

SPRING 2023

# BLUE & GOLD

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL



PRESIDENT'S DINNER  
WELCOMES CARDINAL DOLAN



CATHERINE MERRYMAN  
ATHENA HONOREE



LOURDES CELEBRATES  
THE GIORGIS LEGACY





# President's Message

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

As this publication goes to print, I am sitting in my office and am reminded of what a gift the 40-day journey of Lent is for Christians around the world. Through the Lenten practices of self sacrifice, prayer and contemplation that ends with the celebration of Easter, we are often brought to the important awareness that we can not transform ourselves. God will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves (if we let Him).

The mission of Our Lady of Lourdes High School (OLLHS) serves to be an institution of academic excellence and a community that reminds our young people that they were created to know God, to love God and serve God. The administration, faculty and staff never cease to amaze me, especially with their love for our school and its mission. It is due to their continued commitment to excellence in Catholic Education along with their positivity, patience, professionalism and teamwork that we continue to remain successful. They are the mission makers!

Thank you to all our alumni, benefactors, and friends. Your generosity to our school is evident in so many ways, from our annual appeal, Give Green & Guardian Angel initiatives to your support at various school and alumni events. Your support allows our school community to continue to move forward with a strong faith in Jesus Christ and a vision for our future. We are proud of your many accomplishments and remain in awe of your many successes. Thank you for staying in touch and sharing those with us.

Enjoy the pages of this edition of our Blue & Gold Magazine. We are proud and excited to have this opportunity to share with you all that is happening here at Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

As we enter into Holy Week I pray that we are filled with hope and joy as we remember:

***"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"***

***~ Saint John Paul II***

May God bless you and keep you always. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to provide the best Christ-centered education possible.

With gratitude and love for the mission of OLLHS,

*Catherine B. Merryman*

Catherine B. Merryman  
President

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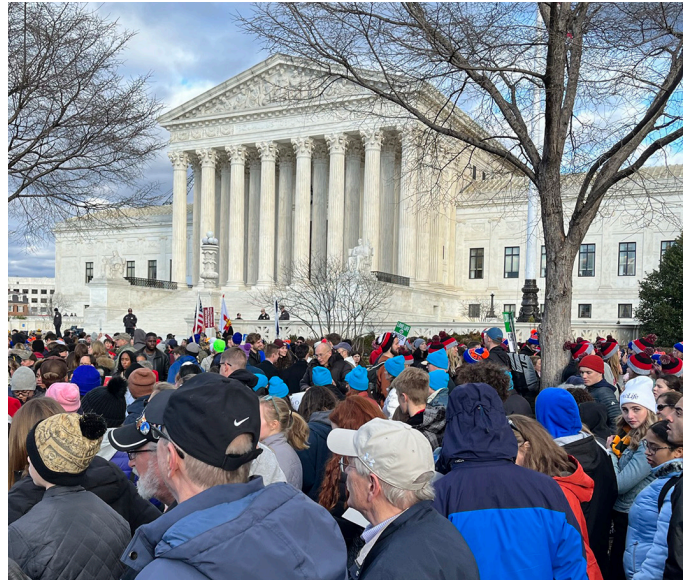
## March for Life

On Friday, January 20th, students and faculty participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. A very beautiful and inspiring day with great speakers including the daughter of St. Gianna Molla, Jonathan Roumie from The Chosen, and famed NFL coach Tony Dungy. There were thousands of people in attendance, young and old from all over the country.

Father Michael Connolly also met up with Brother Patrick Bubl, O.P., a 2016 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes and a member of the Dominican Friars order.

The March for Life is an annual, nationwide event to help inspire a generation to end abortion. Together, we will march until the dignity of every human life is valued and protected. #MarchForLife

*Together, we stand for the unborn.  
Heavenly Father, in Your love for us,  
protect those helpless little ones to whom  
You have given the gift of life.*





## Lourdes Administration Announces New Athletics Leadership



In September 2022, the OLLHS Administration announced that Matthew Petruzzelli and Richard Curran would assume leadership of the Lourdes Athletics Program.

