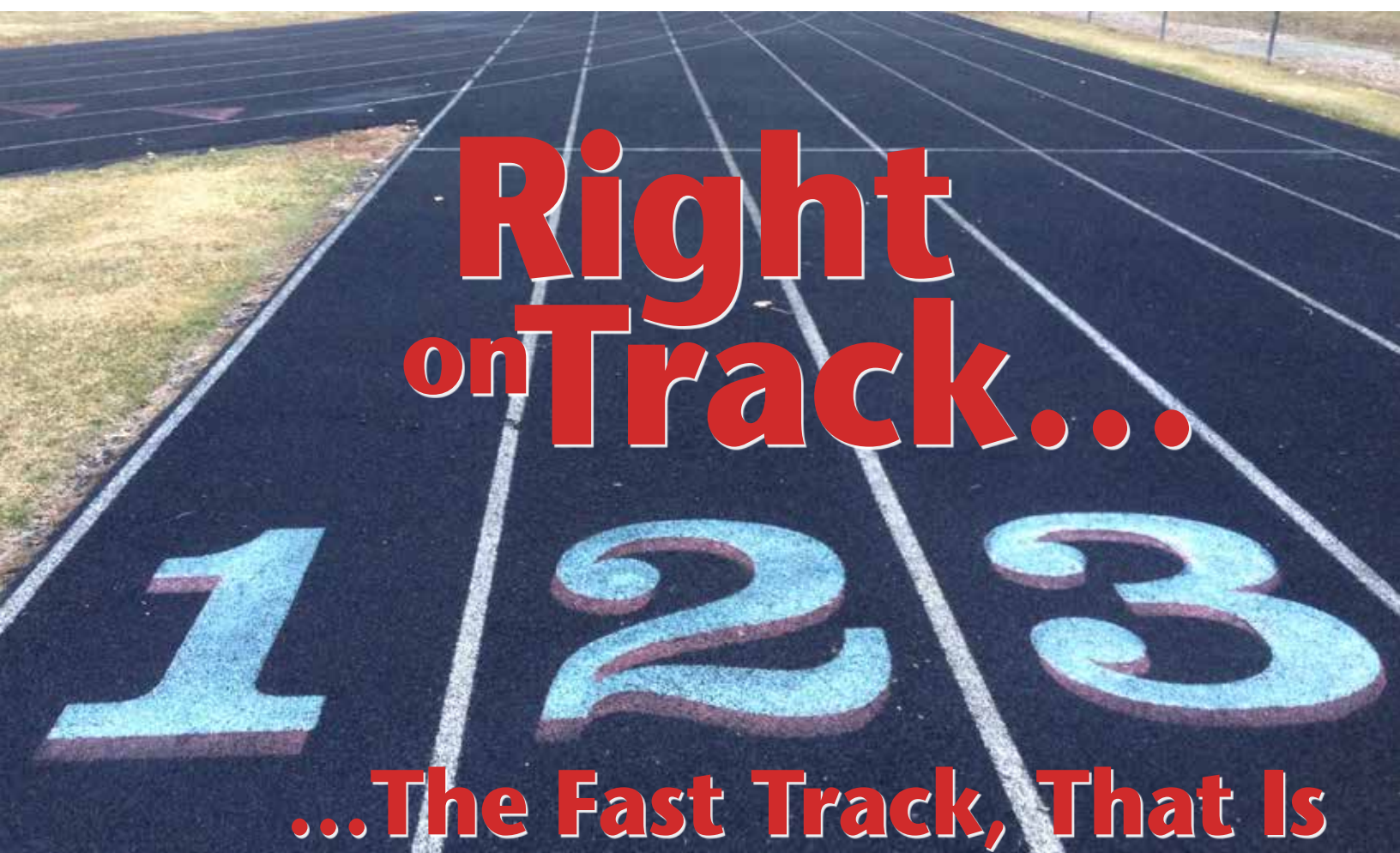


THE GAEEL

The Newsletter for Alumni and Parents of St. Mary's/Kennedy Catholic High School

Volume 17 – Spring 2014



Right
on Track...

...The Fast Track, That Is

GO...to Page 3

Kennedy Catholic has been in the quiet phase of a campaign to renovate its track and field facilities. We already have a number of seminal gifts from alumni and past coaches. Originally, the project was to be completed over a period of four years. Now Kennedy is pleased to announce its track campaign is officially on the fast track and scheduled for completion by September 2015. Which means the Gaels need your support before the Annual Fund closes on Aug. 31, 2014, to reach our goal of \$250,000.

See our cover story on Page 3.



