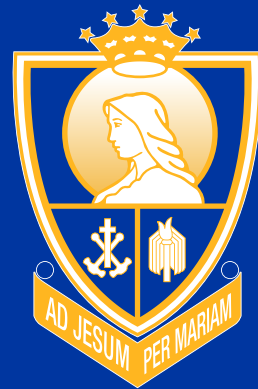


# Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**AUGUST 2022**

## 2022-2023 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OPENS

We are officially kicking off our Marian Catholic High School Alumni Association 2022-2023 school year membership campaign! This is a great opportunity for alumni to help us help Marian Catholic.

Our mission remains the same – to promote Marian Catholic and its students, and to reconnect our graduates with their alma mater. By working together, we will make sure Marian Catholic continues to be a viable educational option for students and their parents for years to come.

The membership campaign starts in the fall and runs consistent with the school year. If you have not yet joined us, please consider doing so!

Last year, we had over 300 graduates join the association, resulting in \$10,580 raised for the school. As we approach the new school year, our wish is that we can do better and grow the organization to play a significant role in the promotion of Catholic education in the region.

Joining the association – for a nominal membership fee of \$10 per year – is just one way in which alumni can express their pride in the education they received at Marian Catholic. In an era when Catholic schools are facing challenges that have prompted many to close their doors, our alumni strive to be there for the next generation for years to come.

If each of us can do just a little, together we can do great things for our alma mater!

All of the revenue that is generated through the association is used for financial assistance in an effort to boost enrollment at MCHS. We encourage everyone to relay to parents considering their son's or daughter's high school education to "let us show you how a Marian Catholic education is affordable."

Currently, we have 52 class representatives from 37 classes who have graciously volunteered to assist us with locating their class members. After all, we believe they know better than anyone else where their classmates are.

One of the goals this year is to secure as many email addresses of graduates as possible. That way, we can continue to stay in touch with them primarily through our regular newsletters.

If you have not provided us your email contact, or those of classmates and other alumni with whom you know, please reach out to our Advancement director, Kristine Evina, at [kevina@mariancatholichs.org](mailto:kevina@mariancatholichs.org).

We hope you will also encourage other classmates to update their contact information by going to [www.mariancatholichs.org/alumni](http://www.mariancatholichs.org/alumni).



## CIRCLE OCTOBER 8 ON YOUR CALENDAR

Marian Catholic alumni and friends are invited to celebrate our Homecoming on October 8. We've changed our game to Saturday to accommodate alumni who have to travel distances to get to Hometown.

A number of festivities are being planned, but you won't want to miss the opportunity to see the 2022 Colts play on the Stan Dakosty Field at the Men of Marian Stadium and to reunite with graduates and friends of our Alma Mater.

*Watch for additional details in our September newsletter.*

## YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE: '72 GRAD IS WORLD LEADER IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

In our continuing series of “You Can Get There From Here,” designed to proudly show how alumni have gone from a Marian Catholic education to wherever their hearts desire in their successful professional careers, this month we feature the outstanding career of 1972 graduate, Dr. Joseph Sodroski.

A native of Summit Hill, and son of the late Walter and Catherine (Talocci) Sodroski, he is a professor of microbiology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School.

In an interview, Joe explains how his journey began at Marian Catholic.

He said, “With woods, lakes and night sky all around, growing up in Summit Hill taught me to love nature. My parents, like many whose early years were touched by the Great Depression and World War II, impressed upon me and my two brothers the importance of hard work and service to others, by example.”

“My Catholic education, including Marian Catholic High School, built on this foundation, coupling high academic standards with a clear message to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of humanity. These values and my curiosity about the complexities of living things drew me to medicine.”

Dr. Sodroski said his medical training “instilled in me a lifelong appreciation of understanding how a disease works that can eventually lead to treatments and preventions.” He added, “Medical research provides a wonderful opportunity for scientists at all stages of their career to change the world in a

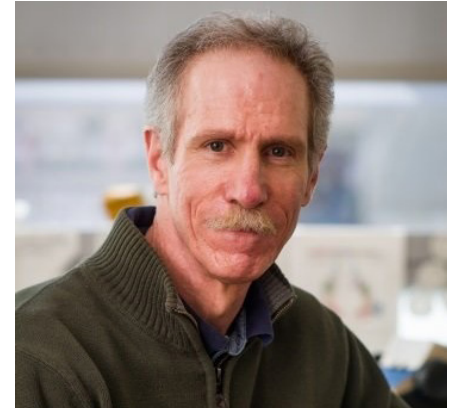
positive way.”