Matthew Petruzzelli moved into the position of Athletic Director of the Lourdes Program servicing the varied and expansive athletic needs for over forty teams and five hundred student athletes. Originally hailing from

New Paltz, New York, Mr. Petruzzelli grew up playing Section IX basketball at New Paltz High School, leading the team to a section title in 2008 and where his name is proudly displayed in the gymnasium for scoring over 1000 points during his high school career. He continued his basketball career at Keene State College in New Hampshire where he earned a Bachelor of Science.

This role will provide strategic leadership and vision to the OLLHS Department of Athletics, including but not limited to developing and implementing policies, procedures, and an organizational structure for the department that ensures its administrative and operational effectiveness, budget management, compliance, and day-to-day operations.

Mr. Petruzzelli's experiences as a coach and educator at OLLHS have prepared him for this next step as Athletic Director. He has served the OLL student body for seven years as a teacher of Physical Education, a Physical Education Department Coordinator, and an assistant to the Athletic Director. He is thrilled to pour his passion and energy into continuing to grow Lourdes athletics and create the best opportunities possible for the Lourdes student-athletes. The students, colleagues, and Lourdes families who know "Coach P" will say that he cares deeply about the student body, both on and off the courts and fields on which they compete. A great communicator, exceptional listener, and steadfastly fair individual, Mr. Petruzzelli possesses all of the qualities of an apt leader. The OLL student-athletes are in great hands.

In November 2022, Mr. Petruzzelli was joined by an Associate Athletic Director, Richard Curran. Mr. Curran joins the Warriors after numerous years of experience in athletics at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels. This position's primary mission is to ensure that our student-athletes, coaching staff, and administrators are provided with first class support and resources necessary to be academically and athletically successful while in total compliance with all NYSPHSAA & Section IX rules and regulations.



Most recently Mr. Curran was an Assistant Football Coach and Assistant Strength Coordinator at SUNY Cortland. During the 2021 season Curran saw success helping the team to an Empire 8 Conference championship and playoff appearance. Prior to Cortland, Mr. Curran also had administrative and athletic

leadership positions at Stonehill College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where he not only coached, but also held the titles of Assistant Equipment Manager, Events Coordinator, and Recruiting Coordinator.

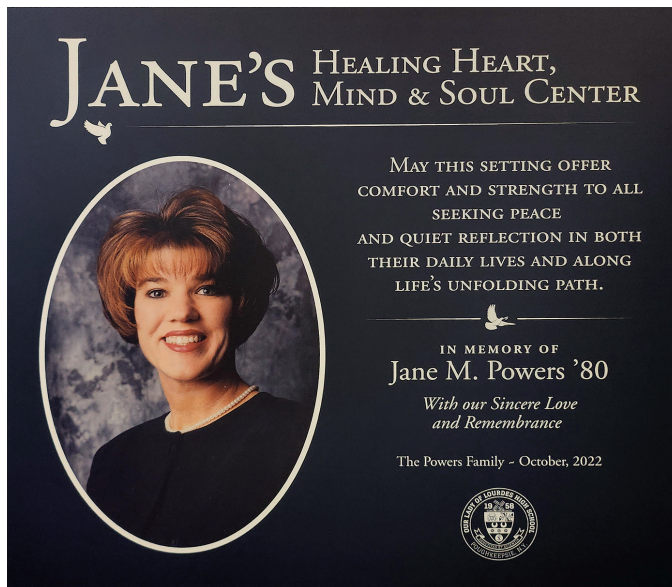
Before moving into the college ranks, Mr. Curran spent time at his alma mater, Red Bank Catholic High School and St. James Elementary School (Red Bank, NJ). During his tenure, Mr. Curran coached both football and boys basketball, while also teaching in both schools. Mr. Curran was a Lacrosse and Football standout at Red Bank Catholic. Mr. Curran also had experience being a part of the Miami Dolphins organization of the National Football League.

