Pride

A Roncalli Catholic High School Publication | Spring 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Roncalli Catholic Family,

At the conclusion of a another remarkable school year at Roncalli Catholic High School, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have shared and the bright future that lies ahead. This year has been one of growth, achievement, and renewed commitment to our mission of academic excellence, faith formation, and service to others.

With each passing year, we are reminded that Roncalli Catholic is more than just a school—it is a family. It is a place where students are encouraged to discover their passions, challenge themselves, and grow into compassionate, faith-filled leaders. Our dedicated faculty and staff work tirelessly to ensure that each student receives the support, guidance, and inspiration they need to reach their fullest potential. Their unwavering commitment to our students is truly the heart of our institution.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing an exceptional Catholic education that prepares our students for success beyond the classroom. Whether through academic innovation, enhancements to our campus, or continued investment in extracurricular and spiritual development, we are always striving to create the best possible environment for our students to learn, grow, and thrive.

We recently celebrated the Class of 2025, and we send them forth with confidence, knowing they are well prepared to take on the challenges and opportunities that await them. They leave our halls as proud Roncalli Catholic graduates, ready to make a difference in the world through their faith, knowledge, and service.

As summer begins and we turn our attention toward the exciting possibilities of the next school year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of our community. Your continued support, prayers, and belief in our mission fuels our success. May God bless you and your families, and may we continue to walk together in wisdom, courage and faith.

Sean Keisling

President

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RONCALLI CATHOLIC MISSION STATEMENT

THROUGH THE WISDOM GIVEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GUIDED BY OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, WE PROMISE TO UNCOVER AND DISCOVER OUR STUDENTS' FULL POTENTIAL AND AUTHENTIC SELVES, GIVING THEM THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW THE RIGHT PATH TOWARD THEIR UNIQUE FUTURES.



Sr. Margaret revered by former students, peers

Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND has spent decades sharing her wisdom and faith with RCHS students

Throughout the years, Sr. Margaret has been a steadfast presence at Roncalli Catholic, consistently advocating for the school and its mission. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the Governance Committee, having played an active role in the school's advancement over the years. Her dedication was especially evident through her countless volunteer hours during the Capital Campaign, where she helped secure resources to further the school's growth and development.

Known for her warmth, Sr. Margaret is always ready with a kind and encouraging word for everyone she meets—whether they be former students, faculty members, or fellow board members. Her compassion and dedication to the school's mission are evident in every interaction, reminding those around her of the Notre Dame Sisters' and Christian Brothers' values of caring for the less fortunate and ensuring that a Catholic education remains accessible to all.

"Sr. Margaret has played a vital role in our school now and for many years," said Roncalli Catholic President Sean Keisling. "She reminds us through her living example of how to show compassion, love, and commitment to education and living out the Gospel. Sr. Margaret is always willing to lend a hand and graciously supports the school through her time, talent, and treasure. I can only imagine the grace our school has received due to the many prayers she has offered for our students, alumni, staff, and greater community."

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From simple tasks like preparing mailers to more complex responsibilities such as soliciting donations, Sr. Margaret has always been ready to support Roncalli Catholic in any way she can. Her contributions have touched every aspect of the school, and her enduring commitment to the school's mission and values continues to inspire those around her.

"Sr. Margaret Hickey is a delight," added Tim Mueting, a longtime Religion Teacher at Roncalli Catholic. "She was here when I first arrived 33 years ago and she was a model of professionalism, service, and holiness then. She still is now! I am grateful for her presence on the Board of Education because I know what her priorities are: the growth in wisdom, age, and grace of our students. I thank God for her ministry and for her presence in our Roncalli Catholic family."

In contemplating her receiving of the Pope John XXIII Award, Sr. Margaret says she is both surprised and humbled. She says, "I will accept this award in gratitude to my God who gave me life, to my wonderful parents and sister who strengthened my faith and courage through their endurance, to my Notre Dame Sisters who nourished and called forth my gifts as a teacher and leader, and finally to all the Roncalli Catholic family who helped me, by their example and witness, to grow in wisdom, faith and courage. God has led the way and has provided multitudes of people to grow me into the person I am today. I give praise to my God and everyone!"

Story written and shared with Roncalli Catholic High School by Mikaela Vanmoorleghem, Notre Dame Sisters





The 2024-2025 school year got off to a tremendous start as our students and staff were able to celebrate the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15. The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus.



The Roncalli Catholic volleyball team led by first-year head coach and former Nebraska Cornhusker Brooke Delano finished first at the Tekamah-Herman Invitational on Sept. 21.







Roncalli Catholic senior golfer Victoria Bilotta capped a fabulous career at the NSAA Girls Golf State Championships in North Platte on Oct. 15-16.



