



# STEPINAC NEWS 2016



Photo Credit: R. Allan Schnoor



## Champions!

CHSAA Golf Champions

Metropolitan Awards "Metros" winners  
in three categories for *Sister Act*

CHSAA Bowling Champions

CHSFL and New York State Football Champions



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## 2016 Golf Outing

We would like to thank all of our Sponsors, Benefactors and Participants of this year's Annual Golf Outing. Please patronize our sponsors!

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*2016 Golf Outing Champions  
Phil Sheridan, Mike Henderson '77,  
Tim Buckley '86, John Cirocco*

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Vintage Lounge and Restaurant



## A LETTER FROM KEVIN KEANE '74 CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Alumni and Friends of Stepinac,

For more than 67 years, Archbishop Stepinac has been providing a faith-based education that encourages excellence in spirit, heart, mind and body for every student. So often, we hear from alumni of all eras how attending Stepinac made a profound impact on their lives:

1964 alum: "Stepinac provided structured learning and discipline in concert with my parents' beliefs in character building and confidence for a good outlook on life."

1970 alum: "Being a Crusader gave me a tremendous sense of pride and confidence due to the higher academic standards. It also instilled a sense of discipline in my life that helped me achieve my goals and dreams."

1981 alum: "While I had 4 great years of friendships, sports and laughter, Stepinac quietly infused respect, high morals and a strong work ethic into my being."

With thousands of alumni, students, and parents offering similar testimony, it is clear that Archbishop Stepinac High School offers a unique option for a high school education that can't be found anywhere else in Westchester County or the surrounding region. In fact, Catholic schools are yielding exceptional results. The national Catholic school graduation rate is 99.4%, and of these graduates, 84.9% go on to college, compared to just 39.5% of public high school graduates. Combined with a long-standing legacy and tradition, the future is promising for Catholic education and in particular for Stepinac.

As I mark the end of my first year as Chairman of The Board of Trustees (and my fifth year on the board) of Archbishop Stepinac High School, I am humbled by the support that we receive and the progress we've made. Our students are exemplifying our pillars of Spirit, Heart, Mind and Body each and every day. Alumni, families, and friends provide steadfast support. Crusaders make headlines for their achievements in academics, the arts, athletics, service and leadership. In addition, we hear from both students and parents that they're thankful for the opportunities they receive at Stepinac and the solid foundation we provide for the future. Students benefit from faith formation, high academic standards, a values-based education and a safe school environment. They gain the skills to make an impact on their faith, the community and the world. We need your help year after year to keep our momentum going. We are dedicated to keeping a quality Catholic high school education option available to families in our area, but we can't do it alone. As a private Catholic school receiving limited financial help from the Archdiocese, we rely on the annual generosity of alumni, volunteers, parents and community members to keep our school operating year after year. Stepinac will continue to grow and fill a critical, growing need in our community with your continued support!

Thank You for your support,

Kevin Keane '74  
Chairman  
Stepinac Board of Trustees





## A LETTER FROM FR. THOMAS COLLINS PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends:

A phrase comes to mind when thinking about Archbishop Stepinac High School; *“Lumen Scientiae, Religio, Cor Amoris, Patriae”* — Stepinac’s motto — Religion, the light of knowledge and the heart of patriotism, words by which our school community identifies and one that separates us from other schools.

Stepinac has a strong and storied legacy. As an independent, private Catholic School, we strive to inspire in our students lives of learning, faith and service. We seek to educate the whole person through high academic standards, faith-filled campus ministry, a diverse array of extracurricular activities, award winning arts program, dedication to service, and competitive athletics. In all aspects of school life, our young men have exhibited and achieved a profound spirit of what it means to be a Crusader.

The fruits of labor of our administrators, teachers, coaches and moderators has been bountiful: this year’s graduating class has amassed over \$27.5 million in scholarships; The Varsity Football Team captured their second consecutive CHSFL tile and won the New York State Catholic Championship; The Golf Team won a league title as did the Varsity Bowling Team. Our award winning drama department did it again, receiving 14 Metro nominations and coming home with three awards. What a year!

This coming year looks even more promising, with the establishment and launch of our honors academies (page 5), the continual advancement and investment in our technology and an ever-growing enrollment.

Your essential support provides us with the opportunity to answer the call to share Crusader values while maintaining ties that run deep with our alumni and throughout the wider community. Over the course of this past year, I have had the opportunity to meet many inspiring alumni and friends. I have listened to their stories and each one, without hesitation, speaks about the major positive impact the administration and faculty and the entire Stepinac community has had on them.

