

Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER 2021

MARIAN FAMILY CELEBRATES 2021 HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2021 was a huge success at Marian Catholic High School as the events on October 9 reunited our Marian family members just as we had hoped!

Our change in playing dates from Friday night to Saturday evening – to allow our alumni and friends to travel on the weekend instead of on a work day – proved to be a good move. We were more than happy that the end result was the largest attendance at a Colt game this year!

To those who joined us, thank you! You helped us forward one of our alumni association missions – reconnecting Marian Catholic graduates with the school. To say a tremendous amount of joy was felt by our administration, association, football team and coaches puts it mild – the event was certainly something on which we can build.

The day started with a Mass in the newly-renovated chapel. Our wonderful chaplain, the Rev. Brian Miller, addressed the work being done within the halls of Marian Catholic, stressing the important role Catholic education plays in the educational process of young boys and girls who, above all things, desire to be close to Mary, the Mother of God, our patroness. We wish hundreds of alumni could have heard Father's message, as he was perfect in his dissertation on how our Catholic education sets up apart from the alternatives.



Mr. Marian, Jack Malarkey, seldom misses an opportunity to see the Colts in action. With him is his wife Jane and alumni association members (left) Bill O'Gurek '73, and Jim Sauka '66.

Throughout the day, tours of the school, much of which has been beautifully renovated with special classrooms, a business center, the new John P. "Jack" Malarkey Gymnasium, and other improvements, were offered to our guests.

Athletic events went on as scheduled: alumni volleyball took place in the gymnasium; a reception at Basile's Italian restaurant not far from the school was highly-successful; a reception tent at the school greeted visitors to the Colts' game with Williams Valley; and the Homecoming festivities culminated with the crowning of seniors Grace Curnow and John Milosh as the Homecoming Queen and King for 2021.

The event was a great opportunity for Marian Catholic graduates and friends to share the wonders of Colt Country,

past and present. Reminiscing was at its best! Graduates greeted each other in longing fashion, some having not seen each other in years, and we came away from the event knowing how much our graduates care and just how much, as our new Head of School Michael Brennan often says, graduates want to "Be Marian."

We are looking forward to making the 2022 Homecoming even better and will look at the pros and cons of this year's event so as to build the event better. We welcome your input and suggestions at alumni@mariancatholicchs.org.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to having everyone join us in the future when we can continue to celebrate the great work being done within our classrooms, and athletic fields and courts at Marian Catholic!

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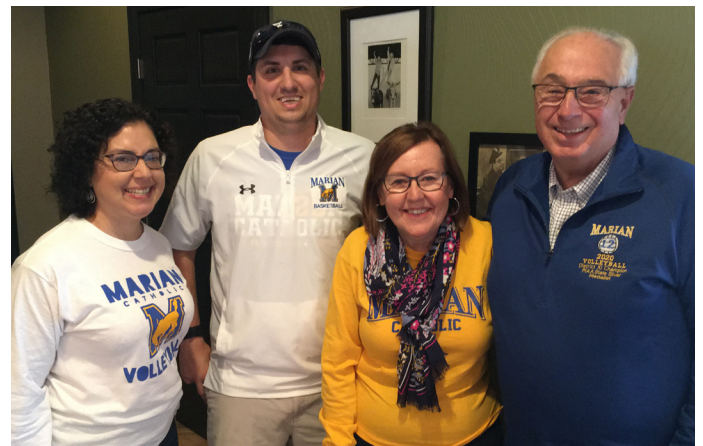
Colts Basketball Head Coach John Patton, Class of 1982, and his wife, Trish, our longtime business teacher, helped make the Homecoming a success.



Class of 1999 Fillies basketball stars, Erin Brady Miles and Diane Decker, reminisce about their playing days. The two All-Staters tallied 4,466 (Decker 2,377 & Bready 2089) points for the Fillies!



Discussing our Homecoming activities are (from left) Maria Slog McGinley '93, Marian Catholic Head of School Mike Brennan '06, and Jim Sauka '66.



Angela (Bielen) Meiss '91, Head of School Michael Brennan '06, Dave Bielen '69 and his wife, Mary Ann (Geusic) '70.



Fillies basketball stars of the past celebrate Homecoming – from left, Erin Brady, Class of 1999, Katie Linkchorst, Class of 2000, and Katie Kresge, Class of 2000.



Our new Head of School, Mike Brennan, Class of 2006, welcomes Kenny Lawson, middle, and Jon Garber, members of the Class of 1994.

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Tom Durilla, Class of 1965, and his wife, Leslye, were among our Homecoming volunteers and celebrants.



