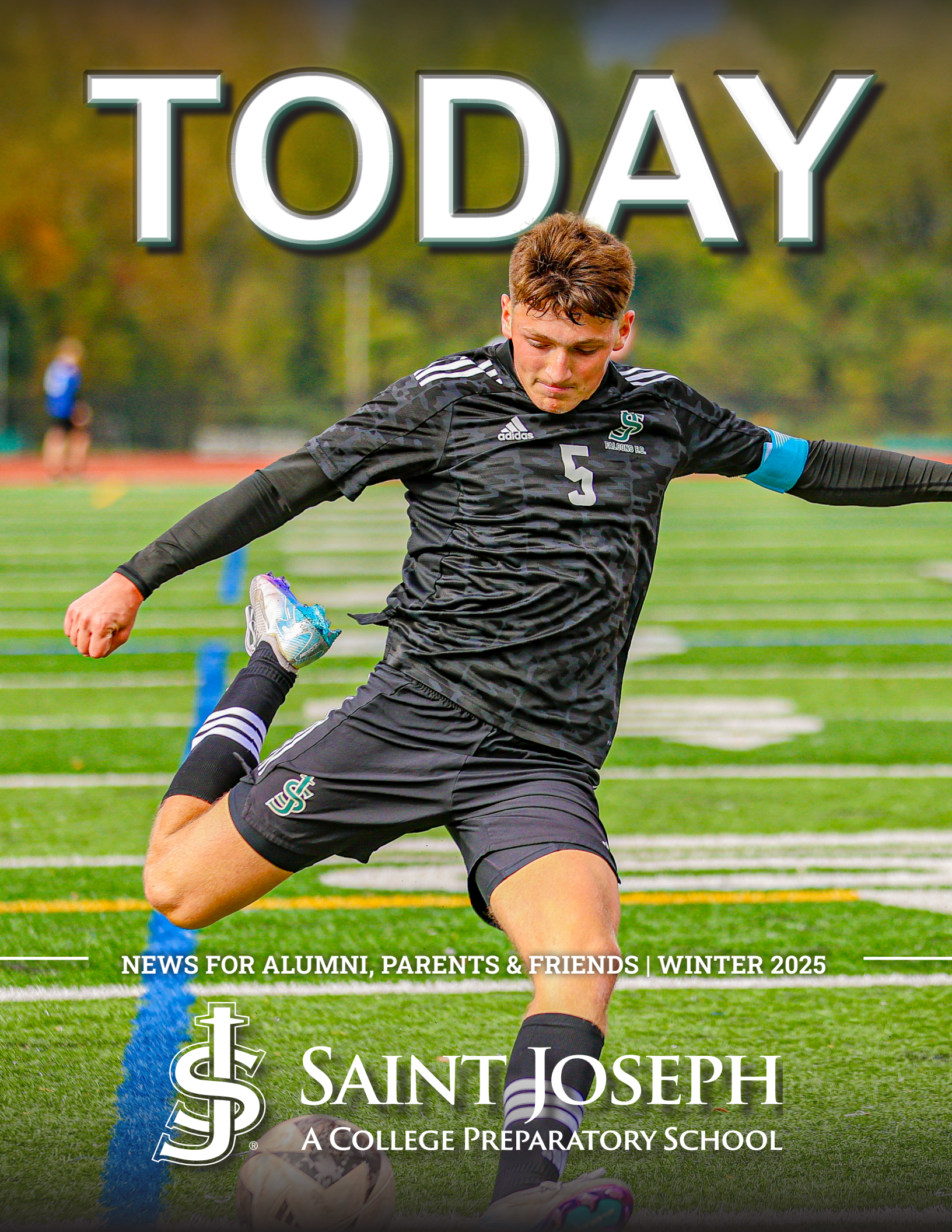


NEWS FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS | WINTER 2025

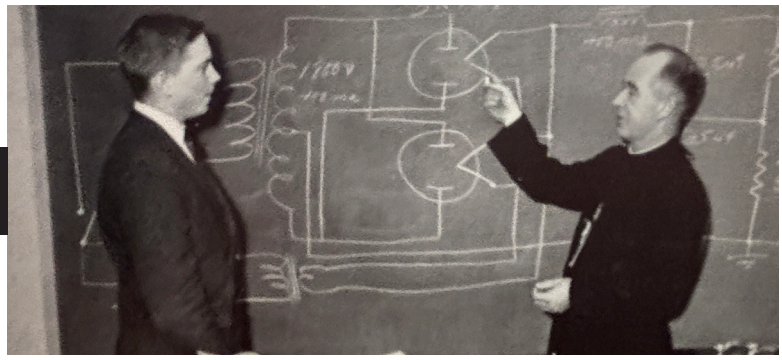
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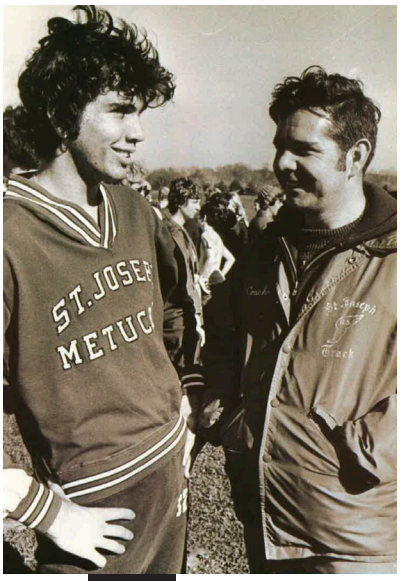
A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL







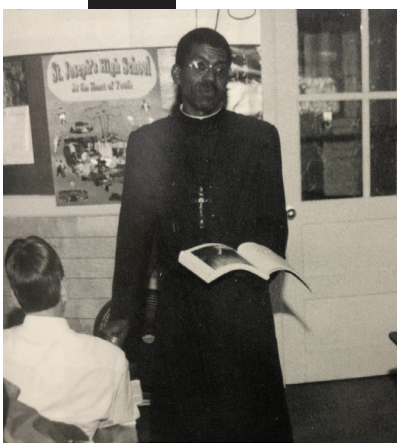


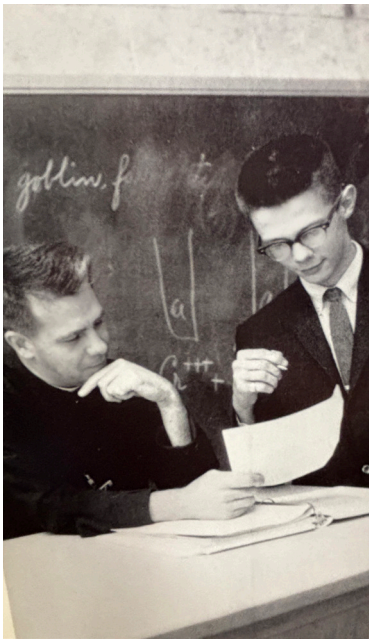


In 1901, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart arrived in Metuchen, New Jersey seeking a location to serve as a training center for novices in the United States. Brothers Stanislaus Florent and Louis Fabian found a 71-acre property with a three-story roadhouse that was deemed suitable for the job.