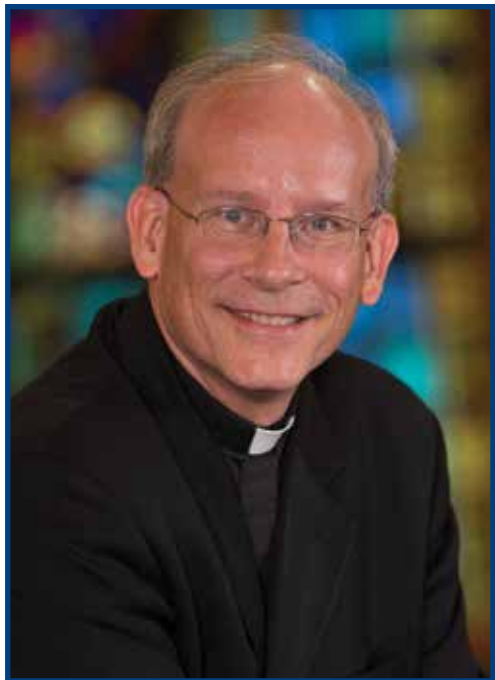
**KENNEDY
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**

*Founded as St. Mary's
High School 1924-1966*

Chairman's Message

Spring 2014

Dear Alumni, Benefactors, Parents and Students,



As the new chairman of the Board of Trustees for Kennedy Catholic High School, I want to boast about the wonderful position in which Kennedy finds itself at this point in its history. Due to the hard work of school administration, faculty and staff, student enrollment has increased regularly over the last few years, and parent and alumni support, participation and involvement has increased wonderfully. Through active marketing and recruitment, strengthened academic standards and increased financial assistance, especially through academic scholarships, Kennedy Catholic's student body has grown steadily in number over the past five years, and her graduates have received more in university and college scholarships than at any other time in her history. Kennedy alumni have become much more active in supporting the school through their prayers and generous financial assistance. Together, this has placed Kennedy in a wonderfully strong position for the future of Catholic education in northern Westchester.

What is the key to the alumni side of success at Kennedy? Major gifts have been and always will be an important component in the financial strength of the school. However, even more important is the regular, annual gifts from her alumni. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and so, the more alumni that contribute to their alma mater, the greater the success of carrying the Kennedy Catholic tradition forward far into the future. Just as regular, annual student tuition and parent support carry us from year-to-year in our operations, so the regular, annual generosity of a great percentage of alumni creates a legacy of academic excellence, successful athletic pursuit and mature, well-rounded and virtuous young adults.

Many wonderful things have been accomplished at Kennedy over the last few years, from facility enhancements such as brand new ball fields and a fully renovated gymnasium, to instructional improvements such as iPads for all the students and teachers, SMART Boards for the classrooms and Google Apps for Education. Many more accomplishments are planned for the near future such as a new technology center, a renovated library, new track and field facilities, new lighting in the auditorium and renovated bathrooms. Kennedy is progressing for the betterment of its students. Now we need the participation of our alumni in our fundraising endeavors to match the progress we've made and the fervor we've generated in our school community.

To contribute to your high school alma mater, please use the enclosed envelope or visit www.KennedyCatholic.org/Gael-Giving. As well, experience the wonderful enthusiasm of the school by joining us for the President's Dinner on Wednesday, May 21, at Trump National in Briarcliff. More information on this event can be gathered at the school website. Be a part of the exciting future of Kennedy Catholic High School.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Robert F. McKeon".

Rev. Robert F. McKeon
Chairman of the Board

Life on the Fast Track

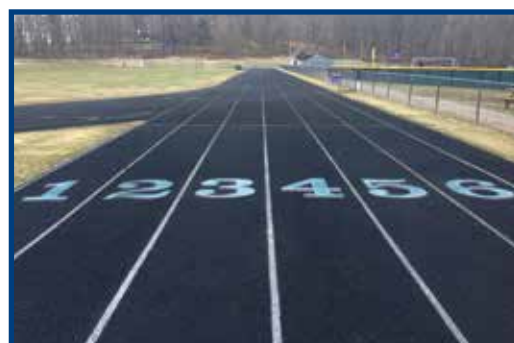
If it seems that a lot has changed at Kennedy in just the past few years, you'd be right. From the introduction of iPads and blended-learning programs, to the renovation of the Gaels' indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, there has been substantive change in a significantly small window.

Kennedy will continue its life on the fast track this spring, with a stepped-up timetable for the renovation of its track and field facilities. Originally planned as a three-phase project over several years, the Gaels are looking to break ground as early as next spring, with the goal of being able to host dual, league and regional meets once school resumes in September of 2015.

