

IN THIS EDITION

BOYS LACROSSE WINS NYSCHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP

WORKING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT

TRACK IS NEARING COMPLETION

DIGRANDI MEETS POPE FRANCIS



THE GAEIL

The Newsletter for Alumni and Parents of St. Mary's/Kennedy Catholic High School
Volume 20 – Fall 2015

The Gael is produced by the Office of Advancement at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School. If you have any questions, comments or news you would like to share with us, please call (914) 232-5061 ext. 110 or write to Advancement@KennedyCatholic.org.

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President's Message

From Father Vaillancourt



Dear Friend of Kennedy Catholic High School,

Words cannot express my enthusiasm about our Jubilee Year. Kennedy has been giving quality Catholic education to the faithful of the Archdiocese of New York for 50 years – and no year has been better than this one!

Why? Just look at our students, faculty and facilities and you have your answer. Student enrollment grows steadily each year, with the current freshman class well over 200 students. Our student body hails from 40 different school districts covering Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties--not to mention New York City and Connecticut.

As for our faculty, we welcome back many of our veteran teachers and are enthusiastic about new members in LOTE, Science and Math departments. Our on-line offerings also continue to grow with such new additions as Bio-Technology, 3D Computer

modeling and studies with the NAO Robot.

Our athletic facilities were already second to none, but with the addition of our newly renovated track they are now at the highest level for varsity competition.

When it comes to instructional technology, nobody compares to Kennedy! The partnering of Apple iPad technology with the Black Board On-Line Learning Management System has been a homerun for our school and a tremendous benefit to our students. With this year's addition of Exam Soft to our collegiate repertoire, Kennedy is virtually paperless and solidly college prep.

Of course we are very proud of our members of the Class of 2015 who were accepted into over 250 colleges and universities nationwide, garnering over 22 million in scholarship monies to such schools as: Notre Dame, Yale, Fordham, Trinity College Dublin, University of Edinburgh, Northeastern, Villanova and Quinnipiac to name just a few.

As always, our faith is strong, as is your commitment to our school. Please remember us as we prepare for the future of our students, especially this year as we celebrate 50 years of quality Catholic Education.

Go Gaels!

Sincerely and gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Vaillancourt'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'M' and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. Mark Vaillancourt

President and Principal

A Guided Anniversary

Layne Smith '16

By some, anniversaries are seen as obsolete, nothing more than a mundane way of acknowledging a passage of time, perseverance, or simply growing older. But every once in awhile, maybe even once in 50 years, a celebration of perseverance and tradition of a certain standard does not go unnoticed. In fact, it exists to make a prominent statement, to deeply influence a group of people, to celebrate, and to enforce a legacy for the future. The year 2016 marks 50 years of John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, and our Golden Jubilee is this celebration.

The visible and invisible effects of the 50th anniversary can be seen within and outside the brick walls of Kennedy. Maybe it is the Jubilee blazers that the senior class of 2016 will soon be sporting around the halls, or the commemorative rebranding of our website complete with a new logo, or maybe it is the mantra that seems to be echoing, from administration to faculty to students, and felt by anyone touched by the Kennedy Catholic community: this year is special; this year means something, not only for those of us in the present, but also for future generations to come. Among the measures mentioned above, other notable events that are happening during this lively Jubilee year include the immense honor of having His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan at this year's annual President's Dinner, an increase in community outreach following the hopes of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and other affairs to showcase Kennedy and its students, as well as our Catholic identity. When asked about the significance of the fifty year anniversary, our principal, Father Vaillancourt praised the efforts of previous principals and leaders of the Kennedy community that set strong and necessary foundations for our school, but also he emphasized the reality that one of the many reasons Kennedy has been so successful as a united community is the fact that everyone works exceptionally hard, is committed, and truly wants to be a part of the school. Mr. Fred Compton, Director of Advancement and one of the benefactors of the Golden Jubilee celebration, remarked that Kennedy's successful fifty years can be attributed to "the foundation of a high caliber Catholic education and a strong institution of faith and a moral code".