In closing, the 2015–2016 school year was successful thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm in support of the young men who attend Stepinac. Much progress was made and we have set the bar high for the future. In the coming year, with your sustained commitment, we know we can meet and surpass these expectations in our sixty-eighth year and in our shared tradition of *“Lumen Scientiae, Religio, Cor Amoris, Patriae.”*



Peace,

*Fr. Thomas Collins*

Reverend Thomas Collins, '79  
President  
Archbishop Stepinac High School





# HONORS ACADEMY ANNOUNCED

Continuing its leadership position in curriculum innovation to prepare students for success at college and beyond, Archbishop Stepinac High School has announced plans to establish an Honors Academy which will be the first-of-its-kind in the region.



application to the real world.” The program will culminate in the senior year with an internship and a final capstone research project and presentation that will be designed to encourage students to think critically and develop the skills that will help prepare them for college, careers and adult life. Internships and work-based learning will be a key component of the program.

The three-year personalized learning program, which will get underway this fall semester, will enable high achieving students to pursue advanced studies in either engineering, health sciences (medicine), economics/finance or law leading to potential careers. Paul Carty, Principal, said: “Our Honors Academy will help foster the development of skills that the honors students will need to become globally competitive at the college level and beyond.”

“Since our school’s alumni boast individuals who are leaders in their own right in a host of sectors including engineering, technology, healthcare, finance, accounting and law, we will develop partnerships in our community that will allow our students maximum exposure to numerous resources and real-world work experiences.”



To qualify, honors students in their freshman year will need a cumulative average of 90% or higher and will be required to apply for acceptance with the knowledge

and support of their parents. Frank Portanova, Vice Principal for Curriculum and Academic Studies, noted: “Honors Academy students will develop and use complex algorithms to explore the major



theories and principles associated with each discipline. A primary goal is to empower students to see the relationship between their academy studies and their

Each student will be assigned a faculty mentor as well as an outside mentor for the capstone project. Carty noted, “In an increasingly competitive college admissions market, it is important that Stepinac continue on the path of innovative learning to ensure our students remain highly competitive at the post-secondary level,” adding, “The Honors Academy is the latest initiative that Stepinac has undertaken to accomplish that goal. It follows on the heels of the ground-breaking personalized blended learning platform including the first-of-it-kind all digital text book library that Stepinac launched three years ago, establishing our school as a standard bearer of curriculum innovation with educators across the nation and around the world.”



## '15-16 Alumni Regional Receptions

This year, Stepinac Alumni held regional receptions in San Francisco, Scottsdale, Saratoga, Fort Lauderdale and Naples, FL. Next year’s schedule is being planned. Want to host? Call the Alumni office: (914) 946-4800 x245



Day at the Races, Saratoga, NY



San Francisco, hosted by Jim Curley '73



Naples FL, hosted by Alex Marasco '69



Scottsdale AZ, hosted by Paul Rubelli '61



Fort Lauderdale, organized by Phil Pepe '62



## HALL OF FAME



*Edward '58 and Deborah Robinson*



*The Hall of Fame Class of 2016: Fr. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Al Frey, Edward and Deborah Robinson, Kevin Keane, Mike O'Donnell*

Stepinac High School held its Hall of Fame Reception and Induction ceremony for the Class of 2016 on Thursday, May 5, 2016 in front of hundreds of family, friends, faculty and alumni. The six inductees join Stepinac's Honor Roll begun in 1994 that recognizes distinguished alumni, faculty, groups or families for their significant contributions to the success of the school. The 2016 inductees are: Art Ciocca '55, distinguished alumnus and long-time benefactor and Chairman Emeritus of The Wine Group, the world's third largest wine product by group. Michael Frey '84, the Eastchester Police Officer, was killed in the line of duty 20 years ago. His family was on hand for Stepinac's moving tribute to Frey's young life. Frey is the eighth Stepinac alumnus to be inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame. Deborah and Edward Robinson '58, distinguished alumnus and benefactors are the Trustees of the Edward & Deborah Robinson Scholarship. Edward is retired President and COO of Avon Products, Inc., the well-known, worldwide manufacturer of beauty and related products. Deborah, a

former spokesperson and consumer trend news reporter, now sits on the board of Women's Voices for Change in NYC and The Tri-County Animal Rescue Board in Palm Beach. Kevin Keane '74, distinguished alumnus and long-time benefactor of his alma mater, Chairman of Stepinac's Board of Trustees and Managing Partner of PKF O'Connor Davies, ranked by "Inside Public Accounting" as one of the nation's top accounting and advisory firms. Michael O'Donnell, Stepinac Athletic Director and Head Varsity Football Coach for more than 35 years and winning coach of two consecutive CHSFL Titles and the 2015 NY State Catholic Football Championship.



