

Summer 2025

# THE Empire



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS OF  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## ROMAN ROBOTICS

Est. 2024

*The newly formed team  
makes impressive debut!*



# The RCHS Mission



Founded by Thomas E. Cahill in 1890 as the first free Diocesan Catholic high school for boys in the nation, Roman Catholic continues its tradition of excellence as it strives to offer a comprehensive academic curriculum within a disciplined Catholic environment. Enriched by its cultural, racial, and religious diversity, Roman Catholic provides a community where each young man can learn to appreciate and respect the uniqueness of others while becoming a man of personal integrity. Roman Catholic High School strives to bring the Gospel values of Jesus Christ to its students, while forming a Catholic community which embodies the Christian spirit of service to all.

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*The Empire designed by:*  
 Gene Burns '81



## Dear Roman Community,



Each day as I walk through the halls of our 1890 Building at Broad and Vine, I am reminded of the timeless spirit that makes Roman Catholic High School a place unlike any other. It is a spirit built on our motto *Fides et Scientia* (Faith and Knowledge) as well as our pursuit of the awesome endeavor of turning boys into men – men of respect, resilience, and responsibility – the hallmark qualities of a Roman Gentleman. That spirit has been alive in every corner of our campus throughout this remarkable year.

Our Football and Basketball teams once again had outstanding seasons, as both programs were the state runner-up in their respective PIAA State Championship games. Our Ice Hockey team had their first appearance in a championship game in over a decade. In the courtroom, our Mock Trial Team continued its tradition of excellence capturing Roman's 12th City Championship – its 11th title in the past 12 years. Meanwhile, under the leadership of faculty members Ana Barun and Jarrod Gibson, our newly formed Robotics Team made history, competing for the first time and earning the prestigious Rookie All-Star Award for the Mid-Atlantic District; the team was also a finalist at the Mid-Atlantic Seneca competition. The passion and energy these young men have shown point to an exciting future for STEM at Catholic High.

Our commitment to preparing students for life beyond Roman also grew stronger this year. We resurrected our Career Day, giving juniors and seniors the chance to connect directly with industry professionals, many of them Roman alumni, across a wide variety of fields. We also welcomed more than 250 prospective 7th graders to campus for an action-packed Visitation Day, where they experienced firsthand the opportunities and brotherhood that await at RCHS.

Roman Pride stretches far beyond Philadelphia. This spring, Vice President of Mission Advancement Dan Joyce and I traveled to meet with loyal alumni and friends in various spots across Florida, New York City, and Washington, D.C. No matter where life has taken them, the connection to Broad & Vine remains strong, and their support fuels our continued growth.

This past month, we officially concluded the school year by saying farewell to our senior class at our annual Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. It was a beautiful day of Mass, salutatorian and valedictorian addresses, individual awards, the conferral of degrees, and celebrating our newest alumni. In my own opportunity to address the class, I challenged our graduates to go out and do something that scares them, to step outside of their comfort zones, and embrace the unfamiliar. Courage builds character, and character builds legacy. I am confident these young men will make us proud and enjoy success in all of their endeavors, much like Roman has done as an institution.

Roman's success comes from people like you: our devoted alumni and friends, extraordinary faculty and staff, supportive parents and families, and most importantly, our incredible students. You provide the spirit that makes Roman Catholic High School a place unlike any other.

As I often say – and believe with my whole heart – for Roman Catholic High School, the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

John A. Prendergast '08  
President

## My Fellow Cahillites,



As summer rapidly approaches – or as Charlie Manuel would say, Hittin' Season – there's so much to reflect on and be thankful for. It's truly an honor to serve as the new Director of Development & Alumni Relations at our beloved Alma Mater. In my short time in this role, I've enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to connecting with even more of my fellow Sons of Cahill. Whether you graduated decades ago or are a proud

member of the Class of 2025, we are living proof of Thomas E. Cahill's vision.

Each day I walk the hallowed halls of Catholic High, I'm reminded why so many of us chose to wear that purple cardigan. The bond among our students is truly unique, and it doesn't break after graduation. I recently had the privilege of joining President John Prendergast and VP of Mission Advancement Dan Joyce at the Penn Club of New York for a Meet the President event. As I spoke with the alumni present, the deep love for Roman and the strong

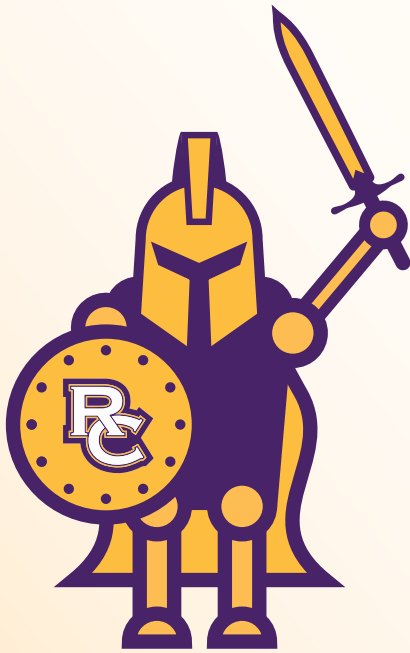
sense of brotherhood were undeniable. I left that evening feeling more certain than ever that "Brothers for Life" is far more than a tagline; it's a commitment we live every day.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our 9th Annual Day of Giving. This year, we shattered records, raising vital funds to support Cahillites both present and future – and we couldn't have done it without you. Our annual visit to Cahill's grave is undoubtedly a tradition like no other.

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Prendergast: the best is yet to come for Catholic High. Thank you for your continued support, your loyalty, and your unshakable commitment to Roman Catholic High School!

Sincerely,

Mike Cornaglia '19  
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



# ROMAN ROBOTICS

Est. 2024

## 2025 SEASON



Roman Robotics team members fine-tune their robot before a critical match at competition.



Robot 10157 is ready to go!



Team Roman Robotics celebrates a successful rookie season after being honored with the prestigious Rookie All-Star Award at the regional tournament.

What began as the Engineering Club has transformed into something much bigger – Roman Robotics. Inspired by a shared passion for innovation and technology, students took the bold step to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). They design, build, and program a robot capable of teaming up with two alliance partners to take on challenging game objectives with the goal of winning points and vying for a spot in the playoffs.

