

WINTER 2021

BLUE & GOLD

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL



NEW HEALTH AND WELLNESS
CENTER OPENS

LOURDES AHEAD WITH
ONLINE LEARNING

DUAL CEREMONIES FOR
CLASS OF 2020

Exceptional Academics. Extraordinary Futures.



Principal's Message

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

As we go to print, we are one month shy of marking a complete year of Our Lady of Lourdes High School adjusting and adapting to the circumstances related to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic. A rigorous and inspiring education paired with daily opportunities for spiritual development remains our top priority. Those of us whose life work has been in Catholic education consider the job we do a vocation. We view the intellectual development of a young person embedded within a school climate that fosters a strong ethical and moral foundation as the necessary blueprint in building the Kingdom of God here on earth. We see it as necessary for producing bright and productive future leaders for our country.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding work of our teachers and staff who have been asked to rise up again and again. Their work and careful adherence to rigorous academic and safety standards have allowed us to offer our students a college preparatory education that is once again yielding Class of '21 acceptances, scholarships, and honors placement at top colleges and universities around the country.

Lastly, and most importantly, this experience has reminded us that we are powerless and that acceptance and dependence on God is always the answer. God, from whom all good things come, will lead us through as long as we take good orderly direction and do the next right thing. We are confident that a daily set of academic expectations and a carefully carved out routine connecting students to their teachers and classmates will reassure them that nothing can stop them – all things are possible with God.

We pray for this to be over soon and that our lives can return to normal. We pray for all families, for those who are sick and for those suffering from fear and anxiety. Let us read and reread God's words as a source of comfort each day.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

~ Philippians 4:6-7

May God bless you and your families.

Faithfully,

Catherine B. Merryman
Principal

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Top Achievements and News Stories

Cardinal Dolan Dedicates State-of-the-Art Health and Wellness Center

As has become the norm in these times of COVID, a grand opening and dedication of a brand new Health and Wellness Center at Our Lady of Lourdes High School took place on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via a livestream to the students and school community.

With honored guest Timothy Cardinal Dolan officiating, the new state-of-the-art facility was blessed, dedicated, and officially put into use for all students, faculty, and staff. Only a small gathering that included the school's board of trustees, benefactors, and administrators were present with the Cardinal during the ceremony while the entire student body and faculty watched the ceremonies via a livestream.

The plan to transform the north side of the school's campus was a long-term goal of Principal Catherine Merryman who assumed leadership of the school in 2014. This initiative provides a cutting-edge facility to the performing arts, physical education, and athletic components of the school with a complete renovation of 7,000 square feet of existing space. After months of planning that began pre-COVID, work began in July 2020 transforming the area creating a new athletic training facility that includes weight training machines, cardio equipment and strengthening spaces, a multi-use space for performing arts and physical education programs with a new dance/yoga studio, new locker rooms, and a media classroom for PE classes and athletic teams. The school worked with architects from Liscum McCormack VanVoorhis LLP and Mid-Hudson Construction Management on the project.

According to Principal Merryman, "This new wellness center represents a final phase that has created a completely upgraded infrastructure for the school's Physical Education, Athletic, and Arts Education programs benefiting the entire Lourdes community and serving the needs of all students, faculty, and staff. Providing for all students was considered in this much-needed upgrade and will be available for use by all in our building." The school credits its benefactors that include the Archdiocese of NY and the James J. McCann Charitable Trust along with other dedicated and loyal donors in making this project possible. Merryman comments, "The support of the Archdiocese and the McCann Trust is paramount for our students and only strengthens our place as a leading Catholic High School for our region. We have a strong future at Our Lady of Lourdes. Despite the challenges of this past year, we



have managed to defy the odds. When schools shut down in March 2020 due to COVID, our academic and instructional plan put us ahead of the curve in transitioning to online learning in a matter of days, and in September, we opened our doors in time for the start of the school year.

Established in 1958, the school moved to its current Boardman Road campus in 1996. In 2012, the school launched a \$3 million Capital Campaign that built the James J. McCann Athletic Facility providing a "home field" to Lourdes students for the first time in the school's then 55 year history. "I venture to state that this new wellness center is unlike any of its kind in high schools in our region," said Principal Merryman, "and will only further enrich our student experience."

Top Achievements and News Stories



Top Achievements and News Stories

Lourdes Welcomes Faculty and Students Back to Campus

With most local school districts delaying their reopening plans, Our Lady of Lourdes High School opened its doors in September 2020 to begin the 2020-2021 school year.

It is through tools such as Canvas Learning Management, GoGuardian, Loom, PlayPosit, and Labster that teachers have the ability to keep track of student progress. Lourdes teachers have been using these tools for years, which allowed them to quickly and smoothly move their classes online.

Happy about returning, John Herles from the Lourdes Science Department commented, “It’s great to be back in the classroom for live instruction. We have been implementing online resources over the last several years that make in-person and remote instruction seamless and effective. Having an online learning platform like Canvas, and a virtual lab program like Labster enables our lessons to continue to be dynamic and engaging while still meeting safety standards.”

Priscilla Gateson, a Lourdes Mathematics teacher agrees stating, “I am excited to be back to help build relationships with students as well as having a sense of normalcy back in my life. I feel as though OLL has set teachers and students up for success by providing us with all the technology we need to handle live streaming and remote learning. I am looking forward to expanding my teaching styles and technology knowledge.”

