

# CONTINUUM



TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL



# LEARNING SERVICE FAITH COMMUNITY



LEARNING  
FAITH  
SERVICE  
COMMUNITY



A Catholic School:  
56 Years in the Making

# FALL 2022

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## Totino-Grace High School

### MISSION STATEMENT

Totino-Grace is an Archdiocesan co-educational Catholic high school in the Lasallian tradition. Welcoming a student body that is academically, economically, and culturally diverse, we strive for equity and excellence in all programs. Recognizing the key elements of our mission as learning, faith, community, and service, we seek to provide a safe environment that places priority on mutual respect, self-discipline, and acknowledgment of our responsibility in the world community.

### ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Craig W. Junker**  
President

**Cheri Broadhead**  
Principal

**Dan Vandermyde**  
Assistant Principal

**Andrew Blake '99**  
Dean of Students and Director of Campus Ministry

**Matt Ksepka**  
Chief Financial Officer

### ADVANCEMENT STAFF

**Lindsay Burger**  
Advancement Database Analyst

**Alaina Graupman**  
Alumni Relations and Advancement Event Coordinator

**Shannon Hartinger**  
Major Gift Officer

**Brennan Lafeber**  
Annual Giving Manager

**Richard Olson**  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



## From the President's Desk

Catholic schools are different from their public school counterparts because we teach students to be on the lookout for the purpose God has for them. As a Catholic school, Totino-Grace proclaims God. He is the story. That is our core.

Not only do TG students learn to think critically, communicate clearly, and collaboratively solve challenging problems, they also learn how to take responsibility, invest in others, persevere, and make courageous decisions. A student formed in Catholic education understands the call to love and invest in others. Preparing students for a career that pays well is respectable; preparing students for a vocation that is driven by the love of others is a higher calling.

I recently heard one of our teachers ask her students, "What has Totino-Grace taught you about acting like Jesus?" She went on to question the students before her:

Do you pray?

Do you show gratitude?

Do you forgive others or hold grudges?

Are you living with purpose or just drifting along?

This teacher really had the students thinking about their lives. Were they living intentionally? Did they have goals? Did they see themselves as capable? Would others recognize Jesus in their actions? These are all critical questions to consider because a good education is not just about academic preparation; it's about whole personal development. It's about living with distinction.

Totino-Grace educators know that schools play a vital role in building character, teaching leadership, and shaping young minds for productive futures. If we want our students to know right from wrong, we have to demonstrate constructive habits and teach by example. If we want our students to learn responsibility, we need to hold ourselves to a high standard of conduct. If we want our students to invest in others, we need to model service to others. If we want our students to persevere, we can never give up on any student. Teaching the virtues is paramount for Catholic educators, who are committed to helping students understand and look for the ethical way, not the easiest way, whatever the consequences.

As you will see in the following pages of *The Continuum*, Totino-Grace provides many avenues for our students to develop a faith life. Totino-Grace teaches our students what it feels like to be both needed and respected by another person, and invest in others' wellbeing. We teach students to be on the lookout for the purpose God has for them. This is how we change lives. And the entire point of a Totino-Grace education is to live a better life, a purpose-driven life.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and continued connection to our school. At Totino-Grace - we are better together.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

Dr. Craig W. Junker, President



# A Catholic School 56 Years in the Making

## OUR HISTORY

In the late 1950s, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis sought to expand the number of Catholic high schools in the Twin Cities. At this time, Monsignor Joseph Lapinski, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Columbia Heights, purchased land in Fridley in the hope that the Archdiocese would soon build a new high school to serve Catholic families in the surrounding area. In 1965, the Archdiocese invited the Christian Brothers and the School Sisters of Notre Dame to join together to oversee the administration of the new school. Named in honor of Archbishop Thomas L. Grace, an early Minnesota bishop who was a pioneer in education, Archbishop Grace High School opened in September 1966.

In 1980, in honor of the generous benefaction of Jim and Rose Totino, entrepreneurs in the frozen pizza business, the name of the school was augmented to Totino-Grace High School. At the time, Jim and Rose's gift of \$1 million was the largest ever given to a Catholic high school in the

nation. Their profound commitment to Catholic education funded facility expansion and established the school's endowment, which remains the foundation of our student financial aid program.

Due to its long association with the Christian Brothers and its support of the Lasallian educational mission, Totino-Grace declared itself to be a Lasallian School in 1997. Totino-Grace is now part of a worldwide network of Lasallian Schools with approximately 3,500 Brothers and 93,000 lay colleagues teaching more than one million students in eighty countries.

## WHO WE ARE TODAY

Totino-Grace is an educational ministry of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and shares in the teaching mission of the Catholic Church. Our curriculum meets the robust requirements for the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and follows the guidelines of the Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for

Young People of High School Age. As such, the school is dedicated to the religious formation and instruction, academic preparation, and cultural development of young people. Totino-Grace invites and challenges each student to make his or her faith living, conscious, and active, while taking on a Catholic worldview. TG challenges students to see Christ in others and serve as Christ did.