The first leg of this race to completion is the stripping of the current track surface. Next, the Gaels will shorten the concrete foundation to make it a proper 400-meter course. The current straightaway will be widened and new surfacing material will be installed for the triple jump, pole vault, shot put and other field events. The last lap will consist of fusing the base, curbing it and adding a long lasting, Olympic-grade surface.

More than \$37,000 has already been contributed toward the track campaign. Among the benefactors are Hall of Fame coach John Viniello P'98, Matthew '88 and Maureen Searles P'17, Mark '71 and Denise Girolamo, and James and Joanne '83 Kastberg P'09,'12,'15.

If you would like to discuss a pledged gift to the track campaign, please contact Alex Malecki in the Advancement Office at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 134 or write to Advancement@KennedyCatholic.org. You can also have an immediate impact by visiting www.KennedyCatholic.org/Gael-Giving and making an online donation today.



In the Hopper

The track isn't the only project Kennedy Catholic is undertaking this summer. Inside the building, the Gaels will outfit the academic area with dimmable LED lighting and all new ceiling tiles, having completed the Cafeteria and Commons last summer. The bathrooms will also be re-outfitted thanks to a grant from the Archdiocese of New York, and the former computer lab in Room 128 will be transformed into the Linda Troani Resource Center for blended and virtual learning programs thanks to the generosity of its namesake.



The computer lab in Room 128 will be remade into the Linda M. Troani Resource Center, where students can engage in blended and virtual learning programs.

But perhaps the most exciting piece of the puzzle is the renovation of our library. From new carpeting and furniture to upgraded technology, the most visible area of the school is about to get a brand new look. The upper library will be flipped, and all-new desktop computers will take the place of the current bookcases. In the lower library, the existing long tables will be ripped out and replaced with more modern accoutrements, while the reference bookcases will give way to flat-panel screens for announcements, news and presentations.

While the details of this project are still under development, you can help support it with a gift to the Spring Appeal of this year's Annual Fund. Gifts may be made online at www.KennedyCatholic.org/Gael-Giving.

'May the Odds be Ever in Your Favor'

\$35,000 Kennedy Kash returns for 2nd, prize-filled year



*Kennedy Kash logo
courtesy of Dan Horkan '77,
Pre-Cycled Printers*

our 2013 winners – were based on
a 50-50 split of the overall pot.

The top prize will once again be a \$25,000 payout, with an additional \$5,000 for second, \$3,000 for third, and \$1,000 for fourth and fifth, respectively. To guarantee this \$35,000 in prize money, we must sell a minimum of 800 chances.

And your chances of winning are good: 1-in-200 with a single entry, or 1-in-100 with a double entry. That's better than Powerball, the Lottery, playing the ponies, or even those scratch-offs we get for people when we don't know what else to give.

Entry is \$100 per chance, but you can split the ticket however you like. Go 50-50, or \$25 apiece with three other friends. Have 9 friends good for \$10 each? All we ask is that one person purchase the ticket outright for tracking purposes.

Best of all, Kennedy Kash is the **Gift that Gives Back** and for five lucky winners, Kennedy Kash will pay them back and then some.

But you've got to be "in it to win it," so take a chance on Kennedy Kash today. Visit www.KennedyCatholic.org/Kennedy-Kash or call (914) 232-5061 Ext. 134 to order your tickets through the Advancement Office.

And "may the odds be ever in your favor."

Them's the Rules

- Winners need not be present.
- No more than 1,000 tickets will be sold.
- If less than 800 tickets are sold, prizes will be equal to 50 percent of gross income.
- Once a ticket has won, it will not be reentered.
- Prizes will be drawn highest to lowest.
- Must be over 18 years of age to purchase a ticket.
- A 1099 will be issued for all prizes

Following a successful rookie campaign, the Kennedy Kash raffle is back with another \$25,000 top prize and an additional \$10,000 in actual cash to be given away.

Five prizes will be drawn this October at the annual Kennedy Catholic Golf Classic, totaling up to \$35,000 in prize money if we hit our goal of 1,000 tickets sold. Last year, 668 chances were bought and the payouts – see the sidebar to the right on

2013 WINNERS

Grand Prize - \$18,676

Mr. Michael Rosich

2nd Place - \$7,337

Mr. William and Mrs. Anne Dwyer P'16

3rd Place - \$3,669

Mr. Mark and Mrs. Lesleigh Erb P'14,'16

4th – 8th Place - \$667

Mr. Matthew '83 and Mrs. Maura '83
Devey P'13,'14,'16

Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Carol Flamio P'17
Mrs. Colleen Gardner '87

Mr. Jim and Mrs. Dorothy '55 Sheridan
Mr. Kenneth Tierney

Photo by Jonathan Pasquarella '15



Grand Prize winner and science teacher Mr. Michael Rosich poses with his winning ticket, flanked by Trustee Richard Davin P'05,'07,'11,'13 and President the Rev. Mark Vaillancourt.

