



CONTINUUM

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL | SPRING 2025 | ISSUE 19



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ERIC RATA CZAK '19

SENIOR CLASS SPOTLIGHT
SCHOLARS RECOGNITION

COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS
MARY D ENGERUD
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COMMUNITY & CONTINUITY

THE CONTINUING LEGACY OF A TOTINO-GRACE FAMILY

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Totino-Grace High School

MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded in Catholic values and enriched by our Lasallian and School Sisters of Notre Dame heritage, we welcome and empower our diverse community to pursue lives of faith, service, and leadership through transformational learning to be light for the world.

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FORMED BY FAITH, FUELED BY COMMUNITY



At the founding of our school, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Christian Brothers formed a culture that saw both teaching and learning as holy endeavors. This culture was centered entirely on teaching minds, touching hearts, and transforming lives through relationships. Just as it was in 1966, so it is today: it remains our central mission for students to feel a deep sense of connection and belonging as an Eagle.

Lasallian education sees teaching as much more than a job; it's a calling, a ministry. Much has changed in the last 60 years, but through it all our teachers have had three things in common: a commitment to our students, a commitment to each other, and a commitment to help young people know and love God. The traditions of the Christian

Brothers and School Sisters of Notre Dame taught us that an ethos of "community," where students feel known, welcome, and valued, is the engine that propels a TG education. Over 11,500 alumni can attest to this.

Totino-Grace is the rare school that is comfortable using the word "love" to describe how we feel about our students. We love our students. And we love them because we know them. Our teachers are personally invested in their development. They enjoy helping our students learn in the classroom, cheering for them on the field, watching them perform on the stage, assisting them as they navigate challenges, and laughing and praying with them every day. Through this, we empower our students to be God's love in the world. That's the TG way.

Totino-Grace teachers hold a climate of expectation for every student. Our students learn to develop a growth mindset and to take control of their futures by working hard and taking responsibility for their own learning. When our students graduate, they're prepared to use what they've learned to make a difference. That's the TG way.

Perhaps most importantly, Totino-Grace teaches students to be on the lookout for the purpose God has for them. We want to be a place where students can hear God's voice, sending them forth like the apostles, on a mission to make the world a better place. Our faculty and staff serve as models of faith in action, providing inspiration and opportunities for students to grow in their own faith and to take the Gospel message and make it the core of their lives beyond our campus. That's the TG way.

In this edition of *The Continuum*, you will find stories that showcase the Totino-Grace legacy: these are former students, longtime staff, and overall people of distinction and, more importantly, dedication to service beyond themselves. I am grateful for how our community embodies the Lasallian ideal of "together and by association." Our community has proven, time after time, that every individual student, parent, alumni, and teacher matters. This is illustrated prominently in your generosity. Because of you, our students will have enhanced opportunities to learn and grow. Because of you, our students will live better lives. Because of you, our Eagles soar higher every year. I can't thank you enough.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

Dr. Craig W. Junker, President



A FAMILY PRACTICE: TG'S SIBLING DOCTORS

**ELIZABETH (BECK) BEIERMAN '11,
RACHEL (BECK) SALZ '12, AND SARAH BECK '14**

Everyone knows the cliché film line, “Is there a doctor in the house?” With the Beck sisters, however, there isn’t one: there are three. TG alumni Elizabeth Beierman ‘11, MD, Rachel Salz ‘12, MD, and Sarah Beck ‘14, DDS have each earned an undergraduate degree in biochemistry (all from the University of St. Thomas) before continuing on to receive a doctorate in medicine or dentistry. And while their journeys have taken different paths, they can all point to two things as their source of inspiration: their parents, and their time at Totino-Grace.

“I’m sure it started with the example of our mom,” Rachel said, referring to her career decision. “She has always been the most powerful witness to motherhood and medicine, one I strive to mimic a fraction of now!”

As for the school, the three sisters had similar experiences, inspired by the sense of community and support that permeated the building.

As the first of her sisters to attend TG, Elizabeth began her time “feeling a mix of anticipation and apprehension,” but found her place early on by joining the soccer team. “Those early connections helped me feel more comfortable and made the transition into high school so much smoother.”

Rachel followed the year after, shadowing her older sister to get a taste of what she would experience, down to the ever-famous TG cookies. “The cookies were a selling point, even then,” she told us. She wasn’t too apprehensive about attending the school. The soccer team’s help in getting her acclimated to the environment was a parallel to her sister’s experience the year prior. “My coach, Mrs. Fagan, was also my freshman-year math teacher, so I had a head start in that familiarity, too.”

By the time Sarah arrived in 2010, the Beck name had become a part of the fabric of Totino-Grace, to the

point that Sarah vividly remembers a teacher seeing her name on the roster and bluntly asking, “How many Beck sisters are there?” Through her sisters, Sarah already felt connected to the community. “Having watched my sisters thrive at TG before me made the transition feel smooth and natural.” It felt as if, although it was her freshman year, she was joining a community that she had been a part of for many years already. And yes, if you hadn’t guessed, she did play on the soccer team.

That 2010-11 academic year was the only year where all three sisters attended the school at the same time. Elizabeth graduated that spring with fond memories. “I was fortunate to have so many incredible teachers,” she said, before mentioning that Mr. Granlund made “a lasting impression with his dedication and support.” Another name she brought up is the current Vice Principal, Mr. Vandermeye. “His enthusiasm for science and commitment to teaching



were foundational in fostering my love of science and teaching.”

Post-graduation, Elizabeth left TG for the University of St. Thomas, pursuing a degree in biochemistry. Rachel continued her journey, making lasting memories along the way. “Our parents always reminded us that our first job was to be students,” she recollected. “Looking back, some of my strongest memories are in the classroom—dissecting *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Mary Newman, discussing the meaning of life with B. Vance, taking a road trip to Grinnell for a live political podcast, watching Reh fuss’s elephant toothpaste experiment...”

What made the community truly special for each sister was getting to share it with those closest to them. “Getting to spend all four years with one or both of my sisters was

a huge blessing,” Rachel said. “We’d later repeat the experience in college (go Tommies!), and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Rachel graduated the year after Elizabeth, and she, too, attended the University of St. Thomas to study biochemistry.

In 2014, Sarah did the same.

When we asked what inspired them to choose this path, they all spoke to specific aspects of their Totino-Grace education. For Rachel and Sarah, mission trips were a starting point. “During spring break of my junior year, I went on a mission trip to Piedmont, Alabama. We worked with Habitat for Humanity...and spent the entire week building a home for a local family.” This experience, she says, was pivotal. “I felt so fulfilled and accomplished and knew [that] whatever career I chose, I wanted it to be rooted in service.”

Rachel told us, “I had the opportunity to go on two mission trips—one in the Twin Cities, and another in the Bronx, NY. Both experiences were formative, not just in learning the value of service but in understanding the power of serving as part of a community.”

That theme, community, came up again for Elizabeth, this time referring to the culture of TG as a whole. “The culture at Totino-Grace instilled in me a deep appreciation for service to others. I saw this every day in the dedication of my teachers and staff, and it was exemplified further through experiences like volunteering at Sharing and Caring Hands.”

The teachers and staff including the Vance brothers, Bernie and Brian Litecky, Mike Shimek, Ned Thompson, and many more—played a central role in the community that the Beck sisters experienced. Sarah had difficulty even narrowing down just who made the biggest impact on her life. “This is a total cop-out answer, but I genuinely can’t pick [one]! If anything, I think that speaks to the incredible teachers I had during my time [at TG].”

Now, carrying the community-focused, service-oriented, self-giving mentality that TG instilled, these sisters are making a difference. Elizabeth is a hospitalist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Rachel works as a hospitalist as well, serving at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. And Sarah is a pediatric dentist at a practice in Rochester. But “making a difference,” it turns out, goes far deeper than the choice of career for the Becks.

“I think, sometimes, it’s easy to get overwhelmed and feel like making a difference in the world is synonymous with doing something huge,” Sarah said. “From my experience, it’s the small things, done throughout your day, that can make the biggest difference. Your interactions with others, your willingness to go the extra mile, your kindness, your attentiveness, your care and compassion.”

“Making a difference isn’t confined to specific roles or professions,” Elizabeth told us. “Every vocation offers unique opportunities to serve others and create meaningful change.”

