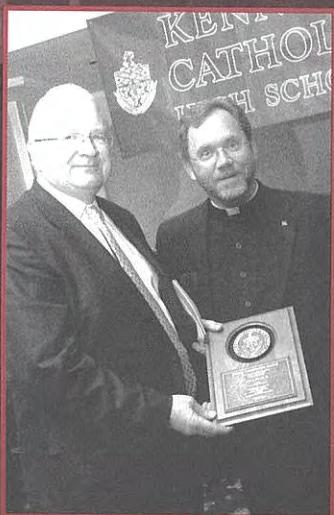


THE GAE

A Newsletter for St. Mary's/Kennedy Catholic Alumni & PARENTS

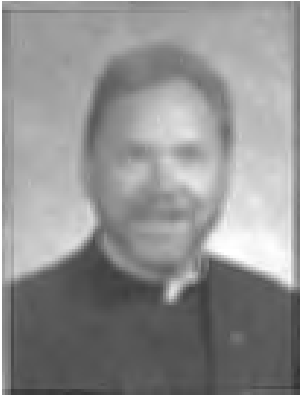
CELEBRATING OUR PAST - BUILDING OUR FUTURE - TOGETHER

Vol.6/Summer 2007



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A FAMILY AFFAIR -- With mother Ann McGrath (center) looking on and surrounded by family and friends, Donald '67, Thomas '72, Kevin '75 and Brian McGrath '76 were inducted into the Kennedy Catholic Hall of Fame on April 26. At left, Father Norton presents John Gould '62 with the inaugural Divine Compassion Medal. See the full story on Page 4. *Photos by Jacob Bergmeier*



To the entire Kennedy Catholic Family,

It is with great pride and joy that I end my fourth year as president of this great school. Though proud of all of our students, I have a special connection with the Class of 2007. We came here together in the fall of 2003, and now they are joining the ranks of our distinguished St. Mary's and Kennedy Catholic alumni. I am confident they will continue to make us proud as they enter some of the finest colleges and universities in the nation. May they always carry with them the courage and compassion of Jesus Christ as taught by their alma mater.

Over the next few months we will continue to build a strong future for Kennedy Catholic. A new security system is being installed, and three new flags now fly proudly at our entranceway thanks to a generous gift from the Class of 2007. At the base of the new United States, New York State and Papal poles are the names of our newest alumni and a light to shine upon them so they will be visible each day of the year.

Construction on the Science labs will be finished and ready for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September. State-of-the-art equipment such as SMART Boards are among the many enhancements being made so our students can become the leaders of tomorrow. Such significant renovation has been made possible by Mrs. Jean Moczarski, mother of Jill '07, who served as a liaison with the state in applying for a grant from the Empire State Development Co.

Certainly we will miss our graduates, but we are also looking forward to another large contingent of incoming freshmen. The Class of 2011 will have more than 180 students and therefore, we must create new locker spaces this summer to accommodate our increased enrollment. With 700 students expected this coming September, we have also committed ourselves to having the best-prepared faculty possible by placing a laptop computer in every teacher's hands, expanding their ability as educators and keeping our school on the cutting edge of academia.

Needless to say, all of these advancements are directly related to the outstanding efforts of our Advancement Office. We have solid and hardworking men in Vice President for Advancement Anthony Casella and new Director of Alumni and Public Relations Alex Malecki, and we anticipate adding another member to the team by September. We have also engaged the services of Graham-Pelton Consulting and look forward to continuing our relationship with President Craig Leach, Vice President William McLean and their team. They have been a valuable asset in helping us to identify you, our alumni, as well as making important connections for the building and strengthening of the school, paving the way for a positive and strong future.

Among the presidential privileges is getting to meet our alumni. Recently, two members of the Class of 1994, Brendan Beyrer and Mike Duffy, came to see me, inviting me to a yearly softball game in Yorktown played in memory of one of their classmates, Doug Marks, to help raise money for a scholarship awarded each year at graduation. I also had the pleasure of meeting Doug's family and other alumni. Doug's mother and grandparents made me feel particularly welcome at this wonderful gathering of Kennedy Catholic alumni, and I look forward to next year's game, which I hope can be played on our newly renovated softball diamond.

I also had a great evening at our annual President's Dinner, meeting many alumni as we honored John Gould '62 with the first annual Divine Compassion Medal and inducted Brian '76, Kevin '75, Tom '72 and Donald McGrath '67 into the Hall of Fame. Certainly one of the highlights of the evening was that the matriarch of the family, Mrs. Anne McGrath, was able to celebrate with her sons. Not only did Mrs. McGrath send her children to be educated by the Sisters, but over the years, she has been extremely active and involved in countless school activities.

I hope that you will get the chance to stop by soon and witness for yourself the wonderful things going on at your school. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of Kennedy Catholic. May God bless you with every good gift, now and always.

Sincerely In Christ,

Fr. Stephen P. Norton

Fr. Stephen P. Norton
President

'Oh The Thinks You Can Think'

'Seussical' scores 4 Helen Hayes nominations

Here's one for all you thinkers out there: what do a choreographer, crew chief, sour kangaroo and one-feather tail bird have in common? Well, they were all at the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill on June 11 as each was up for a Helen Hayes Youth Theatre Award.

For the second straight year, choreographer Deborah Spahr-Puja earned a Helen Hayes nomination for her work on Kennedy Catholic's spring musical. This year, Spahr-Puja doubled as the show's director and helped bring author Theodor Seuss Geisel's timeless characters to life in the Kennedy Catholic Players' production of "Seussical the Musical." Spahr-Puja was nominated for last year's spring musical, 42nd Street, and has received a dual nomination this year based on her choreography for Rye Neck High School's "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

"There are so many life lessons taught in this show, lessons we began learning as children," an honored Spahr-Puja noted. "With all the turmoil happening in the world today, perhaps we as a human race should be listening more closely to Seuss' message when he tells us that anything is possible, because sometimes it is the one small voice in the universe that can make the biggest difference in our lives."