As a first-year team, they entered the competition with modest expectations. Our students proposed the simple goal of fielding a working robot as a good benchmark for a successful rookie season for their program. Against the odds, this team has exceeded even their most ambitious expectations, taking 2nd and 3rd place at their local competitions before competing in the Mid-Atlantic regional tournament.

At the regional tournament, the team received the Rookie All-Star award, honoring their program as one of the best and most impactful first-year teams in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Alongside this award, the team was also offered the rare opportunity to travel to Houston for the world championship tournament.

Roman Robotics' inaugural season was marked by innovation, collaboration, and exceptional dedication – laying a strong foundation for continued excellence in the years to come.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a world-wide high school level robotics competition that promotes noble values and experiences for students. It is the students' role during their tenure with a robotics team to learn all the essential parts of creating and operating a robot, which includes both autonomous programs and user-controlled task



Roman Robotics competes in a high-stakes match, navigating challenges with strategy, speed, and spirit.



completion. There are many hands-on skills to be learned through FIRST such as 3D modeling and printing, wood and metal working, wiring, along with soldering and coding. But students also learn social and financial skills while scouting and strategizing with other teams and researching grants to help fund the program. No matter what a student's skill set is, anyone can find a way of positively influencing a robotics team.

The FIRST organization promotes values of “gracious professionalism,” describing tournaments as a “Coopertition” where teams are both competing against each other, but also helping one another to maximize success. Their values also include discovery, innovation, impact, and inclusion among others. As a new team, Roman Robotics was inspired by the values of this organization and they want to make strides to contribute to this positive culture. If you are interested in supporting Roman Robotics either financially or through your expertise via mentorship, please reach out to the Development Office.



Just one of the competitions that Roman Robotics participates in!



# CAREER DAY



Career Day was well attended by many alumni and friends of Roman.

## ***Roman Catholic High School Hosts Career Day for Juniors and Seniors***

On March 30, Roman Catholic High School proudly hosted its Career Day – an exciting and enriching event tailored specifically for our junior and senior students as they begin to explore their future career paths. With enthusiasm and curiosity, students participated in a full day of engaging presentations and conversations with professionals from a wide range of fields.

We extend our deepest thanks to the incredible individuals who joined us and generously shared their time, insights, and experiences. From pilots to engineers, entrepreneurs to graphic designers, and professionals from countless other industries – your willingness to connect with our students made a lasting impact. Your stories and advice illuminated the many possibilities ahead and offered real-world context to the dreams our students are beginning to shape.

The diversity of careers represented reminded us that the road to success is not one-size-fits-all – and that determination, integrity, and a sense of purpose are essential no matter the destination. At Roman Catholic, rooted in faith and tradition, we were especially inspired by the values of leadership, service, and vocation that were woven throughout each speaker's journey.

Career Day was more than an event – it was the start of meaningful reflection and direction for many of our young men. The inspiration and encouragement shared that day will continue to resonate as they discern their next steps in life and learning.

To all who participated: thank you for investing in the future of our students. Your impact will be felt long after the day has ended, and we are eager to build upon this successful beginning for years to come.





Roman Juniors and Seniors learning valuable insight into various careers!



Carpenters' Union Representatives.



Hurley McBrierty Jr., GE Healthcare.



Joe DeFinis '85, The DeFinis Agency.



Anthony Popolo '10.



Roman Catholic's Mission Advancement Team.



Gene Burns '81, Gene Burns Graphic Design.



Roman students discussing careers amongst themselves.





# ROMAN ATHLETICS

Roman had an impressive showing across multiple sports this year, with three of its teams finishing as runners-up in their respective championship games. Both the Varsity Basketball and Football teams demonstrated exceptional skill and determination, advancing to their State Championship games. In Hershey, Basketball met Father Judge in a rematch of the Catholic League Championship game. The football team played a back-and-forth overtime thriller against Bishop McDevitt.

In addition, the Ice Hockey team made a historic run to the finals of the Inter-County Scholastic Hockey League (ICSHL), marking their first appearance in a championship game in over a decade against Archbishop Carroll.







# Mock Trial

On March 9, under the expert guidance of alumnus Steven Patton '08 and veteran English teacher John Pensabene, the team successfully defended Connie MacLeod, portrayed by team captain Oliver Sheaffer '26.

MacLeod faced accusations of stealing a valuable pendant found in his dorm room. The team's strategic arguments and compelling evidence led to a decisive victory, marking Roman's 11th city title in the past 12 years and 12th overall.

*"We worked hard all season, putting countless hours in being a successful team. Hearing our names called at the City Championship is an unmatched feeling. I felt nothing but pride in my team, and in the brotherhood we share."*

*- Anthony Cirano III '26*



Joseph Kozarski '26



Nicholas Conway '26



Jehoikim Gabriel '26



Ross McCullough '26



Oliver Sheaffer '26



Sabree Hines '26



# NEWS AROUND ROMAN

## Roman is a Brotherhood

Last summer, recent graduate Joshua Brown '24 left his class ring behind in a house he rented down the shore. Class rings have been a tradition at Roman Catholic for most of the last century, with people recognizing the purple stone almost anywhere. It is not a surprise therefore that when Josh's ring was left behind at a beach house, the search to find the owner was city-wide.

There were Facebook Posts, Instagram DM's, and texts exchanged among hundreds of alumni, family, and friends of RCHS to try and return this ring to its owner.

Josh stopped by RCHS to get his ring back, and he has never been happier! In his words, "I'm never taking it off again!"

Roman would like to send out a special thank you to everyone who helped us to get this ring back to Josh. Our school has stood the test of time because of the community that surrounds it!



## Step Into The Arena with Roman's Podcast!

Roman Catholic High School students are making their voices heard – literally – with The Roman Arena Podcast! Hosted by our very own Cahillites, this dynamic show dives into a wide range of topics – from student life and school traditions to current events, sports, and everything in between. It's insightful, entertaining, and 100% Roman. Available now on Spotify, The Roman Arena is a must-listen for anyone who bleeds Purple & Gold. Tune in, relive the spirit, and hear how the next generation is carrying on the legacy – one episode at a time.