A graduate of Saint Anselm College, where he lettered for four years in the Hawks football program and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Global Sports Business from Rutgers University with an emphasis in Sports Leadership and Administration.

Both Mr. Petruzzelli and Mr. Curran will represent OLLHS at Section meetings and are very eager to serve, support and contribute to the good work of Our Lady of Lourdes High School as well as Section IX.



## “Jane’s Healing Heart, Mind & Soul Center” Opens for Students



On Friday, October 7th the Powers Family joined our school community for the official blessing and dedication of a new room for students in memory of their sister, Jane, from the OLL Class of 1980.

Jane’s brothers, Jim ’70 and Tom ’75, along with Jim’s daughter and Tom’s niece, Liz, attended the blessing and dedication. The day began with a school-wide liturgy for the Feast of the Our Lady of the Rosary that included many of the school’s benefactors. Jane’s longtime friends Sara Rappleyea Johnson ’80 and Amy Prisco-Ring ’86 also made the trip to be a part of this moment. After Father Connolly celebrated Mass, invited guests attended this blessing and dedication and then enjoyed each other’s company during a Benefactor’s Reception.

This new center has been created to provide a safe area for those students who are overwhelmed with the fast-paced and pressure-filled experience of high school. *Jane’s Healing Heart, Mind & Soul Center* offers an area of contemplation for students to slow down their minds, bodies, and souls and focus calmly on their breathing and well-being. This space assists in alleviating anxiety, worry, and concern throughout the school day. It also provides a comfortable area that is designed to include all of the tools that have been researched by mental health care professionals to reduce daily stressors.

About a year ago, the Powers Family was looking for a meaningful way to honor their sister Jane, a heart recipient who passed away in August 2021. At the dedication, Jane’s brother, Jim spoke about Jane and the

person she was, stating, “Jane absolutely enjoyed her time at Lourdes and the lifetime friendships she made. After relocating to Arizona, she was diagnosed with congenital heart issues and ultimately was the recipient of a heart transplant.” According to Jim, “Jane, a very active volunteer for the American Heart Association, passed peacefully, still optimistic, strong-spirited, and thinking of others every step of the way! Jane faced stress, anxiety, and moments of depression, but always connected with others for support and continued to believe in a better tomorrow.”

### A Message from Jim Powers on behalf of the entire Powers Family

“It is our hope that this program will be received by students on two levels:

1. For those facing a challenging time: Gratitude for their faith, trust in their individual strength, along with the available spiritual, professional, and overall well-being that will help them get through the bumps along life’s unfolding path.
2. For those enjoying a 5-Star day (and they will): a visit for a moment of reflection, appreciation, and reminder that when they too face a challenge (and they will), the resources are in place to help.

On behalf of Tom and our entire family, especially Jane’s nieces and nephews, with Liz representing the dispersed clan, we very much appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for this program. Our best thoughts to all who find peace and solace here.”

Lourdes Principal, Meghan Vilardo further commented during the dedication, “Thank you for making this space a reality for our students. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your thoughtfulness and dedication to this project and are honored to put your sister Jane’s name on this much-needed resource.”





# Top News Stories

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## Mrs. Merryman Named an ATHENA Award Honoree

Please join us in congratulating Lourdes President, Catherine Merryman who has been named an ATHENA Award honoree by The Chamber Foundation, Inc. which is the leadership & community advancement organization of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

According to The Chamber Foundation, the ATHENA Award is given annually to a member of the community who best embodies the ATHENA Leadership Model. The Model is unique in that it focuses on the personal traits of strong, successful leaders. It captures the spirit and collaborative leadership style often exemplified in women leaders, while also recognizing the importance of traits such as courageous acts and fierce advocacy in the pursuit of excellence.

The ATHENA Award recognizes those, regardless of gender, who strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment by excelling in their chosen profession, devoting time and energy to their community in meaningful ways, and actively guiding or mentoring women to become great leaders.

This year, the honorees were recognized in a ceremony on December 1, 2022.

Congratulations Mrs. Merryman!