*John O'Donnell, Linda Whelan, Mike O'Donnell, Carla O'Donnell, Conor O'Donnell, Mary Anne O'Donnell, Patty and Mike Breen*



*John '82 and Patrice Butala, Mr. and Mrs. Al Frey, Al Frey Jr., Mary Butala*

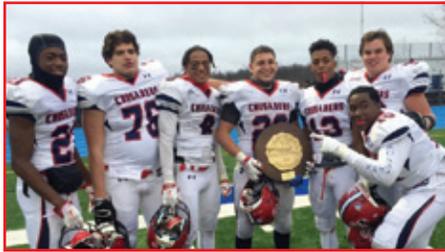


*The Keane Family: Kevin Jr., Micaela, Eileen, Kevin Sr., Deirdre, Keira, and Thomas*

# STEPINAC ATHLETICS

## Football Champions

The Crusaders had an outstanding season. Not only did they beat Cardinal Hayes 20–12 to win the CHSFL AAA title for the second consecutive year but they also beat St. Francis of Buffalo 42–28 to win its first ever State Catholic High School Athletic Association Football Championship. Stepinac closed its season with a perfect 12–0 record. The Crusaders stats for the season were points for: 479 and points against: 163. The team’s cumulative record for the past two seasons is 24–1. The last undefeated season was 2010.



Athletic Association Football Championship. Stepinac closed its season with a perfect 12–0 record. The Crusaders stats for the season were points for: 479 and points against: 163. The team’s cumulative record for the past two seasons is 24–1. The last undefeated season was 2010.

### Road to the State Championship

Newburgh Free Academy	31–0	(W)
Iona Prep	48–6	(W)
Holy Cross	20–13	(W)
Msgr. Farrell	34–28	(W)
Cardinal Hayes	43–21	(W)
St. Anthony	49–32	(W)
St. Peter	52–6	(W)
Chaminade	41–7	(W)
Chaminade (AAA Quarter Finals)	50–3	(W)
St. Peter (AAA Semi Finals)	49–7	(W)
Cardinal Hayes (AAA Championship)	20–12	(W)
St. Francis (State Championship)	42–28	(W)

## Golf Champions

Chris Garceau earned his nickname for a reason. Unfortunately for Iona Prep, it learned why the hardest way possible with a city title at stake. “The kids call him ‘Wedges,’” Stepinac golf coach Matt Hogan said.

“From 50 yards in, you might as well go and place the ball on the green.” With his match in extra holes, the Stepinac junior flopped a downhill pitch from the rough to a foot for a tap-in par. The up-and-down finished a thrilling 3–2 win for the Crusaders over rival Iona Prep at Knollwood Country Club and earned the program its first CHSAA title since 1997. The teams had split the first four matches, including one that wasn’t decided until the final hole. Garceau actually trailed Iona by two holes going into No. 17, but he won the last two to extend the match. With all the other matches complete, Garceau’s par on the ensuing hole gave Stepinac the title.



## Bowling Champions

The Varsity Bowling Team had an extremely successful season. The Bowlers earned the 2016 CHSAA Championship with comeback victories over Salesian and Xavier. In addition, the team won runner-up position in the 2017 City Championships, with sophomore Xavier Albano winning the “triple crown” awards for high game, high series, and high average. This coming season has high hopes for the Crusaders, as most of the team returns for a chance to repeat!



# HONORS AND AWARDS



## Hardwood Club Inductees

*The '77 Varsity Basketball Team, John Griff '73, Brendan Moyna '87, Terence '95 & Brendan '00 Burke, The Crusader Men's Club and John Mastropolo '61 (posthumously)*



*A Special "Block S" was presented at Graduation to Isabel Becerra in recognition for sending five boys and her grandson, Kyle, who graduated this year, to Stepinac!*



## In Te Domine Speravi Award

*Presented at Graduation to Bernadette and Gregory Prato*



## Sequere Deum Award

*Presented at Graduation to Tom '82 and Debby Ulrich*



**Major Bowes Award** *Presented to Our Lady Of Good Counsel; Their Alumni, Past Show Performers and The Sisters of Divine Compassion. Sr. Laura Donovan, past principal, accepted*



*Lady Crusader's Club Spring Luncheon Honors Toni Amato and Frank Portanova '93*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Stepinac's Board of Trustees has established a **Strategic Planning Steering Committee** charged with developing a five-year strategic plan to help assure that the school will continue its leadership position in preparing young men for post-secondary education. **James Scully '80**, a member of the Board of Trustees, was named Chairman of the 11-member group. It comprises the other seven members of the board as well as three members of the administration and staff and a mother of two Stepinac graduates who was formerly a partner for a market research firm and chairs the school's PR Committee. "The strategic plan will be a clear road map to help take our school to the next level to meet the educational needs of our students in the years ahead," said Scully. "As in the past, it will need the broad support of our committed alumni, parents, faculty, partners and other supporters in order to be successfully implemented." The strategic plan will be Stepinac's second since 2006. On the weekend of June 3rd & 4th over 60 Alumni, Friends, Faculty and Parents came together to discuss in detail Stepinac's future and had dozens of lively conversations all for the good of Stepinac.