The intention to reopen the school last fall was forefront in the minds of the Lourdes administration with planning that began as early as April 2020. From the sanitizing of the building and renovation of certain areas to upgrading necessary technology for synchronous teaching and learning, adding signage for promoting all precautions

as they relate to the standards set by CDC, DOH, and NYSED the focus since Spring 2020 was to be prepared to follow the guidelines and continue to offer our community academic excellence, rigor, and enrichment. This all took place throughout the spring and summer and the school submitted its reopening plan to NY State on July 30th.

When Governor Cuomo announced on August 7th that schools could open according to their approved plans Lourdes moved forward with their synchronous instructional model that offered a choice of fully remote or hybrid consisting of two cohorts of students attending in-person instruction on alternating days.

Lourdes Director of Technology, Matthias Johnson installed widescreen TVs in classrooms to replace smart boards and projectors. “These allow for increased viewing of presentations as we maximize the space for desks in each classroom, states Johnson. “All students are issued Chromebooks for use whether in-school or remote learning.”

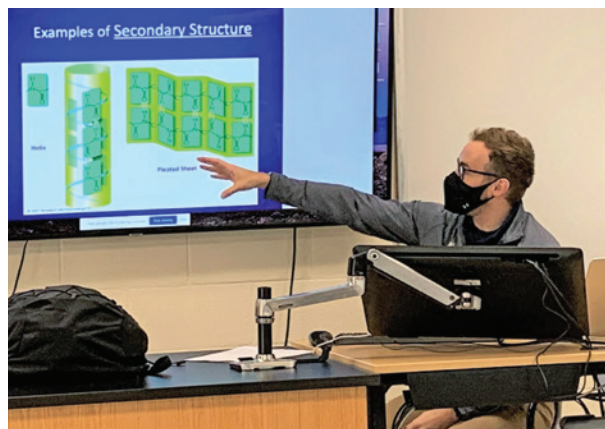
“In addition, our faculty are teaching in a paperless environment,” comments Meghan Vilardo, Assistant Principal. “Many of our faculty were included in the preparation of our reopening plan and have received the necessary resources and training they needed to move forward in this unprecedented time.”

Approximately half of the student body are in the building each day. Families had the option to choose remote or in-school instruction for their students and early on only 13% of the student body chose to attend remotely. Regardless of their choice, all faculty livestream their classes and students are required to attend each class



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Top Achievements and News Stories



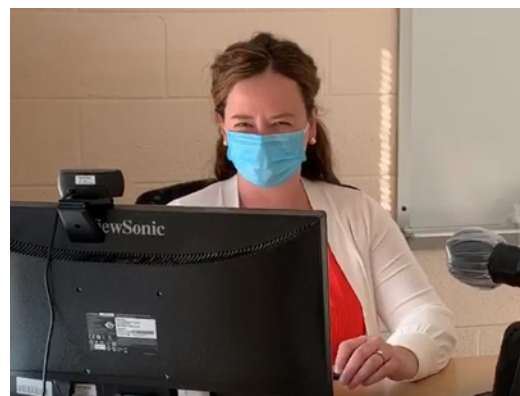
whether remote or in the classroom. Through the use of GoGuardian, synchronous learning is possible each and every day.

Lourdes faculty member Lauren Katz of the English Department was excited about returning to the school building, remarking, "As a faculty, we are thrilled to have the ability to see our students face-to-face so we can facilitate authentic learning experiences whether they are in class or at home. After the countless hours of dedication and work by the administration, faculty, and staff during the summer, we are now able to welcome our students in our building and create a sense of normalcy for them. With all of our technology platforms and devices, we are able to provide an even better learning experience for our students. Seeing our new freshman class in the building inspired hope that, as a community, our perseverance and faith will see us through this difficult time as we build a better future."

Her colleague, John Maggi from the Lourdes Social Studies Department reiterates Katz's remarks, stating, "I am looked forward to reconnecting with students while also collaborating with the rest of the faculty, administration, and support staff to exceed learners'

academic, personal, and spiritual goals. I anticipated livestreaming and remote learning to be an important part of the toolbox for success. These student-centered approaches aim to enhance knowledge and foster growth. Our Lady of Lourdes High School is providing educators, students, and families with the resources to be successful today, tomorrow and for decades to come."

In this time that many colleges were struggling to remain open, Lourdes was optimistic. "We are confident that we had taken the necessary steps to provide a safe learning environment for our students, faculty, and staff," stated Catherine Merryman. "We had been and continued to be in constant communication with our families throughout this process. We hosted two Town Hall Meetings for families that outlined our plans and expectations asking them to partner with us in maintaining safety for all students. We were ready to work with all agencies to comply with the standards set by NYSED and CDC."



Our Lady of Lourdes High School Ahead of the Curve with Online Learning

For the past six years, Our Lady of Lourdes High School understood the important part a Learning Management System (LMS) played in preparing students for college.

According to Principal, Catherine Merryman, “Our blended learning philosophy has pointed us in a direction that demanded we provide our students with state-of-the-art technological resources which includes a one-to-one student Chromebook program & SMS. This academic and instructional plan put us ahead of the curve in transitioning to online learning during these uncertain and confusing times.”

On March 13, 2020 when Lourdes announced that the school building would close and shift to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Administration and Faculty set aside two days to prepare and plan for a smooth transition. Video conference meetings were carried out and the administration assured the faculty that they had their full support.

Mrs. Merryman remarks, “We had to close our building, but we knew that it was important that our school remained open with preparation and teaching continuing. Our preparation for flexible online learning demonstrates the value of Lourdes’ Catholic education to our students, their parents and our community. We have a great administration and faculty that provides quality education in this time of crisis while continuing to share our faith.”

It is through tools such as *Canvas Learning Management*, *GoGuardian*, *Loom*, *PlayPosit*, and *Labster* that teachers have the ability to keep track of student progress. Lourdes’ teachers have been using these tools for years, which allowed them to quickly and smoothly move their classes online over a weekend.