When Totino-Grace opened its doors in 1966, the Christian Brothers and School Sisters of Notre Dame also introduced our community to the people we now call our Founders -- not because St. John Baptist de La Salle or Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger ever walked the halls of Totino-Grace, but because of their faith in God, their calling as innovative educators, and their love of students is what inspired the Brothers and the Sisters in those early years – and is what still inspires us today.

### EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

When asked what makes our school different from our public school counterparts, the answer may seem obvious -- we're a community of faith -- but what does that actually mean? How does it manifest itself in our hallways, faculty and staff, and ultimately in our young people?

It means we bring God into everything we do. Every student. Every day. "Each class period starts with a prayer. Multiply that out for six periods a day, five days a week, for 174 school days, over the course of a student's four years at Totino-Grace and that one student will have brought God into their daily lives more than 4,000 times," said Totino-Grace President, Dr. Craig Junker. "It's creating space for God and creating a habit of bringing Christ's presence into their lives. We teach students to understand that if they have God in their lives, they will have better lives. The highs will be richer and the lows will be less lonely." TG faculty and staff serve as models of faith in action, providing inspiration and opportunities for students to grow in their own faith and take the Gospel message beyond our campus and into the world.

"As Totino-Grace works to foster the four pillars of faith, learning, service, and community, every adult in our building--from volunteer parent to maintenance staff to advancement director--is invited to embody the phrase 'remember we are in the holy presence of God'," said Bill Vance, theology teacher, English teacher, and soccer coach. "From formal worship experiences to prayer at the beginning of meetings and gatherings to meeting each and every person who walks through our doors with a greeting of hospitality and reverence, we are continually

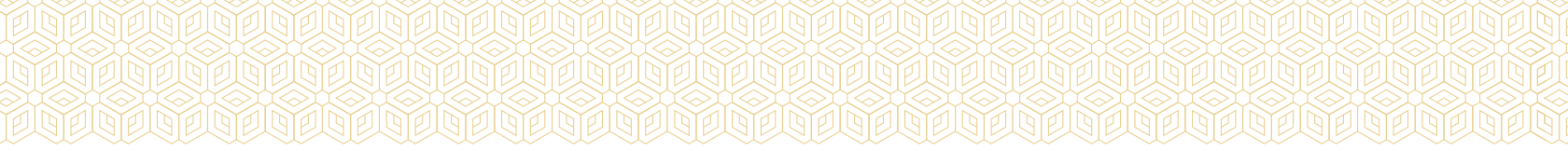
striving to receive Christ so that we might be Christ to one another."

This initiative begins in the classroom and is also implemented within our co-curricular programs. Each coach or moderator is responsible for creating a faith formation plan for their club or activity. Andrew Blake, director of Campus Ministry, explains it like this "A faith plan for a sport, club, or activity can be as simple as praying or doing service projects together, or it can be as structured as praying in the chapel before each game, like our girls basketball team did during the 2021-2022 season."

Every coach and moderator is given training on what it means to be a Lasallian athlete or participant and how that sets our students apart. Each new season, coaches and moderators gather to review the 12 virtues they are encouraged to bring to their group. "Our measurement for success is helping our young people play a game they love, with teammates they love, for a school they love, in front of friends and family who love them," says Blake.

**THE 12 VIRTUES OF A LASALLIAN ATHLETE**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>GRAVITY</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete understands what grounds them in a solid foundation being centered in mind, body, and soul.</p>   | <p><b>RESERVE</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete exhibits reserve by understanding and appreciating their "place" in all situations without dwelling on complaint; they maintain their dignity at all times whether they are or are not in the spotlight.</p> |
| <p><b>SILENCE</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete knows when to listen, and when to speak, fully understanding their role on and off the field of play, leaving room for others.</p>  | <p><b>GENTLENESS</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete sees God in others and shows genuine concern, care, and gratitude for all. They demonstrate a willingness to help where and when it is appropriate.</p>   |
| <p><b>HUMILITY</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete understands they are one of many components to a much larger purpose than just themselves and remembers there is constant room for growth for all.</p>                                     | <p><b>ZEAL</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete shows zeal by having energy, enthusiasm, and excitement in all that they do individually, as a team, in their sport, and throughout their community, in and out of competition.</p>                             |
| <p><b>PRUDENCE</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete understands what type of action needs to take place in a specific scenario, and also understands that "inaction" can be a powerful action.</p>   | <p><b>VIGILANCE</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete displays vigilance by being persistently alert and attentive to embrace goals and responsibilities into their whole person -- on the field, in the classroom, and beyond.</p>                              |
| <p><b>WISDOM</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete seeks wisdom through gaining knowledge and lived experiences to help grow and nurture themselves and others.</p>   | <p><b>PIETY</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete embodies the example of Jesus Christ by exhibiting piety through being respectful, disciplined, and reverent at all times and in all situations.</p>   |
| <p><b>PATIENCE</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete trusts that excellence is built over time; they know God reveals himself in His time, and in His way; a Lasallian Athlete sees each positive and negative situation as an opportunity.</p> | <p><b>GENEROSITY</b></p> <p>A Lasallian Athlete expresses generosity by building community through sharing their time, talents, and resources with others.</p>  |



Not only do students, athletes, coaches, and teachers live and hear these principles on a daily basis, they see them too. “When you walk into our school, you will see reminders throughout the hallways and classrooms and especially in the TG Commons - that wherever we are gathered together, Christ is with us,” shares Dr. Junker. “Not only will you see our founders and religious markers, you will also see the Five Core Lasallian Principles up in our TG Commons. It’s a powerful reminder that we enter to learn and leave to serve.”