And speaking of voices, though they are far from small, juniors Nicole Bauso and Tricia Giordano garnered Outstanding

Vocal Performance nominations for their portrayals of the Sour Kangaroo and Gertrude McFuzz, respectively. With a sassy, soulful voice and orange-clad stuffed "baby" kangaroo, Bauso proved that the judges weren't the "biggest blame fools in the Jungle of Nool" for giving her the nod. And with a voice fuller than she could ever wish her one-feather tail to be, Giordano's Gertrude McFuzz certainly made judges sit up and take notice as she implored the show's faithful elephant to do the same.

Giordano joins Spahr-Puja in earning her second nomination in as many years. Last year, the Putnam Valley native was up for the Outstanding Solo Vocal Performance Helen for her lead role as Peggy Sawyer in "42nd Street".

And behind every successful performance are the men and women in black—stage crew. This year's was headed by sen-

ior Dan Dwyer, whose leadership and direction as crew chief earned him a nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Technical Production.

But as one of the participants in this year's awards noted, "It's great when audiences can jump to their feet in appreciation of high-quality theater." Indeed it is, and Kennedy Catholic enjoyed quite a lot of that this spring as "Seussical" drew more than 2,000 people over the course of two weekends and grossed more than \$27,000 in the process. It was the first sold out show in recent memory, and a sign of good things to come for the Kennedy Catholic Players.

And while the cast and crew of "Seussical" bask in the glow of this year's nominations, next year's seniors are already gearing up for "Smokey Joe's Cafe" in the fall. An all-senior show, Smokey Joe's goes up the weekend of Oct. 26-28 with two 7 p.m. performances and one 2 p.m. matinee.

Now who'd have thunk that?

SPECIAL THANKS

The Kennedy Catholic Players would like to express its gratitude to the following parents who, on a 'Hunch,' gave of their time to take care of the show's 'Who's Whos':

Joe & Vikki DiFrisco
Christine Cecere
Maribeth Fay
Donna Bauso

Joanne Visovsky
Gigi & Peter Lisella
Barbara & Rick Risco
Katherine Davidoff
Marianne Oros

Marian Heinzinger
Leslie Mertens
Maureen & John Decker
Patty Kiernan

A special thank you on behalf of the Players goes out to the cat lady—Cat in the Hat that is—Anne Ring, mother of junior thespian Ellen Ring, for spearheading publicity for "Seussical."



AND THE HELEN GOES TO...TRICIA GIORDANO '08

They liked her; they really liked her.

Up for a Helen Hayes Youth Theatre Award for the second straight year, junior Tricia Giordano took home the hardware on June 11 at the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill, N.Y. Playing the role of Gertrude McFuzz in the Kennedy Catholic Players' spring production of "Seussical the Musical," Giordano and her character's one-feather tail won the Helen for Outstanding Vocal Performance.

Giordano's Helen was the first in Kennedy Catholic's theatrical history, with many more undoubtedly to come. Director Deborah Spahr-Puja also won a Helen for her choreography on Rye Neck's "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

Junior Tricia Giordano celebrates her Helen Hayes Award with mother Kathleen '81 outside the Paramount in Peekskill on June 11. *Photo by Anthony Casella*

A Family Affair

*McGrath Brothers enter Hall of Fame
Gould '62 receives inaugural Divine Compassion Medal*

More than 215 alumni, parents, students and supporters packed Sinapi's Ceola Manor in Jefferson Valley on April 26 for the 2007 Kennedy Catholic President's Dinner . . . almost as many as the last McGrath Family Reunion.

Indeed, on an evening when Donald '67, Thomas '72, Kevin '75 and Brian '76 McGrath were inducted into the Hall of Fame, the room appeared more like Kevin's Dutchess County farm for a family gathering given the number of relatives and friends in attendance. Of course, in honoring four self-proclaimed "Kennedy guys," one learns quickly that friends and family are a common denominator between the brothers.

Despite the decade that separates the eldest, Donald, from the youngest, Brian, the siblings have come to share mutual friends. From gatherings at "Mac's" at the corner of Routes 35 and 100, to the annual summer softball game that is now 35 years strong with involvement in the hundreds, the McGraths know well the value of family and friendship. The fact that some of their closest friendships were first formed at Kennedy is a testament to those values.

And being that a man has no better friend than his wife, three of the brothers also married Kennedy graduates—Tom and Eileen '72, Kevin and Terri '76, and Brian and Karly '76. Through the years,

these alumni couples have put future generations of the McGrath Family through Kennedy Catholic, which is why it was also fitting to have the matriarch of the family, Ann McGrath, on hand for the celebration.

And so with emcee and McGrath family friend Tom Conklin doing the honors, Don, Tom, Kevin and Brian were inducted into the Kennedy Catholic Hall of Fame—"Kennedy Guys" forever immortalized.

GOING FOR THE GOULD

Along with the evening's Hall of Fame ceremony, Kennedy Catholic also had a special moment in store for the Class of 1962's John E. Gould. In recognition of his "commitment to living the ideals of courage and compassion as taught by the Sisters of the Divine Compassion," as his plaque read, Gould was awarded the first-ever Divine Compassion Medal.

A graduate of the original St. Mary's School in Katonah, Gould accepted the medal jointly with his loving wife Bonnie, also of the Class of '62. Between the two, they were taught by 14 Sisters from 1949 until their graduation.

In his remarks, Gould noted the importance of the education he received during that time. Indeed the man, a founder of the school's Blue & White Fund



Hall of Fame inductees Kevin, Donald, Brian and Thomas McGrath. Photos by Jacob Bergmeier

and a 2006 New York City "Super Lawyer," is a testament to what a Catholic education can do for a young man from Purdys.

SUPER SENIORS

Kennedy Catholic also honored its soon-to-be-alumni at the 2007 President's Dinner by presenting 10 seniors with Certificates of Excellence for their "contributions to the greater school community throughout their years at Kennedy Catholic." This year's winners were Kathryn Chany, Kerry Coughlin, James Daviu, Veronica Decker, LynnMarie Lisella, Siobhan McAvoy, Taraneh Naghizadeh, SeWoong Park, Anthony Santora and William Wilson (who arrived just in time to announce that the boys varsity lacrosse team had been victorious that evening).