Canvas LMS makes entire course content available including class notes, video lectures, assignments, & assessments, and parents can observe all interactions and track grades for specific assignments and monitor their students’ progress. It also provides analytics that allows administrators and teachers the ability to monitor student engagement, analyze student learning outcomes and make instructional adjustments to enhance students’ achievement.

GoGuardian provides direct monitoring of students’ screens during assigned class periods to ensure they are staying on task and maintains the integrity of work or testing being done on Chromebook.

Loom records lectures while displaying the teacher, their presentation screens, and digital annotations which provides an audio and visual experience that simulates the classroom.

PlayPosit allows engagement for visual learners with clear learning objectives/videos that pause for a check for understanding in the form of multiple-choice or free-response questions and allows the teacher to gather assessment data. With this data, teachers gain insight into which areas of their content might be difficult to follow allowing them to focus on clarification.

Finally, with *Labster* students are able to complete virtual science labs on their Chromebooks and have their results returned into the Canvas gradebook.

“Students need a multitude of resources available in order to be successful,” comments Principal Merryman. “For most students, nothing substitutes for the teacher-to-student experience in the classroom but *Canvas*, *PlayPosit*, and *Loom* when utilized within the online learning module can effectively mimic an authentic classroom experience. It is obvious that remote instruction is different and has some disadvantages such as the lack of immediacy in being able to respond to a student’s question, but there are also many advantages such as self-pacing which allows students to rewind instruction if they missed a detail and utilize tutorials and video lectures for repetition.”

Lourdes’ parents seem to agree. “We have been impressed with the way Lourdes transitioned to online learning. They all have done an outstanding job during this difficult time,” remarks Jennifer Mullan, parent of a current junior at the school. Freshman parent, Amanda Zuidema agrees commenting, “We truly appreciate the speed in which the team turned around online learning and the constant communication to parents.”

In addition, the students adapted rather quickly. “My kids completed their first day of distance learning with no confusion,” states Jennifer Holup, parent of two freshmen students. “No questions like, ‘What do I do?’ ‘How do I do this’ etc. They knew exactly what to do from all of their teachers and were able to complete all of the day’s assignments with no issues.”

School Culture and Catholic Identity

School Community Celebrates “Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes”

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes is a special day for our Lourdes community, and we were blessed to have our school chaplain, Father Connolly celebrate Mass for our school in February 2020 in honor of this anniversary.

Father began Mass with a blessing of the entire congregation. His message to students and faculty in which he shared the story of St. Bernadette and his own personal stories and pilgrimage to Lourdes was captivating and inspiring. He assured us that we are all invited to Lourdes through Mary our Mother, connecting us to our experience here at our school, reminding us, “You are not here by accident. You have all received a special invitation to be here.”

Mass was ended with a special blessing of the junior class rings and the entire senior class of 2020.

Thank you Father Connolly. Your presence is indeed felt throughout our school each and every day!



Father Connolly blesses the congregation at the start of Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

O star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious in your assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of thy Son.

Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Class of



Class of 2020 Celebrates with Dual Ceremonies

When they left for their senior class trip to Disney World on March 12, 2020, the Class of 2020 had no idea that they would never return to the school building to finish out their senior year. Instead, due to COVID-19, online learning began March 18, AP exams were taken online, senior prom could not happen and the final celebration of a graduation ceremony was unknown. Determined to provide this class with a proper celebration and Lourdean send-off, the OLL administration put together a series of events that culminated with the planning of two ceremonies the weekend of June 26-27. One for all graduates and their families in the North campus parking lot and the second on Saturday morning for graduates only and a livestream for friends and families to view.

Friday night the campus was alive with smiles and excitement from all families as they celebrated from their cars. The roof of the press box served as the stage and the ceremony opened with The National Anthem sung by Amanda Romero. Salutatorian, Adrian D'Souza provided the Invocation and Valedictorian, Theo DeGuzman addressed his fellow graduates. The OLL Administration was in full representation with Mr. Krieger presiding over the program, Mrs. Vilardo announcing each graduate by name and Mrs. Merryman addressing the audience.

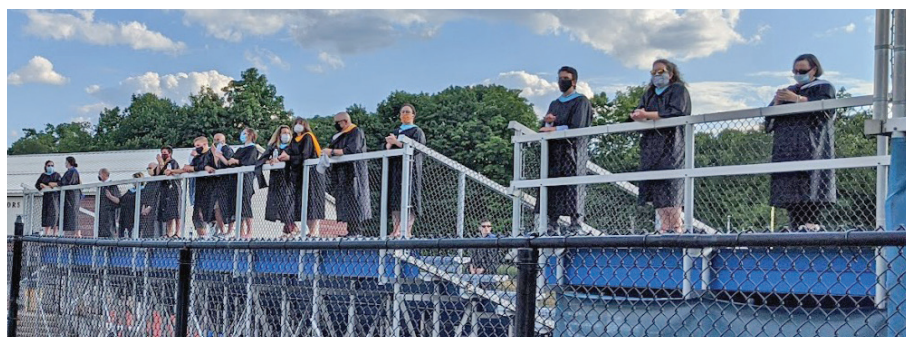
This past school year has brought tremendous success for this class academically, spiritually, artistically, and athletically. This class boasts, 1 National Merit Winner, 10 National Merit Commended students, 3 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars, and 18 NCAA committed athletes.