Students in Intro to Health Careers and Anatomy/Physiology had an amazing opportunity to spend Oct. 10th at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The UNMC Backstage Pass event showcases the College of Nursing and College of Allied Health opportunities for continued health career education providing students with hands-on experiences.



Catholic author and chastity speaker Jason Evert visited the RCHS campus on Nov. 15th, speaking to our students about the virtue of chastity. After the presentation, Evert spoke to students individually and handed out copies of his books.





Students in Intro to Health Careers completed their CPR/First-Aid certification by doing their skills testing on Dec. 12 through the National Safety Council. Students completed the online training early in the semester and then were tested on their skills and knowledge.

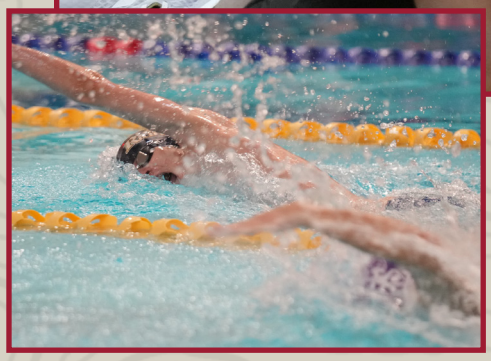






RCHS had a truly special day on Jan. 15th when they welcomed Spirit Catholic Radio to campus in celebration of Catholic education. Bruce McGregor, Jen Brown and the entire Spirit Catholic Radio crew helped shine a spotlight on Roncalli Catholic High School throughout the day.





RCHS senior Brogan Connor and junior Theo Steiner capped their seasons at the state wrestling and swim meets, respectively. Connor competed at 215 pounds and finished his senior season with a very solid 34-12 record in a stacked Class B weight class. Connor will continue his academic and athletic career at Midland University. Steiner competed on Feb. 28th and March 1st at the NSAA Swimming Championships in Lincoln. Steiner crossed the finish line first in the 200-IM consolation finals and added a third-place finish in the consolation finals of the 100-Yard Backstroke.







For the second year in a row the Roncalli Catholic Dance Team finished as State Runners-Up in Hip Hop. The team competed in Grand Island on Feb. 15 and finished behind only defending champ Conestoga in the 17-team Class C-1 division.

During Catholic Schools Week, Roncalli Catholic High School students participated in a variety of activities celebrating faith, service, and community, including a special all-school mass, service projects, spirit days, and fun competitions. From engaging in acts of kindness to showcasing their school pride, students embraced the values of Catholic education while creating lasting memories together.







It was a perfect afternoon for an indoor event on March 4th when more than 30 vendors braved the weather conditions to take part in the annual RCHS Career Fair. Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2025 RCHS Career Fair another tremendous success for our students.





RCHS was blessed to have Archbishop Lucas on campus March 25th to help celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. After mass, Archbishop Lucas was gracious enough to spend his lunch hour eating and visiting with students and staff.





On March 31st, RCHS was excited to welcome Madonna School to campus for the annual basketball game. Our students always look forward to this assembly coordinated by Coco Osborne and the RCHS administration. The partnership with Madonna School is cherished by our students.



Character, Scholarship, Leadership, Service. Twenty-five newly inducted members of the 2025 Roncalli Catholic High School National Honor Society celebrated with their families on April 7th.

RCHS S.T.E.A.M. students collaborate with St. Wenceslaus 7th graders





Seventh graders from St. Wenceslaus visited the RCHS S.T.E.A.M. lab on Nov. 12th-13th. Instructor Chad Mustard, along with RCHS high school students, guided their guests through various stations, including hands-on activities with the poster printer, the Cricut machine and Adobe Photoshop. Our V.I.P.'s even got the chance to check out the broadcasting booth.



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CHI Health Immanuel	Mama's Pizza	Timber Wood Fire Bistro, Pasta Amore, Railcar
Creighton University	Madonna School & Community- Based Services	Sam and Emily Wageman
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Wisdom

We will confidently approach life's challenges using experience, knowledge and right judgement to blaze new trails and find success in everything we do.

roncallicatholic.org/giving/giving-opportunities/



Roncalli Catholic President Sean Keisling and President Emeritus Rev. Lloyd Gnirk pause for a moment to take a photo with Pope St. John XXIII recipient Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND at the 36th annual Festa del Leone on April 5th.

RCHS family celebrates Sr. Margaret, students at annual event

The Roncalli Catholic family celebrated Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND on April 5th at the 36th annual Festa del Leone event held at A View on State in Omaha. Hickey was presented with the Pope St. John XXIII award.