Congratulations to all the night's honorees, and a special thank you to the committee and all the alumni and benefactors who made it possible. It was truly a celebration of Kennedy Catholic's past, and a glimpse of the future we can build together.



Former coach, dean and teacher, not to mention an alumni parent and last year's inductee, Tom Conklin does the honors as emcee.



Ten seniors were awarded Certificates of Excellence for their outstanding contributions to the greater Kennedy Catholic Community.

GROUND STROKES

Inaugural boys' varsity tennis team impresses under alumnus coach

Back in 1995, Frank Zappoli tried to get a tennis team together for his senior year at Kennedy Catholic. Twelve years later, his wish finally came true.

While even a co-ed team was difficult to come by in the mid-90s, the new millennium has brought considerably more interest. And so while the girls' varsity tennis team wrapped up its third league title with an undefeated season this past fall, the boys also did something unprecedented this spring—put together a team.

Of course, to say “put together a team” belies just how well this collection of 11 guys played and possibilities the future holds for boys' tennis. The Gaels finished 2-8, with all of its losses coming by a single point.

“Nobody blew us away,” Zappoli said. “They were all close.”

Getting its start as an 11-man club last year behind the efforts of junior captain Matt DiFrisco and junior Matt Gumb, this first-year team easily could have finished with a .500 record had a few bounces gone its way. Zappoli chalks it up to some early season jitters and inexperience, as most of the boys on his team had never played competitive tennis.

All the same, Zappoli said he saw huge improvement from last year, as well

as growth within the season. A competitive player himself, the coach firmly believes the team is one player away from competing for a title.

Even from a novice's perspective, Zappoli isn't that far off. Two of his top three singles players—Zach Stearns and Matt Burke, Nos. 1 and 2, respectively—finished with winning records and his third, Gumb, finished at an even .500. Additionally, latecomer Tyler Rooney, a junior who joined the team midway through the season, showed great promise, according to Zappoli. In doubles play, the tandem of Burke and Mike Omboni made it to the semifinals of the league tournament, while Stearns also made it to the semis in singles before losing to the No. 2 player in the conference.

The real story behind the 2007 boys' tennis season, however, can be summed up in two words: attitude and commitment. Zappoli said he didn't expect the team to gel like it did, working with one another all season long to get better.

“They all get along; it's great,” the coach said, adding that the players have been hounding him about practicing over the summer. “I can't even say no, I'm so impressed with this team.”



No. 2 singles Matt Burke fights off a serve during a match against Walter Panas.
Photo by Anthony Casella

CLASS OF KENNEDY TENNIS

Most telling is that the boys aspire to what their female counterparts already have—to be the class of Kennedy tennis. Yet even the league champs have been impressed with what the boys did this year. Some varsity players such as Lindsay Burke even spent some time working with the boys to improve their skills.

As coach of the girls' junior varsity tennis team, as well, Zappoli knows the Lady Gaels will remain strong for a long time. Led by sophomores Samantha Conner (who went undefeated in singles play), Teresa Iacovino, Lauren Morales and Chelsey Alfredo, his 2007 JV squad finished 5-0 and its closest march was 6-1.

“They were destroying the other teams,” the coach said. And while his varsity boys' team is not quite as advanced yet, Zappoli knows it can attain greatness if the boys keep working hard.

“Nobody was bigger than the team,” Zappoli said. And next year, that team is going to be a whole lot better.



ALL GOOD GIFTS – Thanks to the Class of the 2007, the American, New York State and Papal flags now fly proudly over Kennedy Catholic's 64 acres. Made possible by the Senior Gift Drive Committee, headed by James Davin '07, the flagpoles are situated directly behind the school's entrance sign—a gift of the Class of 2005—and have the names of this year's seniors encircling them in brick. *Photo by Jodee Novak*



GOLDEN MEMORIES

*Senior creates
memorial garden
for longtime St.
Augustine
Secretary*

Roberta Galassi was a fixture at St. Augustine School in Ossining for more than 22 years. Beloved by many, the longtime school secretary died in October 2005, having touched a number of young lives over the past two decades. One young life, that belonging to Victoria Lakis, decided to touch back.

No stranger to community service, Lakis has been a Girl Scout since she was in kindergarten. In going for her Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest honor, Lakis wanted to pay special tribute to someone about whom she said, "we were just close."

After more than 70 hours of organizing volunteers, getting estimates, selecting plants and choosing a location, Lakis and Troop 2035 of Ossining created the Roberta Galassi Memorial Garden on the grounds of the parish school. Replete with colorful flowers and a bench, the garden is a great way for St. Augustine students past and present to remember their favorite school secretary.

"I just wanted to do it as a way to remember her," Lakis said at the Senior Barbecue on May 31.

Along the way, the senior said she learned valuable organizational and professional skills: from setting her Gold Award goal and facilitating the project, to the raising and allocation of funds, Lakis said she feels that much more prepared for college and beyond.

"It's exciting," she remarked. "I didn't realize how much of a big deal it was

until I got it."

Lakis "got" her Gold Award this past Christmas season; a nice gift in return for the one she gave St. Augustine's and the memory of Galassi. In doing so, she joins the proud 2 percent of all Girl Scouts who go on to earn their Gold Awards.

Lakis graduated with the Class of 2007 on June 3. She will attend Quinnipiac University in the fall, where she will join her favorite school secretary in solidarity by studying elementary education.



The Roberta Galassi Memorial Garden at St. Augustine's in Ossining, as created by Kennedy Catholic's own Victoria Lakis. Photo courtesy of the Lakis Family

SCOUTING FOR SCOUTS

The Gael is looking to hear from all St. Mary's and Kennedy Catholic alumni who have attained Scouting's highest honor with either an Eagle or Gold Award. Please e-mail your stories to alumni@kennedycatholic.org.

KCHS TO DEBUT ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Kennedy Catholic High School has many great traditions, and the Athletics Department is planning to start another one this fall.