Ultimately, the goal of this school year is to connect the Kennedy of the past with the Kennedy of the present; that is, committing to our core as a Catholic school and exhibiting pride, longevity, tradition, as so many classes and generations have beforehand. As Father so eloquently stated, in this year we can only hope to have "our identity as a school cemented in the bricks around us." Who knows, in another half century, another somewhat bright-eyed and exceedingly caffeinated Kennedy Catholic senior, not so different from myself, may be writing a very similar exposition, reveling in the very same values and pursuit of excellence that is at the heart and soul of what it means to be a Gael.



Track Improvements

Catherine Brennan '17

The past year has been very exciting with the growing anticipation for the new track. This endeavor has certainly been a long journey, with fundraising starting in the Fall of 2012 . After this came the ceremonial groundbreaking in early July; then throughout the rest of the summer, partnering with local construction company, Land Tek, the real work began. The first step that needed to be taken was the removal of the surface of the track and the necessary repairs made to the foundation. Next, one side of the track needed to be shortened to change the length of the track from 440 yards to 400 meters. After this, a new layer of asphalt was put down, and new pole vault and throwing areas were constructed alongside the track. The only step remaining to complete this massive project is to put down the colored surface and to paint the lanes with necessary markings. The project is nearing completion, with a ribbon cutting ceremony in advance of the Spring Track season.



Not only is a new track a very exciting addition to Kennedy's sports complex, but we will achieve another ultimate goal which is to be able to, once again, host our own track and field meets and invitationals. This will be momentous for Kennedy because it has not been possible for a number of years. As a member of the Kennedy indoor and outdoor track teams for the past two years, I am so excited for this first season on the new track and for the many after that. We are so grateful as a team and as a school to be able to have a brand new state of the art track here at Kennedy Catholic. I cannot wait to see the amazing things that will take place on the track in the future. Sister Janet Meehan, the track coach at Kennedy Catholic High School for the past 46 years, remarked that the Kennedy girls 4x800 relay team had the fastest time in the country the year after the track was last resurfaced. So, who knows what remarkable accomplishments will happen on this new Kennedy track!

To see more pictures of the track improvements, visit KennedyCatholic.org/track-update

Note: the lines on the track will be painted by the time this edition of The Gael is printed.





Kennedy Lacrosse Earns Highest Success

Boys Lacrosse Won NYSCHAA State Championships

Our Boys Lacrosse team won the state's highest honors in the Catholic School League when they beat Saint Mary's of Manhasset on our own home field. Their previous game, the CHSAA City Championships, was arguably their most exciting game of the season. The win over Monsignor Farrell came in the final 2.9 seconds of the game. Despite losing one of the four team's captains midway through the season, the captains rallied the team to a 17-3 record. One of those losses was to Farrell just weeks before. After that loss, the team's practice focused solely on Farrell, who was their only real obstacle to winning the State Championship. Both Kennedy and Farrell lost key senior players which should create an exciting matchup in the upcoming season. The incredible success of the program rests firmly on the backs of the coaching team who are only in their fifth year coaching at Kennedy Catholic High School.



Want to see more?

Visit KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery

or

Search using the hashtag **#gokcgaels** in the Twitter, Instagram or Facebook

Kennedy Teams up with Alumni Author for Fundraising



Jack Reigle, class of '70, has embarked on his third career, and it's a fun one! Jack has just created his first cartoon book, with many more to follow in fairly short order. If you like humor, and love dogs, this just might be for you. Jack will be donating a substantial portion of the profits to Kennedy's Annual Fund. If we can sell 1,000 books, that will mean \$4,000 for your beloved school.

We have teamed up to create a special Kennedy cover, plus a foreword, to make this a true commemorative edition for our school. Jack will be expanding his charity programs to include animal shelters, rescue organizations, and other non-profits for sick children and wounded veterans. Meanwhile, let's support Kennedy, and have a few good laughs at the same time!

IMPORTANT ordering info: in order to maximize funds for Kennedy, please go to www.createspace.com/5748554 and to place your order. CreateSpace is the printer, and while it is owned by Amazon, it takes 50% less than Amazon as its commission. This will allow \$4 for every book sold to go directly to Kennedy Catholic.