For 125 years, the property has seen its fair share of change: from a bed & breakfast to a working farm and now, for the past 65 years, a high school. One thing has stayed constant - the mission of forming young men in the charism of Fr. André Coindre, a focus on faith-filled service rooted in the tradition of Brotherhood and looking ahead with confidence.

Ametur Cor Jesu! Ametur Cor Mariae!
Saint Joseph, Pray for Us!









TODAY

TODAY Magazine is published for the alumni, parents and friends of Saint Joseph High School.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Saint Joseph High School Community,

I hope this message finds you happy, healthy, and entering the new year with a sense of peace and possibility.

As we mark 125 years of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Metuchen, we honor the vision of Father André Coindre and the courage of the Brothers who purchased the 71-acre property that would one day become Saint Joseph High School. Their steadfast mission laid the spiritual foundation that still guides our daily lives.

Since 1901, generations of young men have been formed in Father Coindre's spirit, guided by faith, integrity, and compassion. While the number of Brothers has declined in the United States, our commitment to their mission has never been stronger.

As part of their ongoing formation, Partners in Mission Ryan Carter '91, John Eppensteiner '02, and Chris Harring '05 engaged deeply with the charism of Father Coindre through the Coindre Leadership Program (CLP). Over the summer, Chris served at St. Anne's Mission in Klagetoh, Arizona, while Ryan and John joined the Pilgrimage Lyon André Coindre Experience (PLACE) in France—a retreat that retraces the earliest steps of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Having participated in both, I know how meaningfully these programs strengthen our shared mission.

Our students were equally impressive this summer, participating in enrichment opportunities across New Jersey and beyond. Saahir Vazirani '26 attended the New Jersey Scholars Program, Titus Solomon '26 studied at the Governor's School of Science, and Gurkeerat Singh '25, Luke McCabe '26, and Aiden DaSilva '26 represented Saint Joe's at the Conference on National Affairs. We are proud of these young men and all who continue to grow as scholars and leaders.

As the new school year begins, we welcome nine new Partners in Mission—including three alumni—who continue Father Coindre's legacy by forming well-rounded young men of character. I am especially pleased to introduce Fr. Randy Gamboa, our new Campus Chaplain, whose joyful presence is already felt across campus. We also celebrate the retirement of Señora Alicia Bonelli P'09/'14. I've known Señora Bonelli for many years, dating back to when my son, John '09, was a student. While we will miss her dearly, we know she begins a new and joyful chapter as a full-time abuela. Enjoy the time, it goes by quick!

Our fall sports programs completed an exceptional season including several championships. At our third annual Friday Night Lights game, the football team captured its second consecutive Big Central Conference American Gold Division title and has continued to dominate, earning victories over some of the top public schools in the area—including Phillipsburg. On the soccer pitch, the Falcons finished the regular season undefeated and won their second consecutive Greater Middlesex Conference championship. Meanwhile, our cross-country team claimed its first invitational victory in 15 years at the Lehigh University Paul Short Run. Congratulations to all our student-athletes, and best of luck as you enter postseason competition.

As I reflect on my five years at Saint Joseph High School, I can confidently say there has never been a better time to be a Falcon. We are blessed with devoted Partners in Mission, supportive parents, and alumni whose generosity sustains our school. Most importantly, we are guided by an extraordinary student body that embodies what it means to be a Saint Joseph Man—faithful in heart, driven in purpose, and united in brotherhood.

I wholeheartedly believe that the best is yet to come.

With Falcon Pride,



John G. Nolan, Jr. P'09 | President



A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Saint Joseph Community,

As we reflect on the year so far, Saint Joseph High School continues to thrive as a community rooted in faith, brotherhood, and excellence. Our campus is alive with the energy and promise of young men who are being formed academically, spiritually, and personally.

This fall, we proudly welcomed 176 new students into the Saint Joseph community. Our student body continues to grow not only in size but in reach, representing 10 New Jersey counties and Staten Island, New York.

While our community continues to expand, the availability of scholarships and need-based financial assistance has never been greater. This year, 62 percent of our students received some form of financial assistance—opportunities made possible through the generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends. Each gift ensures that deserving young men can follow in the footsteps of our alumni and experience the transformative education that defines a Saint Joseph man.

The Fall semester always brings a lot of joy, as we welcome our new Partners in Mission to the school. However, this year was bittersweet because we said farewell to Señora Alicia Bonelli P'09/'14 who retired in June after 25 years of dedicated service to our World Language Department. Her faith-filled commitment to our students has left a lasting mark on the Saint Joseph community, and we wish her joy in retirement with her family and grandchildren.

Summer was a season of both preparation and growth for our Falcons. Our Early Action Program welcomed 70 prospective students to campus for a head start on their Saint Joseph journey, while our Summer Institute offered advanced academic opportunities for students eager to challenge themselves for future success. Off campus, our students continue to distinguish themselves among the state and nation's brightest, attending exclusive programs like the New Jersey Scholars Program and Governor's School of Science, as well as American Legion Jersey Boys State and the Conference on National Affairs.

Our commitment to forming young men of compassion continued through our summer service trips, led by Campus Ministers Tracey Coudriet P'14/'16 and Mary Hutnick P'14/'16. Students traveled to Dunlow, West Virginia, Mount St. Charles Academy in Rhode Island, and Klagetoh, Arizona, serving communities in need and living out the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Several students also volunteered at PALS–Philadelphia, a summer camp for individuals with Down Syndrome. These experiences exemplify the spirit of Fr. André Coindre and remind us of the profound impact that service has on both those we help and those who serve.

As we look ahead, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. The legacy of Saint Joseph High School continues to flourish through our students, alumni, Partners in Mission, and families who believe in our shared purpose—to form young men who are strong in faith, sound in mind, and generous in service.

Ametur Cor Jesu!
Ametur Cor Mariae!
Saint Joseph, Pray for Us!

Sincerely,

Anne Rivera

Anne Rivera | Principal

Continuing the Teachings of Fr. Coindre

By: John Eppensteiner ‘02

In 1818, Fr. André Coindre, a parish priest in Lyon, France, set about on a mission to address an urgent need in his community – to provide care for young people whose lives have been devastated by the French Revolution. The French government was taking many orphaned and abandoned children, and placing them in prisons, creating a generation of young people with a life without hope.

Fr. Coindre offered a place of refuge for these young people. He cared for them when others would not. Using his own family money, he purchased property – the Pieux-Secours – to teach them the local trade of silk-weaving, and provided for them a foundation for life, rooted in self-discipline, faith, and an active knowledge of God’s love.



As word spread of his noble endeavor, Fr. Coindre’s services became more in demand by the local villages and towns across France. He needed partners in his mission, and thus founded what we now know as the Institute of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, in 1821.