Over the past several decades, Kennedy Catholic students have excelled in a number of areas: athletics, drama and art, as well as academics. All are part of the Kennedy Catholic experience. This year we are proud to announce the start of a new tradition—the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Athletics play a huge role at Kennedy Catholic. Our kids spend countless hours perfecting their craft, striving to be the best student-athletes possible. Over the years, Kennedy Catholic has seen thousands of athletes grace its halls. Some were and continue to be willing to go the extra mile to achieve the very best. It is these athletes we are going to honor.

The KCHS Athletic Hall of Fame takes the best of the best. Many athletes

have walked through our doors and dreamed of being great. Only a few were willing to make the sacrifices it takes. Their greatness has been remembered, and now it will be honored.

The KCHS Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will take place in late September. For more information, please contact Athletic Director Tom Povall at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 117 or e-mail rpovall@kennedycatholic.org.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS: *Uniform Update*

The 2006-07 academic year was again marred by the inability of a number of students to follow Kennedy Catholic's uniform policy. As such, the policy is being altered for the second straight year in a further attempt to bring about circumspsect compliance.

Therefore, beginning in September, all female students must wear either

khaki-colored skirts or skorts to school each day. Khaki slacks of any kind will no longer be accepted for girls. Also, all freshmen must wear the approved blue polo shirt with the Kennedy Catholic seal over the left breast. Sophomore, junior and senior students will continue to have a choice of either the blue or white JFK polo shirt.

These uniform items are currently available through Scholastic Specialties. Orders can be placed over the phone by calling (800) 955-3466.

Please direct any questions regarding the uniform policy to Father Stephen Norton, president, at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 102.

Amnesty International raises more than \$1,200 for Darfur victims

Eighteenth century philosopher Edmund Burke once wrote that "The only thing necessary for evil to exist is for good men to do nothing." Good thing the people of Darfur, Sudan, can count on Kennedy Catholic High School.

While a militia group known as the Janjaweed rapes, murders and pillages tribal villages with the support of the Sudanese government, Kennedy Catholic's Amnesty International Chapter raised \$1,223 for refugees through various fundraisers. Roughly 400,000 Sudanese

have been killed, with millions displaced. Funds raised by the KCHS Chapter are going to refugee camps, where children in particular are malnourished because of the scarce supply of basic human needs such as a food, shelter and medicine.

In addition to straight donations, the KCHS Chapter sold bracelets and coordinated the iFluRtz matchmaking fundraiser held earlier this year (the program works by having students fill out questionnaires in homeroom; they can then purchase the results at a later date, with the proceeds

going to a charity of the school's choice). The KCHS Chapter President, senior Coughlin even made a video to help raise awareness of the situation. A generous gift of \$500 from the KCHS Student Council rounded out contributions to the chapter.

"Considering the size of our school, the amount we were able to raise was fantastic," Coughlin noted. "Everyone from Sjunior Vice President Caroline Craig and me to Amnesty International, the Save Darfur group and the Darfurians themselves are vety grateful to everyone who participated."

THANK YOU FROM THE JUNIOR DANCE COMMITTEE

On May 18, Kennedy Catholic held its annual dance for the junior class. Following the dance, students were bussed to Club Fit in Jefferson Valley for festivities which included a hypnotist, juggler, inflatable Sumo wrestling, basketball, volleyball, swimming, arcade games and refreshments. At the end of the evening, every junior who attended received a prize valued at a mini-

mum of \$50. Some of the prizes included 4-24" flat screen TVs with DVD/VCR, four portable GPS systems, four digital cameras, four camcorders, two electric scooters (mini-motorcycles) and BOSE sound systems. In addition, there were thousands of dollars in gift certificates for restaurants, golf outings, Yankees tickets, a professional soccer game, bowling, movies, mini-golf,

skating and more.

In recognition of all the great prizes our students walked away with, a big thank you is in order for the following KCHS parents and family members who sent in donations and volunteered time to help make the evening a huge success (please excuse us if we inadvertently left anyone off the list).

The Infantino family
Ellen Lepore
Thomas & Sharyn O'Leary
Conte family
Linda Heintz
Sally Cartaya
Heather Aaron
Victoria & Joseph DiFrisco
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bennett
Donna O'Connell
Mary Ellen Modico
Joanne Burke

Jenny Race
William & Rosemary DeSanctis
Ann & J.T. Kroschwitz
Paul & Joanne Delfino
Donna Cotarello
Deborah Noone
Louise DeStefano
Joanne Kastberg
Karen Boutross
Ivana Gomeez
Diane Trabulsky
David Concepcion

Sister Marie Murphy
Sarah Guidotti
Bob Guidotti
Robby Guidotti
The Podlovitz family
Lucia Gold
Sherri Swick
Eileen Williams
Anne Ring
Nancy Caputi
Mark Niederhauser

decades of fun

Sign up for your reunion today

After two years of hosting one reunion for a myriad of class years, Kennedy Catholic has listened to its alumni. In response to your suggestions, this fall the school will play host to not one, not two, but six reunions spanning half a century of St. Mary's and Kennedy graduates.

For the Classes of '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '92, '97 and 2002, the evening will include music and merriment, provided by none other than the Class of 2000's Anthony Pili, along with a delectable spread provided by Ledley Food Service of Carmel, N.Y. The fare will include open bar and a cheese and fruit platter to start, followed by your choice of

three cold salads, two hot entrees and three side dishes. Dessert and coffee will be served after dinner.

Each of the six reunions begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. Tickets for the evening are \$75 per person if purchased prior to Friday, Sept. 28. Tickets bought after that date will be \$85 a pop.

If you'd like to help determine what the buffet choices will be, as well as other itinerary items for the evening, come to the join the Reunion Committee. For more information or to let us know you're coming, please contact the Alumni Office at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 135 or e-mail alumni@kennedycatholic.org.