## The Philadelphia Eagles give back to Roman Catholic

Eagles' punter Braden Mann is making a difference off the field by mentoring rising sophomore George Pickett '28 through the KB Foundation! This helps to combine his NFL experience with his passion for strength and conditioning to inspire and serve the next generation.



## Young Engineers at Work

Mr. Gibson's senior engineering class was working hard on wiring and coding circuits. They demonstrated skills with both mechanical work and computer coding knowledge.

Mr. Gibson has been doing hands-on projects with his seniors all year, and it is awesome to see how much they have learned!





## Roman Catholic Cooking Club

*In January, the Cooking Club took a field trip to The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College!*

*Students got a full tour of the facilities, learned culinary techniques like how to cook risotto, competed in a formal table setting relay race, ate lunch (arancini and roulade of chicken) prepared by students at the college, and learned about college and summer programs in the culinary arts and hospitality management.*



## Faculty vs. Staff Volleyball Game

Another Catholic Schools Week tradition continued as the senior class faced off against the faculty in a volleyball game. The faculty secured the win, but everyone enjoyed a great time!



## Philadelphia Ballet Visits Roman!

For a few years, the McSherry Annex has shared the block with some truly excellent neighbors, The Philadelphia Ballet. Recently, they have started work on a huge construction project, reshaping Broad Street. We were lucky to have some of their dancers come in and teach our students about some of the fundamentals of ballet.

Mr. Sterling, the lead dancer, explained to our students that the skills needed for dance are similar to those needed for any sport: quick decision making, communication, teamwork, flexibility, and core strength. The Philadelphia Ballet does extensive work with professional athletes, preparing them to compete at the highest levels, and once the boys got over being shy, they had a great time!

Thank you to the Philadelphia Ballet for sharing your time and talents with us!

*The Empire, Summer 2025*



Ryan Hemighaus '26 (left) and Otis Shenk '26 (right).

## New Leadership at Roman

We're excited to officially introduce our 2025-2026 Student Council President, Otis Shenk '26, and Vice President, Ryan Hemighaus '26! Congratulations to Otis and Ryan – their leadership is already inspiring, and we can't wait to see what they will accomplish next year!

We also want to give a huge thank you to the City Commissioner's Office and City Commissioner Seth Bluestein for coming to Roman yesterday! Thanks to them, every student had the chance to vote on real voting machines – an amazing hands-on experience in civic engagement that we truly appreciate.



# NEWS AROUND ROMAN



## President John A. Prendergast '08 and Vice President Daniel Joyce visit Alumni in Florida

Roman Board Chair Dan DiLella '69 and his wife Monica hosted a gathering of local alumni at their home in Delray Beach, FL.

President John Prendergast '08 and Vice President Dan Joyce discussed all of the exciting things happening at Broad & Vine. After this visit in Delray Beach, President Prendergast and VP Joyce traveled to visit other alumni and friends of Roman in Bonita Springs and Captiva, FL. They are planning to visit other alumni across the country in the coming months!



## Recognizing Cahillite Legends

To finish off the Catholic Schools Week celebration, the faculty, staff, and administration met in the Learning Commons for a luncheon. Roman takes the time to recognize members of the faculty who have achieved a milestone.

This year, we had three milestones to celebrate. The first is the retirement of Mrs. Mary Desmond. She held the role of Director of Guidance at Roman for many years and retired last August. Mrs. Desmond will be missed greatly by the students and faculty of RCHS.

We also had two members of our community celebrating a 25th anniversary. Mrs. Maureen Brown and Mr. Fitz-Gerald Gallagher '94 both celebrated 25 years of service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Roman Catholic High School. This is a tremendous achievement, and we are lucky to have had both of them here for so long.

On behalf of the whole Roman Catholic community, we wish them another 25 happy years!

## A Prestigious Appointment for Mr. DiLella '69

Congratulations to alumnus Dan DiLella '69, Chairman of Equus Capital Partners and Chair of Roman's Board of Directors, on his appointment as Honorary Consul of the Republic of San Marino in Delray Beach, Florida! In this role, he will oversee relations across Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, promoting trade, tourism, and investment between San Marino and the U.S.



With a remarkable career in real estate, civic leadership, and philanthropy, DiLella continues to make an impact both nationally and internationally. Congratulations on this prestigious appointment!



## A Cahillite in Hollywood



Special shoutout to David Lally '05 on producing Disney Pixar's first-ever animated series, *Win or Lose*, now streaming on Disney+!

From working on beloved films like *Coco*, *Inside Out*, and *Finding Dory* to shaping Pixar's studio culture and collaborating with independent filmmakers on projects that have appeared in the festival circuit, including the 89th Academy Awards nominee, *Borrowed Time*, David's impact on animation is incredible.

Don't miss his latest work *Win or Lose* – out now!





## Cahillites Shine Under the Lights at Trenton Thunder Ballpark

On a thrilling night under the lights at Trenton Thunder Ballpark, Roman Catholic High School took the field to face off against Harry S. Truman High School in a memorable matchup. The Cahillites came out on top with an impressive win, showcasing talent, teamwork, and determination. The energy in the stadium was electric, with strong attendance from current students, dedicated faculty, and proud alumni, all coming together to support the team. The event wasn't just about baseball – it was a celebration of school spirit, tradition, and community. From the first pitch to the final out, the night was filled with excitement, cheers, and unforgettable moments. Playing at a professional venue like Trenton Thunder added a special touch to an already remarkable evening. It was a win both on and off the field, reminding everyone what it means to be part of the Roman Catholic family.



## Theology Field Trip

Mrs. McKenna was able to take students to Archbishop Perez's annual Mass Honoring Persons with Disabilities, the Deaf Community, and their caregivers in the Church of Philadelphia.

The late Mr. Ed Keenan '54 took Roman Catholic students to assist at this Mass for the last 19 years, and we were able to continue this beautiful tradition. Mr. Jim Murphy was the catalyst that encouraged 23 Roman men to answer the call to facilitate access for many people to attend this special Mass. Our men directed vans into the parking lot, and assisted in getting folks into the Cathedral by pushing wheelchairs and being sight guides.