This profound legacy is the responsibility gifted to me and others in the Coindre Leadership Program. Our charge is to carry on the mission of Fr. André Coindre and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, by meeting the demand of young people that need hope in our current age. The lay men and women at Brothers of the Sacred Heart schools are called to be the human representation of God’s loving and healing presence for our students.

The Coindre Leadership Program prepares current and future leaders at our schools for the demands of ministering to young people during their most formative and often challenging years. We are paired with a mentor from a partner school and guided by directed readings on the Institute’s history and spirituality, which inform our daily interactions with students. Essential experiences, including a pilgrimage to Lyon, France and a trip to the General House of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Rome, Italy, allow us to more fully absorb the responsibilities of the vocation we have chosen.

As leaders in our schools, we are expected to grow our communities, sharing our knowledge with students, parents, alumni, and our fellow teachers. We are all called to build communities of hope, rooted in compassion, trust, solidarity, and sharing of ourselves and our talents.

Ultimately, by providing this program, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart seek to ensure that the unique character of their schools – anchored in the Heart of Christ and Fr. André Coindre’s legacy of self-sacrificial care for young people – remains strong, and thriving, long into the future.



SAINT JOSEPH

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART IN METUCHEN, NJ SINCE 1901

A Summer in the Footsteps of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart

By: Tim LeCras







Students Unite with Brother Schools to Live Out the Mission Together

What begins as a service trip quickly becomes something richer: an invitation for Saint Joseph students to walk alongside peers from other Brothers of the Sacred Heart schools and experience the brotherhood that unites them across states and generations. Hosted by Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, the annual Brothers of the Sacred Heart Mission Trip brought together students from every school in the United States Province to live out the shared charism that defines their education.

The experience deepened the growing interest Luke McCabe '26 had in the story and spirituality of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

"After learning about the rich history of the Brothers through Saint Joe's, I wanted to understand their charism and further develop my passion for service," he said.

That understanding became clearer during the group's visit to the Brothers Residence in Pascoag, Rhode Island, where students met retired Brothers committed to a lifetime of ministry and education.

"Seeing all the Brothers together, filled with joy at meeting young adults formed in Fr. Coindre's values helped me understand the selfless love they embody," McCabe said.

The experience in Pascoag resonated with Chris Lawlor '26 on a more personal level. This was his first mission trip and it became a vivid introduction to the compassion and fraternity at the heart of the Brothers' ministry.

"You could feel the brotherhood throughout the home," he said. "Everyone was so kind to one another—you felt safe the moment you walked in." That warmth became the defining memory of his week.

The trip also broadened students' appreciation for the nationwide network of Brothers of the Sacred Heart schools. Despite coming from different corners of the country, Lawlor and McCabe discovered they were formed by the same values of compassion, faith, and community.

"Working with students from other Brothers schools showed us that we all share the same values," McCabe said. "In many ways, it felt like the brotherhood we have at Saint Joe's."

McCabe and Lawlor returned home determined to carry that mission forward—whether by strengthening community life at Saint Joe's or building partnerships with fellow Brothers schools.

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart Service Trip is more than volunteer work—it is a living expression of the Brothers' charism, shared with peers who walk the same path of compassion, service, and brotherhood.









Carrying the Charism of Service to the Community of Saint Anne's Mission

Set amid the red-dust desert of Klagetoh, Arizona, Saint Anne's Mission stands as a reminder of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart's enduring devotion to service—one that Saint Joseph High School students experience firsthand during their annual immersion trip. What unfolds there is more than a week of volunteer work; it is an encounter with culture, faith, and a living history of compassion that traces directly back to Fr. André Coindre.

Saint Anne's Mission, where the Brothers have long walked alongside the Navajo Nation, reflects the same spirit of presence and selfless generosity that has shaped the congregation for generations. For the ten Saint Joseph students selected each year, the trip is an opportunity to step directly into that ministry.

The experience was deeply moving for Giovanni Fighera '26.

"The trip reflected the Brothers' mission by exposing us to a new community of faithful people," he said. "The Navajo have their own beautiful traditions and ways of connecting to faith, and they graciously shared their culture with us."

Throughout the week, students immersed themselves in Navajo history, culture, and daily life while assisting the Mission community. Unlike many service projects where volunteers never meet those they help, Saint Anne's offers something rare: true relationship.

"The Navajo people accepted us as family," Fighera said. "That level of connection is something I'll never forget."

Working side by side day after day strengthened the bonds among the Saint Joseph students, deepening their own sense of brotherhood—one of the most central values in the Brothers' tradition.

"We all wanted to support the Navajo community however we could," Fighera said. "That passion for service felt very similar to what Fr. Coindre taught."

The experience also opened Fighera's eyes to the broader world of service and the many communities, both across the country and globally, who face unseen challenges.

"There are so many communities in need," he said. "The Klagetoh trip helped me realize the countless possibilities to serve. I plan to continue living a life of service and carrying the lessons of brotherhood I learned there."

Klagetoh stands as more than a place on the map; it is a space where faith is lived, where cultures meet, and where the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart inspires young people to lead with compassion.

A Legacy of Love and Learning: Alicia Bonelli Retires After 25 Years at Saint Joe's



By: Tim LeCras

Alicia Bonelli discovered Saint Joe's by chance. An experienced teacher and administrator in Argentina, she and her family were searching for a "highly rated" Catholic high school for her two sons. While Lucas '09 and Agustin '14 Zavala both became Falcons, Alicia found her own home at Saint Joseph High School—a place she would serve for more than two decades, building what she calls a "legacy of love and learning."

"From working with incredible colleagues and mentoring students to serving the community, Saint Joe's helped me grow both personally and professionally," Bonelli said. "It was more than just a workplace—it was a place where I found purpose, connection, and lasting memories."

Bonelli officially retired from teaching Spanish in June 2025, closing a 25-year career filled with lasting memories—none more meaningful than watching her sons transform from boys to men.

"I had a front-row seat as my two sons entered Saint Joe's as young freshmen," Bonelli said. "Over the years, Agustin and Lucas grew, flourished, and matured into young men, leaving as seniors who had fully embraced the values of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart."

The Brothers' charism went beyond Bonelli's Spanish classroom. She worked tirelessly each day to instill the importance of mission, service and seeing the whole person.

"I always encouraged my students to see Spanish not just as a subject, but as a tool—one that could open doors to meaningful and fulfilling opportunities," she said. "Over the years, I've been humbled by alumni who returned to thank me for pushing them to go beyond the classroom and use their language skills to serve others."

Throughout her 25 years at Saint Joseph High School, Bonelli formed countless meaningful relationships with colleagues and students—connections she will cherish forever.

"What I will miss most about being part of the Saint Joe's community is the warm and supportive environment that truly felt like a second home," Bonelli said. "I'll miss being surrounded by a group of dedicated and inspiring professionals from whom I learned so much. The friendships I built, the everyday conversations, and the shared laughter made even the busiest days enjoyable."