Graduation 2015

Susanna Cohen '15

The Kennedy Catholic Class of 2015 was the first class to graduate at the new St. Joseph's Church. After four years of making friends and getting to know our classmates and teachers, any goodbye was bound to be bittersweet, but the beautiful ceremony at St. Joseph's was the perfect ending to all of the excitement of high school. We entered the church in our white or blue graduation gowns (advice for girls—wear a light-colored dress!), where we were greeted by photographers from The Journal News. My good friend Alexa Kleinschmidt read the invocation to begin the ceremony. Another one of my friends, Tucker Clair, gave the salutatory address. The paparazzi then captured every moment of our class receiving diplomas and awards. Thank you to The Gael for giving me this opportunity to retell my favorite line from my valedictory address—

"The learning at Kennedy is something that will continue even after our graduation. For those of you in Latin IV, Fr. Vaillancourt told me to let you know that the homework portal will remain open for twenty minutes after the ceremony." While I may (or may not) have meant that as a joke, I really am coming to have a greater appreciation of my Kennedy education now that I've spent my first month in college. I am especially grateful to my friends and teachers from high school, who put me on the track toward the wonderful experience I am having at Notre Dame. Though Mrs. K is the only one who says it (as was mentioned in both the salutatory and valedictory addresses, and not by coordinated effort) all of the teachers at Kennedy want us to "reach for the stars!" But what no one says is that they really do give you all the tools you need to do just that. So use them.



To see more graduation images, visit KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery

Working for the State Department and the President

Bernadette Meehan '93



The phone calls in the middle of the night are always the most disorienting – assassinations, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, coups, Americans in trouble overseas – when the White House Situation Room or State Department Operations Center calls, you know immediately that your plans for the day have changed. An unpredictable day is par for the course in the Foreign Service – a career that has taken me from the West Wing of the White House to the Green Zone in Baghdad.

After seven years as a financial analyst on Wall Street I was drawn to public service and the opportunity to serve my country. After passing the entrance exams and obtaining a Top Secret clearance, I began my Department of State career with a two-year assignment at our embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

Colombia is a fascinating country, and Bogota is a vibrant and exciting city. As a Consular Officer in the Visa section, my primary responsibility was to interview Colombians to determine whether they qualified for a visa to travel to the United States. Each day had a routine, but we also learned to manage the unexpected, like when a drug cartel member wanted for extradition (oddly) appeared at the embassy to apply for a visa.

Part of a Foreign Service Officer's job is to support Congressional delegations that visit on official U.S. government business. Another responsibility is to provide assistance to U.S. citizens incarcerated abroad, and as part of these duties, we visit Americans in jail, no matter what the alleged crime. I also had a chance to serve as a monitor during Colombia's presidential election, traveling across Bogota to observe polling stations.

After two years in Colombia I volunteered to serve in Iraq, arriving in September 2006 at the height of sectarian violence and beginning of the U.S. military surge. As we flew into Iraq on a military cargo plane, we were issued PPE – personal protective equipment – that consisted of a bulletproof vest and helmet. I lived in a "hooch" – a metal shipping container – that I shared with a fellow Foreign Service Officer. We did our laundry in a communal trailer, ate in the military dining facility, and worked at the U.S. Embassy housed in Saddam Hussein's former Republic Palace on the Tigris River. The work in Iraq was challenging and staggeringly heart wrenching. I flew in Blackhawk helicopters to reach Americans who had been detained; traveled to Kurdistan in a cargo plane to repatriate the remains of an American civilian; and assisted with the evacuation of an 18-year-old American in Basrah who was targeted by insurgents. During particularly ferocious periods of mortar and rocket fire, we slept in our offices or "duck and cover" shelters scattered across the Green Zone, listening to the sirens and praying the shells would not land near us. On a beautiful spring day in May 2007 I was caught in a barrage of incoming rocket fire from Sadr City. Unable to reach a shelter in time, I suffered a concussion and permanent hearing damage from the blast wave.

After Iraq I returned to Washington, D.C. to study Arabic in preparation for my tour as a Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai. The United Arab Emirates is a mesmerizing country, and serving as the public face of the U.S. government for two years was a wonderful experience. My job was to explain U.S. foreign policy to local audiences, promote U.S. culture, and facilitate exchange programs like the Fulbright and International Visitors Leadership Program. One of my favorite experiences was spending time with participants in the English Access Micro Scholarship Program, which provided grants for Emirati high school students to study English.

I returned to Washington in 2010 to work for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. For ten months I alternated between advancing her overseas trips and traveling with her to prepare her daily briefing papers. Each trip was fascinating, but the most unique was visiting the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea, where we crossed into North

Korea inside a building that straddles both countries. As we stood in the building, North Korean soldiers pressed their faces against the windows to stare at us – a surreal moment the New York Times captured on its front page the next day.