CLASS ACTS

Class of 1957

Saturday, Sept. 22

Class of 1982

Saturday, Sept. 29

Classes of 1962 & 1967

Saturday, Oct. 13

Classes of 1972 & 77

Saturday, Nov. 10

Classes of 1992 & 1997

Saturday, Nov. 17

Class of 2002

Saturday, Oct. 6

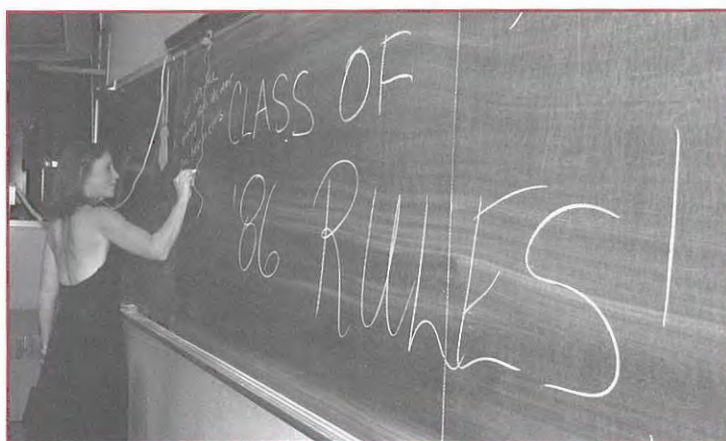
Homecoming Weekend



Years later and still wandering the halls.



These two alumni sport some of the new Kennedy Catholic gear.



Old habits die hard. Photos by Alex Malecki



Wondering where your Emmaus banner went? Try the academic area, where your creations now hang proudly in our hallways.

putt & paddle

KCHS Golf Outing, Auction coming this fall

Summer is here, school is out and students everywhere are celebrating. Parents meanwhile...well, let's just say some can't wait until September. And thanks to the Advancement Office, Kennedy Catholic alumni, parents and friends have two more reasons to look forward to the autumnal equinox.

What better way to unwind from a summer with the kids than by playing 18 at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, N.Y. (and raising a little money for your school to boot), for the 2007 **Kennedy Catholic Classic on Thursday, Oct. 11**. Tickets are \$200 per duffer or \$800 for a foursome,

and the day on the links includes lunch and a putting contest prior to the shotgun start, followed by cocktails, a buffet dinner, silent auction and awards ceremony upon your return to the clubhouse. The fourth annual golf outing will be chaired once again by Kevin Dwyer '72 (father of Danny '07).

Also up for bid this fall is the 26th annual **Kennedy Catholic Auction, beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3**. With a theme of "Starry, Starry Night," the 2007 Auction looks to build off the success of last year's more than \$50,000 fundraising effort. How will the com-

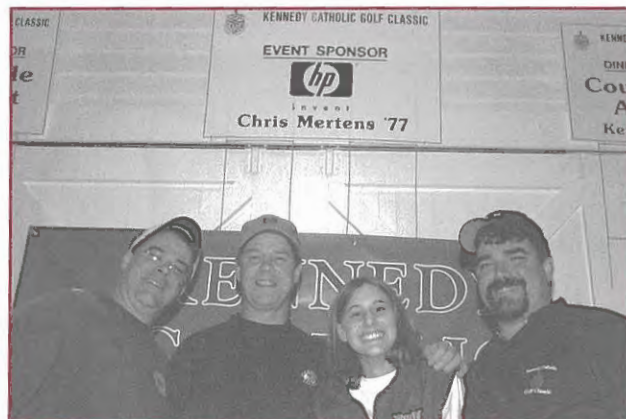
mittee, spearheaded by Anne Ring (mother of Ellen '08) and Jenny Race (mother of Lauren '08 and Sara '10) for the second straight year, do that? With even better prizes for the silent, Chinese and live auctions.

Tickets for this fun, friendly evening are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. While it is a family-oriented affair, children under 14 are not recommended.

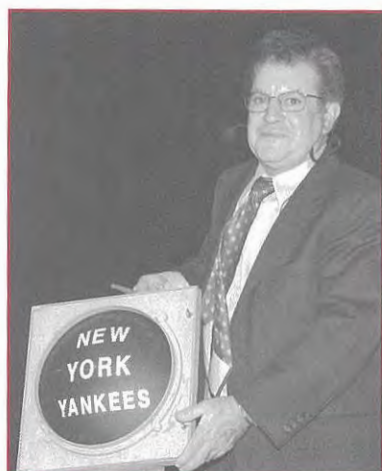
For more information or to sign up for either the Auction or Golf Outing, please contact the Advancement Office at (914) 232-5061 Exr. 134 or e-mail advancement@kennedycatholic.org.



If you want this year's Money Tree, you'll have to go through Sister Marie Murphy. *Photos by Jodee Novak and Alex Malecki*



The Mertens family at Hewlett Packard, with junior Kelly Mertens (second from right), graciously sponsored the 2006 Kennedy Catholic Classic.



Auctioneer Ron Gantz sports an item perfect for the home of Father Norton (or any other Red Sox fan).



Sophomores Alyssa Mann and Kristen Maiberger hold up the next item for bid, a piece of baseball memorabilia.



You can work on your putting game this October, or better yet, win the putting contest and take home a brand-new putter.

SUMMER OF CHANGE

New science labs, SMART Boards top list of improvements

Often when alumni return to Kennedy Catholic, one of the most prevalent comments is about how little the school has changed; that it still looks the same as it did some 10, 20, even 30 years ago. And while that type of constancy is nice, change is the harbinger of growth.

Well, the winds of change they are a blowin', and this summer they'll be gusting right through the home of the Gaels. Thanks to a grant from the Empire State Development Co., Kennedy Catholic's biology, chemistry and physics labs will undergo a complete renovation for the 2007-08 academic year.

In addition to the cosmetic improvements that will include new surfacing and a ventilation system, the school is bringing in state-of-the-art technology for students and teachers alike. To complement the physical renovations, Kennedy Catholic has purchased Xplore GLXs, or Graphing Logger Xtrems, for its science labs. With custom-designed software to go along with its various probes and sensors, the Xplorer GLX is a data-logger, interface and hand-held computer that operates as a turn-key laboratory for biology, chemistry, earth science and physics. Come September, students will be able to take measurements, analyze data and produce reports all at the touch of a button.

But wait...there's more.