During retirement, Bonelli plans to spend more time with her two grandchildren and being a bigger part of their everyday lives. She also wants to travel and explore different cultures, including her native Argentina.

"It's a new chapter," she said. "And I'm ready to embrace it fully."

Saint Joseph High School proudly welcomes several new Partners in Mission to our community this academic year.

Following in the footsteps of Fr. André Coindre and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, the new Partners in Mission are dedicated to forming young men of faith, scholarships and service.

"As we begin this school year, I am thrilled to welcome these dedicated educators," Principal Anne Rivera said . "Their passion and expertise will inspire our students both inside and outside the classroom."

Each of the nine new Partners in Mission brings unique talents and experiences that will strengthen our tradition of academic excellence, brotherhood, and faith formation.

Welcome to the Saint Joseph Community!

Fr. Randy Gamboa, Campus Chaplain

Liam Harding '21, English

Nicole Kakuta, Guidance Administrative Assistant

Christopher Kurtz, Guidance Counselor

Elizabeth Luna, English

Tim Miller '08, Mathematics

Aiza Nawaz, Physics Teacher

Mónica Sola-Flores, World Languages (Spanish)

Ian Wiesinger '19, School Support

News from Around Campus

PALS Trip

Saint Joseph High School students volunteered at PALS – Philadelphia, a summer camp dedicated to creating inclusive experiences for individuals with Down Syndrome. Throughout the week, Ethan Angeles ‘28, Aaron Manalo ‘26, Aakash Cunchala ‘28 and Joseph Kickey ‘26 served as counselors and companions, building friendships through shared activities, teamwork, and laughter. The experience offered the Falcons a deeper understanding of compassion, leadership, and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart mission to serve others with love and respect. Their time at PALS exemplified the Saint Joe’s commitment to forming young men who lead with faith, empathy, and a heart for service.



National Merit Scholars

Thirteen students at Saint Joseph High School have been recognized as “Commended Students” in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Corporation program after taking the 2024 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The following students were among the roughly 34,000 awardees nationwide and represent the top 50,000 entrants in the competition: David Adlao ‘26, Alexander Arrevillagas ‘26, Robert Boyke ‘26, Aiden DaSilva ‘26, Giovanni Fighera ‘26, Andrew Hoang ‘26, Thomas Myers ‘26, Sebastian Nino ‘26, Titus Solomon ‘26, Carter Tarpley ‘26, Justin Trivino ‘26, Saahir Vazirani ‘26, and Ved Vyas ‘26.



Falcons Shine in Fall Sports

Saint Joseph Athletics celebrated a standout fall season, led by the football team’s second straight Big Central Conference American Gold Division championship, the soccer program’s back-to-back GMC Conference Tournament titles, and a historic milestone for cross-country with its first invitational victory in 15 years at the Lehigh University Paul Short Run.



A Midsummer Night’s Dream

The Saint Joseph Theatre Company presented its fall play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, one of William Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies. Set in an enchanted forest, the play follows four young lovers, a group of amateur actors, and the mischievous fairy world as magic, mistaken identities, and playful chaos intertwine. Audiences were treated to a whimsical tale where love is tested, transformed, and ultimately restored. With imaginative staging and spirited performances, our students brought the timeless story to life in a fresh and engaging way.





Lessons Under the Stars: Saint Joe's Tent City Raises $39,000 for Covenant House

By: Tim LeCras

A typical Friday night away from home might mean relaxation for many teens, but 74 Saint Joseph High School students chose something very different: a cold night outdoors during the school's annual Tent City—an experience they'll never forget.

The event raised $39,000 for Covenant House New Jersey's annual Sleepout campaign, supporting programs that fight childhood and teenage homelessness. But long after the funds are raised, the students say they'll remember one lasting lesson—to never take life for granted.

"Tent City really humbles me and makes me grateful for the situation I am in," Campus Ministry student leader and co-organizer Matthew McKeon '26 said. "Some simple things such as food and water that I may not always appreciate may not be available for these homeless youth. This experience enlightened me to this crisis in society and allows me to appreciate what I have."

McKeon and Aiden DaSilva '26 led this year's Tent City with the support of 72 of their Saint Joe's brothers. The group camped out in tents behind Brenner Family Field, braving the elements and, for one night, experiencing what millions of homeless teens endure every day.

"Participating in Tent City helps me truly understand how fortunate I am," DaSilva said. "We're always taught to give back, but this experience showed me what that really means—and how much it matters."

Throughout the night, students wrote birthday cards for children in the foster care system and listened to real-life stories of teens who overcame homelessness through Covenant House and the Sleepout campaign.

"The moment that had the biggest impact on me was hearing Daniel's story," McKeon said. "He was 23 years old and went through Covenant House after running away from a toxic home. Hearing how Covenant House helped him rebuild his life was truly inspiring."

Daniel's story is just one of countless others unfolding every night across the country. But that one cold night at Saint Joe's will stay with these students—and inspire them to make a difference—for years to come.





Saint Joe's Students Lead with Heart at Conference on National Affairs

By: Tim LeCras



Politics and government are often defined by division and debate, yet for two Saint Joseph students who attended the Conference on National Affairs, those lines gave way to respect, understanding, and friendship.

Luke McCabe '26 and Saahir Vazirani '26 have represented Saint Joseph High School at each of the last two Conference on National Affairs, a political conference sponsored by the YMCA that brings together top Youth & Government and Model UN delegates from across the nation to debate pressing policy issues.

Over the course of his three years on campus, Vazirani has earned a reputation as one of the school's most accomplished delegates. His leadership culminated this spring when he was elected Lieutenant Governor for the 2026 Youth & Government Conference — the first student in Saint Joe's history to earn the distinction. Selected to participate in CONA each of the past two years, Vazirani attended the prestigious event in 2024 and said the opportunity creates a "culture shock" unlike any other.

"There are few opportunities where you are able to collaborate with people from the southern end of Texas to the northern tip of Washington," Vazirani said. "From accents, to beliefs, to overall backgrounds, the environment at CONA is one where you are able to experience a multitude of cultures, leaving a mark on yourself and leaving your own mark on those you had the pleasure of meeting and collaborating with. This diverse group of individuals creates a space where policy is formed around the base of empathy and inclusion, allowing for numerous communities to benefit."

For Luke McCabe, who attended CONA this past summer, the conference wasn't just about debating national policy — it was about discovering the humanity behind every argument. Surrounded by students whose life experiences shaped their beliefs, McCabe found himself learning as much from personal stories as from political discussions. When a member of his delegation crafted a proposal about free school lunches, McCabe saw the effect personal experiences have on their beliefs.

"My biggest takeaway from the conference was that there's more to a person than their political beliefs," McCabe said. "CONA opened my eyes to the perspectives of others. Engaging with students from across the country made me very hopeful for our future. Seeing the ways we debated in good spirit, even when we didn't agree with a proposal, truly demonstrated our generation's genuine desire to work together for the common good."