That, it seems, is the mark of the TG community. This sense of service that is found, first and foremost, within the relationships that we hold. The Beck sisters all hold advanced degrees and serve as doctors, yet they point to the everyday interactions as the place where they, themselves, were changed, and where they look to make a difference, too.

“As a physician,” Elizabeth said, “I realized that I can serve through my medical knowledge and by offering my patients the extra time and care that goes beyond what might be traditionally expected. This deeper understanding of service continues to guide me in both my personal and professional life.”

Today, the sisters have full schedules. Elizabeth spends her time with her daughters (ages 3 and 1) and their Brittany Spaniel named Norman. Rachel’s days revolve around her two sons (also ages 3 and 1), baking, and cheering on the Twins. Sarah bakes, decorates cakes, and has taken up pottery, a craft she was first introduced to at TG. Elizabeth and Sarah live close to each other, and often travel up to the Twin Cities to visit Rachel.

And while their days have been filled, they continue to hold fast to that Lasallian virtue of service beyond self. Their families, their friends, and their patients can all agree that the compassion and selflessness these three show goes above and beyond the requirements of their profession. This seems to be the real story: the community, the service, the faith that we all experience here, none of it is “required.” It’s woven into the very fabric of who we are. The Beck sisters, Elizabeth, Rachel, and Sarah, exemplify this to a T.

BE WHERE YOUR FEET ARE

ERIC RATA CZAK '19



With the sun beaming down, decked out in Miami Marlins Spring Training gear, Eric Rataczak '19 sat down to answer some questions. He was apologetic—the game he had just finished had gone late—but he was all smiles. And why wouldn't he be? He had just finished an MLB Spring Training game, a dream scenario that just five years ago, he hadn't thought possible.

When he left Totino-Grace High School in the spring of 2019, Rataczak's goals were academic. He attended the University of San Diego that fall "as a student," he said. "I wasn't recruited there to play or anything. I played on the club team." And after a short semester and a half,

Rataczak returned home to Minnesota. The COVID-19 pandemic had begun.

Like many students in the spring of 2020, he finished the semester remotely. Since the following year would have been remote anyway, Eric chose, instead, to begin playing for a local post-graduate baseball team—Minnesota Post Grad—and coached high school players out of the same facility. "[I] saved some money, didn't spend it on tuition during COVID, and got to play a little more baseball." This led to an opportunity to play for a team in the Northwoods league, a collegiate summer league based in the Midwest.

2020 would prove to be a pivotal year for many reasons. "With COVID happening and me deciding to take that year off, [it] kind of reopened some potential doors. That also lined up with when I was diagnosed with diabetes, which played a big part in it, because I gained a bunch of weight and I got a lot stronger. So I had all this new strength and at the same time was taking a year off school."

Despite the newfound strength that came along with his recovery after a crucial diagnosis, Rataczak received few opportunities related to baseball. With a gap year under his belt, he returned to college. An Illinois junior college, Wabash Valley Junior College, had welcomed him into their

baseball program. Unfortunately, Eric didn't see much opportunity ahead of him. "At the winter break, I actually transferred to a different junior college," he explained. "Based on a whole bunch of things. It was mostly about just trying to get on the field, and I didn't think I was going to at [Wabash]." So he packed his bags once again, this time taking his talents to Arizona Western. There, he actually got on the field, and, in his words, "did...alright. Not great. Not bad. Not good enough to get anything that I deemed worthy of sacrificing my education for." His options, he told us, weren't bad baseball teams, but they were bad academic options, and "they weren't good enough [at] baseball to merit how poor the academics would have been."

After waiting all summer, just on the off-chance that a worthwhile opportunity would arise, Rataczak re-enrolled at San Diego. He still had his academic scholarship, and, with no baseball prospects to speak of, saw it as his only option. "If you ask my mom how I was to travel with when we drove down to San Diego," he said, "I was a bad travel companion for sure. I was very unhappy."

"It was kind of just like, 'I'm out of options. Looks like I'm going back to USD.'" And it was back to club ball, too. No varsity, no starting spot, just club baseball and intramural softball.

Not that he didn't play his hardest, of course. "My friends would probably tell stories about me taking intramural sports way too seriously. Like, I showed up to our softball games with metal spikes on, you know. It was just that outlet that was completely missing."

This was his junior year. Many MLB teams will recruit players out of high school or early in their college

careers. And many more players will at least have conversations with teams by their junior or senior years. That is, if they're destined for the majors. For Rataczak, this wasn't even on his radar. Not only had no MLB team come to talk with him, no Division 1 school had done so, either.

Looking back on his high school years, Eric remembers Totino-Grace's baseball team environment most fondly. "You learn so much," he said. "There's a certain dynamic that goes around in sports, especially as the levels get higher. You [have] old guys and young guys, seniors and freshmen, all kind of learning how to interact. How to be able to advocate for yourself when the older guys are acting out of line, and then how to be an older guy. Once you get to that point, you help the young guys out. It's worthwhile to be in that environment, you know?"

He carried those lessons with him into the classroom and his relationships. But baseball, for all intents and purposes, was a hobby now. "That junior year at USD really made me feel like, okay, it makes more sense to pick somewhere for the school, and to be a good student." But something was off. "Day to day, I just like, [didn't] enjoy living with myself, making that decision."

So the summer after his junior year, Eric decided to take one last shot. And in an unlikely place: Alberta, Canada. He explained his thought process: "Okay, that has nothing to do with school. I can just go, play, have fun, and see what happens."

What happened was unexpected. "I did well enough there to have D1 interest." With a humble qualifier: "It's mid-major D1 Niagara, not by any means a powerhouse, in any sport. They're not going to take down Florida State or Tennessee anytime

soon in the College World Series. But it's still D1 baseball." This moment, after four years of seemingly fruitless effort on different teams across North America, was a moment that Rataczak knew would change the course of his life.

"By making the decision to go to Niagara," he said, "it was basically me pushing all-in on baseball. I was a biology student, and their bio program was not at all what I wanted to study." He finished his degree, having spent far too much time working on it to simply let it go, but Niagara certainly wasn't the logical choice for an academic experience; he was there to play baseball.

And play he did. Rataczak was electric, hitting 17 home runs and driving in 71 RBI with a conference-leading .396 batting average. He now holds the Niagara single-season records in runs (59), hits (88), home runs (17), and RBI (71), while coming in at fourth all-time in single-season batting average (.396) and second in at-bats (222).

Then, five years removed from his graduation at Totino-Grace, five years after leaving his high school baseball program behind with no D1 offers and no pro prospects at all, Eric Rataczak was drafted in the 16th round of the MLB Draft by the Miami Marlins.

There's no specific secret that he can credit for his success; at every point in his journey, there have been challenges to overcome, but he's found strength, most often, in the simple act of being present. "It's not my quote because it's been said many times before, but it's a great piece of advice that I think applies to baseball and to life: be where your feet are." He points to significant moments along the way: the way that Mrs. Dengerud showed her care for students beyond the classroom, the community he found

on the baseball field, the resilience he learned with every setback and every success.

When asked about the advice he might give to the students at TG today, he gave a surprising answer: "I would not tell anyone, 'Hey, everyone can make it,' because that's not the case. I was that kid losing confidence, for sure, not being recruited to any college or anything like that." What would he say, then? "Ask yourself: do you really enjoy the activity of the sport, or do you enjoy being on a team?" Many players want the feeling of being on a team, that feeling of community. In fact, that's what he carried with him from Totino-Grace.

"But don't confuse that with wanting to play the sport through the trials and tribulations that are going to come if you keep prioritizing the sport. Don't prioritize the sport over your life decisions, and your ability to enjoy other aspects of your life."

As we wrapped up our conversation, I asked Rataczak what his next goal was. I knew the answer, of course, because I was speaking to a minor league baseball player: the next goal is the big leagues. But he's trying to take it day by day and enjoying the ride as it comes.

Whatever comes his way, he can be confident that he gave it all he had, and then some. On a road that took him from Minnesota to California, Illinois to Arizona, Canada to New York and, finally, to Jupiter, Florida, Eric Rataczak has remained steadfast, taking his setbacks in stride, being a positive part of every community along the way, all the while embodying the virtues that Totino-Grace seeks to instill in every student who passes through these doors: learning, community, and faith.