Along with the many academic, leadership, and service awards, other highlights from the ceremonies included:

- It has become a tradition for Mrs. Merryman, in her message to “her seniors”, to take her inspiration from different songwriters. This year it was Bill Withers *Lean On Me*, which has become a bit of an anthem during this pandemic.
- At Saturday’s ceremony, Bishop Gerardo Colacicco provided his message and blessing to the Class of 2020.
- Mrs. Merryman paid tribute to Mrs. Jane Heinsman who retired that year. Mrs. Heinsman just completed her 19th year of teaching, and the Lourdes community will miss her. We wish her all the very best!
- Friday evening, Father Michael Connolly wrapped up the ceremony with a blessing of the graduates.
- Amanda Romero and Anthony Perpetua were named as recipients of the Lourdes Faculty Award.
- Cassidy Millott led the Prayer with her fellow graduates and sang her special rendition in a tribute to the Blessed Mother.

Congratulations Class of 2020! We are excited to see where your futures will take you!



Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Valedictorian, Theodore DeGuzman and Salutatorian, Adrian D'Souza.

Theo is attending Johns Hopkins University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a potential minor in Electrical Engineering. This school year Theo was the Varsity Tennis team captain, Math Team president, and Wind Ensemble president. Theo feels blessed by all of the wonderful things the Lourdes teachers and staff have done for him.

Although he is disappointed that his last tennis season was cut short, he is thankful for all the opportunities the team has given him in the past.

A word to his classmates: "Hey guys, I know it's a tough time, but we'll get through this together. Thank you so much for everything, and I'll see you all before you know it!"

Adrian is attending Cornell University, planning a major in Applied Economics and Management and a minor in Infectious Diseases. Over the past four years at Lourdes, Adrian has been highly involved in the National Honor Society, Ski Club, tutoring chemistry students, and helping Mrs. Cuccia collect eels for the Department of Environmental Conservation. In his summers, he has dedicated many hours to the Cary Institute Eco Discovery Camp as a counselor and served as a volunteer researcher for the Tick Project, a research study investigating the effects of fungicides on black-legged ticks. Adrian is also an active parishioner at Saint Denis Church, where he works as a sacristan. In his free time, Adrian loves to hike, fish, play video games, hangout with his friends, and flip college textbooks online through his business.

A word to his classmates and teachers: "Thank you all for a memorable four years at Lourdes! I wish you luck in your endeavors and hopefully we can meet again soon!"



Valedictorian
Theodore DeGuzman



Salutatorian
Adrian D'Souza



Seniors Show Appreciation to Faculty and Staff

“When the going gets tough they get going to serve others,” said Mrs. Merryman when Paloma Bellizzi, Jacob Cerdena, Theo DeGuzman, and Max Majak showed up at her front door to offer their thanks and good wishes.

Armed with balloons, thoughtful and individualized cards along with homemade cookies, these four members of the OLL senior class went on “mini road trips” over the past week to the homes of administration, faculty, and staff members to express their appreciation for a school they love. When these seniors left for their Disney trip on March 12, little did they know that their senior year would end there and that they would not return to the building or have the chance to say goodbye!

In gratitude and understanding for a time that is unprecedented, these four decided to take matters into their own hands and express their appreciation for all the work done for them over these past 4 years. “We couldn’t let it end like that, we needed closure,” remarked Paloma.

As if that were not enough, these students set up breakfast goodies outside of school one morning in June as many teachers were there to assist students turning in textbooks and cleaning out lockers.

Thank you, Paloma, Theo, Jacob, and Max. Well done!



Class of 2020 Faculty Award Nominees Announced

Congratulations to our Class of 2020 Faculty Award Nominees!

These students represent a wonderful and outstanding senior class who we are very proud of.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Faculty Award is the highest honor the faculty and administration can bestow on a graduate. The award recognizes the young men and women who, in their estimation best exemplify the qualities and characteristics professed by our school's philosophy which include credentials such as scholarship, leadership, personality, spirituality, judgment, and optimism.

The recipients are elected by ballot among the staff and the winner is known only at the moment that the award is bestowed at Graduation.

We are very proud of all our Lourdeans who are graduating this year, and although only one award is given to a senior boy and senior girl, all are honored and recognized by the nomination.

Congratulations!

Photo Captions:

Row 1: Amanda Romero, Dominic DeRocha

Row 2: Theodore DeGuzman, Kayleigh Goebelbecker

Row 3: Adrian D'Souza, Paloma Bellizzi

Row 4: Cassidy Millott, Anthony Perpetua



Senior Lydia Vigne Earns Top Honor from Dutchess County Bar Association



*The 2019-2020 Mock Trial Team.
Lydia is pictured second row, far right.*

We are proud to announce that Lydia Vigne, Class of 2020, was awarded the Ben Allen Breslow award for Mock Trial from the Dutchess County Bar Association.

Since the usual awards luncheon was not possible this year, there was a virtual ceremony on Thursday, June 11th at 3 pm.

As determined by the judges during the competitions, this honor is awarded each year to the outstanding student attorney. Past recipients from Lourdes include:

2018 – Brandon Hoolihan 2016 – Katha Sikka

2015 – Brigid Cruser 2014 – Joy Johnson

Lydia will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point in September. Congratulations Lydia! We're all proud of you!.

Class of 2020 Conducts Food Drive for Holy Trinity Food Pantry

As a final community service project, the senior class stepped up in a BIG way with their generous donations to the Holy Trinity Food Pantry.

At the first of several graduation events, students dropped their donations during a “drive-through” at Lourdes to pick up their yard signs. The generosity of these students and their families was evident as we were able to fill a busload to deliver to Holy Trinity. In late May, Cassidy Millott, Mairead O'Donnell, and Amanda Romero met Mr. LaRocca at the parish to deliver these much-needed donations. Father Mizzi-Gili, Pastor of Holy Trinity was “exceptionally grateful, especially in these times where the need has been greater.”