Members of the Class of 1985 from left, Sue Anceravige Morrison, Diane Decker, Theresa Bruno Scatton, Annette Novak, Mary Rose Michael, and back, Steve Baranko.



Annette Novak, Sue Anceravige and Theresa Scatton Bruno, members of the Class of 1985, share happy times at the Homecoming reception.



Members of the Class of 1994 – Shannon McAndrew Fannock, front, and back, from left, Maria Montero, Anita Garfield McArdle, Kenny Lawson, Jack Pieracini and Jon Garber.



Jack Pieracini, left, Class of 1994, and Steve Baranko, Class of 1985, recall their glory days in Colt Country.



Carlo Collevichio, left, Class of 1969, his wife, Patricia, and Tom and Marjorie (Pollock) Spokas, right, classes of 1969 and 1970, respectively, remember their Marian days at the reception.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Bill O'Gurek, Class of 1973

"You can never go home again," the familiar adage which dates back to a 1940 Thomas Wolfe novel in which he implied a person can never return to where he or she once lived because so much will have changed since they left that it is not the same place anymore, would never stand up in Colt Country.

It's a place where the late Bishop Joseph McShea, back on Aug. 23, 1964, upon dedication the brand new sparkling Marian High School in Hometown, proclaimed, "We don't intend to abandon one iota of Catholic education."

Fifty-seven years later, and 71 years since the birth of Wolfe's declamation, the truth actually is – you can definitely come back here! It's still the Marian we once knew, where another generation is afforded a the opportunity to develop spiritually, morally, academically and socially by integrating the teachings of Jesus Christ with a value-centered curriculum.

That's the overwhelming message we share with alumni in today's edition of our newsletter, because we are basking in the glory of great memories of Homecoming 2021, a successful



Grace Curnow and John Milosh
as the Homecoming Queen and King for 2021.

venture in which we appreciatively saw faces at Marian that we haven't seen in years.

The event speaks to the mission of the Marian Alumni Association, which we rejuvenated just a few years ago with the hope and aspiration of reuniting our graduates with each other and with Marian. For our part as alumni, we will continue to endeavor to make sure a Catholic education is available to every family that seeks it. As part of our agenda, we want to uphold Bishop McShea's edict – that we never abandon Catholic education.

That having been said, we officially defy Wolfe's thinking. Whereas his prophetic writings suggested then what we know today – that we live in an ever-changing world – we at Marian contend the opposite as it pertains to our legacy.

In fact, we believe, the great Marian High School we all once knew, is the same great Marian High School today. It's a place where those who preceded today's student population proudly proclaimed the significant role MHS played in their lives. And, it's the place the current generation celebrates the wonderful education afforded them, and takes advantage of that offering to prepare themselves for adulthood and, with it, meaningful lives in society.

(Bill O'Gurek, Class of '73, is chairman of the Marian Catholic High School Alumni Association.)



CLASS OF '69 HOLDS 70TH BIRTHDAY BASH

On Sept. 18, on a beautiful day at Lake Hauto, members of the Class of 1969 gathered for a 70th Birthday Bash.

Classmate Frank Kattner, a professional butcher, prepared a terrific pig and brisket roast with all of the fixings which was enjoyed by all. Other classmates brought snacks, water, pizza, blue and gold cupcakes and one even brought a special drink bar.

The pavilion at the lake was provided by a classmate who has a home in the development.

Class President Bill Stulginsky noted, "We have always had a special class whose members, for every event, truly enjoy being

together. The idea of a joint celebration of our 70th birthdays followed a very successful 50th reunion in 2019. We couldn't wait five years to be together again. We left Lake Hauto with a lot of interest of having another gathering next year."

The class has an active committee whose members are already working on a 2022 gathering.

Bill pointed out, "All of us are indebted to Phyllis (Desantis) Kennedy, who is the glue that holds our class together, and led the organization of our efforts for our bash."

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Part of our mission here at the Marian Alumni Association is to spread the "good word" among Marian graduates. We're interested in hearing from alumni and would like to share news about your families, careers, etc. with your classmates and friends. Of course, if we can help class members in their planning of reunions, etc., or if you just want to try to locate a classmate, send us an email at alumni@mariancatholic.org and we will be more than happy to help you reunite with the Marian family.

STAN JR. BRINGS HIS TEAM TO THE FIELD NAMED AFTER HIS DAD

In his 42-year career as head football coach at Marian Catholic High School, Stan Dakosty Sr. often and repeatedly preaches to his players, “Never forget where you came from.”

That message is part of the legendary coach’s philosophy that it is right here in Colt Country where students and athletes gain invaluable lessons that help shape their lives as adults.