Additionally, they held doors open and greeted the guests warmly. During Communion, our guys directed priests to those who were unable to access Communion distribution. After Mass, the guests were treated to a small reception. Again, our men assisted the guests back into their vans or walked them over to the reception, where they welcomed them with food and conversation and demonstrated faith in action.



## A Philly Connection

Special thanks to Sportsradio WIP for allowing Owen '28 and Craig '28, two of our podcasting students, to come in and witness The Morning Show with Joe DeCamara and Jon Ritchie LIVE!

They also had the chance to meet former Phillies GM Ruben Amaro Jr. and Roman mom, Rhea Hughes, P'27.

Thank you for allowing our guys to witness the behind-the-scenes of radio and broadcasting!

# Looking back: Great memories of the days at RCHS!

## Faith, Brotherhood, and Blackboards: My Days at Roman Catholic High in the 1960s

I was born and raised in East Falls and attended St. Bridget's, so there was no doubt that I would follow in my cousin's and older friend's footsteps and go to Roman Catholic. I was really excited to go to Broad & Vine with my friends, but was nervous with anticipation the first week or so. That changed as I quickly identified with all the positive things I heard about Roman.

It was a great experience meeting classmates from many parishes who soon became close friends. The priests and lay teachers made me feel that they had a genuine interest in each one of us. I was very fortunate to have Mr. Kevin Quinn as my homeroom teacher all four years and as my history teacher. He was not only my teacher, but also my mentor. Because of him, there was no doubt I would become a teacher and go to St. Joe's College. Aside from him, Father Carson and Father "Mon Pere" Murphy stand out the most to me.

Strict, but fair discipline was consistent and built strong character traits, especially loyalty and respect. Classes were challenging but interesting and you always knew the expectations of each teacher. There was the famous "up" stairway and "down" stairway and you better not get caught going the wrong way.

The following quote resonates with me until today: "Coasting will get you nowhere but the bottom of the hill." – Father Dolan.

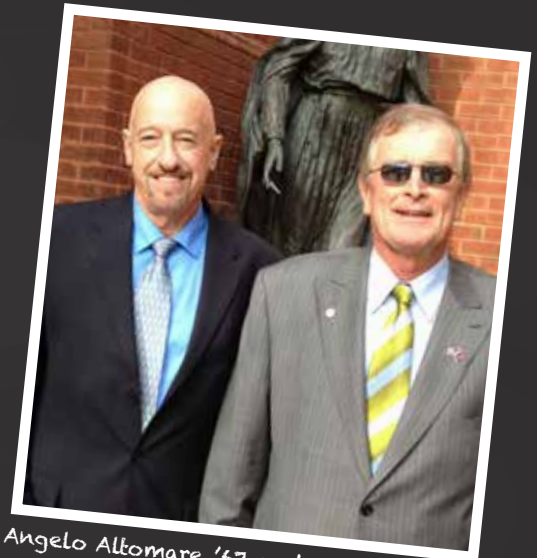
My sophomore year was the 75th Anniversary Celebration Diamond Jubilee and was filled with many events, most notably mass at the Cathedral given by Cardinal Krol.

Roman's band was incredible, especially when they played *Roman Rock* and *The Purple and Gold*.

Thanksgiving Day football vs. The Prep at Cahill Field was a yearly big event, and of course I enjoyed going to the basketball games in our historic gym especially after school days on a Friday.

To this day, I treasure my unique book bag that doubled as a seat on the bus or subway. I will forever be thankful for receiving a well-rounded "Catholic Education" that molded me into the man I am. Most of my classmates would concur with this sentiment.

Angelo Altomare '67



Angelo Altomare '67 and Bill Joyce '67



Old Roman book bag



Tread from the Grand Stair Case RCHS 1890



Danny Meyer '14

## Serving Faith and City: A Roman Memory at the Cathedral

One of my personal favorite moments at Roman was back in the Fall of 2011. Roman had a group that assisted with altar serving for special masses at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, and we were selected to help serve at the installation mass of then Archbishop Chaput. This was an honor to serve this Mass as it was not only something important to my faith, but there was a pride I felt knowing that myself and others from Roman played a big part in that installation Mass. It showed how important Roman is to the Archdiocese and also to the city of Philadelphia.

Danny Meyer '14





**Cahill Club Award winners pose with Cahill Club Executive Board members and RCHS Leadership Representatives.**

## Cahill Club Honors Community Excellence at 2025 Award Dinner

On Thursday, May 15, 2025, the Cahill Club of Roman Catholic High School hosted its annual Award Dinner at the scenic Flourtown Country Club. The event brought together alumni, faculty, students, and friends of Roman Catholic to celebrate outstanding individuals who exemplify the school's mission of faith, service, and excellence.

The evening began with a lively cocktail hour, offering guests the opportunity to reconnect and share in the spirit of camaraderie that defines the Roman Catholic community. At 7:00 pm, attendees gathered for a formal dinner and awards presentation.

Five exceptional honorees were recognized for their achievements and contributions to the school and broader community. Mr. Christopher Gibbons '79 received the prestigious Thomas E. Cahill Award, a testament to his enduring commitment to Catholic values and leadership. The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to two exemplary graduates, Mr. Marc Jackson '93 and Mr. Christopher McNesby '95, both of whom have made significant impacts in their respective fields and continue to support the school's mission.

The James McSherry '40 Award for Service was awarded to Mr. Francis T. Kerrigan '68 in recognition of his lifelong dedication to serving others and uplifting the Roman Catholic High School community. Teacher of the Year honors went to Mrs. Maureen Toman-Logan, applauded for her passion, innovation, and unwavering commitment to her students. Rounding out the evening's accolades, senior Christopher Zampirri '25 was named Student of the Year, celebrating his academic excellence, leadership, and embodiment of Roman Catholic's core values.

The Cahill Club expressed its gratitude to all who attended and encouraged alumni and friends to join the organization, which continues to play a pivotal role in supporting current students and preserving the legacy of Roman Catholic High School.