Both McCabe and Vazirani credit their ability to lead with empathy and integrity to the formation they've received at Saint Joe's. Guided by the teachings of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, they entered each debate with humility, respect, and a commitment to listening before speaking — lessons that extend far beyond policy and politics.

"The Brothers have taught us that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room," McCabe said. "It's about compassion and understanding — seeing the dignity in every person you meet."

A Summer That Shaped the Future

Jake Deo ‘30 - Trip to Europe

My visit to Italy, Greece, and Turkey was incredible. We began in Rome, where I took a cooking class and learned to make ravioli, pasta, and tiramisu. A private tour of the Vatican gave me a deeper appreciation for its history, and I loved trying authentic gelato for the first time. We also explored the Colosseum and the Spanish Steps before setting sail on a cruise to Greece, Turkey, and back to Italy. Highlights included visiting Ephesus, walking through the charming streets of Mykonos and Santorini, and taking in the stunning views of the Amalfi Coast.

After returning to Rome, I spent extra time there, living more like a local—making new friends, dining in neighborhood restaurants, and meeting local shop owners. It was a memorable trip full of culture, adventure, and unforgettable experiences!



Exploring historic sites during Jake’s summer trip to Italy and Greece.



Ignacio and his church group serving communities affected by Hurricane Helene.

Ignacio Rivera ‘29 - Mission trip to North Carolina for Hurricane Relief

This past July, I joined my church youth group on a mission trip to North Carolina to help communities near Asheville that were severely affected by Hurricane Helene. We spent the week serving families in need—cooking meals for those struggling financially and assisting elderly residents with home and yard repairs. Our work included clearing fallen trees, removing debris, and helping with everyday tasks they could no longer manage.

As we served, the gratitude and joy on each person’s face reminded us how even the smallest acts of kindness can make a profound impact. What seemed like simple chores to us brought immense relief and happiness to them. The experience opened my eyes to how God can work through us in unexpected ways. My biggest takeaway was that, whether you know someone or not, you can always share the love of Jesus—sometimes all it takes is asking God, “How can I help?”

Mason Immella ‘28 - Red Cross volunteer

This summer was a busy and rewarding one for me. My summer began in late June with a week-long mission trip to Dunlow, West Virginia. The Saint Joseph group prepared, packaged, and delivered supplies to those in need. After returning home, I spent most of my time volunteering as a Red Cross Blood Donor Ambassador. In this role, I greeted and assisted donors, explained the donation process, and helped guide them through each step. I also helped manage the flow of donors at check-in stations, answered questions, and provided information about the Red Cross and the importance of blood donation. Looking ahead, I hope to continue serving my community and aspire to become a Crisis Counselor with the Red Cross next year.



Mason volunteering with the Red Cross during his summer service trip.



Ved conducting hands-on lab research at the Rutgers Institute of Translational Medicine.

Ved Vyas ‘26 - Rutgers Institute of Translational Medicine and Science

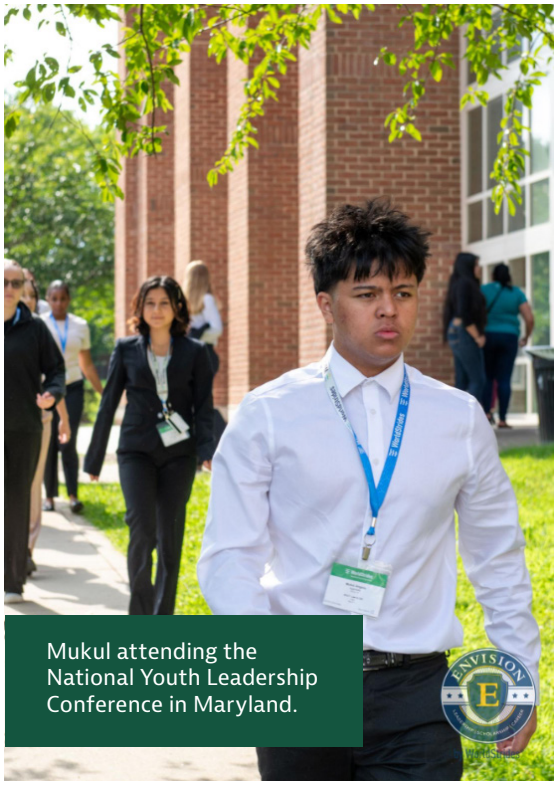
This summer, I was one of only three high school students selected from over 1,000 applicants to join a prestigious wet lab research team at the Rutgers Institute of Translational Medicine and Science, focusing on asthma pathways. I gained hands-on experience with a variety of molecular biology techniques, including Western blotting, cell culture, cell treatment, and siRNA transfection and transduction. I also learned to use advanced imaging software to quantify protein signaling and organize experimental data. Throughout the program, I conducted independent experiments and presented my findings to fellow researchers, the principal investigator, and department leaders.

Mukul Agarwala ‘26 - National Youth Leadership Conference

This summer I attended the National Youth Leadership Conference (NYLC), a week-long program hosted by Envision and George Mason University at the University of Maryland, College Park. The conference allowed students to earn college credit while exploring different academic fields. I participated in the Law and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) track, which gave me a hands-on introduction to both subjects.

Throughout the week, I lived in a dorm, analyzed mock crime scenes, studied real legal case files, and learned how a case progresses from investigation to trial. We also heard from guest speakers, including a man exonerated through the Innocence Project and leading experts in law and forensics. One of my favorite parts was the camp-wide debate tournament and our visits to Georgetown, George Mason, and Washington, D.C.

This experience helped me gain confidence, independence, and insight into college life. It also inspired me to take Forensics Honors at Saint Joseph this year and consider a future career in law or forensics.



Mukul attending the National Youth Leadership Conference in Maryland.



A Brother's Promise

Frankie Fabio '27 Honors Brother Through the Saint Joseph HERO Club

By: Tim LeCras

Frankie Fabio's life changed in an instant, though he didn't realize it at the time. The 9-year-old, who looked up to his older stepbrothers like superheroes, wasn't prepared for the news his parents were about to share. Michael Sot, his 20-year-old stepbrother and a sophomore at The College of New Jersey, had been killed by an intoxicated driver while serving as a designated driver for his fraternity brothers.



Michael was the oldest of three Sot brothers. Jonathan Sot '18 had just graduated from Saint Joseph High School that spring, and their younger brother Matthew Sot '20 was a junior—making the tragedy deeply felt across the Falcon community.

"I grew up with Mike," said Fabio '27. "He was really loving and caring. He always showed up to anything that I had—my sporting events, school events, everything. He was always there."



A month shy of the eighth anniversary of Michael's passing, Frankie stood in front of his Saint Joseph brothers and laid his heart on the line while introducing a new club on campus. The Saint Joseph HERO Club is an extension of the New Jersey-based non-profit HERO Campaign, which promotes DUI awareness and the important role of designated drivers in preventing drunk-driving tragedies.