Gaels to honor Ignatius Press founder, former retreat director

American "closest to Pope Benedict," Fr. Fessio to receive Lux Christi

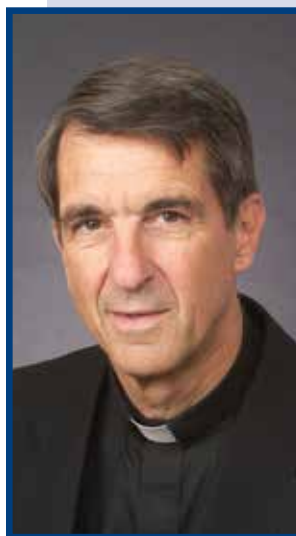
After the success of last year's gala, not even The Donald could "fire" off a negative word about the 2013 President's Dinner. Which is why Kennedy Catholic will return to Trump National Golf Club Westchester in Briarcliff Manor on Wednesday, May 21, for its annual celebration of excellence in Catholic education.

This year Kennedy is pleased to present its "Light of Christ," or Lux Christi Award, to the Rev. Joseph Fessio. A Jesuit, Father Fessio is the founder and editor of Ignatius Press, which has distributed millions of Catholic books since its inception in the late 1970s, plus millions more Catholic textbooks and instructional videos. He is also the publisher of the Catholic World Report and Homiletic & Pastoral Review. Described by Time Magazine as the American "closest to the pope" during the tenure of Benedict XVI, he continues to keep in contact with the Pope Emeritus and maintains his friendships with leading cardinals in the Curia.

The Gaels will also be paying homage to their former retreat director, the Rev. Robert Dunn. Ordained in 1992 by Cardinal O'Connor, Father Dunn came to Kennedy in 2008 to lead and grow our retreat program for all classes. Though he is now chaplain at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Bronx, our Gaels were blessed to learn under his spiritual direction for half a decade.

Students of Excellence, along with The Teacher of the Year (who will be announced online at www.KennedyCatholic.org/PresidentsDinner) round out this year's slate of honorees. Tickets start at \$225 for the general reception beginning at 6:30 p.m., or \$300 for a special VIP reception with Father Fessio. Journal Advertisements and Sponsorships are also available.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, May 16, or submit your journal ad by Friday, May 9. You can reserve online using the link above, or call the Advancement Office at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 134.



The Rev. Joseph
D. Fessio, S.J.



The Gaels recognized Father Dunn last spring when he celebrated his final Mass for the students of Kennedy Catholic as retreat director.

2014 Students of Excellence

Jason Agresti
Kevin Brennan
Amanda Corcione
Andrew DeMarco
Bridget Devey
Mary Kate DiChiara
Andrew Farrell
Leah Greene
Juliana Gullotta
Yaroslav Jakymec
Brian Kelly
Blair Lenzi
Brendan Liberati
Cecilia Liu
Julia Mee
Joseph Neithardt
Stephanie Sayegh
Amy Sniffen
Robert Sorrentino
Ellen Spillane

Sponsorships and Journal Advertisements Available

Sponsorships

Dinner Sponsor.....	\$10,000
Reception Sponsor.....	\$5,000
Benefactor Table.....	\$4,000
Sponsor Table.....	\$3,000
Divine Compassion Sponsor	\$2,500
Patron Table	\$2,250
Platinum Sponsor	\$1,000
Gold Sponsor.....	\$500
Silver Sponsor.....	\$250
Bronze Sponsor	\$100

Journal Ads

Inside Cover	\$1,500
Gold Full Page	\$1,000
Gold Half Page.....	\$750
Full Page.....	\$500
Half Page.....	\$300
Quarter Page	\$200
Business Card	\$100

Dear Friends of Kennedy Catholic High School,



Last year, we had our most successful fund appeals in memory. Your support has enabled us to transform many of the facilities of Kennedy Catholic High School:

- Expanded athletic facilities and playing fields
- Enhanced instructional technology package that combines iPads for every student, SMART classrooms throughout the building, Google Apps for Education and the Blackboard Learning Management System for a completely virtual learning experience
- Fully renovated gymnasium and locker room facilities
- Refurbished hallway and ceilings in the cafeteria and common areas

With your support, we can address our remaining needs:

- A state-of-the-art track, refurbished and reconfigured to the latest standards, enabling Kennedy Catholic High School to compete in regional and national events
- New school-wide LED lighting and a renovated ceiling for the academic areas; the lighting will save Kennedy Catholic thousands *annually in electric bills*
- Updated computer labs in anticipation of our forthcoming blended learning program and virtual classrooms, an improvement we believe will continue to impact enrollment positively
- A renovation of our library and establishment of a new technology resource center

Can you join us, again, in this, our first fund appeal of 2014? There is so much at stake!