Well Done Class of 2020!



Michael Faughnan '20 Earns All-American Status

Congratulations to Michael Faughnan of the Class of 2020 on achieving official All-American status in the sport of swimming.

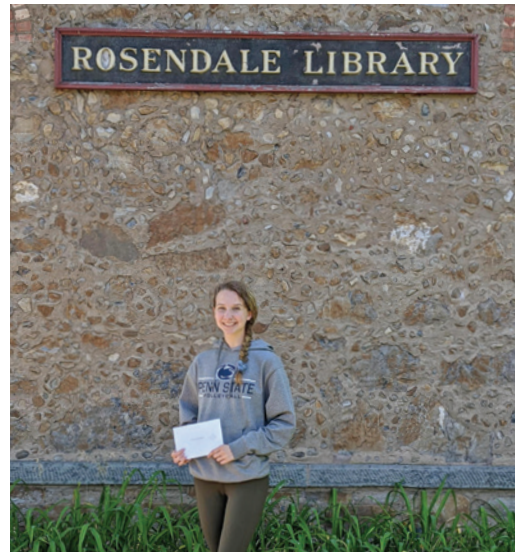
The formal announcement was made by the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA) on Monday, July 6, 2020.

Michael earned this honor in March with his 3rd place finish in the 500 free with the

All-American consideration time of 4:30.32 at the NY state Swim Championships in Nassau County Aquatics Center. He also was a medalist with a 6th place finish in the 200 Free with a 1:40.88 time in trials.

“Michael really stepped it up this season,” comments Coach Tom Bubel. “With an extraordinary work ethic, Michael went from barely qualifying for states his junior year to swimming an All-American winning time of 4:30 in the 500 free which is also the 25th fastest time in the New York State high school championships history. Hard work doesn’t always pay off but it does set you up for success. It obviously paid huge dividends for Michael.”

Congratulations!



Senior Grace Jentsch Awarded Scholarship from Rosendale Library

The Friends of the Rosendale Library selected OLL senior, Grace Jentsch as the recipient of the Matthew C. Bowen Memorial Scholarship. Grace received her award at an individual meeting outside the library on June 16, 2020.

According to Eileen Hall, President of the Friends of the Rosendale Library, “The Friends of the Rosendale Library is an active group of community volunteers who work to support the programs and services of the Rosendale Library. We award three scholarships to graduating high school seniors who reside in the library district each year. The award Grace received was established by Matthew Bowen’s family who donated the funds in honor of their late son who was a dedicated patron of the library.”



Lourdes Senior Completes Girl Scout Gold Award with Gift to School

Congratulations to Lourdes senior, Stephanie Lehner, who completed her Girl Scout Gold Award. She donated a religious mural to our school and hosted virtual art classes for younger Girl Scouts where she taught them to make pop-up cards as a thank you to local medical professionals.

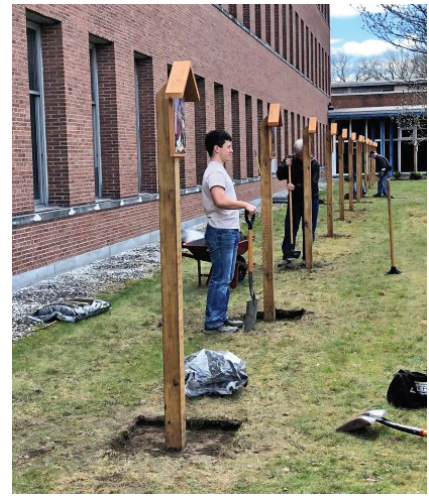
The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouts and requires a minimum of 80 service and leadership hours. According to Stephanie, "The mural is the original work that I designed and painted on five different wood panels and donated to Our Lady of Lourdes. It is now displayed on a wall on the third floor of the school building. This project had to be one that impacted the community for years to come, so I chose to give it to Our Lady of Lourdes so that everyone (administration, faculty, staff, visitors to the school, and future generations of Lourdeans) could experience the joy through the religious representation of the Cross. I named it "The Greatest Love" to depict Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and his undying love for each and every one of us." Lourdes Principal, Catherine Merryman commends Stephanie's work remarking, "Along with being an exceptional student, Stephanie is a talented artist and we are humbled to host her work here at school for years to come. The idea that she chose to name this in honor of Jesus' work is a shining example of all that we aspire to instill here in our students. Stephanie is a remarkable representation of a Lourdean!"

For the leadership aspect of her project, Stephanie conducted virtual art classes for younger Girl Scouts from Holy Trinity Parish. "I was initially planning on hosting these classes in person for the girls. However, because of Covid-19, that was not possible. I held them virtually to teach the girls, and in addition, incorporated community outreach to medical professionals to thank them for their continued hard work during this pandemic," Stephanie commented. She showed the girls step by step how to draw several pictures and taught them how to design and make pop-up cards for medical professionals that work at various hospitals.

Well done Stephanie!



"The Greatest Love"
By: Stephanie Lehner '20
Girl Scout Gold Award



Senior Anthony Perpetua Installs Stations of the Cross

When he was deciding upon his Eagle Scout Project, Anthony Perpetua felt it was best to “give back to the institution and the people that have made me the person I am today.” In April 2020, Anthony, a member of Troop 007 in Newburgh completed his project of installing Stations of the Cross in the school courtyard.