"The HERO Campaign, specifically the Saint Joseph Hero Club, promotes a very important message to people my age," Fabio said. "Michael was only a sophomore in college. He only finished one year of college. Students across the country need to know the background of how dangerous drinking and driving really truly is and how it can affect people on multiple levels."

Launched by Bill Elliott, after his son, Navy Ensign John Elliott, was killed in a July 2000 collision with a drunk driver, the HERO Campaign partners with high schools and colleges, bar and tavern owners, law enforcement, and NFL and Major League Baseball teams to promote responsible driving.

At Saint Joseph High School, Fabio will lead the club in their local efforts to curb drunk driving accidents through an education program on campus and a fundraising campaign to wrap a local police cruiser with HERO Campaign designated driver messaging. The campaign and New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance also donated a "One Simple Decision" desktop simulator to the school.

"The Saint Joseph HERO Club embodies the spirit and compassion of our entire school community," Principal Anne Rivera said. "The Fabio and Sot families have been integral to Saint Joe's for more than a decade, and Michael's loss was deeply felt by all of us. We're proud to honor his memory by partnering with the HERO Campaign and helping to prevent drunk-driving tragedies."

According to the HERO Campaign, more than 10,000 Americans die each year from alcohol-impaired vehicle crashes, with an accident occurring every three minutes.

For Frankie, the HERO Club is more than a tribute—it's a promise. By bringing the HERO Campaign to Saint Joseph High School, he's carrying forward his brother Michael's legacy and raising awareness so none of his Saint Joseph brothers experience a loss like he did.







Falcons Fly Together: Saint Joseph Soccer's Unbreakable Bond Fuels Historic Championship Run

Photos courtesy of splus3productions

By: Tim LeCras

Trophies and an unbeaten record added shine to the Saint Joseph soccer team's season, but its true brilliance came from something deeper—brotherhood.

The 2025 Falcons didn't just win. They won together.

Behind senior leaders Robert Boyke '26, Joseph Marinello '26, Zachary Smith '26 and Derian Wubbenhorst '26, and guided by head coach Sam Roca, Saint Joseph completed a perfect 17–0 regular season, surrendered just nine goals, captured a second consecutive GMC Red Division title, and lifted the Greater Middlesex Conference Championship trophy for the second straight year.

But ask anyone inside the program what made this group special, and the answer isn't about talent. It's about unity.







A Brotherhood Forged in Four Years

The championship wasn't merely a validation of skill for Boyke—it was a celebration of family.

"The unity this team has with each other was a big key to our success," Boyke said. "The close-knit bond and chemistry on and off the field allowed us to support each other in every way. I have made some of my best friends through soccer at St. Joe's, and for me that's the most special part of the whole journey."

As a senior captain, Boyke didn't lead with pep talks or theatrics. He led with consistency—being steady in goal and steady in spirit.

"It was my job to keep the team grounded," he said. "Not getting too high with the highs or too low with the lows, but continuing to play every game and build on our success."

A Striker Who Leads by Heart

Up top, senior striker Joseph Marinello was the emotional engine of the offense.

And like Boyke, he immediately pointed to relationships—not stats—when reflecting on the team's rise.

"This year's group is special because of the tight bond we share both on and off the field," Marinello said. "We're not just teammates—we're family."

That connection showed in the toughest moments. Even in their lone loss of the year—a 4–3 thriller against nationally ranked Pingry in the semifinals of the state tournament—Marinello saw something deeper than defeat.

"The grit and passion the team showed was unbelievable," he said. "Going from being unranked to competing toe-to-toe with a national powerhouse showed how far we've come."

A Coach Who Built a Culture

Head coach Sam Roca describes the back-to-back titles not as an ending, but as the latest chapter in a growing tradition.

"Securing back-to-back GMC titles feels like we've truly established ourselves as a force in the GMC and the state of New Jersey again," Roca said. "We hope we've represented our alumni proudly and inspired the next generation of Falcon FC players."

Roca believes this year's roster didn't simply follow the foundation laid by recent teams—they elevated it.

"This group has matured overall and truly evolved into the next iteration of what previous teams worked so hard to build," he said. "Their mental and emotional strength propelled us to a Red Division title, a GMC title, a top-10 ranking in the state, and an 18-1 record."





Playing for Something Bigger

The Falcons also carried the memory of former teammate Gio Amores, whose passing reshaped the team's emotional core.

"Gio was not only a wonderful player but a marvelous friend and teammate," Roca said. "There was a tonal shift after his passing. Our players wanted to win not just for themselves, but to honor his memory."

Each victory, each huddle, and ultimately each championship was dedicated to Gio and the mark he left on the program.

A Legacy Beyond Wins

Saint Joseph's 17–0 regular season, stingy defense, conference dominance, and ascension into state prominence will be remembered. But the players insist their real legacy is the bond they created.

"We genuinely love and care for one another," Marinello said. "That connection made everything we accomplished together possible."

And as Boyke prepares to continue his career at Stevens Institute of Technology, he knows what will stay with him most.

"Representing my school has been a privilege," he said. "The memories with this group—I'll carry them for the rest of my life."

For a team defined by unity, the wins were simply the result. The brotherhood was the reason.



Falcons "Strike Out" Illiteracy, Raise $4,157 for Childhood Reading

As three-time defending state champions, the Saint Joseph High School of Metuchen bowling team has posted some impressive scores over the last three seasons.

The varsity student-athletes registered another big number during a charity tournament fittingly dubbed "Bowling for Books," pairing with the high school's Partners in Mission at Lucky Strike in North Brunswick to support early childhood literacy.

In collaboration with The Marisa Tufaro Foundation, the school-community and nonprofit used the tournament as a fundraiser which raised $4,157 to Reach Out and Read New Jersey, a local non-profit that provides medical providers in Middlesex County with books for income-challenged families to promote early childhood literacy.

"Saint Joseph High School was delighted to partner with The Marisa Tufaro Foundation in support of Reach Out and Read New Jersey," school president John G. Nolan Jr. said. "Service to others plays a significant role in the life of every student who attends Saint Joe's. I am proud of our young men as they give so generously of their time, talents and treasure each time a worthy cause is presented to them. That's the Saint Joe's way."

Leading up to the event, Saint Joseph conducted a fundraiser and raffle benefiting The Marisa Tufaro Foundation, which complemented those efforts by donating 50 cents to the cause for each of the 5,296 total pins the competitors knocked down. Members of the Saint Joseph community contributed $1,424 to the cause.

Kai Strothers '26 and Social Studies teacher Charles Neri '11 emerged from a pool of 10 paired teams to win the pro-am style tournament, claiming the Golden Pin Award for which the Saint Joseph bowling program will have to make room in its already crowded trophy case.

The Marisa Tufaro Foundation was established in memory of Marisa Tufaro, who passed away in 2017 following a valiant battle with childhood cancer. Her parents, Greg '85 and Cyndi, keep their daughter's indomitable spirit alive by supporting causes associated with Marisa's interests.

