness and the embodiment of the Catholic mission. John has three children (Debbie, Chris and Angela) and resides in Palos Heights with his wife Cecilia.

Josh Ferguson is currently a member of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts and was a key performer for four years at the University of Illinois, the foundation of which was laid as a three-year varsity starter for the IHSA-record 13-time State Champion Joliet Catholic Hilltoppers football program. As a senior, Josh earned IHSA Coaches Association 5A All-State Team and Chicago Tribune 1st Team All-State recognition and was the ESCC Conference Player of the Year in 2010. During his Hilltopper career, Josh amassed 49 TD's and 3,479 rushing yards for an average



Josh Ferguson

of 10.7 yards per carry. Josh grew up in Naperville and currently resides in Indiana.



Mrs. Sue Hansen

Sue Hansen has been employed at JCA for over 25 years, currently serving as the Development Coordinator. She continuously goes above and beyond in all aspects of her work, from maintaining the Alumni database to coordinating the presentation of JCA's Annual Fund and Annual Report, to help keep alumni and friends engaged in the support of JCA. She previously worked as the Administrative Assistant for Sister Faith Szambelanczyk,

OSF, and remains a constant presence and supporter at school and Alumni events, including the Hilltopper Banquet and the Alumni Golf Outing. Sue has always been an Angel at heart.

Maria Acosta remains a constant supporter of JCA at school-

sponsored and team-based events. She was a past Chairperson of Jubilate following several years of dedicated committee work. Maria often donates her time and energy helping to coordinate hosting family and team events and lives the JCA spirit of servant leadership. She and her husband Felipe are proud parents of Antonio ('14), Andriana ('16), Alaina ('18) and Ante ('21).



Mrs. Maria Acosta

To nominate a future deserving individual, please email Director of Alumni Relations Mrs. Sue Bebar at sbebar@jca-online.org or call 815-741-0500, x 269.

# Scholarships at JCA



# JCA Awards Frank Golf Scholarship in Mathematics to

recent St. Raymond graduate Erik Troha

Joliet Catholic Academy recently presented the Frank Golf Scholarship in Mathematics to Cathedral of St. Raymond School graduate Erik Troha at the St. Raymond annual honors ceremony on Monday, May 21st. Troha will enter JCA as a freshman in the fall of 2018. The scholarship provides 50% tuition assistance to incoming JCA students based on excellence in Math. Mr. Frank Golf recently retired after the 2016-2017 school year, but not before providing 50 years of service to Joliet Catholic High School and Joliet Catholic Academy as a member of the Math Department. During his illustrious career Mr. Golf was nominated for the University of Chicago Outstanding Teacher Award and was named SFA-DLA-JCHS-JCA Alumnus of the Year, Mr. Golf is a member of the JCA Hall of Fame and received a Teacher Recognition Award from the Give Back to Others Foundation. Students are identified through their incoming HSPT scores and through a FACTS Tuition Management application.

Andrew Ndoca '79, also a 1975 graduate of St. Raymond School, established the Frank Golf Scholarship in Mathematics to celebrate and recognize Mr. Golf's lifelong vocation to teaching at JCA. When asked about the scholarship Mr. Ndoca commented, "My wife and I established this Scholarship to recognize, in a general sense, the positive significance a lifelong vocation has upon a community and its members. Specifically, the Frank Golf Scholarship recognizes Mr. Golf's unique vocation in the service to less fortunate, but nevertheless gifted, students in the Joliet community."

Erik Troha was commended both with the Frank Golf Scholarship for Mathematics and a Franciscan-Carmelite Top Scorer Scholarship on the High School Placement Test (HSPT), a test administered by Joliet Diocesan Catholic High Schools to earn acceptance into Catholic High School. Erik scored in the 99th percentile on the exam, and was the top scorer out of



Erik Troha

239 students that have taken the JCA Entrance Exam for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Franciscan-Carmelite Top Scorer Scholarship is awarded annually to top scorers on the JCA Placement Exam. These students generally make up the top 10% of JCA's graduating classes. The top 10% of JCA's 2018 graduating class averaged a 30.05 on the ACT. This award honors the legacy and tradition of Catholic Education in Will County provided by the Carmelite and Franciscan religious orders.