Science labs aside, Kennedy Catholic has reached an agreement with IBM to put a laptop in every teacher's hands. Boasting Windows XP Professional and

all the usual Microsoft Office products, teachers will be able to draft lesson plans, prepare presentations and calculate grades from home or the office. Best of all, teachers can use their laptops with the 12 new SMART Boards being installed this summer, along with new whiteboards to replace the blackboards in every classroom. As Kennedy Catholic moves toward an all-electronic grading system, parents who wish to check their son or daughter's grades regularly can be assured that teachers will be able to post them equally as often.

Safety and security is another issue the school will be addressing this summer. To that end, lines are already being dropped for digital video cameras and a buzzer-operated entry system.

Indeed, there will be much to see when alumni begin to return in the fall for football and their reunions. In doing so, they should take care not to miss a simple change right beneath their noses.



The physics laboratory shown above, as well as the biology and chemistry labs, are being completely renovated this summer as part of a grant from Empire State Development Co. *Photo by Alex Malecki*

Yes, in addition to all the new technology, a number of classrooms will be re-carpeted. Other summer changes include the creation of a formal board room for meetings, and new furniture and flat-panel monitors for Computer Lab 128.

As you can see, while the students may be leaving for the summer, Kennedy Catholic will be anything but quiet over the next few months. So stop by sometime to check out all the improvements to your alma mater, or e-mail the Alumni Office at alumni@kennedycatholic.org to suggest ways you can help add to them.

SPANISH SUMMER SCHOOL

SPANISH I

July 30 – August 10

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

For more information, call Chair Ellen Kelly at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 212 or e-mail ekelly@kennedycatholic.org.



MALECKI NAMED NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR

After two years of teaching English and working in the Advancement Office as the public relations coordinator for Kennedy Catholic, Alex Malecki has been named director of alumni and public relations for 2007-08.

He takes over for Jacob Bergmeier, who returned fulltime to the classroom as a Spanish teacher in January. Bergmeier had filled the role since the office's inception in 2004.

Looking for a lost classmate, have a suggestion regarding your alma mater's future, or just interested in learning more about the good things taking place at Kennedy Catholic? Call Alex in the Alumni Office anytime at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 135, or e-mail alumni@kennedycatholic.org.

KCHS Dedicates Baseball Field to Longtime AD



Members of the baseball team and other athletes applaud in the background as an overwhelmed Patricia Maurer reacts to the surprise dedication. *Photos by Alex Malecki*

Here at Kennedy Catholic High School, athletics has been synonymous with Patterson resident Ms. Patricia Maurer for as long as anyone not named "Sister" can remember. From 1974 when she first arrived as a physical education teacher, to her long and continuing tenure as the school's athletic director, Ms. Maurer has been a fixture at Kennedy Catholic for more than three decades.

On May 22, the school paid tribute

to that dedication by making Ms. Maurer's name a permanent fixture at Kennedy Catholic. With faculty, staff and a number of the school's student-athletes gathered in The Meadow, Kennedy Catholic officially named its baseball diamond Patricia Maurer Field.

With local media present, a tearful Maurer thanked the more than 100 in attendance for their courage and compassion for the dedication, which "caught me completely by surprise." In modesty, she noted that the field would not be in the championship caliber it is today without the help of many people and parents over the years.

In fact, prior to 1992, there was no diamond at all and the baseball teams

had to rent out a ballpark in Katonah. Circa 1974, the green resembled something more like a cow pasture, and served as a makeshift practice area and home to the field hockey team. During the late 80s, athletes and parents joined forces to excavate the stones from the field and then rake and reseed it.

The Gaels christened the new baseball field in the spring of '92 with a 2-1 victory over Yorktown and went on to win five of its next eight games. In 2006, the entire area was dubbed The Meadow and dedicated to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion. This spring, the field itself got a facelift courtesy of Kenneth Modico, the father of sophomore pitcher Nick Modico, who donated equipment, materials and labor to upgrade the field so that Kennedy Catholic can now host Sectional tournaments.

According to Coach Bob Fletcher, money for the plaque was raised from various team fundraisers held throughout the season. Following the brief ceremony, the Gaels went on to defeat Albertus Magnus, 6-4, behind three RBIs from senior Louis Peisel.

"It was a truly humbling experience," Maurer said of the dedication.

SAME ADDRESS. *Different Look.*

Check out the all-new Kennedy Catholic Web Site.

More updates. More News.
More of what you want!

Site debuts
Wednesday, Aug. 1, only at
www.kennedycatholic.org



The plaque dedicating the Kennedy Catholic Baseball Field to Patricia Maurer.

Warwick school donates 'Risen Christ' in honor of Fr. McLoughlin's 25th anniversary as a priest

A quarter of a century dedicated to one particular endeavor is commendable. When 25 years are spent in the service of the Lord, it becomes even more special.

Recognizing this milestone, the students at St. Stephen-St. Edward School in Warwick, N.Y., donated a statue of the Risen Christ to KCHS to honor their pastor, Father Michael McLoughlin, on his 25th anniversary as a priest. A member of the Class of 1973, Father McLoughlin calls KCHS his alma mater. The statue was dedicated and now hangs proudly in the Commons, just inside the main entranceway. Kennedy Catholic is honored to be the recipient of such a beautiful gesture, and so was Father McLoughlin.

"It was unexpected and wonderful," he said of his students' gift.

With roughly 300 day students and more than 1,200 in the parish's religious education program, St. Stephen-St. Edward is the largest parish school in

Orange County and boasts the 10th largest religious education program in the diocese. 2007 marks Father McLoughlin's fifth year as pastor.

Asked about his time at Kennedy Catholic, Father McLoughlin said he initially found it quite challenging. Hailing from Chappaqua, he came in not knowing many people. As his 1973 yearbook entry reads, "Athletics were Mike's chief interest"; he played freshmen basketball and went on to star on the winter and spring track teams.

All the while, he said he continued to learn about his faith through the witness of the lay faculty and the Sisters of the Divine Compassion. Father McLoughlin described Catholic schools as places where young people are grounded in Christ by showing "how faith rouses every subject."