A SOFT LANDING SPENCER CONE III '00

“Losing someone so perfect...causes a person to reflect on their purpose.” Spencer Cone III '00 remembers the very first time he met Jennifer Ratfield '00. It was the first day of school at TG, during their homeroom period. Their lockers were right next to each other, and while Spencer says “it wasn’t a ‘love at first sight’ for the two of us,” they did become friends, running into each other outside of school at gatherings and events, and working together in their advanced math classes (Spencer was, of course, always willing to provide whatever help Jennifer asked of him).

Jennifer’s writing skills outpaced Spencer’s, so he “never got the invite

to join her in honors English.” What he got instead were notes. “Man,” he said, “There was nothing better than getting a handwritten note from that woman...to make you feel like the most amazing person in the world.”

Their love story is a classic tale of high school sweethearts. “She was dating her first ‘official’ boyfriend, my best bud Jake,” Spencer told us. “It had the ultra-serious high school timestamp of about four weeks.” The relationship didn’t last long, and as the two of them began senior year, Spencer “bit the bullet to tell [Jennifer] that I had feelings for her. And it turned out the feelings were mutual.”

The thing that she noticed that night? Spencer’s outfit. “In the last letter she wrote to me, she said it was the football jersey and tie that caught her eye.”

Now, over 20 years later, Spencer still remembers how he felt that night. “There is no better feeling in the world than falling in love and knowing that you have found the one,” he said. “I remember it like it was yesterday. That feeling you get when she is all you can think about, that huge head rush that comes on as soon as you see her.” His love story with Jennifer, he told us, is the greatest story of his life.





It was a tragic loss for Spencer and for the whole TG community when Jennifer, after battling stomach cancer, passed away. "Her death at 39 fast-forwarded my life for me a bit." Spencer says that losing the love of his life forced him to ask himself bigger questions:

"What was my greater purpose? What would they say about me at my funeral? Of course, I want to be known as a great father. At the end of the day, nobody is going to care about how many [products] you sell or millions that you make." His path, which had for so long involved Jennifer, was set on a new trajectory, one that was crystal clear: "it's about the positive impact you have in a person's life, and how many times you can replicate it."

Today, Spencer Cone III is gearing up to coach the 9th grade football team at Totino-Grace. This isn't his first year back—Jennifer had been

the driving force that encouraged him to return. "She knew better than most that Totino-Grace helped me 'zig' when I could have very easily 'zagged.' She knew for me that it was my way...to be a part of something that is bigger than just me."

He brings a message that he hopes will resonate with his players, because it's the message that he lives by. "It's a very simple message: make every day count, and try to be better today than you were yesterday." Simple, maybe, but definitely worthwhile.

"It's a message we hear every day, but nothing is truer, because you never know when the big guy is going to call your number. I hope that my players are grateful for the life that they have been given and, in return, show up in everything that they do."

Preparing for the season, and to coach his son when he begins his journey at TG this fall, Spencer knows that Jennifer would be proud. "I just think she would be overly excited for me, that I get to be with my son, doing what I love to do, at the place that means the most to me, even after life served us all a total train wreck. I try to do right by her every day, and I feel like reconnecting with Totino-Grace keeps me closer to her."

When they started dating, moments after the clock hit midnight and ushered in a new millennium, the story had already begun. That moment was simply the turn of a page, closing out one chapter and moving to the next. Now, 25 years later, Spencer continues on in yet another chapter of his life. And whatever might be written in these pages, he intends to cherish every moment.



SHANNON HARTINGER

ADVANCING THE MISSION

SHANNON HARTINGER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

TG has been at the heart of Shannon Hartinger's journey for over two decades, a period marked by her leadership, dedication and deep commitment to the school community. Her connection to the school began long before she became the Vice President for Advancement. In 2003, Shannon joined the TG JV soccer coaching staff, and shortly after became the TG Varsity Girls' Basketball coach from 2005 to 2010. It was then that her love and connection to TG started.

When Shannon assumed leadership of the girls' basketball program, the team was in the midst of a rebuilding phase. The squad had only won five games the previous season, but Shannon didn't see this as a setback — "We didn't have basketball players returning, we had athletes who were very competitive," she recalled, "and that was plenty to work with." Under her leadership, the Eagles won over 100 games in five seasons, including TG's first-ever Girls' Basketball State Championship title in 2008, two conference championships in 2007 and 2008, and three consecutive section championships from 2007 to 2009. Beyond the accolades, however, Shannon values the deep, lasting relationships she built with her players. "Coaching at TG was a dream, but the success alone wouldn't make it the memory it holds for me. It was the families I met and became part of; they are what I cherish the most."

In more recent years, Shannon returned to TG, first as a current parent and shortly after as a member of the Advancement team. Now, as the Vice President for Advancement, Shannon's leadership skills and team building strengths shine through for TG in her new chapter. Shannon's joy is found in engaging with the TG

community to provide opportunities for students and a chance to belong to an amazing group of alumni, parents, coaches, teachers and believers. These opportunities are provided by the generosity of our community. "I've never experienced any community quite like TG's," Shannon says. "And I'm grateful to be a part of this rich heritage." You'll see Shannon Hartinger at events, with a big smile, as she cheers on her children and yours!





A Q&A WITH FOREVER EAGLES (AND CAREER-LONG FACULTY) TIM & MARY GLYNN

Tim, did you ever imagine that you would teach at TG for 39 years?

T: During the summer of 1986 there was a math opening at TG, I applied and I was hired. Here we are 39 years later, and I'm actually not surprised that I am still teaching at TG! I knew what the culture at TG was all about as a student, and I was excited to continue being a part of the community, with no regrets whatsoever.

What's changed, and what's stayed the same from your time as a student here to now?

T: Aesthetically speaking, our building and campus have changed and improved. But kids are kids, students are students. Not a whole lot has changed from my high school experience as a student, compared with present day students. We might have respected authority a bit more back then, but even today as a staff member I can still connect with any student and receive a similar amount of respect.

What are you most looking forward to in retirement?

T: I'm looking forward to minimizing the daily grind, slowing down a bit, enjoying my Sunday nights knowing that Monday work isn't calling. Most importantly, I'll catch a few more walleyes at my cabin.

What will you miss most about Totino-Grace and teaching?

T: No matter what I did at TG, my goal was to positively affect a student's high school experience. This is what was most satisfying to me, and something that I will truly miss when I retire.

What are some of your favorite memories?

T: Getting to know the students in my math classes, throwing a little sarcasm at them, having a good time in class, hearing that many of them actually enjoy

coming to my math class. It's special when many graduate students return and want to visit. One of my favorite coaching memories isn't the win/loss record or the awesome plays. It was that I was able to have a reserve player carry the ball for a few yards, or have the quarterback throw a quick pass to a reserve split end for a small gain. It filled my heart with joy to see these reserve players succeed and leave the field with a smile on their faces.

M: In the classroom, our Monday sharing of highs and lows from the weekend is one of my favorites. It allowed me to learn more about the personal lives and interests of my students. Outside the classroom, some favorite memories were coaching softball and being a Student Council Moderator. Our team made a few trips to the state tournament. The memories with Coach Dinius and the girls is something I will always cherish. I also cherish the days when my entire family was together at TG. My kids and their friends would always hang out in my classroom. The laughs and memories from those times, especially during the crazy COVID times, will always be special.

You have one of the longest 'Giving Streaks' at Totino-Grace. What has compelled you to donate back to TG for the last 36 years?

T: I've known of Totino-Grace since 1970, when my parents enrolled my oldest brother. I have paid witness to this great institution in some way, shape, or form for 55 years. When you truly believe in something, it is easy to give.

M: I have taught at TG for my entire career, including my student teaching. TG is a special place that I've believed in since the beginning. Knowing that our children would someday attend TG inspired me to help TG continue to be a place of exceptional learning opportunities. After witnessing how TG helped our children be well-prepared for college and helped develop them into driven young adults, we wanted to help others have this same opportunity, to attend a school that produced well-rounded young adults and helps set them up for success in their future.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH YEAR OF THE KATHLEEN MURPHY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This year, we proudly celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program at Totino-Grace High School! Since its inception, this prestigious program has nurtured the talents and aspirations of exceptional students, fostering a tradition of academic excellence, leadership, and curiosity. Over the years, the program has provided countless opportunities for students to grow, explore, and innovate in ways that extend beyond the classroom.