In 2009, the Archdiocese of New York decided that 10 of its high schools including Stepinac would become independently chartered schools. As part of its new independent status responsible for budgeting, fund raising, marketing and other self-governance issues, Stepinac created a Board of Trustees comprising prominent alumni and other leaders who have been committed to chart the school's future. "The support that we generated for our first strategic plan as an independent school exceeded our expectations, thanks primarily to the generous support of our loyal alumni that enabled us to make the investments we needed to reinforce our position as a leader in secondary education." said **Fr. Collins '79**, who was named President in 2011. In the span of just three years, Stepinac made significant investments in its infrastructure including a new synthetic turf athletic complex, upgrades of classrooms including a state-of-the-art computer lab and physics lab, enhancements of the Major Bowes Theater, a major upgrade of the electrical service and a number of building façade improvements, parking lot and grounds improvements.

## STUDENT SERVICE

Working with Habitat for Humanity, Stepinac's **Varsity Baseball Team** helped start building a new home for a veteran's family in Yonkers.



The group of 30 athletes dug trenches, built a shed, hung plywood walls and removed debris from the site. The students also worked at a nearby community park to help create walkways and build gardens. They also undertook a fund raising campaign to help Habitat for Humanity meet its mission of providing safe, quality affordable and green housing for lower-income

families and individuals. "We are especially honored to have participated in a project that will help a veteran's family, giving the students the opportunity to show their appreciation in a small way to those who serve our country," said varsity baseball coach, and Habitat volunteer, **Keith Richardson**.

Stepinac students **Joseph Esposito** of Yonkers and **Alex Fiallos** of Port Chester learn about checking blood pressure during an exercise that followed a lesson on patient evaluation and diagnosis at the Medical Symposium recently held at Stepinac.



A strong contingent of Stepinac students — **55 seniors** — spent a Saturday in Glen Island Park in New Rochelle getting wet at the Seventh Annual Westchester Polar Plunge. The annual event helps raise money for the 3,500 Athletes of Special Olympics New York in the Hudson Valley. As a result of their efforts, the seniors



raised more than \$6,000 that will help provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults living with intellectual disabilities.

## DRAMA CLUB

### *Sister Act*

*Sister Act* is the feel-amazing musical comedy smash based on the 1992 film starring legendary star Whoopi Goldberg. It tells the story of a woman hiding in a convent who helps her



fellow sisters find their voice as she rediscovers her own. Filled with powerful gospel music, outrageous dancing and a truly moving story, *Sister Act* left audiences breathless.

Lead roles: **Dominique Burke** '17 (Cop Eddie Souther), **Nick Tabio** '17 (Mobster Curtis), **Anthony Pietroluongo** '17, **Marc DeSanctis** '17, and **Peter Aitriab** '19 (all Mobster Henchmen), **Kevin Ulrich** '16 (Msgr. O'Hare), **Serafina Morency** (Deloris).

### *12 Angry Men*

The Stepinac Drama Club's Theatre Lab (complete student production) staged two performances of *12 Angry Men*. The Theatre Lab is a new initiative of Stepinac's acclaimed Drama Club that provides students with the opportunity to undertake the creative aspects of directing and producing dramatic plays as well as performing in them.

**Nicholas Tabio** of Croton-on-Hudson (Class of '17) and **Kevin Ulrich** of White Plains (Class of '16), Assistant Directors/Producers (Ulrich also played Juror 3, one of the principal roles);



**Peter Astriab** of Yonkers (Class of '19), who played the role of Juror 8, another principal role and **Christian Prato** of White Plains (Class of '16), Director.

### *Peter and The Starcatcher*

Stepinac's drama club held three performances of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, on Nov 6, 7 and 8. The Tony Award-winning and Broadway hit *Peter and the Starcatcher* by Rick Elice provides a humorous and fantastical backstory for the beloved character Peter Pan and his arch-nemesis Captain Hook, and serves as the prequel to J.M. Barrie's Peter and Wendy. Based on the popular kids book of the same title, *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

### *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

The Stepinac Alumni Theater presented, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this July and it was performed under the stars, outside on the back lawn of the school. The play

is based around numerous romantic relationships that are meddled with by Puck — a fairy who has good intentions but messes with different love triangles which causes chaos. The cast consisted of alumni who have performed in productions of the school's Drama Club when they attended Stepinac as well as their female counterparts who went to other high schools throughout the region. The production was directed by **Christian Amato** '06 and produced **Alfred Menna** '92.



### Metro Awards

Stepinac High School's acclaimed Drama Club recently captured three Metropolitan High School Theater Awards (Metros) for its rousing production of the musical, *Sister Act*.

Regarded as the equivalent of the Tony Awards in the lower Hudson Valley, the 18th Annual Metros Awards ceremony was hosted by Stepinac on the stage of the famed Major Bowes Auditorium. **Serafina Morency** won Actress in a Leading Role for her performance as Deloria Van Cartier. She was joined by the cast of 'Nuns' that nabbed the Featured Ensemble Group prize. **Charlotte Newman** and **Francesca DeAngelo** shared the Metros spotlight for the work that earned them the Choreography award. Stepinac was the first high school in the nation to present the regional premiere of *Sister Act*, based on the 1992 film starring

Whoopi Goldberg, It brought together the talented members of the Drama Club as well as performers from other high schools in the region.





## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

**Brandon Hermoza-Ricci** of Port Chester, a junior, showcased his classical piano talents at the Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall as part of the 2016 Golden Key International Music Festival. Brandon's solo piano recital performance occurred on the same stage where the world-famous composer Peter Tchaikovsky conducted the inaugural concert 125 years ago to mark the opening of Carnegie Hall. Fittingly, Brandon performed Tchaikovsky's romantic composition, "June" Op. 27b, No. 6. As a result, he earned a Silver level award in the Under 18 Category as well as a chance to compete at the Vienna recitals in August.

On another stage, this time the Play Group Theatre in White Plains, two gifted students and members of Stepinac's acclaimed Drama Club, directed and produced two performances of Arthur Miller's classic, *Death of a Salesman*. The production reflected the talents and theater arts aspirations of **Kevin Ulrich** of White Plains who graduated in May and **Nicolas Tabio** of Croton-on-Hudson who will begin his senior year in September.

Another rising senior, **Patrick Magliocchino** of Thornwood — who has excelled in equal measure academically (a 3.9 GPA) and as a star player on Stepinac's Crusaders lacrosse team — just returned from an exciting international sports event. He had the honor of being chosen to be a member of the Irish Under 19 lacrosse team and competed with them in the recent Men's World Championships held in Coquitam, British Columbia. He scored 17 goals and 15 assists to help Ireland's team place 7 out of the 14 that competed in the 10-day tournament.

Students spent a week at The Catholic University of America participating in the Summer Business Institute presented by the university's renowned Busch School of Business and Economics. Experiencing the intense introduction to business innovation, leadership and ethics as well as an opportunity to sample some of the many historical and cultural offerings of the nation's Capital were: **Kieran Tirone, Mattias O'Csay, Brian Dervin, Gregory Mattiaccio** and **Vincent Storm** — all of White Plains — and **Michael Phillips** of Yonkers.

**Alex Rosenthal** of the Bronx earned a full scholarship to take a Youth About Business (YAB) Summer Basic Program at Columbia University including the Wall Street Conference. He learned to understand mergers



*Top: Deuce Prince; Brandon Hermoza; Alex Rosenthal.  
Bottom: Patrick Magliocchino; Nick Tabio & Kevin Ulrich;  
Harshal Shet; Kieran Tirone, Mattias O'Csay,  
Brian Dervin, Vincent Storm, Gregory Mattiaccio  
and Michael Phillips*

and acquisitions and other complex transactions from representatives from the world of business and finance. When Alex returns to Stepinac in September as a junior, he will continue to push the envelope, not only academically but athletically as well, as a member of the school's Crusaders lacrosse and football teams.

Following Alex's example, junior **Ronald "Deuce" Prince** of Valhalla participated in another YAB immersive summer program, the National Advance Business Camp, held at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. Last fall, he had been selected to serve on the YAB national leadership team, one of only 15 students from across the country and the only one from Westchester who earned the honor to be part of the group charged with developing this summer's program.

**Harshal Shet** of White Plains completed his participation in a high-level medical research project for Mount Sinai Hospital's Departments of Neuroscience and Psychiatry, Friedman Brain Institute and the Laboratory of Molecular Neuropsychopharmacology. Under the direction of Dr. Yasmin Hurd, Harshal joined a team of researchers in studying the nerve and brain function of drug addiction. The young scientist's efforts were not only lauded by the project leader but will be included in the final research paper. When Harshal resumes his studies in the fall as a senior, he will look forward to being honored on October 19 when he receives the Milly Kibrick Youth Services Award from Westchester County for his "exceptional personal involvement and commitment in building thriving, healthy and caring communities."



## PRIDE IN OUR PAST.

### Admissions



#### **Mr. Patsy Manganelli '00**

Director of Admissions  
Extension 263  
pmangane@stepinac.org



#### **Mr. James Goldman '04**

Admissions Associate  
Extension 264  
jgoldman@stepinac.org

### DATES TO REMEMBER

October 30, 2016 — 1:00 – 4:00 . . . . OPEN HOUSE I

November 2, 2016 — 6PM . . . . . OPEN HOUSE II

November 4, 2016 . . . . . T.A.C.H.S. EXAM

December 7, 2016 . . . . . SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

TBA . . . . . OPEN HOUSE III

March 1, 2017 . . . . . CLASS OF 2021 REGISTRATION

## Class of 1965 Celebrates its 50th Anniversary



### Reunion raised \$100,000 to establish The Class of '65 Scholarship

*Fr. Collins presents the reunion committee with their "throwback" game jerseys as a thank you for their hard work on organizing their very successful reunion.*

## HOMECOMING 2016



Celebrating the **classes ending in 1 and 6!** Please join us on **Saturday, October 15th** for Homecoming. The Varsity Football team plays Monsignor Farrell and kickoff is 1:30 PM. A hospitality tent will be available for all returning alumni! Many anniversary

classes are planning post game events in White Plains. The Classes of '66 and '56, who are celebrating their 50th and 60th anniversaries, as well as the classes of '76, '86, '91, and '06 all have a full weekend of plans. Call the Alumni Office (914) 946-4800 x245 for more reunion information or to organize an event that weekend!