"This particular fundraiser has added meaning because of the profound impact reading had on Marisa and the role books played in her life," Greg Tufaro said. "Our nonprofit considers itself honored to be able to provide the gift of literacy to children and families in need."

Since its inception in July 2017, The Marisa Tufaro Foundation, which assists pediatric patients and children in need throughout the greater Middlesex County area, has donated more than $400,000 to fulfill its mission.



Resilience in Darkness:

Gabriel Hurley '03 Returns to Saint Joe's to Preach Driver Responsibility

By: Natalie Fata



Sixteen years ago, Gabriel Hurley '03 never imagined his life would take such a dramatic turn. At 24, life was full of promise; he was driving a sports car, taking selfies, and getting ready for a new chapter in his life by moving across the country.

His promising path was shattered around 11 p.m. on June 18, 2009.

"I would have laughed if someone told me that this was going to happen when I graduated from Saint Joe's," he recalls.

During a quick run to a CVS that night, Hurley was struck head-on by an Edison High School student who was recklessly speeding home from a McDonald's, trying to beat curfew after the school's graduation. The massive collision left Hurley permanently blind in both eyes, with severe damage to his face and mouth, and no sense of smell.

"Everything felt strange and unrecognizable," Hurley said on his first thoughts upon waking up post-accident with confusion and darkness. "I wondered who turned the lights out."

The road to recovery was arduous, requiring multiple facial and mouth surgeries, 60 days in the hospital, and rehabilitation at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. He credits his swift progress to the unwavering support of his family and friends, none of whom left his side. Some even took "How to Handle Tragedy 101" classes to better help him cope.

Hurley now travels the country, visiting schools like his alma mater to share his story in hopes of preventing a similar tragedy. During a Formation Day seminar at Saint Joe's in November, Hurley emphasized to students that "most people with this type of injury… don't survive."

Showing CT scans displaying the rods in his face from reconstructive surgery, his central message is clear: "Preventable. The keyword is preventable."

"10 seconds of fun, trying to impress a girl, or checking your phone is not worth the repercussions," Hurley said. "Put your phone on Do Not Disturb because then you won't be tempted. If it's really that important, you can pull over or just wait till you get to your destination."

For Hurley, the crash, though devastating, led to unexpected opportunities, like speaking engagements and performing on stage with Stranger Things star DJO (Joe Keery). He remains resilient, proving that past passions can still be pursued. He played a medley of songs on his guitar for the students, including the Stars Wars theme and Guns' N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine," a testament to his continued love for music. He also creates music with his band, "The New Black," which includes his best friend and lead singer, Dan McDonough '03, whom he met at Saint Joe's in 1999.

"I'm just happy I am alive," he said. " I have so many fond memories of being at Saint Joe's, running cross country and track with Brother Rich when he used to coach, and just, you know, all the friendships I made. Being able to come back and hopefully save lives means even more, because kids just need to understand the responsibility they have to themselves and other people when they get behind the wheel of a car."

Crafting a Legacy Through Endowed Scholarships

By: Tim LeCras



For more than 60 years, countless stories have defined what it means to be a Saint Joseph Man. From state championships and Ivy League acceptances to quiet moments of faith and brotherhood, the legacies of our alumni continue to be the foundation on which Saint Joseph High School continues to build its future.

The Saint Joseph Endowed Scholarship Program ensures that the Saint Joseph story continues to be written by future generations of students. Endowed scholarships are more than just a financial award to a current student. Each endowed scholarship serves as a lasting tribute to the alumni and families whose lives were shaped by the mission of Fr. André Coindre and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart..

"An endowed scholarship is a very special way to create a lasting legacy," Saint Joseph President John G. Nolan, Jr. P'09 said. "It is a showcase of the transformative power of a Saint Joseph education and is an investment that changes today, and, more importantly, tomorrow."

Beyond financial support, endowed scholarships tell stories of gratitude and faith. For many donors, the decision to create an endowed scholarship begins with gratitude. Whether honoring a beloved teacher, a Brother of the Sacred Heart, or a family member, each fund celebrates the relationships and values that define the Saint Joe's experience. These legacies of giving ensure that the mission which once shaped their lives continues to open doors for future generations.



"You have to honor the people that helped make you successful," Harry Pozycki '65 said on supporting scholarships at Saint Joe's. "You have heard the expression, 'I didn't arrive here except on people's shoulders.' If you want to keep the values that have guided you through life growing, Saint Joe's is the place to invest and help nurture the future."

Unlike annual gifts, endowed scholarships are designed to last forever. The principal is invested, and a portion of the earnings each year provides financial aid to deserving students. This structure creates a lifetime of support, ensuring that future Falcons can walk the same halls, and grow in the same tradition of excellence. Some endowed scholarships are established with specific intentions, supporting students with particular needs or interests.

Recipients of endowed scholarships often speak of the profound difference they make — not only financially, but spiritually. Each gift represents someone who believed in them before they even arrived on campus.

"Receiving a scholarship has taken a major burden off of my parents and has helped me focus more on my own academics and personal growth," Joseph Kickey '26, recipient of the Br. Aldric Smith Memorial Scholarship said. "As a student who has learning disabilities, receiving the award that I did helped me understand that there is always going to be someone there for me who understands what I am going through."

Through each endowed scholarship, the spirit of the Saint Joseph Man endures — a legacy of faith, generosity, and lasting impact.

Giving Back:
A Tradition That Grows With You



By: Adam Psichos ‘84

At every stage of life, there are creative ways to give back to Saint Joe’s, the school that shaped us into the men we are today. The beauty of philanthropy is that it grows alongside us—evolving as our careers, families, and priorities change.

For younger alumni, giving often begins with small but meaningful gestures. A modest monthly gift, the price of a few cups of coffee, can add up to steady support for today’s Saint Joe’s students. Volunteering time—whether by mentoring, offering internships, or returning to campus to share career advice—can be just as impactful, showing the next generation what Brotherhood for Life truly means.

As alumni advance in their careers, gifts can take on a more strategic form. Contributing appreciated stock, using employer matching gift programs, or recommending grants through a donor-advised fund are ways to transform personal success into lasting opportunities for others. This is also when many rediscover the bonds of their own class. Several graduating classes now sponsor scholarship funds, giving classmates a reason to come together around a cause that honors shared history while shaping the future. Supporting a class scholarship is more than philanthropy—it is a meaningful way to reconnect with old friends and carry forward Saint Joe’s spirit.

Later in life, many alumni consider planned gifts that align with both personal goals and the school’s long-term future. Some create charitable gift annuities that provide steady income while securing future support for Saint Joe’s. Others, especially retirees with required IRA distributions, direct a portion of those funds to the school. And many choose to include Saint Joe’s in their estate plans, ensuring that their legacy continues for generations.

No matter the form, each gift—large or small—keeps Saint Joe’s tradition alive and helps the school meet its long-term goals, ensuring that the next generation of young men can follow in our footsteps.