### JCA Spirit Raffle helps "bridge the gap" between tuition and the actual cost to educate

Beginning August 30, 2018 and ending October 3, 2018, our JCA students will be selling their Spirit Raffle Tickets. The tickets are \$5.00 each with cash prizes to be drawn on October 5. This is the only fundraiser that our JCA students are asked to participate in. They are asked to sell \$450 worth of tickets as their guota. So why not purchase a ticket for a chance to win \$5,000? Our students would appreciate your kindness. If you have questions, please contact JCA Director of Special Events Mrs. Christine Voss at cvoss@jca-online.org.

#### **Online Giving**



JCA has updated our Online Giving webpage, making it easier than ever for JCA alumni, families, and friends to give. Secure transactions are processed through Acceptiva. Simply visit www. jca-online. org/donate to make a donation. Friends of JCA can select from several different donation designations, including but not limited to the Annual Appeal, Tuition Assistance, School's Greatest Need, and our soon to be announced "Onward Together" Captial Campaign. Check the JCA website for more information on ways to give and specific fundraisers put on throughout the school year.

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### In Memoriam

Sadly we acknowledge the passing of the following members of our JCA family:

1941

Angelo L. Clementi

Mary Kate (Lohman) Hedstrom

Glen P. Narducci

1943

Loretta (Princko) Brncich

Elizabeth (Scully) Kelly

Mary Lou (Gray) Paxton

Sr. Marlene Ambrose, O.S.F. JoAnn (Perconte) Clennon George T. Fehrenbacher, D.D.S.

Leona (Kinzler) Norcross

Francis J. Zarley

1946

Joel L. Dames

Dorothy (Fedo) Koncar

John J. Querio, Sr.

1947

Donald K. Berg

1948

Joseph L. Adler

Virginia (Albert) Callaghan Norman J. Nemanich

Raymond L. Scholtes

1949

William M. Wheeler Robert A. Wiegmann

1950

Patricia (Sullivan) Engimann Sr. Patricia McGuckin, O.S.F.

Richard A. Pellegrini Joann (Gleason) Weber

1951

Jack P. Susner

Jean (Stefanich) Wolz

1952

Sr. Margaret Alice Martinek, O.S.F.

James W. Seeley

1953

Louis L. Hoehn Robert H. Moore

1954

Kenneth J. Jadron John R. Oldani

1955

Charles L. Misiurewicz

1956

Roberta (St. Ange) Irvin

Michael D. Malloy

Catherine (De Rosa) Pacheco

Salvatore P. Ventura

1957

Darlene (Fisher) Boyle

Richard L. Coop Anthony V. Rodighiero

Edward L. Sienko

1958

Edward J. Baranski Frances L. Delrose William R. Harrigan

Gerald W. Spreitzer

1959

Ronald M. Jandura

Marlene (Pastore) Seeman

Gerald J. Stefka

1960

John M. Cook

1961

David M. Decman

Judith (Gruber) Machak

Michael A. Murer

1962

Charles E. Bailev. Jr. James A. Buchar

Judith (Cavanaugh) Rohman

1963

Thomas F. Ausec Terrence J. McCarthy

Joseph A. Troha

1964

John R. Crate, Jr.

Charles A. Macier

Suellen (Lambert) Silakowski

Lawrence P. Sullivan

1965

Jon R. Frangela

Michelle M. Gleason

1966

Jane (Bowers) Rogan

Beverly (Adams) Vota

1969

Joan M. Steffes

1970

Patricia (Bednarczyk) Keck Georgene (Evans) Petrovic

1972

Maureen (Hennessy) Chrismer Mary Beth (Papesh) Dodge Margaret (Veno) Frederick

Susan M. Fehrenbacher

1974

Gary M. Healy William B. Schmitz

1975

Timothy P. Considine

1976

Robert J. Pucel, Sr.

1977

Julia (Smith) Otis

Jeanne (Bowman) Parker

1978

Richard J. Poplawski

1985

Ronnell F. Tafoya

1989

Thomas M. Whitgrove, Jr.

1990

William M. Vasquez, Jr.

1993

Robert G. Hogg

Christine A. Krause

1995

Mary (Hetzel) Leaman

\* Janet (Muhich) Seymour (1982) was inadvertently listed as deceased in the Winter 2016 edition. We apologize for the database error.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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