## 2nd ANNUAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS CELEBRATION

Please join us for our annual event. No speeches, no honorees, just a wonderful alumni and friends celebration. Dinner, dancing, cocktails and reminiscing with old friends! Join us on **Friday, November 5th at 6:30 PM.**

For more information or tickets contact Paul Thomas, pthomas@stepinac.org or (914) 946-4800 x245.





FAITH IN OUR FUTURE.

## "SCHOOL SPIRIT RISING WITH ENROLLMENT AT ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC"

By Catholic New York Editor-In-Chief JOHN WOODS  
Reprinted with permission

A high school graduation ceremony is always an exciting event. At Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, this year's commencement exercises for 177 graduates on May 26 were not just a time of academic accomplishment and new beginnings for the school's students.

In many ways, the 67-year-old boys' school is experiencing the same things as it proceeds on a promising course. In the 2008–



2009 school year, the freshman class consisted of just 139 students; last fall, that number rose to 224. Total enrollment also was up to 788 students in the current academic year, compared to 577 just four years ago.

The increased numbers are welcome, of course, but they do not represent the whole story. Father Thomas Collins, the school's fifth-year president and a Stepinac man himself (Class of 1979), said in an interview that the larger student body "brings a dynamic to the school that wasn't there before."

"You can feel that spirit in the building when you are with a group of kids," said Father Collins, an archdiocesan priest who has served in several positions, including religion teacher and associate dean of students since coming to Stepinac in 1995.

The enrollment increase did not just happen. In fact, when the archdiocese made the decision in 2009 for archdiocesan high schools to become independently chartered, there were no guarantees the change would have a positive effect at Stepinac.

The school's newly independent status has been fostered by a board of trustees, chaired for the first five years by attorney William F. Plunkett Jr., whom Father Collins had described last spring as "a visionary." When Plunkett's term as chair was complete last year, he was succeeded by Kevin Keane, Class of 1974, a certified public accountant who is managing partner of O'Connor Davies LLP, an accounting firm.

Speaking to CNY this summer, Keane said he "owed a lot to Stepinac" for the academic and athletic environments he experienced as a student. "I made some of my best friends there," he said. His motivation today is simple. He wants to help today's students from families in Westchester and the Bronx "experience some of the great things I did."

Along those lines, the board of trustees has formed a strategic planning committee that brought together "stakeholders" in the school community for a two-day retreat where they discussed various core components of Stepinac life from enrollment to

finance and academics to religion, all with a goal of "getting Stepinac to the next level," Keane said.

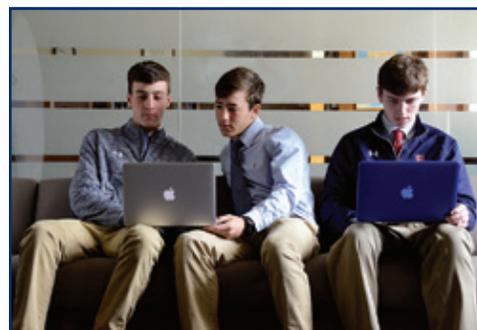
One thing that already has received rave reviews is Stepinac's technology program. About half a dozen years ago, vice principal for academics Frank Portanova said that he began noticing more and more students using laptops and other electronic devices. But they were still weighed down by backpacks filled with heavy textbooks. At the time, Pearson was offering digital companion texts to their printed books. The response to that was overwhelming," Portanova said.

Stepinac went on to become the first school in the nation with a digital textbook library. The school has stayed on the leading edge of the digital education revolution by taking learning well beyond the textbook to include many other digital resources.

All the changes flipped the learning environment upside down and give Stepinac students early exposure to educational experiences that they will encounter in college, said Portanova, a member of the Class of 1993 who teaches AP Literature to seniors.

Representatives of high schools from California, Tennessee, Georgia, Massachusetts and throughout New York have trekked to White Plains to see first-hand what Stepinac is doing, Portanova said. While academics are primary, Stepinac's impressive array of extracurricular activities include a full roster of well-regarded athletic teams as well as a theater program that stages groundbreaking productions. Portanova serves as the director.

Nicolas Tabio, a junior at Stepinac, actually has scored in both athletic and dramatic pursuits. He's



a left winger on the school hockey team, though a fractured ankle curbed his play this season until the playoffs began. This spring, he played the villainous role of Curtis in the production of "Sister Act." "It was a great experience, to say the least," he said. Nicolas said teachers at Stepinac know their subjects well and do not hesitate to extend themselves for students. "Those types of relationships make the learning so personal," he said. He considers his fellow students an intelligent group. This year, he and a classmate, Mike Bilotta, were able to work together to get an oratory and debate club up and running. "It's competitive but in a beneficial way," he said. "We help each other strive for greatness."