Think about what Kennedy Catholic offers the young men and women we are privileged to help form, as they prepare for their missions in life:

- A National Merit Scholarship *Finalist* this year and *Commended* students year after year
- College acceptances in leading Catholic and other universities *and* military academies
- State-of-the-art classroom instruction with the iPad 4 and SMART technology
- Medical science courses and an award-winning robotics team
- First-rate art, music and drama programs equal or superior to all schools in the area
- College Board-certified Advanced Placement courses, along with college credit hours through St. John's University, SUNY Albany and Iona College, that save parents thousands in the long run, not to mention prepare our students for the rigors of higher education

Along with this unrivaled academic excellence, we have also demonstrated our athletic prowess during our first year in the Catholic High School Athletic Association. The fall season alone saw our volleyball team make States, both soccer teams win Archdiocesan titles, and the girls, in particular, emerge as State Final Runners-Up. Our Gaels basketball teams each made the playoffs, with the boys reaching the semis and girls advancing to the quarterfinals. And to date, three of our student-athletes have committed to play collegiate athletics, with more on the way.

It is my personal mission, and the mission of all of us at Kennedy Catholic High School, to make a better Catholic of every young man and woman who graduates. It is why we instill in our students a love for parents and family. We foster a welcoming Catholic atmosphere that brings out courage and compassion in the hearts of our young men and women. This goal, for us on the faculty and staff, is something we remind ourselves of, as every school day begins, when we commit the day to Christ, united in school-wide prayer with the students. This is what sets us apart from the local, public schools.

Our work with Kennedy Catholic students is a daily calling that is answered wholeheartedly by our faculty and staff in addressing the needs of our students on every possible level: mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Our students share in daily community prayer, special Rosaries, regular Confession, First Friday Masses, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and retreats for all students. Interaction with our priests, deacons and religious sisters is second to none! Our students routinely score high on the annual Archdiocesan Religious Assessment Test, and we are especially proud of our 2010 alumnus who is a fourth-year college seminarian.

But there is another important factor to our work that we try not to take for granted, ever. Our work *has a lot to do with you*, a lot more than you might think at first glance.

In fact, it's *because* of outside support from dedicated, faithful supporters like you, who live and work nearby, that Kennedy Catholic continues to thrive and grow year after year, producing the fine young men and women that their parents, and God, have entrusted us with. That growth can be seen most visibly in the 12 percent increase in enrollment we have experienced with each of the past three freshmen classes. The *incoming* Class of 2018, moreover, represents a 20 percent jump over prior years, making it the largest class in the school.

Due to the enormous financial obligations of the Archdiocese, subsidies have come to an end. Both Cardinal Egan and, now, Cardinal Dolan have entrusted the future of our school to me – and to you.

His Eminence, Cardinal Dolan has visited us and has spoken to us as a school community, and is fully and regularly updated about our progress. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, this new funding formula has worked so far!

But while our tuition is an affordable \$7,950, that does not reflect the real cost per student. Our actual cost is just shy of \$10,000.

Each year we need to bridge that gap through fundraising. Each year we have done it – but we've been successful *only with your help*. I pray that you can help us again, right away, if at all possible.

We are asking that you consider joining with other benefactors at a participatory level. Just as our students gain knowledge each day, we are ask that you join or return to our donor roll with a gift of \$25 or \$50 to become a "Supporter," or \$100 to enroll in our "Loyalty Club."

Special giving levels, as Student Patron, pledged at \$208 per month or as a one-time gift of at \$2,500, are also available and gratefully accepted. Such generosity will directly enable Kennedy Catholic to provide the kind of young Catholic leaders our society so urgently needs.

With a pledge of \$10,000, you can support a scholarship student for one full year. As a Student Underwriter, you or your company will receive the prominent recognition you deserve in all our publications.

I am asking for another vote of confidence, with the most generous tax-deductible gift you can possibly spare. Whatever the amount you are able to give, know how deeply it is appreciated, and how prudently it is employed.

As it is, we have you to thank for bringing us this far. You have my gratitude and you have the prayers of so many of us at Kennedy Catholic.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Mark Vaillancourt
President and Principal



Thanks to our alumni and parents, we have enjoyed our most successful Annual Fund to date, generating more than \$51,000 from 122 gifts. Below you can find the by-Class philanthropy. As you can see, our alumni and parents are neck and neck in their support of the Gaels. Right now, the Class of 1973 leads with six total gifts, while the Class of 1965 has given the most with a combined \$7,500. Which Classes will have the greatest participation and highest contribution totals? Help decide the outcome by deciding on a gift of your own. Visit www.KennedyCatholic.org/Gael-Giving to make an online gift, or call the Advancement Office at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 134 to discuss your options.