### STUDENT MINISTRY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Each student at Totino-Grace is exposed to opportunities to help them discover their God-given gifts and talents, and consider how to best share them with others. Over the years, the TG Campus Ministry program has continued to grow and become more robust. One way to measure the program’s success is by the number of students interested in the student ministry program - and this upcoming school year boasts the largest cohort of student ministers in over a decade.

“I knew we were on the right track when we had more students apply to be a part of the Totino-Grace Student Ministry program than we’ve had in recent history,” said Campus Minister, Max Linnville. “This group of students is hungry to experience Christ in their school, and the campus ministry department is thrilled to offer some tried and true opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship, and a few new options this year.” Approximately 10% of the student population will be participating in student ministry this year.

The TG Student Ministry Team is made up of juniors and seniors who are committed to creating, offering, and implementing worship, formation, discipleship, and service programs for the Totino-Grace community. Student ministry team members work in small groups to plan liturgies, prayer services, service projects, mission formation, and theme activities. The main work of the student ministers is to bring to life our school theme and be the inspiration behind all campus ministry programs. “The creativity of the students and the talents they bring to sharing God’s love with their peers is what helps

## Five Core Principles of Lasallian Schools

### 5 CORE PRINCIPLES OF LASALLIAN SCHOOLS



Totino-Grace's Campus Ministry events touch the hearts and minds of the community in such meaningful ways," Linnville explained.

Student ministry is just one of the many ways TG students see Christ. In addition to daily prayer opportunities in the classroom and regular all-school mass, students also have the following opportunities for liturgy, sacraments, service, and prayer:

- TG's chaplain, Father Zipp, presides over Mass once a week (held on Thursday mornings this upcoming school year)
- A weekly student-led chapel service (can be adoration, rosary, prayer reflections, etc.)
- Seasonal Reconciliation
- Coffee hour with campus ministry on Wednesdays before school (invitation to discipleship, etc.)
- Small groups run by student ministers



## NEW!

**ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE GROUP** dedicated to raising awareness about Catholic Church teachings in regards to justice

**RETREAT TEAM** where students are invited to take an active role in the retreat programming

**SACRAMENTS, LITURGY AND PRAYER TEAM** focused on sharing the Sacraments on campus

**ADVERTISING AND CHARITY TEAM** dedicated to publicizing and sharing the exciting opportunities for students to take an active role in their faith

**SPORTS AND ACTIVITY MINISTERS** that will help groups with their faith formation

Totino-Grace is continuing to grow and add new options for further faith development, and this year an added emphasis will be on partnering with our families. "Through new educational, prayer, service, and justice opportunities, we hope to encourage and allow parents to more fully engage in their student's Totino-Grace faith experience," explained Linnville.

Families will be invited to participate in weekly efforts beginning in the fall. Initially efforts will start as morning prayer, but hopes to expand to include talks, retreats, and service. "These young people are eager for their own faith development and would benefit from shared excitement at home," says Linnville.

## FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

As important to helping students with their faith development, Totino-Grace is going to put extra effort this year into helping faculty and staff grow in their faith life as well. "It's no secret that there has been a great resignation in education," says Holly Hoey Germann, theology teacher and spiritual director, "but I truly believe that prayer, particularly contemplative prayer, can be a countermeasure to burnout."

Hoey Germann has spent the past year and a half getting certified in Spiritual Direction, which will be offered as a way for faculty and staff to have a professional partner walk with them on their faith journey. Through gentle questions and conversations, both individually and in small groups, participants are invited to look more closely at how the Holy Spirit is working. Teachers are in a unique

position to talk about their faith life and mold what it means to walk with God. “The ultimate goal with these new offerings is to surround our students with faith-filled adults who are open and aware of God’s profound love and what they are called to do and be in this world,” says Hoey Germann.

*The more you devote yourself  
in prayer the more you will  
do well in your work.*

*St. John Baptist de La Salle*

In addition to the campus ministry offerings of prayer, sacraments, and spiritual direction, faculty and staff will also be given the opportunity to deepen their faith-filled relationships with each other and as a community in the following ways:

- Monthly book reflections and discussions centered around contemplative prayer practice (offered before and after school)
- Advent evening reflection
- Lenten afternoon prayer series
- Staff spiritual retreat
- Charism formation opportunities with Lasallian and School Sister of Notre Dame partners
- Individual spiritual direction

“The adults of faith that are modeling the day-to-day reality of discipleship are, arguably, the main differentiator in a Catholic school,” says Hoey Germann. “We need to invest in them so that they can, in turn, inspire and encourage our students to be people of faith.”

### A TRADITION TO BE PROUD OF

Although young in terms of years, a Totino-Grace education has a rich history and strong foundation that continues to grow richer and stronger. A Totino-Grace education is special because it touches the heart of each student, inspiring them to surpass their own expectations, achieve academic success, and experience personal and spiritual fulfillment within a safe, nurturing community. TG students truly embody our Lasallian mission: “enter to learn, leave to serve.”