The 2025 Award Dinner served as a joyful reminder of the enduring bond shared by generations of Cahillites. Through heartfelt recognition and community celebration, the evening reinforced the values that make Roman Catholic High School a cherished institution.



**Distinguished Alumni Recipients Mr. Marc Jackson '93 and Mr. Chris McNesby '95.**



**Thomas E. Cahill Award Winner Mr. Chris Gibbons '79 with Cahill Club President Mr. Chris McCoy '94.**



**Cahill Club Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Maureen Toman-Logan, poses with Cahill Club President Mr. Chris McCoy '94.**



**Dan Horgan '81 (left), Mike Pelone '77 (middle), and Chris Gibbons '79 (right), and catch up during the Cahill Club Dinner Happy Hour.**



**Members of the RCHS Alumni during the Cahill Club Happy Hour.**



**Student of the Year, Chris Zampirri '25, poses with his father, Matthew (right), his stepfather, Jim Dahl '93 (left), and Joe McGuigan (far left).**



# ALUMNI EVENTS



Pictured left to right are: Mike Zakrzewski, Bill Kuhn, Bob Cahill, Pete Hand, Gene McGill, Kevin McGonigle, Bill Palardy, Hoss Lally, Jim Harte, Jim Smith, and Jack Kelly.

## RCHS Class of 1974 Well Represented at HWZ Golf Outing

It was a reunion filled with fairways, friendship, and a whole lot of Cahillite pride as members of the Roman Catholic High School Class of 1974 teed off at the HWZ Golf Outing on Monday, April 14.

With the sun shining and spirits high, 11 proud members of the class of '74 gathered to show their support – and their swing – at the annual event.

The outing wasn't just about the game – it was a celebration of lifelong connections and shared history. Laughter echoed across the greens as classmates caught up, swapped stories, and showcased that while their golf scores may have changed over the years, their Cahillite bond remains as strong as ever.

Whether sinking birdies or simply enjoying the breeze, the Class of '74 made sure the Roman spirit was alive and well on the course. Their enthusiastic turnout was a shining example of the camaraderie and commitment that defines our alumni community.

Here's to the Class of '74 for showing up in full force and reminding us all that once a Cahillite, always a Cahillite! Go Cahillites!

## Roman Catholic High Reaches New Heights in NYC



A heartfelt thank you to Rich Slavin '05 and Hodgson Russ LLP for graciously hosting our "Meet the President" evening at the Penn Club of New York last week. The event brought together an enthusiastic group of alumni and friends of

Roman Catholic High School, all eager to hear about the bright future of Catholic High and reconnect with the ever-growing Cahillite community.

Held in the heart of Manhattan, the evening was a powerful reminder that the Roman spirit extends far beyond the borders of Philadelphia. President John A. Prendergast '08 and Vice President of Mission Advancement Dan Joyce shared exciting updates about current initiatives, future plans, and the school's continued commitment to forming Men of Great Character.

The gathering was filled with great conversation, shared memories, and renewed connections. Among those in attendance was Alumni Trustee Bob Keever '05, whose presence further emphasized the enduring bond that ties Roman graduates together, regardless of where life has taken them.

Whether in Philadelphia, New York, or beyond, events like these demonstrate the strength and reach of the Roman Catholic community. We are proud of our alumni and grateful for their continued support as we move boldly into the future.

# ALUMNI RESOURCES

## Board of Trustees Nominations

Do you want to be more active and represent your class as an alumni trustee? Please contact: Joe Mangano '84 (josephmangano@msn.com).

## Reunions

Interested in organizing and coordinating your class reunion for the upcoming year? Please contact:

Tim Storino '13, Reunion chair (267) 912-1577  
email: timothystorino@gmail.com



## Recap: Roman Catholic HS Multi-Year Reunion – May 17, 2025

On May 17, alumni from the Roman Catholic High School classes of 1990 and 2000 gathered for a memorable multi-year reunion at Wissahickon Brewing Company. The evening was filled with laughter, storytelling, and a deep sense of Cahillite pride as classmates reconnected and reminisced over craft beers and great company.

The brewery provided a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for old friends to catch up and new connections to form across graduating years. Many brought photos and memorabilia, sparking waves of nostalgia and heartfelt conversations about high school memories, favorite teachers, and life after graduation.

A few impromptu speeches celebrated how far everyone has come and the lasting impact of a Roman Catholic education. Guests traveled from near and far, showing just how strong the school's community remains. The turnout and spirit of the night reflected the brotherhood and shared legacy that unite all Cahillites.

Special thanks to the organizers and to Wissahickon Brewing Co. for hosting such a fantastic evening. Here's to keeping the connections alive and making this the first of many more reunions to come!

## Update your Information

Change in address?  
New email address? Have a classmate or fellow Cahillite who isn't in contact with Roman? Scan the QR code or visit [RomanCatholicHS.com/](http://RomanCatholicHS.com/) Update to easily update any contact information.





# JOIN A BROTHERHOOD THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

On March 20, Roman Catholic High School proudly hosted over 250 prospective 7th grade students for a day full of excitement and exploration. The young visitors had the opportunity to experience life as a Roman student, with an impressive demonstration from the Robotics Team and an exciting showcase by the Basketball Team.

In addition to the action-packed activities, students learned about Roman's rigorous academics and the wide range of clubs and sports opportunities available. The day wrapped up with fun games in the gym, leaving everyone excited about the possibilities that await at Roman Catholic High School.



The Spring Open House took place on Sunday, April 6th. **The Admissions team welcomed over 100 prospective students and their families to Broad & Vine to see what life as a Cahillite looks like!**



Students had the opportunity to meet members of Roman's Leadership Team, Faculty, and Staff as they walked the halls of Catholic High. They were also able to meet members of each of Roman's 17 Varsity Sports Teams and their coaches!



Do you know any rising 8th graders interested in becoming a Cahillite? **The Summer Enrichment Program** takes place from July 28 to August 8. During this program, students will take classes in both English and Mathematics. At the end of the program, students will be given the High School Placement Test Entrance Exam! Participants in this program can earn acceptance and scholarships to Roman before they set foot in their 8th-grade classroom!