Following a hectic year flying from country to country, I became one of Secretary Clinton's two Special Assistants. My partner and I operated as one person to ensure there was no gap in providing the Secretary with all of the information she needed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our primary responsibility was to prepare her daily briefing book, which contained all of the briefing materials for her meetings. The stream of information is constant, and part of our job was to determine what the Secretary needed to see and when. We also ensured information flowed in the other direction. I would accompany the Secretary to meetings with visiting Foreign Ministers or Heads of State and would listen to her phone calls with foreign interlocutors. Following these meetings, I provided readouts to the relevant stakeholders in the Department and the interagency, so they knew what issues were discussed and could work on resulting tasks.



In 2012 I joined the White House National Security Council, where I spent three years, ultimately becoming Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and the National Security Council Spokesperson. From my office in the West Wing I was the voice of President Obama national security policies, answering queries from journalists, writing statements and other public materials, prepping the Press Secretary for the daily White House press briefing, and helping prepare the President and other senior officials for interviews and public events. Briefing the President in the Oval Office, working on summits at Camp David, and traveling around the world on Air Force One were all wonderful perks of this assignment, but nothing was as rewarding as playing a role in the formation of policies that advanced American interests. I was proud to be



a member of the team that worked on the Iran nuclear negotiations, seeking a peaceful resolution to the longstanding nuclear issue, and the team that helped restore diplomatic relations with Cuba after more than half a century. Projects that are eventually declassified are also wonderful because they allow me to finally explain to family and friends why I have been at the office for such long hours at any given time. The job also presented incredibly challenging moments, including the murder of American hostages by ISIL and the chemical weapons attack in Syria.

As a student at Kennedy more than twenty years ago, I could never have imagined this unique and rewarding journey that I am humbled and proud to be on. But the appeal of public service that drew me to the Foreign Service was incubated during my time at Kennedy and by the Jesuit influence I discovered at Boston College. A Catholic education was fundamental in helping me develop curiosity, skepticism, discipline, a respect for intellect, and a moral compass. These tenets intertwined during my high school and college years with a deep love of country and commitment to public service. In the Foreign Service we sometimes make decisions that change the course of people's lives – in ways big and small, on scales individual and more sweeping – and that is a tremendous responsibility. The Jesuit belief that talents, opportunities, and knowledge are gifts we can use to help others continues to help guide me on this incredible journey.

For anyone interested in learning more about becoming a Foreign Service Officer, you can visit: <http://careers.state.gov/officer>. For anyone interested in other opportunities to work for the Department of State, you can visit the Department's career web site: <http://www.state.gov/careers/>



Kennedy Live: Updated

Emma Berry '16

Walking into the newly renovated Kennedy Live room for the first time has the ability to give anyone chills. Major renovations were done to the studio over the summer, and this year the crew of the show, along with Mrs. Mary McGown, has been working hard every day to continuously improve the show's content and on air presentation. Kennedy Live is streamed live over the Internet every morning, and teachers make the show available to their students on the SmartBoards in homeroom. One significant update of the new studio is its new green screen, which acts as a virtual set for the show on a daily basis. The old wooden desk was replaced with a smaller, sleeker desk which students now stand behind when giving reports. Another important thing to note is Kennedy Live's mobility this year; the studio's equipment is now portable, allowing the show to be streamed from virtually anywhere in the school. Mrs. McGown and her crew are enthusiastic about the new changes that have already been made to Kennedy Live, and have high hopes for the show in the future this year.

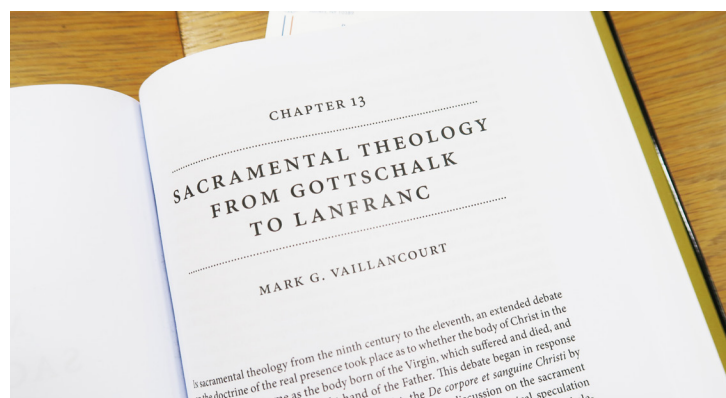
To watch Kennedy Live daily or to see past shows, visit: KennedyCatholic.org/kennedy-live