“Teaching is definitely not limited to our teaching staff, nor is it only accomplished in the classroom. Our students witness Christ in the lunch line, on the bus, and any time where two or more are gathered,” says Vance. Totino-Grace’s faculty and staff continue to honor St. John Baptist de La Salle and Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger and all the men and women who came before to continue their tradition of faith, love, and education. “We have an incredible tradition and foundation to continue to embody and build upon and I couldn’t be more proud of our teachers, staff, and students as we enter our 56th year of Catholic education,” says Dr. Junker.







# Creating Confidence in Faith

Keely McSherry is the seventh of eight McSherry siblings to attend Totino-Grace. Keely was asked to address her graduating class (class of '22) at their Baccalaureate Mass. Here, in her own words, Keely shares with her peers and teachers what they have meant to her faith life development.

*"I grew up as a practicing Catholic but never took charge of my faith until I attended TG. Life here centers around four key pillars: learning, community, service, and most importantly faith.*

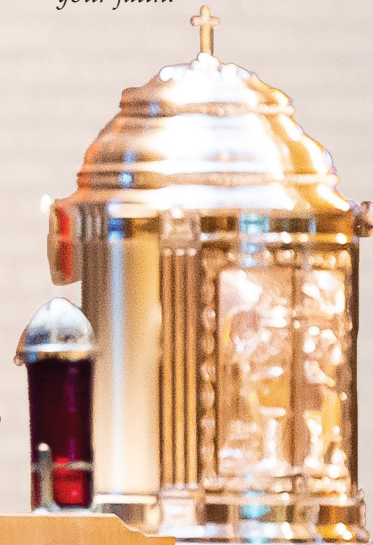
*Faith played a huge role in the daily life of TG students. Every morning began with prayer over the intercom, and every class started with its own unique prayer. Our faith experience didn't stop there, we gathered as a school multiple times throughout the year to celebrate Mass. This is where as freshman we heard the very iconic song of "hearts on fire" which had everyone singing. From "hearts on fire" to "anchored by faith," we tried to create an inclusive faith community that focused on love, togetherness, and discipleship. This same community greatly impacted my personal and religious life as it carried me through the toughest times in my life.*

*During the spring of my freshman year, my mom was diagnosed with stage 4 small-cell cancer and this was the first time I began to question God's role in my life. I questioned how someone as faith filled as my mother could be going through this sickness that seemed to come out of nowhere. Even with a family as big as mine I felt so alone... but not when I was at school.*

*TG embraced me with open arms and all of my teachers made me feel so supported during this time. This love and generosity continued past the death of my mother in the fall of our sophomore year. Many of my classmates and their families who I had never*

*spoken to before expressed their support and I believe that is what truly exemplifies the community and unity of TG.*

*So as we move forward I invite you all to remember the faith and community that TG provides and I challenge you to keep your faith ever present in your life. Embrace those Lasallian virtues and always remember to be anchored by your faith."*





Totino-Grace

# So many REASONS to become an Eagle



**30 ACRE CAMPUS**

**FOUNDED 1966**

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT 690**

**STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES**

- TURF STADIUM
- SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LAB
- RECORDING STUDIO

**<10 MILES FROM MINNEAPOLIS**

**42% OF STUDENTS ARE AWARDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE annually**

More than **150 COURSES**

**20 COLLEGE CREDIT-ELIGIBLE COURSES**

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 22**

**SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**

- Kathleen Murphy Scholars
- Learning Lab
- Engineering Institute

**5 CORE PRINCIPLES of Lasallian Schools**

- Faith in the Presence of God
- Concern for the Poor and Social Justice
- Respect for All Persons
- Quality Education
- Inclusive Community

**STUDENT POPULATION 30% DIVERSE**

**DORM ON CAMPUS 35 COUNTRIES represented**

**24 INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

**55 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**3 WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PER WEEK**

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE**

**58 FACULTY MEMBERS**

**45 TEACHERS with ADVANCED DEGREES**

**COUNSELOR TO STUDENT RATIO: 1:230 (MN AVERAGE: 1:650)**

**30 CLUBS**

**3 THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PER YEAR**

**24+ INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL PERFORMING ARTS opportunities**

**FAMOUS COOKIES CONSUMED BY EAGLES:**

600 per day 12,000 per month 96,000 per school year

Learn more and schedule YOUR personalized on-campus experience today!



# Meet Margaret “Wethington” Arnold ‘80

As the third of six children to attend Grace High School starting in 1976, Margaret Wethington Arnold was following her older siblings. However, once she walked in the doors she got involved in a number of activities including as a Class Officer, E’Gals, and the track team. Her academic success and co-curriculars led her to St. Catherine University and a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Married to John, and a mother of four children, who runs a successful marketing and public relations firm, Margaret took some time to answer a few questions.



## **There were six Wethington children at Grace/Totino-Grace from 1971 to 1986, your family must believe in a Catholic education. What formed this belief?**

Our parents formed this belief. Our father grew up in West Virginia and attended Catholic schools and institutions through graduate school receiving his master’s degree from Creighton University before he received his PhD and MD at the University of Ottawa in Canada. Our mother grew up in Ipswich, South Dakota, and attended Catholic school in her early years. She demonstrated such a devotion to her faith and education all her life and reflected on that greatly in her final years, even reconnecting with her home parish and their education foundation.