For the third year in a row, the event was held at A View on State and guests were excited to honor Pope St. John XXIII recipient Sr. Margaret Hickey, ND for her tireless dedication to Roncalli Catholic High School and its students. Her compassion and dedication to the school's mission are evident in every interaction, reminding those around her of the Notre Dame Sisters' and Christian Brothers' values of caring for the less fortunate and ensuring that a Catholic education remains accessible to all.

Festa del Leone serves as RCHS's largest fundraiser and the benefits directly impact students and staff every day. This year's Raise the Paddle funds will go directly to support The RCHS tuition assistance program and enrich learning operations - including program enhancements, technology upgrades, and campus updates. All proceeds directly benefit the outstanding students who attend Roncalli Catholic.



Patrons arrived and were able to check out a large selection of silent auction items before dinner was served at the 36th annual Festa del leone event at a View on State.



Sr. Margaret receives a standing ovation after being announced by RCHS President Sean Keisling.



Courage

As guides, we will help students face real-world challenges so they can persevere — with mental and moral strength — setting them on the right path to learn, grow and thrive in a diverse world.

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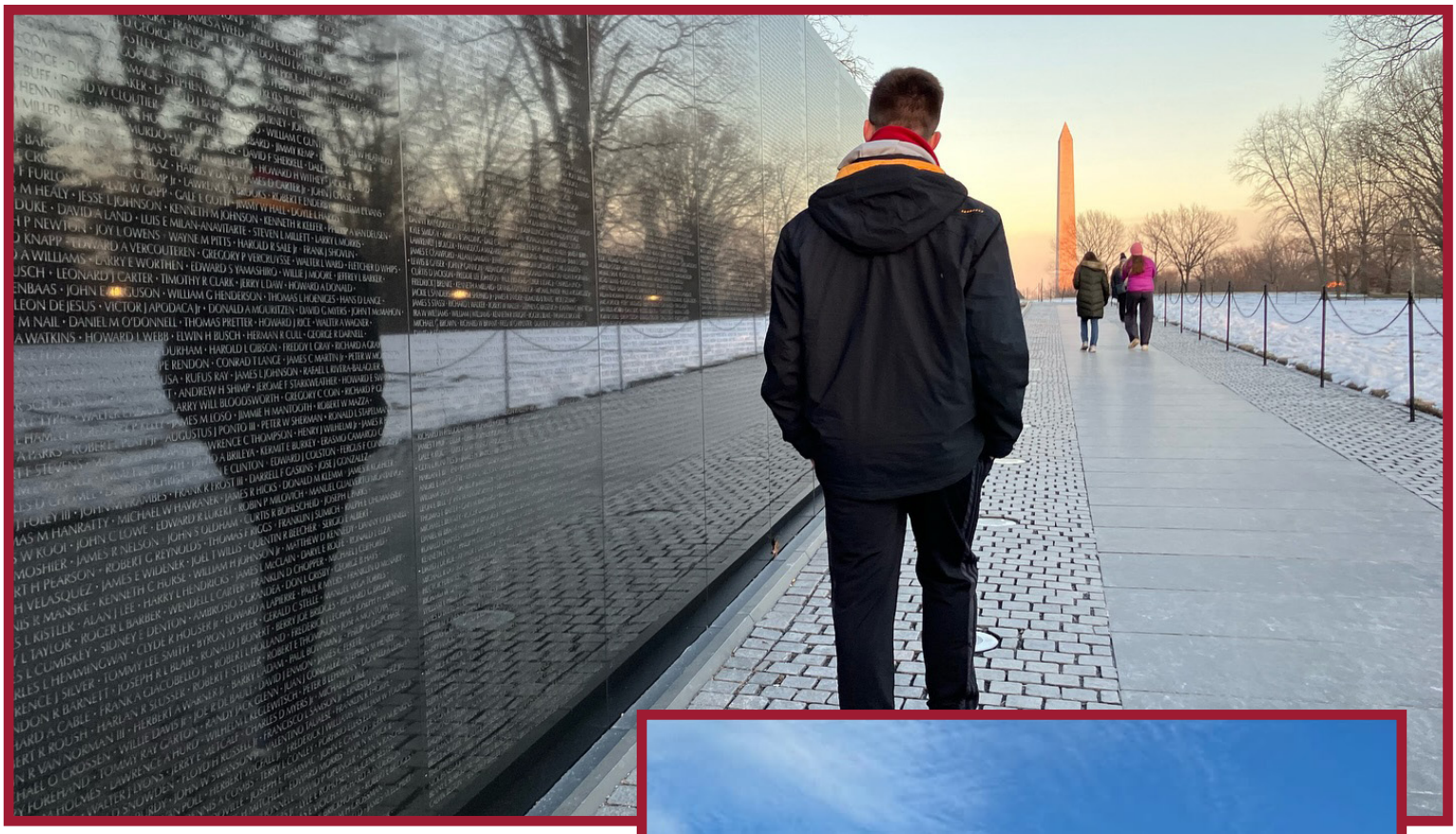