Class of	(No. of Gifts)	Amount
Class of 1945	(1 record)	\$50.00
Class of 1952	(1 record)	\$300.00
Class of 1957	(1 record)	\$50.00
Class of 1963	(1 record)	\$25.00
Class of 1965	(3 records)	\$7,500.00
Class of 1966	(1 record)	\$300.00
Class of 1968	(4 records)	\$275.00
Class of 1969	(1 record)	\$500.00
Class of 1970	(2 records)	\$75.00
Class of 1971	(3 records)	\$550.00
Class of 1972	(3 records)	\$1,525.00
Class of 1973	(6 records)	\$650.00
Class of 1974	(3 records)	\$1,450.00
Class of 1975	(1 record)	\$100.00
Class of 1977	(3 records)	\$1,105.00
Class of 1978	(4 records)	\$475.00
Class of 1979	(1 record)	\$100.00
Class of 1980	(1 record)	\$1,000.00
Class of 1981	(2 records)	\$1,025.00
Class of 1982	(3 records)	\$2,700.00
Class of 1983	(2 records)	\$200.00
Class of 1984	(1 record)	\$125.00
Class of 1986	(3 records)	\$1,100.00
Class of 1988	(3 records)	\$400.00
Class of 1989	(2 records)	\$75.00
Class of 1991	(1 record)	\$25.00
Class of 1992	(3 records)	\$5,450.00
Class of 1996	(1 record)	\$25.00
Class of 1998	(1 record)	\$25.00
Class of 2001	(1 record)	\$100.00
Class of 2004	(1 record)	\$100.00
Class of 2006	(1 record)	\$100.00
Staff	(1 record)	\$150.00
Parents	(55 records)	\$24,205.00
Grand Totals	(122 records)	\$51,885.00

A Force to the North

Gaels win 4 league titles in return to CHSAA



The defending Class C champions continued their torrid pace with an 18-2 regular season and berth in the CHSAA State Championship Tournament.



The boys rode a 16-game winning streak right up until the City Championship.

It had been more than three decades since Kennedy competed against its faith-based school counterparts in the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA). Now 35 years later, the Gaels are reminding the city schools that there is still a force to the North.

Entering the spring season, Kennedy has continued its recent run of league titles with four between the fall and winter. Fresh off a Class C Sectional Championship in Section 1, the volleyball team put together a remarkable 18-2 season to claim its first CHSAA league title, first Archdiocesan title and a berth in the state tournament, where the Lady Gaels would bow out in the semifinals.

The boys' and girls' soccer teams added a league title apiece, with the Lady Gaels making it all the way to the state final before falling to St. John the Baptist, 1-2. The girls scored an incredible 92 goals on the season, while giving up only five. Kiera Hennessy '14 would later be named a First-Team Journal News All-Star.

The boys had an equally successful season, riding a 16-game winning streak all the way to the City Championship before falling, 1-2, to the then two-time defending champs, Monsignor McClancy.

Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams kept up the torrid pace in the winter season, with the girls winning Kennedy's fourth league title of the year and making it to the semifinals of the playoffs. The boys reached the quarterfinals of the playoffs, and saw Dominick Cristiano '16 and Sean Delaney '15 get selected All-League for the CHSAA "A" Division. Kevin Buron '16 and Danny Cruz '14 were Honorable Mention. For the girls, MSG Varsity would name Hennessy to the All-Hudson Valley/Westchester second team.

With the spring season still to be played, it's been an auspicious foray back into the Catholic league for the Kennedy Gaels.

Photos courtesy of Lifetouch



The Lady Gaels scored an unbelievable 92 goals to only 5 against on the season.



The Lady Gaels finished the season ranked No. 25 in Class A in New York State.

PROFILES IN COURAGE & COMPASSION

Pitcher's Count

Hall of Famer Modico '09 remembered for positivity, vivacity



Modico delivered a powerful message to his fellow Gaels during his Hall of Fame acceptance speech.

Photo by Jacob Bergmeier

In the game of baseball, a pitcher's count is when there are more strikes than balls against the batter. In the game of life, Nicholas Modico lived like he pitched for the Gaels — always ahead in the count.

One might think the Class of 2009 alumnus had two strikes against him since his diagnosis with Ewing's Sarcoma in 2012. But that was not how he handled his boxing match with the rare form of cancer that ultimately claimed his life on March 21. As he did so many times during his pitching career with the Gaels, Modico dug deep and battled back from being down in the count.