*The 2023 ATHENA Honorees: Cara Mia Bacchiochi of Hope on a Mission, Brittany Cataldo of M&T Bank, Patty Drierer of IBM, Jenny Fox of Connexus Credit Union, Amy Greiner of Tompkins Community Bank, Catherine Merryman, of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Christine Pellegrino of Pellegrino Healing Center and Pellegrino Integrative Cancer Center, Patricia Shannon of Community Primary Care, and Rebecca Simpson of The Pines at Poughkeepsie, enter for Nursing and Rehabilitation.*



## Isabella Cho '23 named a Commended Student in the 2022 National Merit® Scholarship Program

Senior Isabella Cho was named a Commended Student in the 2022 National Merit® Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), was presented by Mrs. Vilardo to Isabella in October 2022.

“Those named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation.”

Although they do not continue in the 2022 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Congratulations Isabella!



## Lourdes Alumnus Named as Member of Human Rights Hall of Fame



Lourdes Alumnus, Chuck Short '65 was one of six individuals named to the Montgomery County (Maryland) Human Rights Hall of Fame on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

According to a press release from Montgomery County Executive, Marc Elrich, "The Human Rights

Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made great personal sacrifices in contributing to human and civil rights in Montgomery County, either as trailblazers of the past or as current light bearers in the struggle. The honorees were recognized for their visionary leadership, outstanding achievements and altruism on the road to eliminating discrimination and advancing human rights."

"The newest inductees epitomize why the County's Human Rights Hall of Fame was created," said County Executive Elrich. "Many people contribute in so many ways to make Montgomery County a great place. Daryl Davis, Rev. Dr. Philip Davis Sr., Dr. Jeremiah Floyd, Janice Freeman, Willie Pearl Mackey King and Chuck Short are people who have dedicated their lives to doing just that, while also carving out paths that make our County more equitable and more fair."

The event also included performances from area students in the NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) and the Halley Shoenberg Trio.

An excerpt from the press release includes the following profile of Lourdes alumnus, Chuck Short '65.

Charles L. (Chuck) Short: Few people know the Montgomery County Government, and are more a part of its evolution, than Chuck Short. He has 50 years of experience leading and administering local government,

private nonprofit and faith-based programs. His career has included 13 years of experience as senior advisor to two Montgomery County Executives; 20 years as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy; and 25 years as director of large direct service agencies. Currently, he is the senior advisor to the Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools and serves as a senior fellow to the Montgomery County Council. Each job he has held has put him in a better position to help people in his next position. From 1983 to 2002, he was the director of the County's health and human service agency. He then became the secretary for justice and service for the Archdiocese of



Washington, D.C. As secretary, he oversaw the Archdiocese's social concerns efforts that included nonprofit direct service agencies, parish-based programs, local, state and national legislative and policy advocacy, community organizations

and policy and program development. In 2019, Mr. Short founded Effective Kindness, LLC, which provides pro-bono technical and management advice to individuals and nonprofit organizations. He is the founding chair of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children Youth and Families and was chair of the board of directors of, St Ann's Infant and Maternity Center. He has been presented with an endless list of awards for his service and dedication, among them the Community Advocate of the Year for Passion for Learning, Inc.; the Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award from St Ann's Center for Children and Families; the S. Robert Cohen Award from the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes; the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement; and the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from The Maryland Association of Non-Public Special Education Facilities. Chuck is a graduate of Georgetown University and The Catholic University of America.

More information on the Office of Human Rights is available on its website at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights>





# Lourdean Highlights

## Four Seniors Recognized by College Board National Recognition Program

Congratulations to Adjoua Kirton, Jaiden Rodgers, Kayla Joseph, and Persephonie Rodriquez who were selected as College Board National Recognition Program awardees.

These seniors are four of 62,000 students from across the country to earn academic honors from the College Board's National Recognition Programs! These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them stand out during the admissions process.

These students earned this recognition by excelling on their PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP Exams in their



classrooms. Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latino, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town. Eligible students are invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the beginning of the next school year.