RCHS students embark on meaningful trip, celebrate the gift of life

RCHS students traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the 52nd annual National March for Life. The day before the march, students, parents and faculty enjoyed a morning visit to Christendom College, including holy Mass in the Chapel of Christ the King, an informative admissions presentation, and a walking tour of campus. Students also got the chance to visit the National Mall in DC, including visits to the Lincoln Memorial, The National Gallery of Art, and The Air and Space Museum. The day wrapped up with everyone attending the Life is Very Good Rally to joyfully celebrate the gift of life.









DEDICATION



TO SERVICE

Roncalli Catholic Campus Ministry believes in the gospel of love, and organizes several outreach programs throughout the year. Campus Ministry is never on break. During the summer we keep our students connected to our community through different outreach programs and through our campus ministry.

We believe in the gift of life, and we do all we can to support our brothers and sisters who are in dire need of blood. We usually have two blood drives per year, one in the fall and the other in the spring.

During the 2024-25 school year there were 12 outreach trips serving Heart Ministry Center, Notre Dame Housing, Camelot Community Center, Together, Inc. and Rapid Response of America. Seventeen different faculty/staff chaperoned and 90 students participated.

This year, our students donated 5,659 service hours, for an average of 19 hours per student. The career total for our 2025 graduates is 12,047 hours, an average of almost 41 hours per student.



RCHS Graduation 2025











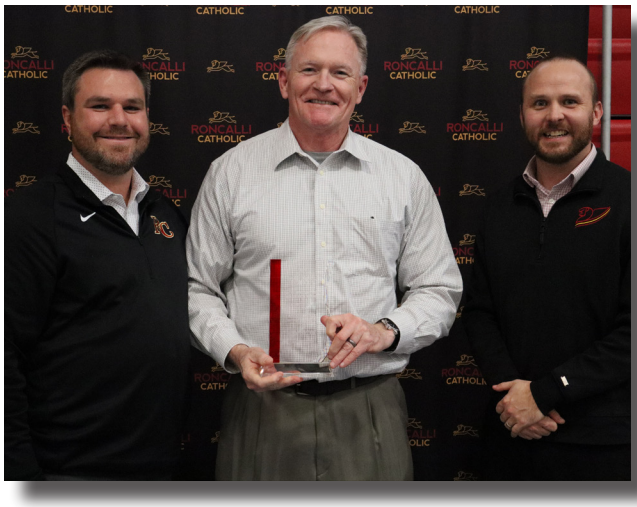




Roncalli Catholic High School alumnus Ed Burns spoke to a sold-out crowd at the school's inaugural Hall of Fame event on November 22, 2024. Burns was among 10 individuals and teams-including athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors—inducted into the 2024 Hall of Fame class.

RCHS celebrates first ever HOF event

Nov. 22, 2024 was an awesome night for our Notre Dame Academy/Archbishop Rummel/Roncalli Catholic family. Nine individuals and one team were enshrined as the first members of the Athletic Hall of Fame. Heidi (Geier) Woodard 1995, Molly (Belling) Kerkman 2005, Ed Burns 1973 Rummel, Jim Skow 1981, Alec Bohm 2015, Roger Higgins, Dave Miller, Bill Schlueter, Dan Vacek 1990 and the 1996 Boys Class B Basketball State Championship team have all been freshly minted as Hall of Famers.



1981 Roncalli Catholic High School graduate and former Nebraska Cornhusker Jim Skow was inducted as part of the first ever HOF class at RCHS. Pictured with Skow are Activities Director Tom Kassing and RCHS President Sean Keisling.



1995 Roncalli Catholic High School graduate Heidi (Geier) Woodward pauses for a photo with Activities Director Tom Kassing and RCHS President Sean Keisling after her induction.

EVENTS

AUG. 4

36TH ANNUAL SWING WITH PRIDE
THE PLAYER'S CLUB, OMAHA, NE

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
RONCALLI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

AUG. 13

NOV. 2

OPEN HOUSE
RONCALLI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2ND ANNUAL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CEREMONY
RONCALLI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

NOV. 21

APR. 11

37TH ANNUAL FESTA DEL LEONE
A VIEW ON STATE - OMAHA



Faith

We will put Christ at the forefront of all we do with trust, confidence and conviction. We will live in communion with one another and serve our global community with love and compassion.

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