Ways to Give at a Glance

Monthly Giving
Start small—recurring gifts add up to reliable support for today’s Saint Joe’s students.

Employer Matching Gift Programs
Double or even triple your impact by checking if your employer matches charitable contributions.

Class Scholarship Funds
Join classmates in building scholarship support, reconnecting with old friends while helping future Saint Joe’s men.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)
Set aside resources today and recommend gifts over time to Saint Joe’s and other causes you care about.

Appreciated Securities
Donating stock or other assets can turn growth into a meaningful opportunity for students.

Charitable Gift Annuities
Receive steady lifetime income while ensuring long-term support for Saint Joe’s.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)
For alumni age 70½+, directing IRA distributions to Saint Joe’s is a simple way to give.

Estate Gifts
Include Saint Joe’s in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary to create a legacy that lasts for generations.

Interested in learning more about different ways to give, visit us at www.StJoes.org/planned-giving







Saint Joe's Honors Harry '65 and Steve '69 Pozycki at Sixth Annual Green Tie Gala

By: Tim LeCras

METUCHEN, NJ – Two brothers who have changed the culture at Saint Joseph High School and beyond were honored at the Sixth Annual Green Tie Gala.

Harry '65 and Steve '69 Pozycki, leaders in civic innovation and real estate, received the Father André Coindre Service Award on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Bridgewater Marriott.

"Harry and Steve Pozycki are living testaments to the mission of Saint Joseph High School and the values of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart," said Saint Joseph President John G. Nolan, Jr. P'09. "Their leadership and service reflect the spirit of Father André Coindre and inspire our students to dream bigger, serve others, and lead with integrity."

Harry Pozycki '65 is founder and chairman of The Citizens Campaign, dedicated to expanding citizen participation in government. A graduate of Brown University and Fordham University Law, he has spent more than 30 years advancing civic innovation through pro bono work and is the author of a book on civic engagement.

Steve Pozycki '69 is founder, chairman, and CEO of SJP Properties, which has developed over 25 million square feet of commercial and residential space across New Jersey and New York. Beyond real estate, he is deeply involved in civic and charitable causes.

Proceeds from the gala benefit the Saint Joseph Annual Fund, supporting need-based financial assistance, scholarships, academics, and student life.



"Saint Joe's found itself with an underperforming student—and Brother Aldric took a chance on a kid no one else would have bet on. He saw something beyond the grades and gave me the kind of attention and belief that can change the course of a life. I graciously accept this award in memory of him and every other Brother of the Sacred Heart that made a positive impact on my life."

- Steve Pozycki '69





"As a member of the first class of Saint Joe's, my classmates and I had the privilege of breaking in the Brothers to the experience of teaching unruly lay students. The experience was not only formative for them but was uplifting for us. We became a community, not just a student body, and the selfless values of the Brothers are the values that defined our community. I am honored to receive the Fr. André Coindre Service Award, a reminder of the place that shaped me into the man I am today."

- Harry Pozycki '65



A Special Message from the Pozycki Brothers

Dear fellow Falcons,

Steve and I wanted to thank you. We are not sentimental types, but we were touched by the warm embrace of the Saint Joe's community at this year's Green Tie Gala.

We were reminded that what attracts us to Saint Joe's is more than the great progress in its educational and sports offerings. What attracts us most is the character of the Saint Joseph community!

We're proud to be Falcons.

Thanks again,

Harry '65 and Steve '69 Pozycki



Alumni News

Mike Marsh '76 was hired as the National Managing Director, Nonprofit Investment Services for Princeton Global Asset Management. He was previously the founding national director of the Rockefeller Family Office's first nonprofit investment services division.

Chris Wagner '96 was promoted to Colonel in the United States Marine Corps. On Saturday, August 30.

Stefan Gruskiewicz '25 was selected to play soccer for FC Köln (ITP) International Talent Program in Cologne, Germany.

Ryan Carter '91 was joined by New Jersey State Troopers Adam Brozek '04 and Paul Cimilluca '15 at the Diocese of Metuchen's annual Blue Mass in October.

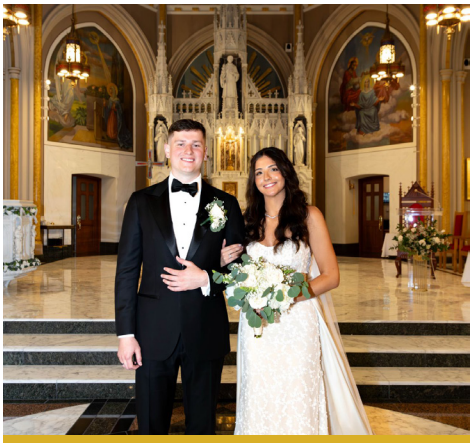
Mikhail Beltran '08 received a Grammy Award for his work as a producer on the 2024 Best R&B Album of the Year, 11:11 Deluxe by Chris Brown.

Gene Corrigan '80 and five of his classmates (Ken Webb, Don Fraser, Vince Corsaro, Bill Pickering, Pat Boyle) traveled to Kansas City for a mini-reunion to watch the New York Mets play the Royals.

Giovanni DeNatale '21 is attending the St. Edmund's College at University of Cambridge to complete a Master's in Development Studies (a branch of Political Economy.) St. Edmund's College was the first Catholic college allowed back in England following the Reformation.

Joseph Baumann '80 was selected to serve on New Jersey Governor-elect Mikie Sherill's Interdisciplinary Advisory Task Force.

Father Alexander Mosko C.O. '08 was ordained a priest at St. Francis Xavier Church at the Philadelphia Oratory on November 15, 2025.



Marcel Milewski '20



Ryan Carter '91



Alexander Mosko '08



Gene Corrigan '80



Chris Wagner ‘96



Stefan Gruskiewicz ‘25



Giovanni DeNatale ‘21

Do YOU have news?

Please email your story to alumni@stjoes.org and you might be featured in the next edition of the TODAY Magazine!



Saint Joseph High School is deeply saddened to share the passing of Giovani Amores ’25.

A freshman at St. John’s University at the time of his passing, Giovani was a beloved classmate and teammate who left his heart and soul on the field.

As a member of the Saint Joseph soccer team, Giovani earned All-Greater Middlesex Conference Red Division honors following the 2024 season.

We offer our sincere condolences to the Amores family and Giovani’s friends.

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

SAINT JOSEPH
A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART IN METUCHEN, NJ SINCE 1901

145 Plainfield Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Return Service Requested

Saint Joe's Parents

If your son no longer lives at home, please send us his new address. Thank you!

alumni@stjoes.org

Save the Date:

Thursday, March 19
Saint Joseph Giving Day

Join your fellow Falcons as we come together for 24 hours of generosity, gratitude, and Brotherhood.





Save the Date:

Monday, June 8
Falcon Golf Classic: Forsgate Country Club

Tee off with your fellow Falcons for a day of camaraderie and community impact.