## **What was your favorite thing about being at Grace?**

There was a school spirit and community that you just can’t take for granted. This came from great sports, caring families, and bringing together students from around the metro area. The distance and hours on the bus that families would go still amazes me.

## **What is one of the most valuable things that you took from your education at Grace?**

Being at Grace during its relatively early years (I started school there at the beginning of its second decade), showed the

dedication parents, parishes, teachers, and administrators had making a Catholic education and a different opportunity available to families. I feel choice, access, and opportunity are important.

## **Do you remember a favorite faculty member? How did they impact you?**

There were so many great faculty members who I got to know and who got to know me. Ms. Mary Joy Zawislak, Ms. Georgia Amdahl, Mr. Mike Shimek, Mr. Jim Cappelleri, and Mr. Bud Pappe. They all taught me something – how to write, to read and reflect, and to analyze. I always tell a story about Mr. Pappe and how he taught me to read *Time Magazine* and the letters to the editor but how he also taught me to be accountable for my actions. (I won’t tell that story). I also reflect on the presence, dedication, and leadership of Mr. Dave Nigon as our dean and legendary football coach. He made an impact as well. I even babysat for some of the teachers.

## **How do you select organizations for your time, talent, and treasures?**

My involvements come out of my natural interests, whether it is promoting and supporting access to Catholic schools, literacy in our community by spearheading the fundraising and building of a new library (the only volunteer project my husband and I have worked on together), or supporting and working on nature trails through my time as a board member for the Superior Hiking Trail Association, and now as a commissioner of the Stearns County Parks Commission. I see where there is a need, if I can make a difference, and how it aligns with my passions.

## **Why do you continue to support Totino-Grace decades after graduating?**

David Olson ‘07, past associate vice president of advancement, really reconnected me to TG especially after my own children completed their Catholic education at Saint John’s Preparatory School and now college and professional schools. He helped keep me posted on TG and what was happening even though I’m not near the Twin Cities any longer. During the passing of my parents in the past two years, he helped us reflect on their support of TG and what they meant to the community. In fact, through David, my mom was able to learn after my father’s passing that one of the students who had received support from my parents years ago is now a physician like my father was. That connection was pretty special. Supporting their legacy has been important.

# Meet Jack and Kelly Judd



“Sharing our gifts has always been an important part of how we raised our children,” says Kelly Judd, mother of Bill Judd '03. Bill arrived at Totino-Grace in 1999. Jack and Kelly made their first gift to TG that following spring. Although Bill graduated in 2003, the Judd’s continue to support TG through regular gifts almost 25 years later. We asked Jack and Kelly to reflect on how TG students continue to benefit from their long-standing philanthropic gifts. The Judd’s believe that supporting deserving students with financial aid is more crucial now than ever. With the annual cost of tuition exceeding \$16,000 and a greater number of students qualifying for financial aid, Jack and Kelly believe strongly that students who desire a high-quality, value-based education should not have financial constraints keep them away.

## **Why did you get involved with Totino-Grace in the first place, and what has your involvement been?**

Bill’s older brother attended Benilde St. Margaret’s so we always favored Catholic education. Our visits to TG and knowing past

TG students convinced us that TG was the right place for Bill. We were active parents while Bill was in school and strongly believe that TG works best when parents take an active role in their son or daughter’s education and stay connected to the daily operations of the school. In recent years, we track the success of the school from more of a hands-off style but remain well aware of issues and difficulties schools like Totino-Grace have in continuing their mission.

## **What do you love most about Totino-Grace?**

It has always been the enthusiasm of the educators and staff of the school. This then gets passed to the students. It seems that TG has more happiness and cooperation and that leads to better students who are prepared to enter adult life.

## **Can you share a time when you gave to a charity and it felt wonderful?**

We favor charities that deal with childhood issues and also education for pre-college students. We always feel good when making a donation as we are aware that the needs are far greater than the resources.

## **What type of legacy would you like to leave? In other words, how would you like to be remembered?**

Quite simply, that we were good parents and that we love our children.

## **How would you describe Totino-Grace’s mission to a new family or someone who has never supported TG before?**

TG strives to be a school where teachers and staff will know, appreciate, and celebrate your child for everything that he or she can be. All students are given the opportunity to be involved and be recognized. An atmosphere of faith and values is critical and modeled. We believe that a great high school educational experience is more critical in forming successful adults than college. Regarding financially supporting the school, throughout our country’s history, private education has stood alongside public education so that all students have a chance at a good education. We believe it is important that this part of our American culture continues.

# Meet Theodore Burnes

Theodore “Ted” Burnes is a senior this year at Totino-Grace. Besides his involvement in Campus Ministry and his role as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass, Ted has been active in Company of Singers, Chamber Singers, T-Tones, and Mock Trial. Even though Ted will graduate in 2023, his younger brother Gehrig will be walking our hallways until 2025, and his younger brother Jack, who is currently at St. Stephen’s, will be a 2027 graduate. TG is blessed to have the Burnes family in our community and we sat down with Ted to learn a bit more about his time at TG.