One of the hallmarks of the Kathleen Murphy Scholars experience has been the dynamic and engaging seminars offered

“My experiences through the Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program were some of the most pivotal moments early in my education that helped launch the trajectory of my career. I look forward to seeing the next generation of leaders go through the program.”

- Rachel Palermo '11

to students. These sessions have brought in expert speakers, facilitated thought-provoking discussions, and introduced scholars to new perspectives on the arts, environment, politics, and global issues. Whether diving into the intricacies of international policy or exploring how bees form their hives, these seminars have broadened horizons and inspired students to think critically about the world around them.

Beyond the seminars, the capstone projects completed by our scholars over the years have been nothing short of extraordinary. Students studied and presented

“The Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program gave me the opportunity to further explore what interests me outside of what I had been learning in school. Being able to allocate time to a unique interest has helped me so much as I discern my path in college. My project was about ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) and their effects on development. Today, I am a psych, pre-med major at the University of Notre Dame, largely because of that project! Additionally, the Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program fosters community and encourages students to go seek unique experiences which I deeply appreciated.”

- Ellen Jacob '23



their learning on topics related to cancer research, physics and dance, immigration, the impact of NIL on athletes, and so much more. These capstones not only showcase the intellectual curiosity of our scholars but also reflect their commitment to scholarly research.

As we mark this milestone anniversary, we celebrate the

achievements of past and present Kathleen Murphy Scholars, whose hard work and dedication have shaped the program's legacy. Their contributions continue to inspire future cohorts, setting a high standard for academic and personal growth. Scholars have also appreciated being a part of a group that is intellectually motivated and driven to succeed.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the next chapter of the Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program. With a foundation built on innovation, leadership, and curiosity, we are confident that the program will continue to thrive and evolve. Here's to 15 years of excellence—and many more to come!

FALL SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

The boys team finished a close 3rd at sections, narrowly missing a state meet bid. Individual state qualifiers included Matt Lindgren and Matthew Misko from the boys team, and Breonna Hurry from the girls team, who placed 2nd at sections. All three—Lindgren, Misko, and Hurry—also earned All-Conference honors for their outstanding performances.

FOOTBALL

The team wrapped up a stellar season with a 12-1 record, finishing 2nd at State and securing the Section Championship for the 2nd consecutive year. Theo Thomas was recognized for his strong performance with 2nd Team All-State honors.

BOYS SOCCER

The team had an outstanding season, finishing 2nd at State and claiming the Section Championship. Earning All-Conference honors were Jabari Kibisu, Tyler Michaelson, Vince Jacob, and Ramzy Awad, while Logan Chaput, Liam Gill, Connor Poitras, and Siman Geleto received Honorable Mention. Siman Geleto, Jabari Kibisu, and Tyler Michaelson were named to the State All-Tournament Team, with Kibisu also earning 1st Team All-State recognition for his exceptional play.

GIRLS SOCCER

In a competitive season, the girls soccer team finished 2nd in their section and earned an 8th place ranking in the state Coaches Poll. Camille Friden and Katie Thomas were named All-State players, while Grace Kruse earned All-Conference honors. The team concluded the season with a 7-5-6 record, showcasing their talent and teamwork.

GIRLS SWIM/DIVE

The girls swim and dive team had a strong showing at the section finals, with Morgan Erickson placing in the top 3 in the 100 Breaststroke and relay teams finishing 4th and 6th overall. Morgan earned All-Conference honors, while Ella Jennissen received All-Conference Honorable Mention. Both seniors, Morgan and Ella, were also recognized with the TriMetro Academic Excellence Award for their achievements in and out of the pool.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team wrapped up the season with an 11-10 overall record, finishing in the middle of a competitive conference. In individual sections, Erica Welsh and Reese Weeks advanced to the 3rd round. Reese, Caroline Pollard, Allie Moxness, and Eleanore Ternes were honored with the Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association Senior Academic All-State Award. All-Conference honors went to Reese, Eleanore, Erica, and Avery Cantwell, while Lauren Traviss and Allie earned Honorable Mention recognition.

VOLLEYBALL

In their first year under new head coach Pilar Onstad, the team had a strong performance, earning a 4th seed in the section tournament and making a notable run. Aubrey Neske and Victoria Ashland were recognized for their outstanding play, earning All-Conference honors. Additionally, Hannah DeVries and Valecia Massaquoi received All-Conference Honorable Mention for their impressive contributions throughout the season.

WINTER SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team made its fourth straight appearance at the state tournament and claimed a

Conference Championship for the 2nd year in a row. Chace Watley was named a finalist in the top five for the prestigious Mr. Basketball award. Looking ahead, Will Fariss and Chace Watley will continue their basketball careers at the collegiate level—Fariss at Hamline University and Watley at Wofford College.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls basketball team had an impressive season, finishing 4th in a highly competitive conference filled with AAAA programs and earning Section Runner-Up honors after a hard-fought overtime loss. Three players—Ava Litecky, Maria Radabaugh, and Chloe Nuss—were named All-Conference, with Erica Welsh and Carolyn Schrader earning Honorable Mention. The team also stood out academically, with Abby Collins, Maddie Podvin, Carolyn Schrader, Chloe Nuss, and Izzy Stafford receiving All-State Academic honors. Maria Radabaugh and Chloe Nuss were named All-State Honorable Mention, and Nuss was also a Miss Minnesota Basketball candidate and All-Star Game selection. The team broke the school record for three-pointers made in a game with 14 and racked up nine entries for team points scored in a game over 75, seven individual performances of 25+ points, and three entries for season free throw percentages over 70%.

DANCE TEAM

The dance team had a phenomenal season, capturing their 22nd State Championship in program history with a flawless, undefeated run in Kick and a 2nd place finish in Jazz at the State Tournament. They were Section 2AA Champions in Kick and placed 2nd in Jazz, while also claiming the Conference





Championship in Kick. All-Conference honors went to Maria Hansell, Jillian Matelski, Purpose Price, Noelle Bjork, Maria Morrison, and Anna Brandl. All-Tournament Team selections included Maggie Clausen, Lily Bieurance, Jillian Matelski, and Anna Pilney. Additionally, Kayla Truong, Noelle Bjork, Maria Morrison, and Claire Preston were named All-State Athletes for their outstanding performances.

BOYS HOCKEY

The boys hockey team wrapped up a strong season with a 15-9-1 regular season record, going 7-3-1 in the tough Northwest Suburban Conference—good for a 3rd place finish behind Rogers and Maple Grove. Notable wins included victories over Champlin Park (4-2), Spring Lake Park (5-1), Centennial (2-1), Blaine (5-4), Elk River (3-1), and Blake (7-2), along with a hard-fought 0-0 tie against powerhouse Maple Grove. Tre Peck capped off his Totino-Grace career tied for 6th all-time in points and earned both All-Conference and CCX All-Metro honors. Additional All-Conference selections included senior Gavin Covrig and juniors Keegan Kiedrowski and Roger Mourad. Honorable Mention accolades went to senior Ian Johnson, juniors Noah Osland and Liam Hamre, and freshman AJ Lach.

GIRLS HOCKEY

The girls hockey team, in its 6th year as a co-op program, wrapped up the season with a 7-16-3 record and entered the section playoffs as the No. 6 seed. The team continued to build chemistry and experience, laying a strong foundation for future growth.

SKI TEAMS

The ski team had a strong season with Matthew Misko earning All-Conference honors in Nordic Skiing from the Northwest Suburban Conference and Elle Folden making All-Conference in the Northwest Alpine Conference for Alpine Skiing.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE

The boys swim and dive team had an impressive season, with Jackson Ling earning All-Conference honors for the 3rd year in a row. Ben Effiom and Carter Ling also received All-Conference Honorable Mention recognition. Jackson Ling qualified for the State Meet in the 500 Freestyle, where he achieved a personal best and broke the 5-minute barrier—a significant milestone in the event. Additionally, the relay team of Ben Effiom, Grant LaMontagne, Carter Ling, and Jackson Ling set a new Totino-Grace school record in the 200 Freestyle Relay with a time of 1:37.61.