## Lourdes Junior Performs at NYSSMA All-State Festival

Jaden Courtemanche qualified for selection to the NYSSMA Area All-State Festival which took place on November 19, 2022 at Red Hook High School.

The festival, comprised of students in four ensembles; orchestra, band, treble choir, and mixed choir, includes intensive rehearsals followed by a formal concert for friends and family. Jaden's ensemble, mixed choir, was rehearsed and conducted by Dr. Jason Thompson, Ph.D. and accompanied by Aimee Brainard. We are extremely proud of her achievement.

"I had a wonderful experience this weekend at NYSSMA Area All-State," said Jaden. "I was able to learn a lot from Dr. Jason Thompson, our accompanist and my peers. The music that was selected was both challenging and enjoyable, and the diversity of the selection made for a great opportunity for me to grow as a musician."



*Ephesians 5:19*

*"...speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."*



## Benefactor Reception

On Friday, October 7, 2022 we were pleased to host a Benefactor Reception for the school's foremost friends and benefactors. This special reception and celebration began with a school-wide liturgy attended by the entire student body and faculty followed by a lunch reception in the school's Dominican Conference Center.

At this reception, our guests had the opportunity to meet the student(s) whom their gifts continue to benefit each and every day.

"I am profoundly grateful for the exceptional generosity you have bestowed upon our school," commented Lourdes President, Catherine Merryman during the reception. "Indeed, your leadership gifts demonstrate your partnership with us in advancing the school's mission and further securing our place as a preeminent institution of Catholic secondary education in our region. Each and every day I remain exceptionally grateful for your loyalty and support of this wonderful school."





# In the Spotlight



## Cardinal Dolan Joins Celebration at Inaugural President's Dinner

More than 200 guests were in attendance at the Powelton Club in Newburgh on Thursday, May 12, 2022 as Catherine Merryman, President of Our Lady of Lourdes High School hosted her inaugural President's Dinner.

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan was in attendance as a distinguished guest as the school honored and celebrated five outstanding individuals and organizations. In his remarks, Cardinal Dolan celebrated our school along with ALL Catholic schools for the amazing work that continues each and every day. The Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, Michael Deegan was also present for this momentous occasion.

The President's Awards for Outstanding Leadership were awarded to Lourdes Trustees, Genaro Argenio and Thomas F. Kelly, III, Esq. Sister Yliana Hernandez-Fornaguera, PBVM was recognized for her work as Principal of Nora Cronin Presentation Academy with the President's Award for Excellence in Catholic Education. The Lourdean Business Leaders of the Year Award recognizes Lourdes alumni business owners who reflect Lourdean qualities of putting others above self, willing the good of another, and desire to serve their fellow man in need. It is presented to those whose leadership and business accomplishments truly embody Catholic values in their daily practices and was awarded to Lynn Campilii, DPT & Christian Campilii '84, DPT who are co-owners and co-founders of the Center for Physical Therapy. Christa Hines, CPA, the Executive Director of Hudson River Housing, Inc. was present to receive the school's Warriors for Our Community Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations who are

making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents, and dedication. It was presented to Hudson River Housing, Inc. which is committed to bettering the communities they serve.

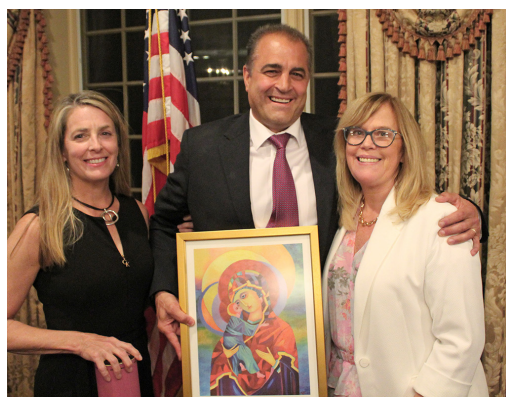
Lourdes Principal, Meghan Vilardo and School Chaplain, Father Michael Connolly served as emcees for the evening entertaining the crowd and providing special recognition to the Class of 2022's Lourdean Award Nominees.