The Tie that Binds Kennedy and Oxford University

Layne Smith '16

One of the most wonderfully unique aspects of Kennedy Catholic High School is how the pride and influence that originates within stretches far beyond the brick walls in Somers, NY. There is no one more exemplary of this than our very own, Father Mark Vaillancourt, who ardently represented Kennedy at Oxford University in England this summer. Not only was he one of 800 world-renowned scholars present and speaking at the conference, he is one of the top contributors to a book from the conference regarding the Church's doctrine of Transubstantiation and the Eucharist. He conducted a historical survey regarding how the Church developed this doctrine, complete with his own research of the original Latin texts from libraries at Oxford, Fordham, and St. Joseph's Seminary. The work will be formally dedicated to the newly renovated Kennedy Catholic library sometime this November. From his experience at Oxford and this dedication, he hopes that, "we at Kennedy, would see that this library here...would be a place where students feel welcome to come, study, enhance their pursuits of learning, and open their mind to the truth." It is an immense honor to have such a scholar and leader, like Father Vaillancourt representing our community both to Westchester and to the world.



October was Right to Life Month Pro Life Club Collects Diapers

October was Right to Life month and the Pro-Life club collected diapers for mothers in need. The diapers were delivered to Birthright, a home for mothers who choose life for their children in Westchester County.

The Pro-Life club celebrates the dignity of every human person at all stages of life and all circumstances. They will be participating in events such as the Pro-Life March in Washington D.C., spiritual retreats, adopting spiritual children, and hosting educational speakers.

Nicholas DiGrandi Meets His Holiness, Pope Francis

Nicholas DiGrandi '16

Each year at Kennedy Catholic brings renewed responsibilities and opportunities. The first month of my senior year has been something I will truly never forget. Two weeks before school resumed, Father Vaillancourt called to inform me that I was chosen to be the representative of Kennedy Catholic to meet Pope Francis during his visit to New York City. I remember hearing this and being at a loss for words, and frankly, I think I still am. I began to think about what a monumental opportunity this would be for me personally, and the responsibility I had in bringing Pope Francis's message back to my school as well as living it in my own life.

I started researching Pope Francis's life before he was ordained, what made him join the priesthood, how he rose up through the Church hierarchy ultimately becoming our Pontiff, and most importantly, how his message has remained the same and how he has influenced others. I came to the realization that Pope Francis's mission is truly aligned with God's will, and that it is one of simplicity and kindheartedness. As our moral example of Christian leadership, he puts the concerns of all peoples in his hands and actively carries out the Word of God by contributing to the happiness of every human being. His actions are to benefit not only Catholics, but the whole human race, and his actions transcend every language. The word pontifex is derived from Latin to mean bridge-builder. Pope Francis is one who actively serves others so as to maintain not an exclusive community of believers, but an inclusive community of human beings. He is a Pope of the people. He wants to walk among us and be a part of our lives. At Kennedy Catholic, we are provided with an environment through which we can exemplify Pope Francis's mission for us to wholly nourish the human person both physically and spiritually. Our responsibility of stewardship and his example of humility and selflessness is what fuels our courage and compassion to make an impact on the lives of others. Like Pope Francis, we are led to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.



Actually meeting Pope Francis is even too emotional to put into words. The anticipation and excitement while waiting in the hall with the other seniors at Our Lady Queen of Angels was overwhelming. Even though we could hear the roar of the motorcycles and cheers from the crowd, the hallway where I was standing seemed silent. As the Pontiff began walking up the steps to greet us, everything seemed like it was happening in slow motion, and I was trying to focus on what I was going to ask him and to capture this once in a lifetime moment. Before I was aware, he was holding my hand. In the moment during this wave of emotions, it was difficult to comprehend that His Holiness is standing in front of me.