According to Anthony, “This project was primarily carried out to benefit current and future Lourdeans. The fourteen stations were put in with volunteer labor, which was much appreciated during this chaotic time.” Thrilled with this addition to our campus, Mrs. Merryman remarked, “It was providential that Anthony should install the Stations of the Cross coincident with the Lenten season and a national health crisis. Hopefully, this display serves as a rallying point for our faith community and an example for future community service.”

Pleased with the finished product, Anthony stated, “It is my hope this display stands for many years so that it may enhance the religious learning of many others after me. I also hope it inspires others to take the initiative of beautifying the school, as it is our home.”

Great job Anthony and congratulations!

Jake Timm Signs with Division I Football Program



Since second grade, football has been a large part of Jake Timm's life, and on December 18, 2019, he fulfilled a childhood dream by signing a National Letter of Intent to play Division I football for Long Island University (LIU).

Currently a Lourdes senior, Jake has been a three-year varsity player and was selected Team Captain for his senior season. The offensive lineman participated in the Hudson Valley Admirals program throughout his youth before coming to Lourdes. His most memorable experiences through these years include Kyle Strack making the game-winning touchdown in a game against Somers (sophomore year), game win vs. Yorktown giving the team back to back league titles (junior year), and a great win over Nyack (senior year). Jake earned All-League honors in his junior year and in the 2019 season he received All-Section honors and was named the Section One League C Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Expressing gratitude for all the opportunities Warrior Football has afforded him, Jake said, "This is a big day

that fulfills a long-time dream of mine. I am here today because of the efforts of many, and I really want to thank God, the entire OLL coaching staff, faculty and my teammates as I would not be moving onto this next level without their help and support." Jake plans to study Criminal Justice at LIU.

Lourdes Athletic Director, Bill Kyle praised Jake for his strong work ethic, commenting how often he "would turn the field lights on for Jake as he would be out there still working long after others went home. We wish him much success in achieving his college dreams on and off the football field."

Lourdes Varsity Head Coach Brian Walsh also stressed Jake's dedication and hard work stating, "Jake has been a pleasure to coach from the time he arrived in our program. He responds extremely well to coaching, always giving more than asked. I am confident he will continue on this path of success."

Jake's family and friends, His OLL teammates (past and present) along with Lourdes Principal, Catherine Merryman, Athletic Director Bill Kyle, and faculty members were all on hand for the signing to support and congratulate him.



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Our Lady of Lourdes High School Class of 2020 College Acceptances



Brother Leo Shea FMS, former OLL President, Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Brother Leo Shea, former President of Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Brother Leo Shea was instrumental in the move from the North Hamilton Street school location to our present campus on Boardman Road. He served as President of OLL from 1993 to 1995.

According to an obituary from the Marist Brothers Provincial Office, Brother Leo, a member of the Marist Brothers of the Schools for 68 years, died on June 3, 2020, at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx, NY. He was 85 years old.

Br. Leo became a postulant with the Marist Brothers in 1951 and entered the Marist Brothers Novitiate in 1952. He professed first vows in 1953, his perpetual vows in 1958, and the vow of stability in 1969.

Br. Leo Shea was universally loved and cherished by his fellow Marist Brothers, family members, colleagues, and former students. During his life as a Marist Brother, he was elected and served in Provincial leadership of the Marist Brothers' Esopus Province for many years. He also had an extraordinary career as a Marist educator, administrator, counselor, and teacher while serving at Marist High School (Bayonne, NJ), St. Joseph Academy (Brownsville, TX), John A. Coleman High School (Kingston, NY), Our Lady of Lourdes High School (Poughkeepsie, NY), and Bishop Carroll High School (Ebensburg, PA). Br. Leo was a founding member of the USA Marist Mission to Liberia, West Africa, and was the Founder of Guadalupe Regional Middle School, in Brownsville, TX.

Br. Leo was the son of Alfonso and Agnes (McCarthy) Shea. He is survived by many family members, including his many nieces and nephews, as well as his Marist Brothers of the Province of the United States. He was pre-deceased by his older brother, Cornelius, his older sister, Alice, and his younger brother, Joseph.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no funeral services were allowed to happen at the time of his death. A memorial Mass to celebrate his life was held at the Marist Brothers Center in Esopus on Friday, August 7th at 10:00 am, followed by the burial of his ashes in the Marist Brothers cemetery and a luncheon.



We were honored to have Brother Leo in attendance at our Legion of Honor Induction in 2011 when we honored the Marist Brothers. He is pictured here with then Lourdes Principal, Father John Lagiovane, and then Director of the Marist Provincial, Brother Ben Consigli, FMS.



Lourdes Alumnae Professes Solemn Final Vows

On Monday, September 14, 2020 on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Sr. Mary Strength of Martyrs (formally Megan Breslin '11), professed solemn final vows with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, promising herself entirely to the Lord for all the days of her life. In the words of her brother, Matthew Breslin '13, "Deo Gratias"!

Sr. Mary's family that included her mother Maureen, brother Matthew, and several aunts and uncles were all in attendance at St. John Baptist de La Salle Catholic Church in Chillum, Maryland to witness this momentous occasion.

The Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, a religious community of Diocesan Right, was founded in 1988, in San Rafael, Argentina. The Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará and The Institute of the Incarnate Word (IVE), comprised of religious priests and brothers, make up the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word. They have over 1200 sisters in convents throughout the world serving in 35 countries. (ssvmusa.org)

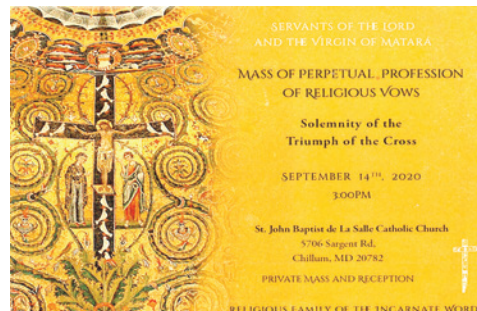
We send our prayers, blessings, and best wishes to Sr. Mary Strength of Martyrs. Your Lourdes family loves you!