Members of Roman's incoming Class of 2029 are also invited to participate in the Enrichment Program. **Incoming freshmen** will take part in an Algebra Foundations Class and a Study Skills Class designed to develop a skill set to prepare them for success at Roman!

**Roman students represent over 200 elementary schools, coming from 95 different zip codes.**



**Know of a young man in 7th or 8th grade that may be interested in attending RCHS?**

For information on private tours and the admissions process, please have them contact:

**Mr. Zachariah J. Demusz '18**  
Director of Admissions & Communications  
(215) 627-1270, Ext. 110  
ZDemusz@RomanCatholicHS.com

## 2025 Admissions Events:

**Scholarship Prep Summer Program:**  
Monday, July 28 through  
Friday, August 8, 9:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

**RCHS Robotics Camp:** August 11-15, 2025  
Register today by scanning the QR code!





# Celebrating Excellence: Roman Catholic High School Inducts the Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025



SHOF Class of 2025 members pose with their awards after the induction ceremony.



SHOF Chair Gary Citrone '76 speaks to current Cahillites during the SHOF Assembly as President John A. Prendergast '08 looks on.



Members of the Class of 2025 show their appreciation for legendary Cahillite Student-Athletes who have come before them.

On Friday, April 11, Roman Catholic High School proudly celebrated a rich legacy of athletic excellence with the induction of the Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025. It was a day filled with pride, tradition, and powerful reminders of what it means to be a Cahillite.

The day began with a morning induction ceremony held at the school, where students, faculty, and family members gathered to honor the achievements of this year's remarkable class. The inductees – whose accomplishments span decades and sports – shared stories, advice, and reflections that inspired a new generation of Roman athletes.

This year's distinguished class included:

Top Row (Left to Right):

- Kevin Kronmiller '81
- Tom Bowen '04
- Al Desiderio '08
- Greg Grayson '76
- Bill McCafferty '01

Bottom Row:

- Marco Onorato '02
- Andrew Gillespie '08
- Shep Garner '14
- James Roan '29
- James McAndrew '58

The celebration continued that evening with a formal dinner and award ceremony, where honorees were recognized in

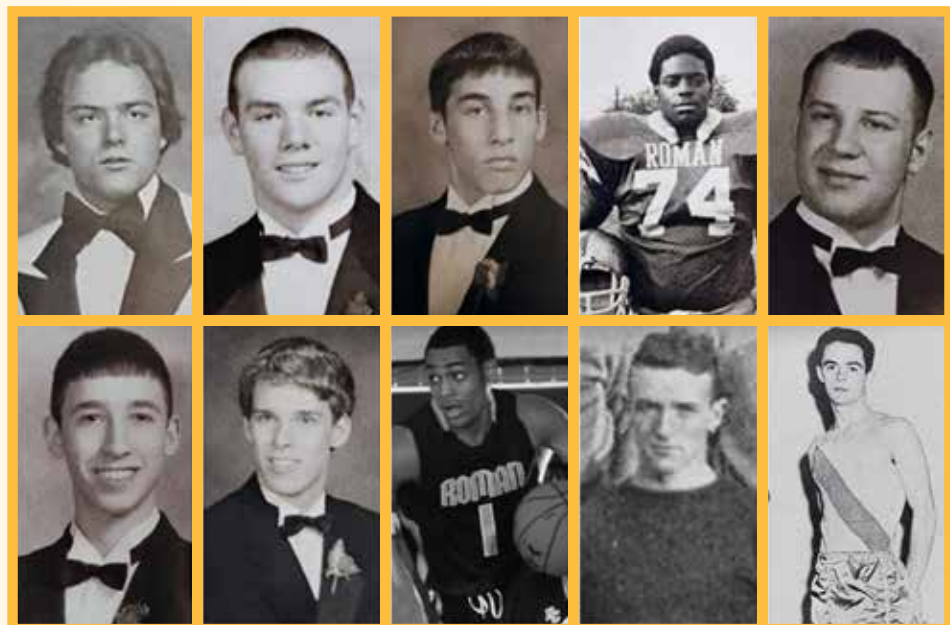
front of fellow alumni, coaches, and supporters of the program. There was an air of reverence and excitement as each inductee was called up to receive their plaque, share words of gratitude, and reflect on their time at Roman.

The night served as more than just recognition – it was a reminder of the

lifelong brotherhood that Roman fosters and the enduring spirit of competition, leadership, and integrity that defines Roman Athletics.

Congratulations once again to the Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025 – your legacy continues to inspire us all.

Go Cahillites!







RomanCatholicHS.com/DayOfGiving

MAY  
13  
2025



Thomas E. Cahill

On May 13, Roman Catholic High School celebrated its 9th Annual Day of Giving – a powerful 24-hour fundraising event that once again showcased the unwavering spirit and generosity of the Cahillite community. Alumni, students, families, faculty, and friends of Roman came together to make the day a resounding success, raising over \$180,000 from more than 850 donors.



From left to Right: Gabe Fox '28, Patrick Holahan '25, Chris Zampirri '25, Matthew McGovern '26, Roman Nepomuceno '25, Joe Kozarski '26, and OmegaAlexander Santiago '28.

## Record-Breaking Support Shines on Roman Catholic High School's 9th Annual Day of Giving

This year's Day of Giving wasn't just about the numbers – it was about the unity, tradition, and pride that define Roman Catholic High School. From the earliest hours of the morning to the final moments of the campaign, the energy and enthusiasm were palpable both online and on campus. Alumni from across the decades, parents of current and former students, faculty, staff, and even current students rallied behind the mission of Roman, demonstrating their commitment to supporting the next generation of Cahillites.

The success of the day would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our Advancement Team, volunteers, and generous challenge donors who motivated others to give through matching gifts and participation-based incentives. Social media was buzzing with posts from alumni reminiscing about their time at Broad and Vine, students sharing why they love their school, and friends encouraging one another to make a difference.

Every gift made on the Day of Giving directly supports Roman Catholic's mission – helping to fund scholarships, academic programs, campus improvements, extracurricular activities, and spiritual development initiatives. Thanks to this collective effort, more young men will have access to a transformative Catholic education rooted in excellence, brotherhood, and service.