## The Fund for Stepinac

Last year, Stepinac's Annual Fund was renamed and is now the "The Fund for Stepinac." The change reflects the changing ways Alumni and Friends are giving. Many have begun making recurring gifts, while more are contributing stocks and other appreciated assets. "The Fund for Stepinac" also better describes that your support is being used at Stepinac for Stepinac.

Becoming a member of Stepinac's Recurring Gift Program is easy — just go to [www.stepinac.org](http://www.stepinac.org) and select the donate page. You can make a one-time gift or elect to make it a recurring gift. Spreading your support throughout the year is a convenient way to include your donations into your personal bud-get. Monthly giving is the most cost efficient way to deliver your support.

Your recurring gift will directly sustain the student experience, support financial aid, scholarships, academic programs, and student services. Supporting Stepinac can in fact inspire others — your friends, your community — to follow your example. Your annual support can make a powerful, lasting statement about the value of a Stepinac education.

To find out more about recurring giving or any of our online choices please contact Patrick Massaroni '06 at (914) 946-4800 x292 or [pmassaroni@stepinac.org](mailto:pmassaroni@stepinac.org).

Of course we still offer the traditional Ways of Giving:

- Pledges
- Cash / Checks / Credit Cards
- Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property
- Gifts of Insurance
- Corporate Matching Gifts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Bequests

To learn more about ways to support Stepinac please contact:

- Dennis Buckley '82 at (914) 946-4800 x282 or [dbuckley@stepinac.org](mailto:dbuckley@stepinac.org)
- Patrick Massaroni '06 at (914) 946-4800 x292 or [pmassaroni@stepinac.org](mailto:pmassaroni@stepinac.org)
- Paul Thomas '80 at (914) 946-4800 x245 or [pthomas@stepinac.org](mailto:pthomas@stepinac.org)

## Stepinac's Omega Society

Stepinac's Omega Society was officially introduced in 2013. Since then, we have been notified by dozens of Alumni and Friends who have included Stepinac in their estate plans.

Planned Gifts provide Stepinac with invaluable resources that allow Stepinac to meet many of the annual financial demands placed upon the school. In addition, most of the funds are designated to our Endowment which will ensure Stepinac the capability to continue to provide a high-quality, affordable education to motivated young men.

Whether you have named Stepinac in your will, a life insurance policy, or some form of a Charitable Trust, we would like you to let us know so we can properly thank you. If you have questions on how to include Stepinac in your estate plans, or if you already have included Stepinac in your estate plans, please contact **Dennis Buckley** at [dbuckley@stepinac.org](mailto:dbuckley@stepinac.org) or (914) 946-4800 x282.

### And the top class is...

The Class of 1953 has led all classes as the best when it comes to class participation for several years. That run came to an end with the 50th reunion class of 1965. The Class of 1965 is awarded the top class for participation this past year.

**The top 3 classes are:  
Class of '65 • Class of '53 • Class of '55**

We would like to thank everyone who made a gift this year and encourage all of you when making your gift, call a few of your classmates and encourage them to send in their gift as well. The worst thing that can happen is that you catch up with an old friend!

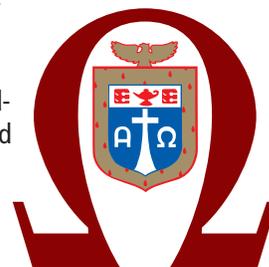
If you would like to help your class improve their participation, help find lost Alumni or become a Class Representative, please contact **Dennis Buckley '82** at [dbuckley@stepinac.org](mailto:dbuckley@stepinac.org).

If you would like to make a gift and encourage your classmates to give, share with them the link

<https://46261.thankyou4caring.org>

so they can make a secure gift to Stepinac!

**Thank you all for your support! And Congratulations to the Class of '65!**



## Calling All Pipers and Drummers!

We are looking for alumni who play the bagpipes or drums to lead our football team onto the field for homecoming (October 15). Contact [pthomas@stepinac.org](mailto:pthomas@stepinac.org) for more information.