## What role does faith play in your family?

As a family, we have always gone to church every Sunday together and participated in as many ministries as we could, such as altar serving, ushering, or music ministry. Faith has been present in all my time of schooling, I went to St. Stephen’s in Anoka for elementary and middle school. My mom and dad always pushed us to give back to our parish for the support they gave to us.

## In what ways has Totino-Grace brought faith and Catholicism into your classroom and high school experience?

Obviously, Totino-Grace’s faith is brought into the classroom through the religion class curriculum. However, it is present in so many other places too. Having us pray in nearly every class in a different way, whether it be meditative in Ms. Hoey German’s class, in a different language in Sra. Flom’s class, or through quotes in Mr. Theisen’s class, faith is present in unique ways. The ability as a student body to gather together as an entire school multiple times a year to celebrate mass or just as smaller groups in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel are ways to engage in your faith that very few schools have.

## How do you pray? How has TG nourished your prayer life?

Ever since I went to a summer camp for young men interested in the priesthood (the only reason I knew and went to this camp was through Totino-Grace’s own outreach and encouragement) at the University of Notre Dame, I have begun to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Divine Office. The Office is structured around the times of the day, so I try to pray Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer. This universal prayer is how I find myself best connected to God, and I am grateful that Mr. Linnville

gave me the opportunity to lead this prayer with fellow classmates and teachers in our own school in the chapel. Totino-Grace has allowed me to practice my own way of prayer and share it with others.

## How has your time at Totino-Grace strengthened your relationship with God?

I have altar served at Totino-Grace since 10th grade, and been a part of Student Ministry since 11th. The opportunities to do just these two things have strengthened my relationship with God. I am able to serve God in a meaningful way at Mass through altar serving and at chapel prayer through mere participation. Through these ministries I have discovered I truly long to serve Christ’s church, possibly as a priest or a teacher, and in this way I have come to grow in greater relationship to the church. I have grown in relationship with others especially in Student Ministry, where I have prayed and talked with my own peers, who have a common interest in serving God and others.

## Can you describe what it means to be Catholic, based on your high school experience?

Being Catholic means to be in communion with the Universal Church. Whether through the recitation of the Divine Office, participation in the Mass, or the reception of the Eucharist, being Catholic means being bound to others through Christ. Throughout high school, I have not had to shy away from being Catholic, because I believe this school fosters many opportunities for those who are willing to grow in relationship with God and grow in truly being Catholic.

## When you graduate in June 2023, how will your four years at TG prepare you to live a Christ-centered life?

I have not had to shy away from being Catholic, I believe TG fosters many opportunities for those who are willing to grow in relationship with God and grow in truly being Catholic. The chapel has been a place for me to interact with God in my most joyous and darkest days. Mr. Blake’s willingness to pass along information about the Summer Seminary Immersion Program at Notre Dame may have single-handedly allowed me to find my possible vocation as a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross, and being in Student Ministry has let me practice my faith in a more purposeful way.





## Meet Sister Dianne Perry, SSND Totino-Grace Board Member 2016-2022

Sister Dianne Perry has been a member of the Totino-Grace Board of Directors from 2004-2010 and 2016-2022. Sister Dianne earned a bachelor's in elementary education with a minor in theology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. She

then went on to earn a master's degree in theology from the Catholic Higher Institute of East Africa in Kenya.

From 1968 through 1975 she taught middle school at Holy Family in Clarkston, Washington, and at Lonsdale-New Market-Veseli Area School in Lonsdale, Minnesota. For the next 17 years, she served in Kenya, working as both a teacher and administrator at schools in Kisii and Kisumu. In 1987, she returned to Kenya attending the Catholic Higher Institute of Eastern Africa. She then served as a professor at Nairobi's Tangaza College through 1992. She was called to the role of vocations director in Mankato, a post she held from 1993 through 2000. From 1997 through 2004, she also worked for the St. Paul Archdiocesan Vocation Office. She served as a pastoral care associate at St. Katharine Drexel parish in Ramsey, Minnesota, from 2004 through 2010, and held a four year post as provincial councilor of the School Sisters of Notre Dame's newly formed Central Pacific Province. Today, she serves at St. Therese parish in Woodbury, Minnesota, coordinating pastoral care and adult faith education.

Sister Dianne Perry took some time to help better understand her role as a School Sister of Notre Dame (one of TG's founding Orders) and as a Totino-Grace Board Member.

### **What makes a Catholic school different from a non-Catholic school?**

The purpose and focus of education is to lift each student to the fullness of their entire being. Our spiritual selves are part of our wholeness as human beings. Catholic schools are able to address the spiritual dimension of each student, directly with intention, leading them to become all that their creator intended.

### **In what ways does our school reflect its Catholic mission well?**

Totino Grace is built on the charism of two religious communities, the Lasallian Brothers and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The purpose of these two charisms is to bring every person to the fullness God intended for them. The efforts TG makes to ensure every student is known by someone, is recognized as they are each day, and is invited and challenged to grow is, I believe, the essence of the mission. This is fulfilled in numerous ways including: innovative teaching; intentional interaction with each student; invitations to reach out to the neighbor through service projects and mission trips; the faith gatherings at Mass to recognize everyone belongs to each other and to Someone greater; and the numerous clubs and sports that find ways to help students excel outside of the classroom.