Roman Catholic High School is deeply grateful to all who participated, proving once again that when the Cahillite community comes together, incredible things happen. The momentum from this year's Day of Giving not only strengthens our school today, but it also lays the foundation for an even brighter future.

As we look ahead to our 10th Annual Day of Giving next year, we do so with full hearts and renewed faith in the power of our community. Thank you for believing in Roman, standing with Roman, and giving to Roman.



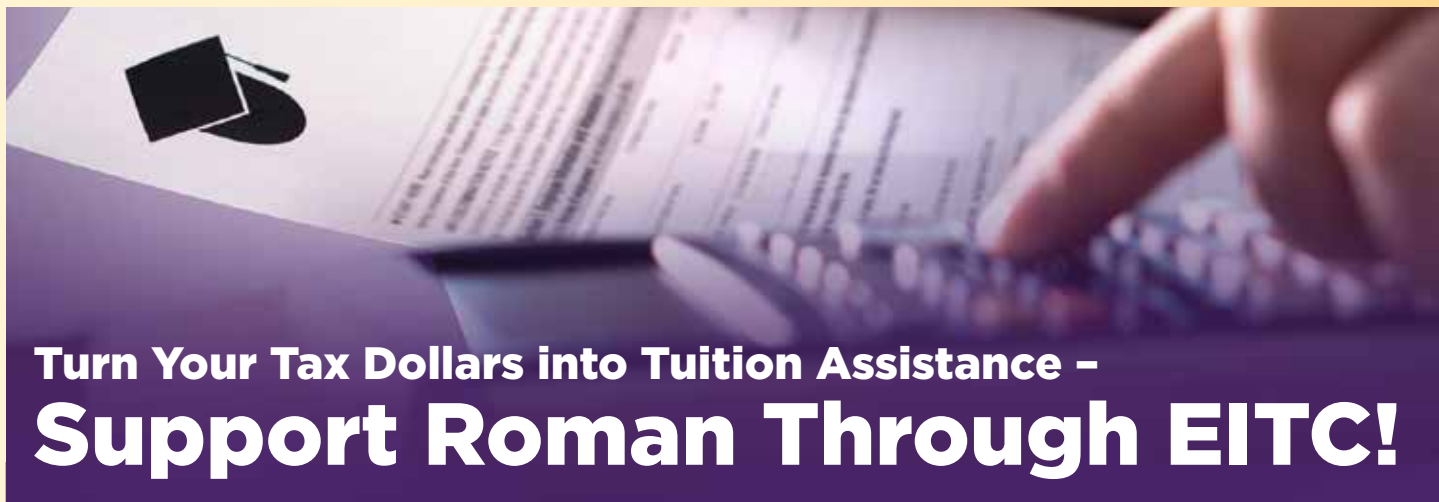
Justin DiSilvestro '26:  
"Our generous donors have allowed me to thrive here at Roman. I am extremely grateful for everything they do."



Ivan Kistler '28:  
"It is the generosity of the donors that make possible the things that transform Roman from great to outstanding."



Members of Roman's Mission Advancement Team and Alumni Trustee Board at Wissahickon Brewing Company to close out Roman's 9th Annual Day of Giving.



# Turn Your Tax Dollars into Tuition Assistance – Support Roman Through EITC!

**What if you could decide how your Pennsylvania state tax dollars are used and create life-changing opportunities for students in the process?** With the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, you can do exactly that. By participating in this incredible initiative, you can redirect your state tax liability to provide need-based scholarships to students at Roman Catholic High School, ensuring that a transformative education is within reach for every deserving young man, regardless of financial circumstances.

**Here's how it works:** Pennsylvania allows individuals and businesses to receive up to a 90% tax credit when they donate to approved scholarship organizations. That means if you owe \$5,000 in state taxes, you could contribute that amount to Roman through EITC and receive a \$4,500 tax credit – your net cost is only \$500, yet Roman receives the full \$5,000 in tuition assistance. It's a win-win: you fulfill your tax obligation while directly empowering the next generation of Cahillites.

**The impact of this program is profound. Roman Catholic High School offers more than just academics; it fosters brotherhood, leadership, faith formation, and a lifelong commitment to excellence.** Every dollar you redirect through EITC becomes a stepping stone for a student striving to rise above economic barriers and become a leader in his family, church, and community. Your participation literally changes lives.

**Best of all, joining the program is simple and hassle-free. With the support of our Development Office, you'll receive step-by-step guidance to make the process as easy as possible.** Whether you're an individual taxpayer or a business owner, you can become part of this powerful network of alumni, families, and friends who are making a real difference by turning taxes into tuition.

**Don't let this opportunity pass you by.** The EITC program is one of the most effective and generous tax credit programs in the country – and it's a no-brainer for anyone who believes in the mission of Catholic education.

**To learn more or get started,** visit [RomanCatholicHS.com/giving/eitcostcor](http://RomanCatholicHS.com/giving/eitcostcor) contact our Development Office today. Your taxes are going to be paid either way – why not decide how they're used and invest them in the future of Roman?

***“As a participant, I am giving boys the opportunity they deserve to get a great Catholic Education at Roman.”***

*– Elizabeth McBrierty*

***“For me EITC is a no brainer. I am able to support my alma mater, and my donation through EITC benefits generations of Cahillites to come.”***

*– Joe DeFinis '85*

***“As a young alum, it can be difficult to give back to our alma mater with the responsibilities we have as young adults. An easy way for all of us to multiply the impact of our dollars is to participate in the EITC tax credit program.”***

*– Kevin Wong '17*



**For information about providing tuition assistance through these programs, please contact:**  
**Mike Cornaglia '19**  
**Director of Development and Alumni Relations**  
**The Roman Catholic High School of Philadelphia**  
[mcornaglia@romancatholichs.com](mailto:mcornaglia@romancatholichs.com)  
**(215) 627-5487 Ext. 203**



# From Broad & Vine to Main Street U.S.A.: Supporting Roman Businesses

As you may be aware, many alumni, friends, and family members of Roman are running their own businesses. To support them, the Office of Mission Advancement has created a business listing on Roman's website. This list details those businesses owned and operated by members of the Roman family. To view the listing, visit: [www.RomanCatholicHS.com/Biz](http://www.RomanCatholicHS.com/Biz). The Roman community is strongly encouraged to patronize these fine establishments run by fellow Cahillites.