The message undoubtedly is well-received by those with whom Dakosty has had an impact upon, as many of our alumni have repeatedly returned home, thankful for the days they spent here and expressing their appreciation of them in route to adulthood.

But it resonated best on Oct. 1 of this year when Dakosty’s own son, Stan Jr., brought his Colgate University Raiders to the place where his own football career originated – the Men of Marian Stadium.

In his first year at the helm of the Division 1-AA squad, Stan Jr., a 2001 MCHS graduate, obviously knows the place from where he came.

That he returned here with busloads of players, coaches and support staff on their trip from Hamilton, N.Y., to their game on Oct. 2 against Georgetown in Washington, D.C., was a stop that was impressive, to say the least.

Imagine: he played for his dad here, went on to Colgate on a football scholarship; returned there as an assistant coach; is now the head coach of a big-time football program; and he walks his team onto the field named after his father (Stan Dakosty Field at the Men of Marian Stadium)...

Nowhere else, we’d guess, would that happen than right here in Colt Country!

After his son’s team 55-minute walk-through on the Stan Dakosty Field turf, the elder Dakosty told Sammy Matta of the Times News, “Having a Division I team work out on our field, and to watch how well the practice was structured and the way they go about their business and so forth, I know our kids were really impressed by it, as was I.

“I’ve seen them practice before, but it was still really neat ... Our principal (Head of School Mike Brennan) and our AD (Peter Sanfilippo) made it work. It was a great day for a lot of people. They tried to limit the crowd, and the amount of people coming up, so it wasn’t too much. It was mainly the Marian community, and family and friends and that type of thing. But it was really great.

“And then they turned around and beat Georgetown (28-21) on Saturday, so that made it even better.”

The walk through left a lasting impression on those who were



able to witness it. “Our kids were all eyes and ears watching what was going on,” Dakosty Sr. told Matta. “The NCAA did not allow Stan to talk to them, or any of his players to talk to them, but they had a little cheer going on, and that kind of thing. But the kids really commented to different people, even in school, about how neat it was. Some of our teachers came out and watched it. Stan’s an alum, so it was his way of giving back to the school, and it was a real positive experience.”

The event certainly had to be a proud day for the Marian and Dakosty families, and emotions obviously were sky high. More than anything, it was a strong reminder that Stan Dakosty Jr. had heeded his father’s advice. Obviously, he has never forgotten where he came from.

(Stan Dakosty Jr. was named head football coach at Colgate in August. The 30th head coach in school history, he previously earned the associate head coach title in July 2017, after originally being named to the Red Raider coaching staff back in 2007.)

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

James Baran, 63, of Hazleton, passed away on Oct. 20, 2021. He was a 1976 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Adolph Paul Bomba, 86, Saco, ME, passed away on Aug. 2, 2021. He was a 1952 graduate of St. Ann's High School, Lansford.

Eugene Boyle, 75, of Simpsonville, SC, passed away on Aug. 28, 2021. He was a 1964 graduate of Marian High Catholic School.

Rozanne Theresa Brozyno, 80, of Tamaqua, passed away on Aug. 3, 2021. She attended Marian Catholic High School.

Mrs. Joyce A. Chulock, 53, of Drums, passed away on Aug. 21, 2021. She was the wife of Greg Chulock. She was a 1985 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Edward S. Ciglar Jr., 59, of McAdoo, passed away on Oct. 18, 2021. He was a 1980 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Patrick Coleman, 74, of Summit Hill, passed away on Sept. 11, 2021. He was the husband of Micheline (Perilli) Coleman. He was a 1964 graduate of Marian High Catholic School.

Mrs. Kathleen Marie Kruczek, 75, of Lake Hauto, passed away on Aug. 21, 2021, in her home. She was the wife of Walter E. Kruczek. She was a 1964 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

Robert J. Miller Sr., 77, of Weatherly, formerly of Tamaqua, passed away on Sept. 5, 2021. He was the husband of the late Bernita Miller. He was a 1962 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

James F. Murphy, 93, of Tamaqua, died on Aug. 28, 2021. He was a graduate of St. Jerome High School, Tamaqua.

E. Anthony "Ando" Perilli, 77, of Tamaqua, died on Oct. 2, 2021. He was the husband of Joanne (Soley) Perilli. He was a 1962 graduate of Marian High School.

John M. Piosa Jr., 74, of East Hempfield Township, passed away on Aug. 3, 2021. He was the husband of the late Donna Jean (Burger) Piosa. He was a 1965 graduate of Marian Catholic 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.mariancatholichs.org and click on "Alumni" and "Join" to become a member today!