At Harvard, Joe’s research has been focused on viruses that cause disease in humans: human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and, more recently, SARS-CoV-2. He noted, “I’ve studied how these viruses replicate and spread in humans and how they cause disease (leukemia, AIDS, COVID-19). An understanding of HIV replication has led to the development of combinations of antiviral drugs that have given people with HIV much longer and healthier lives.

Over the years, I’ve been particularly interested in the envelope (spike) proteins on the outer surface of HIV and SARS-CoV-2. These envelope (spike) proteins help the viruses enter human cells and are important targets for drugs that block virus entry and for antibodies elicited by vaccines.”

Joe points out, “Although we do not yet have a vaccine for HIV, the long search for has resulted in many novel approaches that were rapidly and successfully applied to SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19 vaccines. As viruses constantly evolve, continued research is needed to deal with new strains of viruses that will likely emerge in the future.”

“Finally, viruses are not all bad. Although in their natural form, viruses can be deadly, we’ve learned how to engineer viruses like HIV into tools that can safely deliver useful genes to people. For example, HIV/lentivirus vectors are being used to treat people with genetic



diseases and cancer.”

Dr. Sodroski said that he has had the good fortune to have many excellent teachers and colleagues throughout his career. He states, “In turn, by teaching in the classroom and in the laboratory, I have had the privilege of guiding the research of many bright and dedicated young scientists and doctors.»

These graduate/medical students and postdoctoral fellows come from all over the world to learn about viral illnesses and other diseases; they are the foundation for a future healthier world.”

The ‘72 graduate closed, “I’ve been blessed with a loving and supportive family: my wife Alice Noble, our four children and six grandchildren.»

Joe is one of three Sodroski siblings. His brother Tony, a 1973 graduate of Panther Valley High School, is a lawyer in Philadelphia. Their late brother Tom, who graduated from Marian Catholic in 1976, also left his mark on society as an astrophysicist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

### KEEP US INFORMED

**Provide us your updated information.** The success of our association is dependent upon membership and communications. We’d like to hear from you. An “Alumni – update your information” prompt is available on the alumni page of the school’s website.

**STAN DAKOSTY**

**DXI HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022**

**DINNER RECEPTION AT 6PM ★ MARIAN CATHOLIC GYM**

*Join us!*

## TRIBUTE TO HALL OF FAME COACH DAKOSTY IS AUGUST 20

As we reported in our June issue of the alumni newsletter, Marian Catholic’s legendary football coach, Stan Dakosty, will be the guest of honor at a dinner – planned by former football players – on Saturday, August 20.

That morning, Dakosty’s Colts will entertain Holy Redeemer of Wilkes-Barre in their pre-season scrimmage. Following the game, Dakosty will be honored in the Jack Malarkey Gymnasium in recognition for his induction into the District 11 Hall of Fame that took place earlier this year.

Now in his 43rd season at the helm of the Colts, Dakosty is the winningest coach in District 11 history with a record of 310-152-3, seven D-11 titles, six conference crowns, and a state championship in 1990.

The dinner is set to serve as a launching pad for an organization that will include Marian Catholic football alumni family and friends designed to benefit the Marian Quarterback Club and football program.

Former Colts Dan LaBert and Jack Pieracini are spearheading the dinner and club organization. We welcome participation from former statisticians, managers, cheerleaders and band members. “The whole idea is focused on Marian Catholic football...return to bigger things, bigger gatherings,” LaBert said. They can be reached at [dclabert@gmail.com](mailto:dclabert@gmail.com) and [jackpieracini@gmail.com](mailto:jackpieracini@gmail.com), respectively.

## A.J. SERINA, CLASS OF 1991, IS NEW MDJ IN SCHUYLKILL

A.J. Serina, alumni of the Marian Catholic Class of 1991 and the Colts’ 1990 state championship football team, is the newest magisterial district judge in Schuylkill County.