WRESTLING

The team finished the season with a 15-9 overall record and claimed the Section 5AA championship, securing a spot in the state tournament for the 5th consecutive year. This marked their 12th appearance in the last 13 years and their 22nd overall state team tournament appearance. Six team members qualified for the state competition: Logan Refsnider, Jackson Refsnider, Austin Herbst, Landon Bizal, Payton Herbst, and Joe Kruse. All-State honors went to Jackson Refsnider placing 5th, Austin Herbst placing 6th, and Payton Herbst placing 4th. Logan Refsnider, Jackson Refsnider, Austin Herbst, Payton Herbst, and Joe Kruse were named to the All-Conference team. Peyton Harrer, Landon Bizal, and Quinton Harrer received Honorable Mention All-Conference recognition. The team was also honored with the MWCA Gold Academic Team Award, achieving an impressive 3.55 GPA.

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

As of April 1, 2025

Nate Arndorfer

Volleyball, UW Stevens Point

Colin Blake

Baseball, St. Mary's University

Logan Chaput

Soccer, Trine University

Tyler Hand

Baseball, Marshalltown Community College

Tommy Heifort

Baseball, Southwest Minnesota State University

Breonna Hurry

Track & Cross Country, Nebraska Wesleyan University

Gabby Janushka

Lacrosse, University of Rochester

Grace Kruse

Soccer, Augsburg College

Jackson Ling

Swimming, Hamline University

Matthew Lindgren

Track & Cross Country, Creighton University

Calvin McIntosh

Football, Southwest Minnesota State University

Valecia Massaquoi

Volleyball, UW Stout

Krista Munsinger

Lacrosse, Regis University

Chloe Nuss

Basketball, University of Mary

Jake Rantz

Baseball, Bethel University

Michael Strong

Football, St. Thomas University

Katie Thomas

Soccer, Gustavus Adolphus College

Theo Thomas

Football, University of Northern Iowa

Chace Watley

Basketball, Wofford College

Kellen Westphal

Baseball, Gustavus Adolphus College

Josiah Young

Football, University of Northern Iowa

SENIOR CLASS SPOTLIGHT

3 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS SHARE THEIR JOURNEYS

This year, three Totino-Grace students were recognized as finalists for the National Merit Scholarship Award: Emmanuel Edebiri, Eleanor Ternes, and Vince Jacob. This award recognizes the high level of academic achievement that these students have attained. We asked each of them to share some thoughts on their time at TG, and how they're preparing for a bright future.

What are your academic interests, and how do they align with your future goals?

Emmanuel: I always try to take the material I learn and see how it can be applied to help others and understand more about the world. I love taking courses across disciplines. Through classes like biology, I'm able to understand how our bodies function, and in history, I'm able to understand our roots and why our world is the way it is. This holistic and interdisciplinary understanding prepares me for a career in the healthcare field where knowing how to fully understand each person and their background is essential.

Eleanor: My top academic interests are mathematics, chemistry, and biology. I plan to major in biochemistry

while double-majoring in math during my undergrad. My plan for after college is to enroll in a biochemistry PhD program and focus my thesis on an analytical topic of biochemistry such as gene optimization or protein manipulation. The analytical nature of these areas requires the use of many mathematical computations which will combine my two favorite areas. I love biochemistry because I am curious about how things work, especially on a small level. Biology itself is such a broad subject that often focuses on a larger picture so I wish to zoom in with biochemistry.

Vince: I enjoy most subjects, but I've always been drawn to STEM. I plan to pursue engineering, a field I feel well-prepared for after participating in the E3 program.

EMMANUEL EDEBIRI '25



What are your future goals?

I plan to become a physician-scientist. Within the healthcare system, I hope to expand quality care to all people, especially those from rural and underserved areas. Through research, I hope to develop and contribute to solutions to healthcare problems that have persisted in our world.

What is a skill or experience you didn't have prior to TG that you are grateful for?

Before coming to TG, I attended the same small school for eight years. At TG, I knew some people, but there were many unfamiliar faces. I'm grateful for how TG offered me the chance to branch out and connect with so many different people from so many different places.

ELEANOR TERNES '25



Describe a time you faced a challenge and how you overcame it?

One challenge I have overcome is having stage fright. I used to be terrified to speak in front of others, especially those I didn't know. However, when I joined mock trial, I was forced to overcome this challenge. Now, even though I do still sometimes get nervous, I enjoy speaking in front of others.

What activities/clubs/sports did you participate in during your four years at TG?

I have done a lot of activities at TG and outside of TG. Within TG I have been on the math team, girls tennis team, mock trial, company band, science team, knowledge bowl, RISE, Kathleen Murphy's, and chamber orchestra. Outside of TG I have been a competitor at the MN State Fair for cross-stitch, a member of the MN All-State Math Team which travels to national competitions, a warehouse assistant at Bridging, an international violin and piano studio, and USTA and UTR tennis tournaments.

Why did you choose TG? How did TG help you achieve your goals?

Four of my older siblings chose TG before me. All of them had four years rich with experiential and academic learning, service, and positive relationships. How could I turn that down? TG has helped me learn about the world—both in the classroom and through opportunities like service immersion trips—but perhaps more importantly, I've learned about myself.

What have been your favorite classes or teachers at TG?

There are many to choose from, but two of my most intellectually impactful classes have been AP Lang with Mr. Wareham and Intro to Philosophy with Mr. B. Vance. AP Lang gave me tools to become a better writer—like the use of these em dashes to add information and improve flow—but also taught me to think critically, a skill we all need more of these days. I enjoyed Intro to Philosophy because of the big questions we asked and the enlightening conversations that followed. During my busy senior year, it was nice to be reminded that the meaning of life is much larger than college applications or sports.

VINCE JACOB '25



MARY DENGERUD

A CAREER OF COMMITMENT, ON AND OFF THE COURT



Mary Dengerud's career has been rooted in two consistent themes: faith and community. "I have been fortunate to spend my teaching career in the Catholic schools," she told us, "where faith and community have been an emphasis." This journey has spanned more than 35 years across two schools—New Ulm Cathedral and Totino-Grace—and countless class prayers, retreats, basketball practices, and little moments that she'll treasure forever.

Her first years at Totino-Grace came when the school was still quite new, only 20 years removed from its institution in 1966. That means that Dengerud got to play a central role in laying the foundation for the culture that lasts to this day. Totino-Grace, too, played a central role in laying the foundation for how she was to live out her future career. "I am very grateful for my time in the teaching profession," she said. "For the people who have shaped my life...mentors and colleagues, parents who have shown such great sacrifice." Where she found the most inspiration, though, was in her students themselves.

"Through their hard work, mischief, compassion, faith, and dedication, [they] all taught me how to be a better person, so that when I stand before God, he will say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

After the first five years, Dengerud took a different route, becoming a teacher at New Ulm Cathedral. But TG was never far behind, and in the autumn of 2013, she returned to the classrooms she had walked years before, this time for over a decade.

What she did with her time at TG was remarkable. Her teaching and coaching brought her on a journey spanning the globe: from senior trips, where she learned how to play video games with the senior boys, to Ireland, where she sang in the pubs. From Guatemala, where she managed to avoid catching the dreaded amoeba that infected many of the participants, to the state tournament, where she was able to put her heart's passion into action as she led young women with determination and compassion.

Now, as she looks toward retirement, Dengerud's commitment to community continues, albeit in a different form. What she looks forward to most is "appreciating more of God's gifts through travel, learning new things, mentoring young teachers," and, in keeping with the thread that has passed through her entire career, "continuing to support females and the battles they face."

And it's that support that TG might miss most of all. Dengerud's presence in the hallways, in the classroom, on the courtside, has always been a positive light in a difficult spot. Supporting and directing high school students as they try to reach their potential is never easy. When it gets added to the stress of coaching, where superficial success is so easily counted in wins and losses alone, it becomes nearly impossible. It takes a special kind of person, a special kind of teacher, to provide this for students. Mary Dengerud handled it all with grace to spare.

And that's what she says she'll miss most. "All the young women I have coached. Those still on their journey, whether still playing high school, playing college, becoming wives and mothers, beginning their careers, and those giving back." She'll miss walking with them, going to Mass with them, praying with them. But she knows, in the end, that she has done what God has led her to do.

Well done, indeed.