His sister Maureen '74, who was on hand to watch McLoughlin celebrate the

Feb. 2 Mass at Kennedy Catholic along with their father, also talked highly of her time at the school. She fondly recalled Sister Christopher O'Toole's sense of humor, along with other great teachers and the wonderful people she met during her four years.

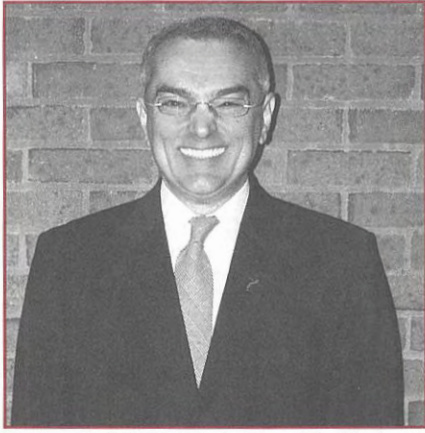
"It gave me an excellent foundation for college," Maureen said, adding that "it's nice to come back and see familiar faces."

Her big brother echoed those sentiments. "It's nice to be back," Father McLoughlin said, easing back into the chair in the Faculty Dining Room, surrounded by some of the same Sisters who taught him history, language and science.

Good to have you back, Father. Good to have you back. And with a statue of the Risen Christ gracing the Commons in honor of your 25th anniversary in the priesthood, a part of you will always be here.



Sisters Barbara Heil, Marie Murphy, Christopher O'Toole and Caroline Thomas joined Father McLoughlin, his father Michael and sister, Maureen, in dedicating the statue of the Risen Christ. *Photo by Alex Malecki*



Husband, father and deacon, Mr. Mark Shkreli. Photo by Alex Malecki

THE FAMILY DEACON

Husband, father & deacon: The Life of Mark Shkreli

"At first, the more I thought about it, the less I liked the idea," recalls Deacon Mark Shkreli about the notion of being ordained a deacon.

Following the birth of his

first son, Mr. Shkreli was approached by his pastor, Bishop Rock Mirdita of Our Lady of Shkodra in the Bronx, about becoming a deacon. But with a newborn and the responsibilities of a family, Mr. Shkreli's home life was just too crazy for him to become that involved in parish life.

"I just wanted to make money and realize the so-called American dream," he said.

Two years later, Bishop Mirdita had Mr. Shkreli over for dinner. This time it was different, and instead of dessert, the bishop served him an application for the diaconate.

"I filled it out without a hint of hesitation," Mr. Shkreli said.

Ordained Nov. 3, 1990, today Shkreli is the only Albanian

deacon in the world. He met with Pope John Paul II, and in 1993, spent two weeks "restoring the Church" in his homeland. Above all else, he has learned to balance his family with his ministry. Not coincidentally, he said, the two are deeply intertwined.

Speaking to the KCHS student body during First Friday Mass on Feb. 2, Shkreli explained the responsibilities of the diaconate life and how he must first live the example set by Jesus before he can ask his parishioners to follow it. All that, he said, starts in the home, where he must strive to be a good husband and father.

Admittedly, it's a balancing act, as there are still only 24 hours in the day and time spent at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church where he currently serves is borrowed from his family, and visa versa. Thus, he is grateful for his family and their understanding, especially his wife Prena, to whom he has been married for 28 "wonderful years."

In the same way God calls each one of us, Shkreli knows this is the life he was called to lead—husband, father and deacon.

Deacon Shkreli is the father of Kennedy Catholic alumnus Anthony "Shony" Shkreli '02 and current freshman Stephen Shkreli '10. He presently serves at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster.

AlumniNEWS

We want to hear from you! Please fax (914-509-1401), email (alumni@kennedycatholic.org) or phone (914-232-5061 Ext.135) in news about you to share with your classmates. Here is a list of notes that fellow alumni shared with us via our Web site since our last newsletter:

CLASS OF 1957

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, a 1957 graduate of St. Mary's and head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to the Congregation for Catholic Education. The congregation is responsible for Catholic seminaries; a charge O'Brien is quite familiar with having served two tours of duty since 1985 as the rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, from which he also holds two master's degrees. He was also rector of the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, and had been the favorite to succeed Cardinal John O'Connor as Archbishop of New York. The Bronx

native is the namesake of the Commons at Kennedy Catholic.

CLASS OF 1962

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick and Barbara (Flynn) Kraft travel overseas whenever possible, and finally made their seventh continent, Antarctica, in 2005 ("Do not get between elephant seals and the water!"). When not traversing the globe, the Krafts are busy with volunteer activities—Fred is a Court Appointed Special Advocate, while Barbara

gives of her time to church and community. But one stop they make every month is to visit their grandchildren, Tucker, Isabella and Avery Elizabeth.

Mrs. Sara Moore (Herbert) Lluch went on to become an operating room nurse after graduation, which lead her to NYC and later Barcelona, Spain, where she has lived for the past 32 years. Sara works with her husband in Upper Extremity Surgery, and they have a daughter who works in advertising in Barcelona.

Next Gael News for Parents to be mailed home Aug. 3.

Mr. Richard Connor Steinacher and his wife, Margaret, wonder "Is everyone blessed with grandchildren enjoying them as much as we are?" The Steinachers have been blessed with two grandsons, Connor and Brady, with another on the way.

Mrs. Geraldine (Boylan) Waterbury absolutely "loves being a grandmother; it's the best!" She and her husband, Harrison, received seven grandchildren within a span of six years—three from daughter Katie in Massachusetts, and four more from Michael in Fairfield, Conn.

CLASS OF 1967

Mr. Robert Bukantis earned his bachelor's from Cornell University in 1980. He moved to Montana in 1983 and now lives on 10 sprawling acres adjoining pristine forestland in the Big Belt Mountains. His youngest daughter, Bridget, is a senior at Helena High School, while Orion is a junior at Montana State University.

CLASS OF 1977

Mr. Michael Sarlito founded Summit Point Management in 2002. The Chicago-based management consulting firm specializes in operational due diligence for mergers, acquisitions, investments and performance improvement situations. Michael holds a 2003 MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and a bachelor's from Purdue University in 1981. He and his wife, Marilee, have three children. One daughter, Christina, is a fourth-grade teacher, while Diana and Mark are students at Purdue University and the University of Colorado, respectively.