Also, if you are an alumnus or have any affiliation with Roman (parent, grandparent, donor, relative, etc.) and own a local business (restaurant, bar, caterer, service firm), please feel free to add your organization's information to the listing. [www.RomanCatholicHS.com/AddBiz](http://www.RomanCatholicHS.com/AddBiz)



## Roman Business Spotlight: Quinn's Flower Shop – Parents of Frank Quinn '25

For more than 100 years, Quinn's Flowers has been an essential ingredient in Philadelphia's most festive occasions. Whether it is a gala, wedding celebration, or a once-in-a-lifetime event, Quinn's Flowers has provided some type of decor. We have many well-known clients and serve large businesses. However, our most important customer is YOU! Let us show you beautiful ways to make every occasion memorable. You will appreciate the service, the style, and the spectacular arrangements that are synonymous with Quinn's Flowers.

Quinn's Flowers offers a wide selection of fresh-cut flowers, high-quality fresh fruit baskets, and potted houseplants. We invite you to browse our website, [quinn'sflorist.com](http://quinn'sflorist.com), to see samples of our fresh floral décor. We also specialize in creating uniquely-designed flower arrangements for any occasion. If you like what you see, we encourage you to give us a call at (215) 468-2881 or visit us at 1728 South Second Street, Unit North, Philadelphia, PA 19148.





## 1960s



### Edmond McGill '65

Edmond McGill appeared as a narrator on The History Channel's History's Greatest Escapes with Morgan Freeman, Season 2, Episode 3, and Prison Chronicles, Season 1, Episode 6. These shows are now streaming on The History Channel and are available on Apple TV, Amazon Video, and other platforms.

## 2020s (continued)



Rocco Trivelli '25 (second from left) prepares for a match in the 1890 gym as the National Anthem Plays.

### Rocco Trivelli '25

Trivelli said that his experience at Roman over the past four years has been great, especially in meeting great people. He also noted that he spent a lot of time wrestling for what he believes is an amazing program.

## 2010s

### Dave Thomas '12

Dave Thomas '12 and his wife, Nicole, have announced the birth of their first child, David William Thomas IV, '43, born on May 20, 2025! Congratulations to the new parents!

## 2020s

### Michael Leonard '26

Leonard described his past three years at Roman as an amazing experience filled with joy, laughter, and good times. He shared that he has made many friends and appreciates that Roman fosters a bond where students are "brothers for life."

### Nicholas Conway '26

Conway shared that his past three years at Roman have been excellent both academically and especially outside the classroom through involvement in clubs like Mock Trial, World Affairs, and Mathletes.



### Edward Sweeney '25

Sweeney described his time at Roman as wonderful. He recommended that other students find a good group of friends with similar interests. He emphasized that the camaraderie at Roman is unlike any other and encouraged others to cherish every moment and treat everyone kindly.



### CJ Miller '25

Miller reflected that his two years at Roman were some of the best of his life. He said that playing football and basketball helped him grow into the man he is today. He expressed gratitude for the friendships he formed and the positive relationships he had with teachers and coaches.



# IN MEMORIAM

Please remember and keep in your prayers our brothers and family members who have been called from this world to eternal life (November 18, 2024–June 10, 2025)

To submit a name for this list, e-mail: [Alumni@RomanCatholicHS.com](mailto:Alumni@RomanCatholicHS.com) or call (215) 627-5487 ext. 200

## Alumni

John Brown '37	Paul Michael Marshall '60
Thomas Burke '47	Patrick Renshaw '64
Domonic J. Quinn '47	Augustine "Gus" DiStefano '65
Donald Reape '49	Thomas Fink '68
John Jungers '50	Robert Ciesielka '69
David Kohn '51	John Foster '69
John Dobron '53	William Ballantine '72
Joseph Gilbey '54	Edward Henninger '74
Edward Keenan '54	David Sowisdral '77
Edward Kelly '54	Sean Tipping '77
Michael Rublesky '56	Gregory Iacobacci '79
Bernard Beck '57	Joe Fitzpatrick Jr. '82
Vincent Catrambone '57	Keith Jones '87
Joseph Gross '58	Dennis Klukiewski III '00
Joseph Lannon '58	
Francis Peszka Jr. '59	

## Family & Friends

**Maraget Murphy** Mother of Bill Murphy '67 grandmother of Tim Schmidt '00

**Lucille Paone** Mother of Ann Trost

**Theresa Silva** Mother-in-law of Bill Dalton '54

**Vincent Toner** Former Faculty



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## With a heavy heart, we share the news that beloved Roman alumnus Ed Keenan '54 has passed away in March 2025.



Quoted as being on "the Mount Rushmore of Cahillites" by Alumni President Mike Gallagher '91, Mr. Keenan was deeply involved with the Alumni Association, serving as the longtime Chair of the Alumni Archives Committee. Mr. Keenan also initiated the A.S.I.S.T. program at Roman many years ago, and hundreds of students were fortunate enough to participate in it. The Alumni-Student Intergenerational Service Team paired Roman students with Roman alums who were elderly, disabled, hospitalized, or badly ill. These students brought a little bit of Roman to the alumni and inevitably brought smiles to their faces. This program meant everything to Mr. Keenan, and we were fortunate enough to return the favor just last year when Mr. John Corrigan organized for our team to visit him.

Please keep Mr. Keenan and his family in your thoughts and prayers as we honor a true Son of Cahill.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



***Calling all Roman and Hallahan Alumni!  
Please join us for:***



***Saturday August 9, 2025, from 2-7 p.m. at the***

## **SEAPORT PIER**

***Cost is \$35 per person in advance, \$40 at the door.  
Includes beer specials, food, and music.  
Must be 21 to attend.***

***TheDayAtTheBay.com***



**Roman Catholic High School**  
301 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 627-1270  
[RomanCatholicHS.com](http://RomanCatholicHS.com)



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