"When I was diagnosed last November, I really didn't feel too badly about the news," Modico told the student body during a special Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Nov. 1, 2013. "I was in incredible amounts of pain, knew something had to be wrong, and was glad they finally found out what."

In delivering "my much anticipated acceptance speech" — wit was always among Nick's strongest pitches — Modico delivered a profound message to his fellow Gaels and former teachers: "Are you truly living?"

"Think about your world, your aspirations, where you're going. Are you happy and enjoying yourself every day? What are you going to do in this world? How are you going to change it or leave your mark? What will your legacy be?"

Certainly, Modico's was one of high athletic achievement. Together with his 2008 teammates, he helped pitch the Gaels to a state title, going the distance in the championship game. For his efforts, Modico was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. For his inspirational journey, the Gaels formally retired his No. 37.

On that All Saints Day, Modico spoke of how legacies aren't solely forged by incredible deeds. Rather, something as simple as an essay, charitable cause or even a child leaves an equally lasting legacy.

The child of Kenneth and Mary Ellen Modico certainly left his mark. The line of those paying their respects snaked around the interior of the funeral home and out the door, demonstrating just how many were inspired and touched by Modico's courage and compassion in the face of such a diagnosis.

"When the kind people here hang up this jersey...I hope that you see that 37 and think of this, what I hope to be my legacy: yeah sure, that was a kid who could play a little baseball, but more importantly, damn, that was a happy kid that lived and showed others what it was to live."

To read Modico's acceptance speech in its entirety, please visit www.kennedycatholic.org/?p=11438.

IN MEMORIAM

Please join the Gael community in prayer for the repose of the following souls and their families:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ■ Edward Bento GP'13,'15 | ■ Valerie Machado '91 |
| ■ Mr. Daniel Anthony Cea, Faculty 1989-2006 | ■ Concetta Mazzuca P'14 |
| ■ Peter Creegan P'07 | ■ Nicholas J. Modico '09 |
| ■ Jose Antonio Mendoza y Garcia, father-in-law of Mr. Brent Tieber | ■ Joan O'Hagan GP'11,'16,'17 |
| ■ Jordan Kenneth Gaskins, brother of William '06 and Shayna '13 Gaskins | ■ Robert Podlovits GP'08,'15 |
| ■ Russell P. Girolamo P'71,'74,GP'05,'08,'11,'14,'18 | ■ Patricia M. Rom P'16 |
| ■ Carole Leavy Impallomeni, sister-in-law of Dcn. Alfred Impallomeni | ■ William Schaller GP'08 |
| | ■ Alex David Wolfsie '08 |

Those wishing to memorialize a loved one with a gift are asked to make arrangements by writing to Alumni@KennedyCatholic.org.

A Draft for Success

"In the end, you will look back on Kennedy as the foundation for your life," 1981 graduate Tony Pauline told an auditorium of juniors on May 16, 2013.

Invited back as part of the Gaels' new Speakers Program, Pauline helped the upperclassmen look ahead to college and their futures by looking back on 17 years of Catholic school experience. Now an NFL Draft expert, he spoke to the juniors about drafting their own plans for success.

Pauline attended St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Shrub Oak, noting that she was only "Blessed" at the time he went there. And though Franciscan High School was only 10 minutes away from his home, he chose Kennedy for its strong sports program. An especially gifted track star, Pauline would go on to Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland as a decathlete, and later transfer to St. John's.

"I always had that athletic fire in me," he said.

It was a flame that burned bright on through a stint as an insurance salesman for Prudential. He came to know two brothers who produced a Draft publication. After working for them, he also came to know that through determination and staying ahead of the knowledge curve, he could produce better information.

Pauline produced his first draft publication in 1997, and later his own Website: TFYDraft.com, which stands for Tony from Yorktown. He would get picked up by Sports Illustrated, and currently does the Draft for The Sports Network. But the key to his upward trajectory was getting the information nobody else had.

Pauline followed the Senior Bowl before it was chic to do so. He started reporting on pro days as they happened and, when the NFL Combine was locked down, he found an in through his former track coach at St. John's.

"I get good information because I give good information," he said.

And Pauline said it starts with the same work ethic instilled in him at Kennedy, where success was earned by applying effort to one's ability. Today he follows football eleven months out of the year, a grind that has earned him top-tier status among NFL Draft experts. And if you ask him what separates his football font from ESPN talking heads Mel Kiper Jr. and Todd McShay, the answers lies in those 17 years of schooling.

"Kennedy was the foundation of this."



NFL Draft expert Tony Pauline '81 shares the mic with Tucker Clair '15 as students fired questions at the football font.