CLASS OF 1982

Mrs. Frances (Bueti) Albanese received her associate's from the Berkley School of Business and worked in IBM's Corporate Communications Department for 13 years, leaving after she and her husband, Isi, welcomed their second child. Today the Albaneses, who have been together since their sophomore year at Kennedy, own and operate Bellizzi Restaurant in Mount Kisco, N.Y. The restaurant, also known as Pizza Pizzazz, has been run by the couple since its grand opening 15 years ago.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Gaer) McMillan and her husband, Andrew, along with children Shannon and Quinn, will welcome Grace, the newest addition to their family, from China when her adoption is finalized later this month.

Mrs. Caroline Wittenberg-Donohoe and her husband, Ray, welcomed their son, William Connor, into the world on Sept. 20, 2006.

Mr. Richard J. Martin founded Icon Funding Group, a residential and commercial mortgage company. He lives with his wife, Jody.

Mrs. Cheryl (Clavette) Yadach recently celebrated her 20th anniversary working for Travelers of Connecticut.

CLASS OF 1987

Ms. Cara Anthony was recently tenured as an assistant professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minn. She lives with her husband, Andy Singer.

Mrs. Maureen Brady Atinsky resides in New York City with her husband, Lawrence, a private equity lawyer and their daughters, Audrey and Aerin. She has been a recruiting manager at Hudson Highland for more than 10 years, specializing in legal placement.

Mr. Thomas Imperato received a law degree from Fordham Law School, but after practicing for a few years, found greater happiness in real estate development. He married Kelly McEwan in 2001, and the couple presently lives in Asheville, N.C., with daughters Lucy, 4, Susanna, 2, and the newest addition to the family, 4-month-old Charlotte.

Ms. Karen (Sager) Maduschke is enjoying a full-time career as a mom and a part time career with an interactive media firm, while still finding time to volunteer and travel. Karen's family grows each year as she and her children—Marissa, 12; Nadia, 10; Anders, 8; and Sergy, 4—host exchange daughters from different countries.

Dr. Andrea Marie (Cuomo) Scholer and her husband, Matt, recently celebrated the birth of their first son, 5-month-old Sam. Andrea and Matt live in North Carolina, along with their little girl Caroline, 3.

Mrs. Tracey (Singer) Strauss currently works part time as a Direct Marketing Sales Associate for Direct Media Inc. of Greenwich, Conn. She resides in Yorktown Heights with her husband, Craig, and their two daughters—Julianne, 5, and Lauren, 2.

CLASS OF 1989

Ms. Jean Petrino has spent 10 years working for Sodexo at its Lasell College location, which is also where she's attending graduate school. By 2009 she will have received her third degree from Lasell in Newton, Mass.

CLASS OF 1992

Mr. William C. Pritchard can still hear wedding bells in his ears, having married Maria Francesca Martelli on June 2 in Turin, Italy. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

CLASS OF 1997

Mr. Michael Darby is in the final stages of becoming a certified school teacher.

CLASS OF 2002

Mr. Raymond Mascia is currently attending St. John's University Law School.

Ms. Jessica Sannicandro graduated from Villanova University in May 2006 and is working as a registered nurse on a cardiothoracic step-down unit at Mount Sinai Medical Center in NYC. She lives in New Jersey with her older brother.

Ms. Holly Walsh graduated from Siena College in 2006 with a bachelor's in biochemistry. She is currently attending the Albany College of Pharmacy and working toward her Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

CLASS OF 2004

Alumnae Nicole Conkling, a junior at Washington and Lee, is among six students to receive the university's inaugural Student Summer Independent Research (SSIR) grants. Developed to promote research between students and faculty during the summer months, SSIR grants underwrite students on creative projects of their own. The grants of up to \$3,100 each will cover travel and living expenses associated with the projects. A studio art and biology major, Conkling is working on a sculptural thesis project that explores the impact of extinction, blending the stylistic aspects of 20th century sculpture and the values of ecological art. "In order to prepare for my own sculpture pieces, I want to develop an understanding of the role of art in conservation," the Ossining, N.Y., native said in a written statement. "I hope that by bringing eco-art to the forefront at W&L, it will augment our local community's efforts for change."

INFORMATION UPDATE

Do you have any news? Have you moved? Let us know!

email: alumni@kennedycatholic.org • call: (914) 232-5061 Ext. 135 • fax: (914) 509-1401

Name _____ Class _____

Married Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Alumni E-Mail Address _____

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business _____ Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail Address _____

Alumni Class Notes _____

Alumnus: if you have news about your family or your job, please let us know. If you are moving, please let us know your new address. **Parents:** If your son/daughter no longer maintains a permanent residence at your home, please send us his/her new address. We would like to keep both parents and sons/daughters in touch with Kennedy Catholic. Please check below to continue receiving *The Gael*.

☐ Please keep me on the mailing list. My son's/daughter's new address is listed below

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

COME BACK TO KENNEDY

Please consider these important dates as you fill up your calendars for the fall and coming spring. We hope to see you at one of our many events. You are always welcome here at Kennedy Catholic.

4TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CATHOLIC CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

Thursday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1 – 4 p.m.

SENIOR SHOW: 'SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE'

October 26-27, 7 p.m.

October 28, 2 p.m.

26TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CATHOLIC AUCTION

Saturday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

KENNEDY CATHOLIC ART SHOW

February 29 – March 8

KCHS PLAYERS PRESENT 'FOOTLOOSE'

February 29 – March 1, 7 p.m.

March 7 – 8, 7 p.m.

March 2, 2 p.m.

TALENT SHOW

Friday, April 18, 9 a.m.

4TH ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S DINNER

Thursday, May 1, 8 p.m.

SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m.

GRADUATION

Sunday, June 1, 1 p.m.

ALUMNI CONCERT

Wednesday, June 4, 6 p.m.

Kennedy Catholic HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

54 Route 138 • Somers, NY 10589

The Gael is produced by the
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like to share with us, please call
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alumni@kennedycatholic.org.

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