The Pennsylvania Senate on July 8 unanimously confirmed Serina, 49, of West Penn Township, to the Orwigsburg office previously held by James R. Ferrier, who retired.

Serina’s confirmation will now go to Gov. Tom Wolf for commission, and then he will be sworn in by Schuylkill County President Judge Jacqueline L. Russell.

District judges serve six-year terms. They don’t run in retention elections, but in contested races may be elected to new terms.



Serina – “AJ” to those who know him – resigned on June 17 from his position as assistant district attorney.

He comes to the district judge office with decades of courtroom experience. He worked for the Schuylkill County district attorney’s office from 2002 to 2012, then from 2016 through 2022.

In the DA’s office, he worked for current District Attorney Michael A. O’Pake since 2018. O’Pake is also a MCHS graduate.

## THE TRADITION CONTINUES

This year's graduation ceremony marked the continuation of a tradition for the Soberick family of Lansford.

Anthony J. Soberick, Class of 2022, is the grandson of Rosemary (Cannon) Soberick, the salutatorian of the Class of 1957. Ironically, she is spearheading the 65-year reunion of her class. To have a grandson follow her footsteps 65 years after she graduated, Rosemary writes: "How great is that?!"

Anthony's graduation marked yet another notch in the Soberick family's Catholic education legacy. His father, Kevin J. Soberick, a member of the Class of 1985, and his uncle Jack Soberick, graduated in 1981.

Jack recently retired as the chief of police in Lansford Borough, following a 37-year career as a police officer. He currently is an assistant detective in the Carbon County District Attorney's office.

Police work runs deep in the family, as Kevin is currently serving as the chief of police of the Salisbury Township Police Department.

Congratulations to all of the Sobericks!

## CLASS OF '80 TO REUNITE

Members of the Marian Catholic Class of 1980 postponed their 40-year reunion in 2020 because of the pandemic, but have put plans in motion to reunite and celebrate their educations this fall.

The reunion is rescheduled for Saturday, October 15, at the Top of the 80s, Hazleton, from 4-9pm. Lodging accommodations are available at the nearby Hampton Inn (570-454-3449). The reunion committee members include Mary M. (McFadden) Sexton, Mike Bolinsky, Cathie Serena, Joe Boyle, Nancy Patton, Janet Moisey, Grace Smith, Jeanine Faust and Fran Arnold.

## CLASS OF '57 PLANS 65-YEAR OBSERVANCE

The Marian Catholic Class of 1957 is making plans for the 65-year anniversary of their graduation which was held in the Angela Theater in Coaldale.

Initial plans, formulated at a meeting last year, are for a dinner to be held at the Tamaqua Train Station in the middle of October 2022. This class has held a reunion every five years since graduation; and for many years also held a yearly picnic.

Letters have sent with this information. If someone has been missed, please contact Rose Mary at [cannonrm@ptd.net](mailto:cannonrm@ptd.net).

## IN MEMORIAM...

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

**Dean N. Anderson:** 88, Tamaqua, passed away on June 17, 2022. He and his wife, Mary (Pasho) Anderson, are the parents of four daughters, all Marian Catholic graduates.

**Michael E. Breslin:** 66, Marlin, formerly of Mahanoy City, passed away on May 27. He was a 1973 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

**Mrs. Carolyn D. Evans:** 77, Nesquehoning, passed away on July 5. She was a 1964 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

**Mrs. Grace Polak:** 84, Lancaster, passed away on July 24. She was the valedictorian of the Marian Catholic High School Class of 1956.

**Mrs. Gladys Anna Sakusky:** 91, Tamaqua, passed away on July 17. She and her late husband are the parents of a son and daughter who graduated from Marian Catholic.

**John C. R. Tacelosky:** 72, Frackville, passed away on June 28. He was a 1968 graduate of Marian Catholic High School.

## BE A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Because classmates keep in touch with each other, they can help us update our records. Class Reps connect their Marian Catholic classmates and alumni by informing them about what is going on at the school and within the Alumni Association. Class Reps engage alumni through events and reunions. For more info about the Alumni Association and how you can help, contact Bill O'Gurek, Class of '73 and association president at [alumni@mariancatholic.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholic.org).