Tony's Top 25

RANK	RND	NAME	SCHOOL	POS	YEAR
1	1st	Jadeveon Clowney	South Carolina	DE	3Jr
2	1st	Jake Matthews	Texas A&M	T	4Sr
3	1st	Anthony Barr	UCLA	OLB	4Sr
4	1st	Khalil Mack	Buffalo	OLB	5Sr
5	1st	Blake Bortles	Central Florida	QB	4Jr
6	1st	Teddy Bridgewater	Louisville	QB	3Jr
7	1st	Greg Robinson	Auburn	T	3So
8	1st	Sammy Watkins	Clemson	WR	3Jr
9	1st	Taylor Lewan	Michigan	T	5Sr
10	1st	C.J. Mosley	Alabama	OLB	4Sr
11	1st	Mike Evans	Texas A&M	WR	3So
12	1st	Kony Ealy	Missouri	DE	4Jr
13	1st	Marqise Lee	USC	WR	3Jr
14	1st	Louis Nix	Notre Dame	DT	4Jr
15	1st	Jace Amaro	Texas Tech	TE	3Jr
16	1st	Aaron Donald	Pittsburgh	DT	4Sr
17	1st	Justin Gilbert	Oklahoma State	CB	4Sr
18	1st	Eric Ebron	North Carolina	TE	4Jr
19	1st	Darqueze Dennard	Michigan State	CB	4Sr
20	1st	Cyrus Kouandjio	Alabama	T	3Jr
21	1st	Derek Carr	Fresno State	QB	5Sr
22	2-Jan	Zack Martin	Notre Dame	T	5Sr
23	2nd	Ra'Shede Hageman	Minnesota	DT	5Sr
24	1st	Johnny Manziel	Texas A&M	QB	3So
25	2-Jan	Jason Verrett	TCU	CB	4Sr

For the latest news and notes on the 2014 NFL Draft May 8-10, visit DraftInsider.net or follow @TonyPauline on Twitter.

Blues & Whites

A collection of alumni and school news items

The following is a collection of alumni, school and student news meant to showcase our colors and the good works of Gaels everywhere.

4 Gaels to Play Collegiately

The icing on the cake of the Gaels successful re-entry into the Catholic League has been the individual success of its student-athletes, four of whom will go on to play collegiate athletics. The City Champion girls' soccer team boasts three of them in seniors Leah Greene (*SUNY Geneseo*), Kiera Hennessy (*Drexel University*) and Victoria Lange (*Lander University*). Rounding out the list is the baseball team's starting catcher, Jason Agresti, who will suit up for SUNY Binghamton in the fall. Agresti, Hennessy and Lange all signed National Letters of Intent this year.



Bionic Gaels host Hudson Valley Qualifier

In the fast-growing world of competitive robotics, the Bionic Gaels continued to set the pace this year as the only Hudson Valley team represented at the FTC East Super-Regional Championship in York, Penn., earlier this month. Earlier this year, the Gaels hosted the last of five qualifying tournaments in the Hudson Valley. Twenty-four teams, more than 200 students and some 100 parents and volunteers descended on Kennedy Catholic, including State Sen. Greg Ball.



Back to School Gaels Gather for Reunion 2013

There was much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, as more than 120 Gaels gathered at their alma mater the Saturday after the holiday for a multi-year reunion. The Classes of '83, '88 and '93 led the way in celebrating their 30th, 25th and 20th reunions, respectively. Kennedy hopes to continue the multi-year reunion format this year, though not at the exclusion of individual reunions. Look for information regarding a Homecoming Reunion Weekend this fall.

To help us plan and to create excitement, we are looking for class representatives to help us keep in better touch with our Gaels. If you are interested, please write to Alumni@KennedyCatholic.org or contact us via social media.



Devey '14 named National Merit Finalist

Congratulations to Bridget Devey '14, who was named a National Merit Finalist earlier this year, the first Finalist for Kennedy in more than a decade. From the original group of more than 1.5 million students who took the PSAT in October of 2012, Devey is among the 15,000 vying for a National Merit or Special scholarship. Winners will be announced later this year.





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A Site to Behold

Kennedy Catholic rolled out a new website earlier this year, and it's high time you took a look if you haven't already. Based off a popular Wordpress theme, our new online presence has increased capabilities from full-width picture galleries to integrated contact pages. Special thanks to Webmaster Jacob Bergmeier for the build, Matthew Walker '93 for creative input, and the Communications Committee of the Family Association for its comprehensive and continuing review and updates.

Subscribe to RSS feed, or visit our News page to connect with Kennedy on your preferred social media. Visit www.kennedycatholic.org/alumni to update your information or submit a note for the next newsletter.