As he approached me, his smile put me at ease, and I felt completely relaxed. I introduced myself and showed him a photo of my aunt who passed away last year from brain cancer. He listened to me as I described what happened to her, placed his hand on the picture, and blessed it. The death of my aunt was very difficult for my family but explaining this to Pope Francis helped to ease the loss. He smiled and shook my hand again, and continued down the line to greet the rest of the seniors. I could not believe I had a conversation with the Pope. There was an incredible feeling of hopefulness, that anything is possible.



As Pope Francis left the hallway, none of us could even speak. I think we were all trying to absorb what had just taken place. This experience was truly inspiring, and I hope it sparks something in all of you as it has in me. In reading about Pope Francis, I came across some of his words, "The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful ...Then we can talk about everything else." As Catholics, we must never lose sight of our mission- to carry out the Word of God in our actions. But as human beings, we must never lose sight of our responsibility to others- to show courage and compassion, to treat others as we would want to be treated, to care about the well-being of the people around us, no matter the differences, and to take care of the world in which we live. I thank Fr. Vaillancourt for giving me this unbelievable honor which I will take with me the rest of my life.

To read and see more about Nicholas' greeting with the Pope, visit KennedyCatholic.org/news



In addition to being one of 12 students from the NY Archdiocesan schools to meet Pope Francis, Nicholas was one of 3 students to be interviewed after meeting His Holiness by Anderson Cooper of CNN.

You can view the segment by visiting the link above.



2015 Annual Golf Outing

Creating Memories While Supporting Kennedy Catholic

The 2015 Kennedy Catholic Golf Outing was held on October 1 and the day could not have been any more perfect. Cool fall temperatures with a bright blue sky and the backdrop of fall foliage on Centennial Golf Club's three nine hole courses made for a beautiful event. The traditional first Thursday of October date seems to work out well, so make sure you mark your calendars for the 2016 outing which will be held on October 6, 2016.

For more information, to see pictures, or to see the video made by the Kennedy Catholic Film Club, visit the golf page on our Web site : KennedyCatholic.org/golf-outing





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P'01,'03,'06,'08,'09,'12,'12,'16
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P'98,'00,'04,'10
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Alfred & Dawn P'13,'15,'16,'18,'20

Golf Classic Winners

1st Place

Brian O'Donnell '01
Michael O'Donnell '95
Mike O'Donnell P'95,'00,'01,'03
Mike Courtney '00

2nd Place

Michael Panny P'17
Rich Dudyshyn
Bill Staviski
John Gero

Closest to the Pin

Meadows – John Barrett
Fairways – Doug Maine
Lakes – Donna Deveronna

Longest Drive

Men – John Del Priore '18
Women – Stacy McGratty '98

Putting Contest

Dan Fleitz '17

President's Dinner Celebration

Honoring select students, Choma, Willis, Clair, and McAvoy

For the third year, the Trump National Golf Course in Briarcliff hosted the Kennedy Catholic President's Dinner. Students, parents, alumni, and friends of the school came together to celebrate and honor select members of the community.

Chosen by their peers, Mrs. Mary Choma (P '08) and Ms. Susan Willis were honored as the two Teachers of the Year for their work as educators. Mrs. Choma chairs the Science Department and has been a teacher at Kennedy for 32 years. Ms. Willis chairs the English Department and has been a teacher at Kennedy for 12 years.

The Divine Compassion award was presented to Mrs. Patricia Clair for her continued support of Kennedy Catholic. Mrs. Clair is the parent of Brendan ('13) Tucker ('15), helps on many committees as well as the football team as a parent volunteer and has been an integral part of fundraising activities at the school.

The Lux Christi Award was presented to Mr. John McAvoy who is the parent of 4 graduates, Kelly ('03), Maureen ('06), Siobhan ('07), and Maureen ('12). Mr. McAvoy is the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Edison, Inc. His generosity to Kennedy Catholic shows his value of a Catholic Education.