A MOMENT FOR MISSION

Exploring the Immigrant Struggle at the US/Mexico Border and the Christian Response

This October, a group of TG students and faculty embarked on a transformative service and immersion trip to the US/Mexico border as part of the El Otro Lado program through a Lasallian partner, San Miguel High School. The trip focused on learning about the immigrant struggle and how Catholics are responding to this critical humanitarian issue.

Throughout the week, the group visited several organizations working on the frontlines, providing aid, advocacy, and education to those affected by the immigration crisis. We worked with Humane Borders, a group that provides water in the desert for safe passage for migrants. We listened to stories from faith-based agencies that offer legal assistance for asylum seekers. We were hosted by a Franciscan community that works with the Tohono O'odham tribe to specifically address how the immigrant experience intersects with Native communities at the border. Our students witnessed the incredible efforts of both Catholic and interfaith groups working for a more peaceful experience both at the border and in the origin communities for migrants. While the ongoing immigration crisis is not a new challenge or a simple one, it was an important week for our young people to witness how people of faith are working to respond with Gospel love.

One of the most impactful moments of the trip was after several days of learning and serving in these communities at the most vulnerable stages of the immigration process, our students had the opportunity to meet and connect with other Lasallian students at San Miguel High School. San Miguel is part of the Cristo Rey school network, where all students have job partnerships as part of their high school experience. Connecting TG students with the amazing young men and women of San Miguel working hard through their internships, passionately pursuing their Catholic education, and striving to be first-generation college students changes your understanding of the immigrant story. These interactions gave us names, faces, stories, and connections to help us better encounter this story and sparked meaningful conversations within our group.

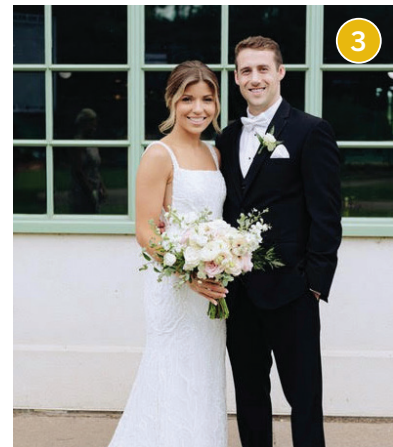
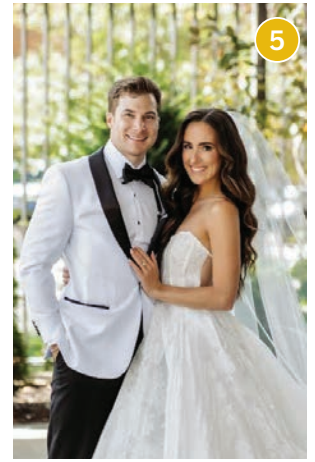
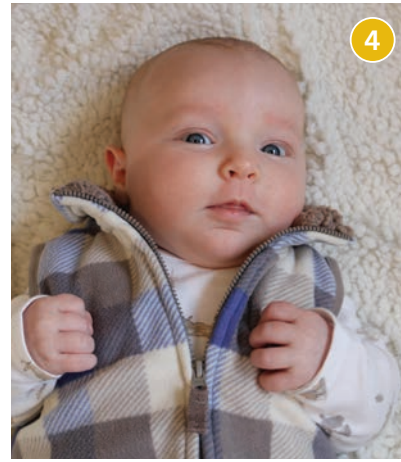
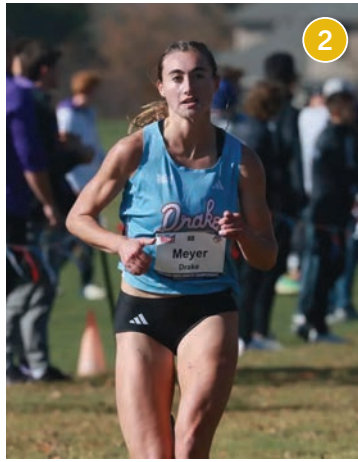
Addressing Urban Poverty and Injustice at the Brother David Darst Center in Chicago

This February, a group of students traveled to Chicago for an eye-opening service retreat focused on understanding urban poverty and the root causes of inequity and injustice. Hosted at the Brother David Darst Center, the trip provided a unique opportunity to explore the systemic issues facing marginalized communities in urban areas while learning how Catholic Lasallians and other people of faith are actively working to address these challenges.

The week was centered around education, reflection, and hands-on service. The students began by engaging in discussions about the complex factors contributing to urban poverty, such as lack of access to **quality education, systemic racism, housing instability, and inadequate healthcare**. Through these conversations, students gained a deeper understanding of how these issues converge and how poverty is usually not just a single problem, but a connected one that requires a collective response.

The group also explored the role of young Christians stepping into leadership roles to walk with communities in need and to be a part of the ongoing efforts to better empower the marginalized. Through prayer, reflection, and discussions as a group, students were encouraged to think about how they can help bring about change in their own communities and advocate for a more just and equitable society. The week reinforced the importance of faith, service, and advocacy in making a difference, and helped students realize the power of community action in creating meaningful change.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn, serve, and grow alongside the Brother David Darst Center and the communities it serves. This experience has inspired us to continue working toward justice, peace, and equality in our own lives and to ground all our efforts in better modeling Christ's Gospel love.



2022

Photo 1 - Leah Dengerud '22 helped lead the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears to a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship, defeating Minnesota State in the tournament final. Dengerud was also named to the NSIC All-Academic Team!

2021

Photo 2 - Drake University senior Emilie Meyer '21 is making headlines on the track! She set a new school record in the 1500m at a meet in Raleigh, NC, and dominated the Missouri Valley Conference Championships, winning the 800m with a record-breaking time of 2:07.60. Her outstanding performances earned her MVC Women's Track Athlete of the Week honors. Congratulations, Emilie!

2018

Daniel Thienes '18 launched DCT Custom Carpentry, specializing in trim work and cabinet installation. He credits his trade for shaping his career and takes pride in delivering quality craftsmanship to those in need!

2017

Maria Henderson '18 earned her Psychology degree from Creighton University in 2021 and will graduate with a Master's in Social Work from UNO's Grace Abbott School in 2026. She plans to pursue licensure as an independent mental health practitioner (LIMHP).

2016

Hunter Lindquist '16 and Julia (Goman) Lindquist '16 are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their

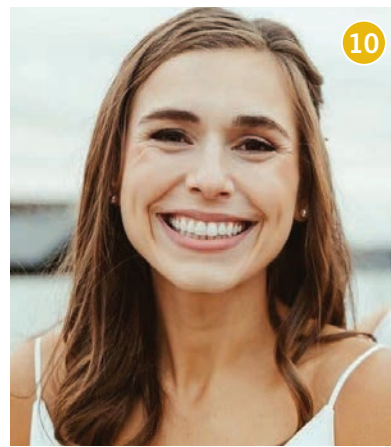
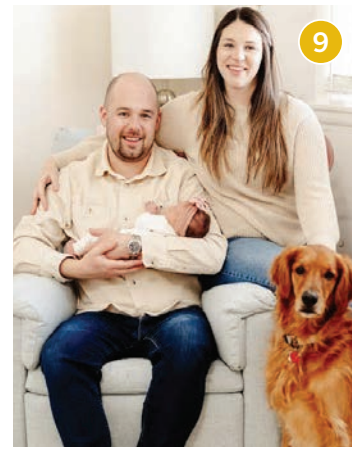
son, Wesley Joseph Lindquist, born on January 26, 2025. Julia works as a Sales Operations Consultant at Optum, while Hunter is a Sales Account Manager at MW Components. The Lindquist family is embracing this exciting new chapter—congratulations!

2015

Photo 3 - Father James Peterson officiated at the June wedding of **Luke Russell '15** and Sophie Van Patter at St. Odilia Church. Totino-Grace alumni in the wedding party included: **Elizabeth (Russell) Larson '13, Joe Russell '17, Jessica Russell '23, Will Russell '23, Amber (Matzoll) Vagle '15, Kendall Fritz '15, and Andrew Briggs '15.**

2014

Photo 4 - Gabby (Schauer) Lehner '14 and her husband, Ben, welcomed



their greatest Christmas gift a little early! Their son, George, arrived on December 23, 2024, bringing joy and love just in time for the holidays. Congratulations to the Lehner family!

