



1899 BEQUEST SOCIETY



Schifino visiting Mary Lynch and Mike Boza '78 in the Jesuit counseling department



BILL SCHIFINO '78

For Bill Schifino '78, the decision to support Jesuit High School through the school's 1899 Bequest Society came naturally.

"Supporting the education of our youth has always been near and dear to our hearts," Schifino said of himself and his wife, Paola. "So, as a Jesuit alumnus, it was an easy decision to include Jesuit High School in our estate plans."

Schifino has seen the impact of a Jesuit education from multiple perspectives. As a member of the Class of '78, he experienced it firsthand. On a recent visit to campus, he reminisced at length with classmate **Mike Boza '78**, a Jesuit counselor, and he remains connected to many other classmates.

As a father, he has watched it shape the life of his son, Will (**William J. Schifino III '19**). And as an attorney and civic leader, he has worked alongside many fellow graduates over the years. "I've seen firsthand the positive impact a Jesuit education provides."

That impact began decades ago in the classrooms and hallways on Himes Ave, where the Jesuit priests and faculty left a lasting impression.

"Jesuit teaches the value in giving back, helping lift those in need," Schifino said. "Men for Others!"

His Jesuit experience helped him succeed at Tulane University (his son Will also is a Tulane alumnus and now is an architect in Minneapolis) and then earn a law degree from the University of Florida. Schifino's distinguished legal career includes 20 years with Williams Schifino Mangione & Steady, six years as Managing Partner with Burr & Forman, and the past seven+ years with Gunster, where he is a member of the Board of Directors.

In 2020, Schifino was honored by the Anti-Defamation League with the prestigious Jurisprudence Award, for combating antisemitism, prejudice, and bigotry. And in 2016-17, he served as the 68th president of The Florida Bar.

"Jesuit has also provided lifetime friends who attended school with me and have continued to support me throughout my career," Schifino said.

"While my son is at the beginning of his adult life, I am seeing the same great friendships and success form around him as well."

Schifino enjoys traveling and skiing with his family, and he trains for triathlons when he's not working. He also serves on the Board of Metropolitan Ministries, continuing a lifelong commitment to service that reflects the values instilled at Jesuit.

Schifino formalized his Bequest Society commitment by establishing a trust, with a percentage of its funds designated for Jesuit, helping ensure future students receive the same powerful and formative experience as thousands before them.

"Through our ongoing support of the school, I hope we can provide other young men with the same advantage our family has enjoyed," Schifino said. "Doing my part in helping make certain Jesuit is affordable to all who wish to attend is a primary goal."

"We hope that all our children – Will, Amanda, and Julia – will look at this as an example to continue in our footsteps by supporting the school when we are no longer here to do so. It would be a blessing to see the next generation continue this legacy."  

For information about Jesuit's 1899 Bequest Society please contact Nick Suszynski '98 at (813) 877-5344, ext. 704.