Sr. Mary Strength of Martyrs:

Fortitude, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, produces the following affects in a holy soul: 1. It gives to the soul an unwavering strength in the practice of virtue; 2. It completely destroys lukewarmness in the service of God; 3. It makes the soul intrepid and courageous in front of every kind of danger or enemy; 4. It makes the soul to endure the greatest suffering with joy and gladness; 5. It gives the soul "the heroism of little ones," as well the heroism of the greatest... how the gift of fortitude shone forth in the soul of the Virgin!

By means of your religious vows, you should strive to live fortitude in such a way that these effects will be manifested in your soul.

The golden ring that I now put on your hand shows the strength of your commitment with the Divine Spouse and should give you the strength to have fortitude until the end. Therefore I bless this ring so that it may help you to sanctify your whole life. AMEN.





Ariana Peterman '18 Honored at Miles of Hope Annual Brunch

In her senior year here at Lourdes, Ariana Peterman, together with a classmate, Roberto Leito raised over \$1,500 selling 3,000 Krispy Kreme Doughnuts with all proceeds benefiting the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation

Two years later and Ariana has continued with her passion for supporting this organization that is very special to her. At their annual brunch that was held virtually on Sunday, September 13, 2020, Ariana was honored by Miles of Hope for all her continued work on their behalf.

In November 2019, Ariana continued with her Krispy Kreme fundraiser at Lourdes and SUNY New Paltz where she currently attends school. "This fundraiser is important to me because Miles of Hope does so much for those affected with Breast Cancer," Ariana comments. "Everyone involved has been touched in some way, and it is so inspiring to see what they do, simply because they want too. I have been with Miles of Hope since 2010, and every year I want to do something more. When Roberto Leito and I did it at Lourdes for the first time, we had no idea of the success it would bring. This time, it doubled in size raising \$3,000. This fundraiser is important to me because it combines my love for helping people, and of course donuts! All proceeds go directly back into our community. Not only is a box of donuts a sweet incentive, but it can help pay for treatments & providing essential needs, and what is sweeter than that? This could not have been possible without my family & friends, the Leito Family, SUNY New Paltz & Lourdes, and all the supporting businesses, especially Heather Serino from Adams Fairacre Farms! I hope this fundraiser continues to grow over the next couple of years."

In continuing with her desire to support local organizations, Ariana recently joined the Angels of Light Hudson Valley Board and she is very excited to begin working with them. We look forward to hearing more from Ariana on her accomplishments!



Alumni News

Attention OLL Alumni!

On June 21, 2020, Father's Day, Christ the King Parish in Pleasant Hill, California celebrated Fr. Mike Dibble's 60 years of priesthood at their 9 am Mass. He was ordained on May 28, 1960. Please enjoy this excerpt from the program booklet when Father Dibble was honored in 2011:

For nearly three decades of Our Lady of Lourdes High School graduates, the mere mention of Room G03 conjures a very special memory. Not for the room itself, nor its desks, books or chalkboard, but rather for its renown and beloved occupant, Fr. Michael Dibble.

A teacher from 1964 to 1992 he was faculty in the English and Religion departments and moderator of the Drama Club. His popular classes and theatrical productions are often recounted by graduates as pinnacle high school memories. Yet, as those who called him teacher will agree, he was much, much more. Father Dibble was an enthusiastic educator with a passion for his pupils. He was profoundly influential in the emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of many students and colleagues. He



changed more than a few lives through his teaching, his advising and more broadly, his caring.

Mild-mannered with an understated sense of humor, Father Dibble is remembered well and in so many ways. He is among a distinct few that have defined our Lourdean legacy and was inducted into our school's Legion of Honor on February 12, 2011.

Cards and wishes may be sent to:

Father Michael Dibble
Christ the King Parish
195-A Brandon Rd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Julie and Mike Krieger '75 Honored by New Horizons Resources, Inc.



On November 5, 2020, Lourdes Assistant Principal, Mike Krieger and his wife Julie who were honored at

the New Horizons Resources Annual Community Leadership Breakfast.

New Horizons has hosted this event since 1994 honoring individuals in the community "for their spirit, dedication, and leadership in fostering a better life for all residents of the Hudson Valley."

Born and raised in Poughkeepsie, Mike and Julie are both Lourdes graduates and sent all three of their children here. Well known in our local community, they have both dedicated their lives to their community fostering a love for volunteerism. Julie, an Administrative Vice President for M & T Bank has lent her time to the OLL Warrior Club, The Anderson Center for Autism Foundation, The Benedictine Health Foundation, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, Cerebral Palsy of Ulster County, Astor Services, and

the Ulster County Economic Development Association. She is the recipient of the St. Benedict Award from the Benedictine Health Foundation and in 2013 she was inducted into the OLL Legion of Honor. In addition to his responsibilities as Vice Principal for Academics at Lourdes, Mike spent many years with the Holy Trinity CYO Board, OLL Alumni Association, and the Corrections Officers Benevolent Association Board. A true love of Mike's will always be as a coach for various CYO teams and the years he was the OLL volleyball and freshmen boys basketball coach.

Michael Graham a 2009 award recipient, honored their rich history of volunteerism and commented, "Both Mike and Julie have spent their life in the Hudson Valley, contributing to the quality of life here in our area. It has been my pleasure to know both Julie and Mike and am pleased to recognize their contributions and community leadership."