2013

Photo 5 - On August 10, 2024, **Danny Schierman '13** and **Sarah (Kastenmeier) Schierman '15** celebrated their wedding at The Depot in Minneapolis, surrounded by family, friends, and plenty of TG alumni! Their wedding party was packed with Eagle pride, including **Ben Olson '13**, **Austin Peters '13**, **Sydney (Lanz) Sorenson '15**, **Brent Lind '13**, **Alex Schierman '03**, **Dana (Schierman) Kurhajetz '97**, **Lindsay (Kastenmeier) Bush '03**, **Erin (Kastenmeier) Velasquez '08**, **Ashley (Kastenmeier) Schneider '06**, and **Gabe Kastenmeier '12**. Cheers to the happy couple!

Photo 6 - **Elizabeth (Russell) Larson '13** and **Michael Larson '13** welcomed Virginia Larson to their family on February 25, 2024.

2012

Photo 7 - **Erin (Cullen) Lowen '12** and **Ben Lowen** tied the knot on August 16, 2024, in beautiful Duluth, Minnesota! The happy couple is pictured with their beloved pups—Bauer, their Bernese Mountain Dog, and Cooper, their Golden Retriever. Congratulations, Erin and Ben!

Photo 8 - **MSgt Sarah (Schutta) Severns '12** spoke at our Veterans Day Convocation, sharing how TG shaped her as a leader in the MN Air National Guard. She encouraged our students to use their gifts in service to others.

Photo 9 - Congratulations to **Mike Hinrichs '12** and **Emma (Ricke)**

Hinrichs '12 on the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Eloise Hinrichs, born on January 28, 2025!

2011

Photo 10 - **Caroline Ponessa '11** published her first novel, titled "Heaven's Match". Inspired by true crime and *The Bachelor*, the fast-paced thriller goes behind the scenes of a cultural phenomenon to pose the ever-unsettling question: *Can you tell when you're inside the mind of a murderer?*

The book is available now on Amazon. More info: <https://a.co/d/j0U5Ep5>

Photo 11 - **Kassandra (Surma) Murphy '11** and **Will Murphy** welcomed Ryleigh Grace Murphy on May 28, 2024. Ryleigh is pictured with her big brother Braden!



2010

Photo 12 - Nick Radjenovich '10 and his wife, Alyssa, welcomed their third child, Colby, in late September 2024. Now six months old, he's keeping their growing family on their toes! Nick serves as a K9 Handler and Deputy Sheriff with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

Photo 13 - Becca (Iten) Langner '10 and her spouse, Jacob Langner, welcomed their second child, Emily, on February 13, 2025. Becca is a 2nd-grade teacher at Rochester Arts & Sciences Academy.

2008

Photo 14 - Ron Mikolai ('71) and Michelle Boris ('08) recently completed their year of service as the East Wind Prince and East Wind Princess for the 2024 St. Paul Winter Carnival Royal Family. Throughout their reign, they made hundreds of appearances and

participated in parades both locally and internationally. In a fun twist, the two didn't realize they shared a Totino-Grace connection until after being crowned—proving once again that Eagles are everywhere!

Photo 15 - Justin & Maggie Santos '08 welcomed Tasi Santos to the world on December 20, 2024.

2007

Photo 16 - Quentin Moore '07 and Bryn Moore welcomed into the world their second child, Nell Elizabeth Moore, on June 6, 2024! Quentin teaches 5th grade and coaches Track and Field at St. Christopher's School and resides in Virginia.

Photo 17 - Two Eagles, three little hatchlings! **Ryan Rehkamp '07** and **Cat (Wolnik) Rehkamp '07** joyfully welcomed their third baby, Owen Patrick, on December 1, 2024. Their nest just got a little fuller and a whole lot sweeter!

Russ Gervais '07 and **Allie (McDonald) Gervais '09** welcomed their third child, Georgia Mae Gervais on October 16, 2024.

2005

Photo 18 - Nick Engbloom '05 was recently named to the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* prestigious 40 Under 40 list. In addition, his dedication to community engagement and partnerships was highlighted in *Tonka/Skipper Living's* February issue, where he and his family were featured. Nick, his wife, Christi, and their children, Mason (6) and Quinn (4), even graced the cover!

Photo 19 - Shannon (Amsler) Jensen '05 and her husband, Stephen, are feeling twice the love! They welcomed their second son, Kenneth "Kenny" Jensen, on March 28, 2025. Big brother is surely thrilled, and the Jensen family is overflowing with joy. Congratulations!

Photo 20 - Patrick Cattoor '05 has grown My Burger to 10 locations, with an 11th opening in 2025. The



locally owned, original concept has earned major recognition, including Top 50 MSP Restaurants (MSP Magazine, 2022 & 2024), Best Brands to Work For (QSR Magazine, 2024), and Top 50 QSR Contenders (QSR Magazine, 2024). Congrats, Patrick!

2004

Photo 21 - The Class of 2004

celebrated their 20-year reunion on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at Lord Fletcher's Old Lake Lodge on Lake Minnetonka. The event featured a lively atmosphere with volleyball, a live DJ, and a signature drink to mark the occasion!

2001

Photo 22 - TG Eagles explored robotics in medicine at the Inspire Biomedical Engineering Conference at the University of Minnesota, connecting with experts and hands-on technology. They also met TG alum **Michael Knutson '01**, a senior R & D engineer at Medtronic!

2000

Photo 23 - Jeremy Cotterell '00 earned his BSN in December 2024 and became a neurological nurse in 2025. He graduated with honors and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Phi Pi chapter.

1998

Photo 24 - On Saturday September 7, 2024, **Michael Oliver 98'** Won a Prime Time Creative Arts Emmy award for Outstanding Picture Editing for an Unstructured Reality Program for his work on the docu-series *Welcome To Wrexham* which airs on FX and Hulu. This marks Michael's seventh National Emmy award.

Class of 1973 Celebrates 70!

Photo 25 - Fresh off the success of their 50th reunion, the **Totino-Grace Class of 1973** isn't waiting another five years to celebrate! With most classmates turning 70 this year, they're planning a **70th Birthday Bash & Mini Reunion** on August 30, 2025, at 4 PM at **Flaherty's Bowl in Arden Hills**—a special venue owned by a classmate's family. Guests can catch up with old friends, enjoy a casual evening on the patio, and dance to the **Jimtones**, the band of classmate **Lynn (Kozlak) Satt's '73** husband. Flaherty's is generously sponsoring the music, and all are welcome to grab food on their own.

The celebration is open to the **Classes of '70, '71, '72, and '74**—because who says you can't turn 70 twice? Save the date and get ready for another unforgettable gathering!



STAY CONNECTED & NETWORK WITH TG ALUMNI ON LINKEDIN!

Did you know you can follow the Totino-Grace LinkedIn page for professional updates, job postings, alumni profiles, and school news? With nearly 11,500 alumni across industries and locations, the TG network offers incredible opportunities to stay connected and grow professionally.

Getting started is easy:

- Add **Totino-Grace High School** to your education profile.
- Follow **Totino-Grace High School** on LinkedIn.
- Use the **LinkedIn Alumni Tool** to explore where fellow Eagles work, what they do, and where they live.

As our TG LinkedIn network grows, it will be a great resource for recent grads looking for connections and for alumni at all career stages to network and support one another. **GO EAGLES!**

SAVE THE DATE!

Classes ending in 5 and 0 are due for a reunion celebration this school year! If you are interested in helping plan your class reunion please reach out to **Kelley Beitz**, Alumni Relations & Advancement Events Coordinator. Scan the QR code to visit the website for more details.



<https://www.totinograce.org/alumni>

CLASS OF 1970 - 55 YEAR REUNION!

Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Buffet Lunch Included/Cash Bar
Jax Cafe | Minneapolis, MN

More information and registration can be found on our website!

CLASS OF 1975 - 50 YEAR REUNION!

September 12-14, 2025

More information to come! Do we have a good email address for you? Please send a note to grace75eagles@gmail.com.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES HAVE BEGUN PLANNING!

Class of 1995, 2005, 2010

If you are interested in joining the planning committee please contact Kelley Beitz.

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE LOOKING FOR A CLASS REUNION PLANNER!