## **SON OF MARIAN HALL OF FAME MEMBER GRADUATES WITH HONORS**

The son of a former Tamaqua resident who graduated from Marian Catholic, and his wife, recently earned a bachelor's degree in international economics and finance, with a minor in accounting, as a dean's list student at Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

David Angelo, son of David and Lynda Angelo of West Chester, and grandson of John and Jean Angelo of Tamaqua, was also named the recipient of the Martin Dowd Role Model Award winner, one of six major awards given at Catholic University during its athletic department's senior awards ceremony.

The award is given to a male student-athlete who exudes graciousness in victory, humility in defeat and rallies their peers to consistently compete at a high level in athletics and beyond.

His father, who graduated from Marian Catholic in 1983, is an inductee in the Marian Catholic Sports Hall of Fame. He went on to play football for the CU Cardinals where his mother ran cross country.

David was a four-year member of the Catholic basketball team and captained the squad as a senior. He was also named to the 2021 Landmark Conference Winter All-Sportsmanship Team.

A three-time conference Academic Honor Roll selection (20 and 21), he was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honor Court in 2021.

Off the court, David was a member of the Catholic University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and served as Co-President while serving as a student leader for Special Olympics and Brookland Field Day. He also volunteered for the Mother Theresa Day of Service, Spring to CUA and Halloween on Campus.

"David immersed himself in our Catholic community from the moment he stepped on campus," said head coach Aaron Kelly. "Most notably, he served as Co-President of SAAC for the past two years and has worked tirelessly to improve our athletic community and the Brookland community as well. On the court, David was tough, hard-working, competitive, but also compassionate. He would quietly take the younger players under his wing and mentor them through difficult situations, never drew attention to himself, never complained and held himself and his teammates accountable."

He graduated from Bishop Shanahan High School, where he played basketball and baseball and was a National Honor Society member.

Following the conclusion of the awards, Sullivan invited Angelo to give the student-athlete remarks. "It is truly remarkable what all of us athletes have been able to accomplish over these past four years," said Angelo. "I am extremely proud to be a member of this graduating class. As I look around this room, it is



remarkable to see how we have all impacted each other's lives for the better. It's amazing when you can look at your teammates and not only see them as you're on the field support but when they push and encourage you to become a better student and overall person, that's when you know it's something special. And that's what it means to be an athlete here."

David's sister, Kailyn, had a decorated career at Scranton University where she played on and captained the women's lacrosse team and holds Draw Control records for the school and the Landmark Conference. She holds a doctorate degree in physical therapy.

## **LET US HEAR FROM YOU**

We're interested in hearing from alumni and would like to share news about your families, careers, etc. with your classmates and friends. Whether you are planning a reunions or just want to locate a classmate, send us an email at [alumni@mariancatholic.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholic.org) and we will be more than happy to help you reunite with the Marian Catholic family.

## 2022 GRIDIRON SCHEDULE

- August 8 - Week of heat acclimation begins
- August 20 – home scrimmage vs. Holy Redeemer
- August 26 – at Schuylkill Haven
- September 2 – at Minersville
- September 9 – Catasauqua
- September 16 – Sayre
- September 23 – Nativity
- September 30 – at Mahanoy Area
- October 8 – Shenandoah Valley (Homecoming)
- October 14 – at Williams Valley
- October 21 – Tri-Valley
- October 28 – at Pine Grove

## HELP US LOCATE YOUR CLASSMATES

Marian Catholic High School graduates can help us grow the association by volunteering to be a class representative. Because class members know their classmates better than anyone, and a lot have continued to keep in touch with each other, the alumni association seeks class representatives to help us grow the association. The role of a class representative is to help connect their classmates with the school by informing them about what is going on currently at the school and within the association and engaging them through events and reunions. For more information on the association and how you can help your Alma Mater, contact Alumni chairman Bill O’Gurek, Class of ’73, at [alumni@mariancatholic.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholic.org).

## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US

Let us hear from you! We’re interested in hearing from alumni and would like to share news about your families, careers, etc. with your classmates and friends. Whether you are planning a reunion or just want to locate a classmate, send us an email to [alumni@mariancatholic.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholic.org) and we will be more than happy to help you reunite with the Marian Catholic family.