### **In what ways could it improve?**

Participating in creation with our good God, we are always changing. Because of this TG must always evaluate and find new and better ways to fulfill its mission. I do not think any of us are ever able to say we have become the best. TG recognizes successes and deliberately asks the question, what next, what have we missed, how do we move forward?

### **How does TG's Board of Directors support the Catholic mission of our school?**

The Board of Totino-Grace is a special way to understand, reflect and ensure the mission of the school. Board members are educated about the mission so that they can view each agenda item from this perspective. The most important task of the board is to understand the mission and to see that it is being met in each and every aspect of the school.

### **How can the board be witness to the educational mission and evangelization of Totino-Grace?**

The board members are members of the broader community. Their own behavior witnesses to the universal values of the mission of the school. They can be and are spokespersons for the school. As part of the TG community they show up for events, express gratitude to the staff, ask good questions at the board meetings, seek new ways to promote the school and ensure it is fulfilling its mission.

# Meet Mary Dengerud

Mary Dengerud arrived in Totino-Grace as a mathematics teacher for the 1986-1987 academic year. Despite her excelling in the classroom and with TG students, her husband Jerry was offered a job west of Minneapolis/St. Paul and Mary and her family packed up and moved. After many years in New Ulm Catholic Schools, Mary heard about a mathematics opening and in 2013 Mary rejoined the faculty at TG. This academic year was an exciting time for Mary as she coached the 2021-2022 women's basketball team to a state title, was named the Lasallian Teacher of the Year, and watched her daughter, Leah graduate. New Ulm Catholic School's loss was truly Totino-Grace's gain.

## **You model Christ's love through your work as a teacher and a coach. How do you see yourself as a model of Christ?**

I have always had faith that God will do with me as He chooses. As much as I would like to have my own way, I know life is always better when I let Him have the reins. I pray every day that He will help me to do His will. As a teacher and a coach, prayer has always helped me see things differently. All my students know my number one rule is to be attentive during prayer. We never know where we will be when God's words begin to make sense.

## **How do you discuss and share your faith in the classroom?**

God did not make man to be alone. I believe we are a social people bound by community. It is in that community that we respect each other, that we love each other, and that we grow as a community through work, grace, and fellowship. The world has so much noise right now. It is blame, hatred, my side or your side, and as I choose my prayer for the day, I hope a meaning or part of a story helps someone see another point of view. Not all students, or even Catholics for that matter, believe in the same thing, but as a member of a Catholic school I will always share the Catholic beliefs whether it is popular or not. I do not expect conversion, but if you are a member of our school, I do expect that you respect our traditions and our Catholic faith. It's that respect of differences that will make the change.

## **Teaching is a demanding profession, especially in light of COVID. How has this impacted you throughout your tenure? How is your longevity in education connected to your faith?**

Benefits of a Catholic educator may not be monetary, but there is so much more to education than money. That moment a student goes from struggling to knowing they really have it is

a feeling that is indescribable. A thank you note from a student who struggled with discipline issues, an email from a student in college grateful for the time spent with them, or even an invitation to be a Eucharistic minister at a student's wedding are all examples that you can never put a monetary value on.

"Come to me all who are weary," "I will never forsake you," "Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go." - are all examples that have affected my longevity especially in the midst of COVID. I remember vividly when our principal asked during COVID if I would teach in person. Without hesitation, I said yes. I know that God has a plan for everyone and that he will always see us through - good times and bad.

## **In addition to teaching mathematics, you are also the head girls basketball coach. How does your faith play a role in how you coach and relate to your players?**

I have been very fortunate to spend my years of teaching in the Catholic school system and I can't even imagine living my life without it. Coaching is an education of sports, and it is in that education that we prepare students for life. Celebrating our God-given talents, the effect of teamwork, respecting people in the game - whether that is a teammate, opponent, referee, scorekeeper, or coach, and loving what we do is how faith changes our life. As I watch our young women lead our pre-game prayer services, or pray before practice - it is a moment of pure bliss. We pray with music, silence, video, group prayer, and traditional prayers. We pray for our teammates, special intentions, victories, and thanksgiving. It is a time in our season that we can be together to do the most powerful thing we can do for anyone and that is PRAY.

## **You were awarded the Lasallian Educator Award last year, what does this recognition mean to you?**

I think more than the award itself, it is an honor to be among the teachers who have received that award. I have a deep respect for those teachers and to be a part of the list is very humbling. The amount of years and hard work that they have given TG is what makes this place special. It was that dedication and community that drew me back to TG.



# Class Notes



## 1971 PHOTO 1

Class of 1971 had their 50th+1 Class Reunion at Waldoch farms.

## 1979 PHOTO 2

In 2021, **Anna (Ricker) Schmidt '79** welcomed Sammy into her family via adoption from foster care. She joins 4 adult adoptive siblings.

## 1988

A major TV network has recently offered **Jim Gale '88** a contract to star in a TV series, Land of Plenty, coming 2022.