To see more images from the evening, visit KennedyCatholic.org/image-gallery

Thank you to all of our sponsors who made the event possible:

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William & Maura Gallagher P'15,'18
Marty & Katie Glembotzky P'16
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Anthony & Susan Moon P'17
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Anthony & Susan Moon P'17
Rev. John Wroblewski

Patron Table

William & Catherine Burns P'15,'18
The Ryan Family P'15,'18
Saint Augustine School
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
Anthony & Anna Torchia P'12,'13
The Weidenhamer Families P'15,'15



Award Winners:

- **Right - Mrs. Patricia Clair**
- **Middle - Mrs. Mary Choma**
- **Left - Ms. Susan Willias**
- **Bottom - Mr. John McAvoy**

2015 Students of Excellence

Honored at the President's Dinner



Mary Baudinet
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Although the President's Dinner was a celebration of the awardees, one could not help but feel the presence of Maureen McAvoy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McAvoy who died after a courageous fight with brain cancer. Many alumni, friends, and family came together at the dinner in celebration of Maureen's life. Maureen is pictured on the left.

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 Mr. Craig and Mrs. Elaine '66 Reynolds
 Mr. James and Mrs. Anita Ritch P'02,'04
 Mr. Stephen '73 and Mrs. Laurie Rogan
 Mr. Michael '72 and Mrs. Mary '74 Romano
 Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Jennifer '98 Rubano
 Mr. Anthony Ruperto '11
 Mr. Steven and Mrs. Sandra Santini P'08,'10,'13,'17
 Mr. Richard Sbuttoni '89
 Mrs. Patricia Schimpf
 Ms. Geri Schreiber
 Mr. Peter and Mrs. Jane Schultz
 Mrs. Barbara Slegel
 Mr. John and Mrs. Nancy Spillane P'06,'14
 Ms. Diane Tedesco '79
 Mr. Victor and Mrs. Martha Tinoco P'17
 Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Lorraine Traynor P'98,'02
 Mrs. Linda Welte
 Ms. Caroline Westerfield
 Mrs. Mary Witting '83
 Mrs. Gloria Wood
 Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Karen Wrobel P'18
 Mrs. Mary Lou Zinser
 Mr. Fiore and Mrs. Kim Zuccarelli P'18

**Denotes Matching Gifts*

Running the NYC Marathon with Achilles International

Providing Opportunity for Athletes with Disabilities



flanked by one or more guides. Guides are not official runners and never get listed as entrants. They work with organizations like Achilles International because they are inspired to assist other's complete their personal goals.

Jaime, a below the knee amputee, traveled from Ecuador with his son to run in his second New York City Marathon. Mr. Bergmeier and co-guide, Mariel (*pictured top left*), helped Jaime successfully complete his goal. Upon finishing his race, Jaime fell into the arms of his son after

Anyone who has ever run a marathon can tell you that the journey to complete a marathon begins far before ever toeing the line. Months of preparation; diet, recovery, and of course, training all need to be hyper focused to prepare yourself for the riggers of 26.2 miles. For the second year in a row, Mr. Bergmeier has participated in the TCS New York City Marathon not for himself or any personal goal, but to help someone else reach their own goals. Achilles International has been providing persons with disabilities the opportunity to compete in events all over the world.

If you have witnessed the marathon first-hand, you have certainly seen the neon yellow shirts wizzing through the course while being



5 hours and 34 minutes of running.

"It took grit for him to finish the marathon" Mr. Bergmeier said.

"He began to have a lot of soreness midway through. I can't see many people fighting through the pain

like he did. Never once did he complain or ask for help." When asked

his thoughts on Achilles International, Mr. Bergmeier said, "The core principals of Achilles International as an organization that falls right in line with my personal beliefs and those of our school; *Courage and Compassion.*" Congratulations to Mr. Bergmeier and all of those Achilles athletes and guides who participated.



Do You Have Alumni or Current Student News?

We Want to hear about it!

Are you an alumni who had a baby, got a new job, or completed something and want to share it with us? If you have exciting news, we want to hear about it. Share it with us by heading to our **Submit News** page on our website and tell us about it.

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SAVE THE DATE: *President's Dinner*

The Reverend Mark G. Vaillancourt invites you to attend the Annual Kennedy Catholic President's Dinner. A Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education Honoring His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan.

Date: April 21, 2016

Location: 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, NY 10591

*To attend the dinner, visit
KennedyCatholic.org/presidentsdinner*

SAVE THE DATE: *Cinderella*

The Kennedy Catholic Players are proud to announce that they will be performing the Broadway Production of Cinderella for this year's Spring Musical. You don't want to miss this exciting production!

Dates: March 3-6, 2016

Location: Jenny Peters Auditorium at Kennedy Catholic High School

*To more information, visit
KennedyCatholic.org/spring-musical*