Class of 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000, 2015, 2020

If you are interested in helping please contact Kelley Beitz

CONTACT:

KELLEY BEITZ | P '28, '32

Alumni Relations & Advancement Events Coordinator

kelley.beitz@totinograce.org
Phone | 763-586-6326

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL

EAGLE SHOOT GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 19, 2025



Gather your foursome and join us for the annual TG Eagle Shoot Golf Tournament on **May 19, 2025, at Mendakota Country Club**. All funds raised at the Eagle Shoot help fund school athletics, performing arts, and TG's clubs and organizations. We need you IN - this is the largest TG fundraiser in support of our extracurricular programs. Register a foursome or sponsorship today!



Scan the QR code to register and for more info.

THANK YOU 2025 SPONSORS

\$10,000 - VARSITY SPONSORS

Corval Group
FlexSchema Software
North American Banking Company



\$5,000 - JV SPONSORS

All American Title
broadhead.



broadhead.
INDEPENDENT. SUPPORTED. UNITED.



ALL AMERICAN
TITLE COMPANY

\$2,500 - MASCOT SPONSORS

Advanced Imaging Solutions
Midwest Rubber
One Digital
Pulse Electric



DRINK SPONSOR - Industrial Netting



As of April 18, 2025



THE 40TH ANNUAL TOTINO-GRACE GALA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The only way to describe our feelings of sheer joy and excitement around all the accomplishments of this year's TG Gala is "completely flabbergasted"! The 40th Annual Totino-Grace Gala was truly historic: we set both an attendance record and a fundraising record!

Our 690 guests matched our school enrollment number of 690 students – which meant every guest represented a student at Totino-Grace... a life that will forever be impacted by the generosity of our community! Our community showed up and showed out for students, raising a grand total of \$1,171,559!



SINCERE APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO MADE THE 2024 GALA A SUCCESS!

- Thank you to our 2024 Presenting Sponsor: North American Banking Company!
- Thank you to all 32 Gala sponsors!
- Thank you to all those who purchased or donated auction items!
- Thank you to our four alumni performers: Sara Gartland '97, Grace Savard '18, Ashley Kidd '10 and Evan Wilberg '08!
- Thank you to all our volunteers!
- Thank you to all who raised a paddle in our Fund-A-Need!
- Thank you to everyone who attended!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 41ST TOTINO-GRACE GALA ON NOVEMBER 22, 2025!

EVERY DAY IS A GIFT: A TOTINO-GRACE STORY

If there's one thing that the TG Eagles are known for, it's how we care for each other. "Every Day is a Gift" is the story about one student, the community that surrounded her, and the impact they made on each other. We believe every student should have access to this kind of community.



Scan the QR code to view the *Every Day is a Gift* video.

YOUR DEDICATION TRANSFORMS LIVES

When you give to Totino-Grace, you're supporting more than just a school—you're honoring a community committed to excellence. By contributing, you help honor the dedication of the entire Totino-Grace community: our passionate faculty, devoted staff, proud alumni, and supportive parents and friends. Their unwavering commitment to excellence, character, and community has shaped the lives of countless students, and your support ensures that this legacy continues.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the TG Fund enables us to support the people, programs, and places that make Totino-Grace a truly transformational experience for our students. Your gift directly benefits the dedicated individuals who inspire our students, and it helps us attract the mentors who will guide the next generation of leaders.

WHEN YOU GIVE TO TOTINO-GRACE, YOU'RE INVESTING IN:

PEOPLE: Providing our faculty and staff with the resources they need to offer exceptional mentorship and guidance, helping students discover and develop their unique talents.

PROGRAMS: Strengthening signature programs like E3: Experiential Engineering Education and the Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program, which offer innovative, hands-on learning that challenges and inspires students.

PLACES: Maintaining and transforming our campus to ensure it's a vibrant, welcoming space that supports every student's journey.

By supporting Totino-Grace, you honor the legacy of those who have poured their hearts into the school for decades. You also help lay the foundation for the next generation of leaders and mentors who will carry this mission forward.

Make a lasting impact—donate today to Totino-Grace and become part of a community where dedication and service make a difference.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Make your gift at www.totinograce.org/giving or scan the QR Code.





IN MEMORIAM

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of these Totino-Grace alumni:

William “Bill” Cook ‘70
August 6, 2024

Jo Michelle Sudduth ‘83
July 4, 1965

Nicole Busch ‘08
October 7, 2024

Nancy (Gerber) Benson ‘71
February 18, 2025

Kristen (Balke) LeRoux ‘85
December 7, 2024

We also offer our warmest condolences to the families of these former faculty, parents, and friends of Totino-Grace High School:

Peter Beberg
August 21, 2024

Patricia Slaney-Campion
November 28, 2024

Sandra (Sandy) Marie Miezwa
December 12, 2024

Molly Bouwman
November 14, 2024

Richard (Dick) Drew
November 9, 2024

Patrick Meekin
January 13, 2025

Kari Brey
December 25, 2024

Al Dubiak
September 9, 2024

Theresa “Terry” Murphy
December 13, 2024

Terry Casey
July 14, 2024

Joanne Gulbrandson
February 1, 2025

Thomas O’Toole
August 26, 2024

Leo Caouette
January 24, 2025

Judith LeRoux
February 18, 2025

This list includes the individuals whose passing was reported to the Office of Advancement between September 1, 2024 - March 1, 2025.



Sign up here!



No screens. All *smiles.*

When summer arrives, it's time to get kids moving, playing, singing, dancing, and enjoying every opportunity they can.

At a Totino-Grace Summer Camp, they'll try new things, make new friends, and have more fun.

Register today using the QR code or online at www.totinograce.org/summer-camps





1350 Gardena Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Phone: 763-571-9116
Web: totinograce.org

Totino-Grace
High School

*A Catholic High School
in the Lasallian Tradition*

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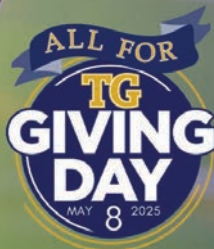
To reduce costs, Totino-Grace mails one copy of the Continuum per household.

MAY 8, 2025

ALL FOR TG!

This Giving Day, we're making an impact—one BINGO square at a time! Join the fun and complete challenges to support the programs, people, and traditions that make Totino-Grace extraordinary. Whether you're All for TG Athletics, All for TG Engineering, or All for TG Cookies, your gift directly enhances academic programs, financial aid, co-curricular opportunities, faculty development, and cutting-edge technology.

Let's come together, play, and give—because we are **ALL FOR TG!**



E A G L E				
LUNCH TIME! 25 GIFTS FROM 11AM-1PM	5 1ST TIME GIVERS	FAMILY GIFTS! GIFTS FROM 3+ KIDS FROM THE SAME FAMILY	5 NEW MEMBERS 1966	COAST TO COAST! A GIFT FROM THE WEST & EAST COASTS!
300 GIFTS	20 SHARES ON SOCIAL MEDIA #ALL4TG SHARE	GIFT FROM HOF MEMBER	LEGACY GIFT A GIFT FROM TWO GENERATIONS OF EAGLES IN ONE FAMILY	5 NEW ALUMNI GIFTS '21-'24
GIVING DAY DONATIONS \$50,000	GIVING DAY DONATIONS \$100,000	TG GIVING DAY	GIVING DAY DONATIONS \$150,000	GIVING DAY DONATIONS \$200,000
5 TG GRANDPARENT GIFTS	1 GIFT FROM EVERY ALUMNI CLASS - SEE THE LEADERBOARD TOTINOGRACE.ORG /GIVINGDAY	25 GIFTS TG STAFF	CURRENT STUDENT DONATIONS \$500	CURRENT PARENT DONATIONS \$5,000
10 CLASS GIFTS '70-'79	10 CLASS GIFTS '80-'89	10 CLASS GIFTS '90-'99	10 CLASS GIFTS '00-'09	10 CLASS GIFTS '10-'19



Scan to Donate

UNLOCK E-A-G-L-E MATCHES

1ST GIVE DAY BINGO = \$10,000 BOARD BONUS
2ND GIVE DAY BINGO = \$7,500 ANONYMOUS BONUS
3RD GIVE DAY BINGO = \$7,500 ANONYMOUS BONUS
CLASS DECADE BINGO = NED'S \$2,000 BONUS

COVERALL = DR. JUNKER COOKS LUNCH FOR THE SCHOOL!