## 1993

**Amy Finka '93** is a featured soloist for Vox Grata Women's Choir, and sang in Haydn's Creation for two performances in spring 2022.

## 1995 PHOTO 3

On October 2nd, 2022, **Justin Herzog '95** will be inducted into the St. Olaf College Athletics Hall of Fame for his accomplishments during his basketball career there.

## 2000 PHOTO 4

**Mike Staffa '00** and Atsuko Staffa are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Emma Staffa. She was born on September 28, 2020, in Yokohama, Japan.

## 2002

**Adam Langenfeld '02** completed a fellowship in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota on 6/30/2022. He will start as a staff physician in Developmental Pediatrics at Children's Minnesota in August 2022.



## 2002 PHOTO 5

On May 22, 2022, **Kevin Piper**, welcomed a daughter, Evelyn Rose Piper, at Rose Medical Center in Denver, CO.

## 2003 PHOTO 6

**Nick Chupita '03** and his wife Julianne Beisswenger welcomed their daughter, Maisie Marie, on February 2, 2020.

## 2005 PHOTO 7 & 8

**Shannon (Amsler) Jensen '05** got married on February 20, 2021 to husband Stephen Jensen and had their first child, Kyle Stephen Jensen, on March 1, 2022.

## 2006

**Dan Pitzl '06** welcomed a son, Wells, on July 3, 2022.

## 2007

**Ellen (Bina) Koneck '07** welcomed a son, Wallace Bina Koneck, on June 5, 2022.

## 2010

**Amanda (Glaus) Marker '10** got married at Elim church on September 5, 2020.

## 2011

**Gina Champion '11** graduated with a Master of Science in Analytics from The University of Chicago in March 2022. Her thesis was awarded the honorable mention for best in show at the program's winter capstone showcase.





2013 PHOTO 9 & 10

Maggie Eisfelder '13 and Austin Peters '13 got married on February 5, 2022 in Stillwater, MN. Their wedding party and guests were filled with TG alumni: Gabby Eisfelder '15, Alex Reynolds '13, Brent Lind '13, Brad Moberg '13, John Kehn '13, Troy Lanz '13, Danny Schierman '13, Sharon (McGeary) Kehn '84, Molly (Kliner) Lanz '86, Caroline (Haik) Rossow '08, Anna Hart '13, Sarah Kastenmeier '15, and Molly Adam '13.

2015 PHOTO 11 & 12

Lindsey (Baufield) Schultz '15 married husband, Ross Schultz, on July 31, 2021, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Forest Lake, MN.

2016 PHOTO 13

Arianna Delmoral '17 is playing for the MN Aurora FC in their inaugural season in the USL W League. Below is a picture of Arianna, and two proud coaches.

2022 PHOTO 14

The Zahn Family (Chris, Choon Bee and Tina '22) gifted Totino-Grace their beautiful Malaysian insect collection. They are proudly featured in Mrs. Schmidt's classroom.





## A Letter From Board Co-Chair Tara Melsha '89

On behalf of the Totino-Grace Board of Directors, welcome to a new school year! There is always excitement when the TG community gathers again. Community is a word often used by students, parents, alumni, and staff to describe one of the best things about TG. As an alum ('89) and parent of three alums ('18, '21, '21), I can attest that each time you walk through the school doors, you can't help but feel it. There is an unmistakable spirit.

A strong community is what makes Totino-Grace more than just a high school. Since its inception, dedicated faculty and staff have been the foundation of TG's community spirit. Not only do they challenge students academically and encourage personal growth, they also help students know the presence of God in their lives. When students feel known and loved, they engage in the community – 95% of students participate in TG's athletic, fine arts, service and leadership activities; this year, more students will participate in Campus Ministry in more than a decade; there is increasing interest to serve as leaders on Student Council; and service immersion trips are attended by nearly 50% of the student body. Faith, Service, Learning, Community – the hallmarks of Catholic Lasallian education, are visible daily.

I am humbled to serve with 18 other members on the Totino-Grace Board of Directors who are dedicated to advancing Totino-Grace's mission as a Catholic Lasallian high school. Our goal is to help ensure that as many students as possible have the opportunity to receive an exemplary Catholic education at TG. We have been focused on financial oversight, facility improvements, staff compensation, need-based financial assistance, and limiting tuition increases – all of which will continue to be priorities. As we look to the future, the board, administration, and staff continue to be guided by the 2020-2025 strategic plan's four pillars: *Living the Catholic Lasallian Experience; Building a Robust and Rigorous Academic Program; Inspiring a Vibrant School Community; and Assuring Financial Viability.*

We are grateful for benefactors, volunteers, parents, and alumni, who share their time, talent, and treasure with giving hearts. Their commitment to Totino-Grace strengthens the sense of community and ensures current and future students benefit from an outstanding, faith-filled, educational experience.

If it's been a while since you've walked through the school doors, I encourage you to once again reconnect with the TG community. Make plans to attend a Mass, event, game, or performance. Be touched by the spirit that is Totino-Grace High School!

Live Jesus in our hearts, Forever!

Tara Melsha '89, Co-Chairperson



Totino-Grace  
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THANK YOU DONORS

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Dorwatha Woods  
Tom Young '95  
Fr. Andrew Zipp



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