Honored and humbled by this tribute, Julie remarked, "The rewards of giving back are always greater than any volunteer time spent. We have been blessed."

Ava Learn to Play Division I Basketball for Purdue University

It was at the age of five that Ava Learn's love for basketball began. Since then the Our Lady of Lourdes High School senior has become an outstanding player who works hard at her craft. On November 12, 2020 the Hyde Park resident signed her Letter of Intent to play NCAA Division I basketball at Purdue University in Indiana.

Ava's basketball career began in Kindergarten when she participated in St Martin de Porres School's CYO program, where she simply enjoyed playing with her friends. At Lourdes, she has played on the varsity team since her freshman year and has qualified for all-section and all-league for the past three years. In addition to being a Warrior, she has been blessed the past four years, playing for the Philadelphia Belles AAU, the nation's first and top girls' travel team program, and the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League team.

Ava shared some of her favorite moments during her career at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, "My favorite memory would be when I first found out that I was on the varsity team as a freshman, and winning against Arlington at the County Center last year with so many Lourdes students there," she said.

"We have been blessed for four years by Ava's commitment, not only to athletics but academics and the entire Lourdes community," commented Mrs. Merryman. "She is a gift to this world and in her uniqueness, we wish her God's blessings as she goes on to Purdue and continues to bestow her beautiful gifts on everybody she meets."

In addition to basketball, the Lourdean is a member of the National Honor Society and has participated in the school's Spanish Club. At Purdue University, Ava plans to major in Elementary Education. She chose Purdue



because of the esteemed basketball program and the connection she felt to the coaches. "The school itself is amazing, and I was looking for a team where at the end of the day they were my family and would have my back no matter what," she shared.

When asked how COVID-19 has affected her basketball career, Ava answered graciously. "Honestly, COVID was a shock to me and it didn't really hit me until I realized that I couldn't work out with my trainers or travel for my final AAU season, but I figured out a workout schedule from home, which was tricky. I'm so grateful to be back in the gym now," she said.

Ava would like to thank all the coaches that she has ever had, her family for supporting her throughout her career, everyone at Lourdes, and her teammates for all of their love and support.

Ava's family and friends, her OLL teammates along with Lourdes Principal, Catherine Merryman, Assistant Athletic Director Miles Hansen, and faculty members were all on hand for the signing to support and congratulate her.



Lourdes Elaina Wagner to Play Softball for the Villanova Wildcats

Our Lady of Lourdes senior Elaina Wagner is a natural athlete, and on November 16, 2020 the softball star signed her National Letter of Intent to play NCAA Division I softball at Villanova University.

Elaina, a Fishkill resident, began playing softball at the young age of eight and has primarily played third base and shortstop ever since. Excelling since her freshman year, she has been a player on the school's varsity team, receiving all-section and all-league honors every year. In her sophomore year, she was named the MVP of the league. In addition to being a Lourdean, Elaina plays for the Empire State Huskies, a girl's fastpitch softball travel team program in Delaware.

Her favorite memory from Lourdes dates back to her freshman year. "It would have to be my freshman orientation. Little did I know that my life would change from that moment on and since then I have formed amazing friendships that will last a lifetime with whom I made unforgettable memories," she shared.

Lourdes Athletic Director Bill Kyle commented, "I think from my personal point of view, Elaina is the strongest softball player I have ever seen come out of this area. Her talent is amazing and I've seen the hard work ethic. I think this is a culmination of a lot of hard work from Elaina, along with support from her parents and family."

In addition to excelling on the field, Elaina also excels in the classroom. She has been a member of the National Honor Society for the past two years. At Villanova, she plans to major in Education. Elaina chose to be a Wildcat for many reasons. "One being the amazing academics. It is a prestigious Catholic University where I can thrive both academically and athletically. When I went on my visit last year I instantly fell in love with the beautiful campus. The part that really won me over was the sense of family and community that Villanova provided. I felt that instantaneously when I met Coach Bridget, Coach Gabby, Coach Chelsea, and the entire softball team. It felt like home," she expressed.

"Elaina is an extraordinary young woman with so many gifts," expressed Lourdes Principal, Catherine Merryman. "Aside from her athletic talent, her kindness,



her charity, and her love of her faith is something that every day inspires me. She has been a gift to Lourdes and Villanova is lucky to have her."

Elaina answered positively when asked how COVID-19 has affected her high school career as a softball player. "COVID was definitely a stumbling block in the beginning, but like everything else, in life, I had to adjust and push forward. Although my junior year softball season was taken away from me, I had to find some way to get better," she shared. "Technology definitely came in handy. I was able to work out virtually with my travel team almost every day. It helped that it was during the spring because fortunately the weather was really nice so I was able to go to the local fields and work on some fielding and hitting. I honestly believe that COVID has made me a better player because I took advantage of the time it gave me to improve."

Elaina is thankful to many people in her life as she prepares for her next chapter. "I would like to thank my amazing family, friends, past and present coaches, and teammates for their support throughout my entire life. None of this would have been possible without them. I want to specifically thank my parents for providing me with such amazing opportunities and making my dreams come true," she said.

Family and friends, OLL teammates along with Lourdes Principal, Catherine Merryman, Athletic Director Bill Kyle, and coaches were all on hand to support and celebrate Elaina at the signing.



Alumni Association Info

The mission of the Our Lady of Lourdes High School Alumni Association is to foster a lifelong and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and its alumni. Through increased opportunities for meaningful engagement, the Alumni Association perpetuates a sense of pride in and a commitment to the outstanding qualities of the school and the academics it provides.

Our Lady of Lourdes High School

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