## IN MEMORIAM

Mr. John M. Collins '51  
 Mr. William A. Federice '51  
 Mr. John F. Doherty '52  
 Mr. Joseph A. Oths '52  
 Mr. Thomas G. Wetheral '52  
 Mr. Joseph V. Casale '53  
 Mr. George H. Schiller '54  
 Mr. Peter E. Manion '56  
 Mr. Miles P. Moravec '57  
 Mr. Richard W. Dempsey '57  
 Capt. Glenn J. Secrest Ret. '59  
 Mr. Francis E. Richichi '60  
 Mr. Robert K. Kelly '61  
 Mr. Dennis M. McGrath '63  
 Mr. John E. Malesardi '65  
 Mr. John F. O'Rourke '65  
 Mr. Robert G. Pears '65  
 Mr. Joseph J. Cappetta '66  
 Mr. Conrad P. Latella '67  
 Mr. John O'Sullivan '68  
 Mr. Bradley J. Paulsen '69  
 Mr. Dennis O'Keefe '70  
 Mr. Dominick R. Badia '72  
 Mr. Richard Eletto '72  
 Mr. Saverio Terenzi '73  
 Mr. Paul F. Reilly '76  
 Mr. Timothy Cunningham '80  
 Mr. Denis M. Golden '80  
 Mr. John J. Horrigan '80  
 Mr. James Herbert '83  
 Mr. Richard Rynik '83  
 Mr. Robert Sullivan '86  
 Mr. Christopher Gallo '89  
 Mr. Arthur L. Ogbogu '90  
 Mr. Richard J. Pusatere '99  
 Mr. Louis C. Barbieri Jr. '00  
 Mr. Brian Balthazard '07  
 Mr. Thomas Cipollaro '08  
 Mr. Silas F. Kelly '14  
 Mr. Arturo S. Yanni '14



Rev. John F. Quinn — Faculty



**JOSEPH CASALE '53** Joseph died on May 3, 2016. Originally from New York City, Joe moved with his family to Harrison, NY in 1948. During his years at Stepinac, Joe was known for boundless school spirit and athletic talent on the playing field. After graduating from Stepinac, he attended Holy Cross College, graduating in 1957 with a BA in English. Upon graduating the Cross, he entered the United States Marines and served as an infantry officer until 1960. His bond to the USMC had never diminished. In the early 1960s, Mr. Casale worked as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, before beginning his career in life insurance in 1966, first with Connecticut General, and then with the Phoenix Companies. He rose to become the General Manager of the Manhattan Agency for the Phoenix Companies, capturing its highest management award four times. Before retiring in 1995, Mr. Casale became a lifetime member of his industry's premier association, the Million Dollar Round Table, and wrote *Common Sense Selling*, a popular hand book on insurance sales. In 1995, Joe was inducted into Stepinac's Hall of Fame. Joe married Doris O'Brien in 1965 and they had three children: Francis, Cecilia, and Joseph.



**REVEREND JOHN F. QUINN** Stepinac Faculty Member (1973–1985) passed away on January 14, 2016. Father Quinn, affectionately called "Sugar Bear," was a graduate of Cardinal Hayes HS, Fordham College, BA in History 1967, St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, Master of Divinity 1970, Fordham University MA in History 1973. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of New York by Terence Cardinal

Cooke on May 29, 1971. He served as a teacher and Religion department chairman at Archbishop Stepinac High School and Maria Regina High School. During those 17 years, Father Quinn was the visiting Weekend Associate at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in White Plains. While involved in all this "work in the Lord's Vineyard," he was also a member of the West Point Review Board, Chaplain of the White Plains Police, Fire and Volunteer Fire Departments, Chaplain of the Daughters of America-Court Regina Coeli, a participant in S.H.O.R.E. and White Plains Ecumenical Pantry, and was Chaplain of Marymount Convent in Tarrytown. After many years ministering in the field of education, in 1995 he became the proud Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Armonk, New York, until his retirement in 2013. Father Quinn was noted during all his years of ministry for a clear voice in bringing the message, consolation and love of the Lord to each person he met — child, youth, engaged couple, young parents, troubled people, seriously ill and older citizens.

### *Memorial Mass — November 5, 2016*

Every fall, Stepinac holds its annual Memorial Mass. Alumni, faculty, staff and friends gather in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit where Mass is celebrated in remembrance of members of the Stepinac community who have passed away since our last Mass. This special tribute to friends and loved ones is held on the first Saturday of November at 10 AM and all are welcome.



Archbishop Stepinac High School  
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**SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING 2016-17 EVENTS**

Joe Rivero Game . . . . .	September 9	Florida Receptions . . . . .	Jan-Mar TBA
Rush-O'Grady Baseball Game . . . . .	October 9	Holy Name Mass . . . . .	April 2
Homecoming . . . . .	October 14, 15	Career Day . . . . .	April 26
Crusader 5K Family Run . . . . .	October 16	Trustee Reception . . . . .	April 27
Boston Reception . . . . .	TBA	Spring Musical . . . . .	TBA
Fall Play . . . . .	TBA	NYC Reception . . . . .	May 18
Memorial Mass . . . . .	November 5	Legacy Reception . . . . .	May 24
Young Alumni Event . . . . .	November 23	67th Commencement . . . . .	May 25
Turkey Bowl . . . . .	November 24	Golf Outing . . . . .	June 7
Basketball Homecoming . . . . .	January 27	Saratoga Reception . . . . .	July 28

**A record number, 19 Legacy (son of alumnus)  
 Graduates of the Class of 2016**



For more information call 914.946.4800 ext. 245, 282, 292 or visit [www.stepinac.org](http://www.stepinac.org)

Please send us your email address, so you can receive our Newsletter electronically!