Guests comprised of alumni, past and present clergy, administration, faculty, staff, and parents of the school came together to celebrate these honorees.





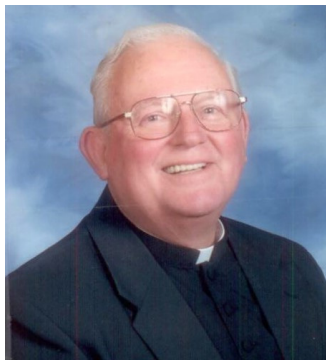
# In the Spotlight





# In the Spotlight

## Longtime Friend and Supporter, Msgr. John J. Brinn Passes Away



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Reverend Monsignor John J. Brinn on Monday, October 31, 2022. Born and raised in the Bronx, Monsignor Brinn was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of New York by Cardinal Spellman on June 2, 1962. Msgr. Brinn

served as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish and St. Martin De Porres Parish in Poughkeepsie, New York.

A longtime friend and benefactor to Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Monsignor's generous contributions were instrumental in the addition of the OLLHS Arts & Athletic Center in 2001 and also in the renovations of the Monsignor Brinn Family Theatre. Monsignor's love of Catholic Education and his spiritual and financial support of the newly purchased OLLHS campus was critical to our success. In 2002, Monsignor Brinn was inducted into the school's prestigious Legion of Honor. Since that time he continued to remain a prayerful supporter and advisor to many of the school's endeavors and events.

"Monsignor Brinn's legacy at Our Lady of Lourdes will be felt for many years to come. His sincere interest in the success of our school and students was clearly evident and we will remain forever grateful for his faithful dedication to our school", stated Catherine Merryman, Lourdes President. "Monsignor's name, his charity and love will forever be remembered and honored in our school community."

The OLL community offers our prayers and deepest condolences to the Brinn family. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

## Turletes Family Honors Brother with Memorial Dedication



Christopher Turletes '72 was many things, a scholar, an athlete, and a veteran, but more importantly to his family, he was a husband, father, and brother.

When Chris passed away in August 2021, his siblings, Nancy '66 and Steve '69 made the decision to honor Chris' memory with a new tree on the OLL campus. On Wednesday, June 8, 2022 that goal was achieved as Father Connolly blessed and dedicated this memorial in the school courtyard. A small group of students along with Lourdes President, Catherine Merryman, Lourdes Principal, Meghan Vilardo, Chris' sister, Nancy '66 and her husband Michael Murphy, Chris' brother, Steve '69, and his wife Chele '70 were in attendance. The family received exceptionally generous donations for this effort from Lourdes alumni in classes 1966 through 1973 and they are grateful to all who participated. This memorial will remain as a lasting tribute to not only Chris but the entire Turletes Family.





## Brian Giorgis Retires from Marist College

Cheers to 21 Years and Over 400 Wins!

On February 25, 2023, Marist College and the Red Fox Club honored Brian Giorgis for his 21 seasons there as a head coach of the Marist Red Foxes Womens' Basketball Team! The multiple ceremonies began immediately following the Marist vs. Niagara Game with presentations and speeches on the court and at a post-game reception in the McCann Center. Marist and Lourdes alumni and faculty showed up in a big way to honor Coach Giorgis!

Revered as the ultimate coach, Brian is renowned for his intuition and tremendous analytical skills. We proudly salute his legacy! His years here at Our Lady of Lourdes High School are permanently etched in Lourdes's history and as he retires from his now famed career as Head Coach for Women's Basketball at Marist College we say, 'WELL DONE!'.

May God Bless you Brian as you begin this new chapter in retirement!

*"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."*  
Colossians 3:23

Our Lady of Lourdes High School  
proudly celebrates the **Giorgis Legacy!**



**LOURDES**  
WARRIORS

### The Years at Lourdes

25 Years

42 Seasons

6 Varsity Sports

20 Section One Championships

17 Regional Championships

17 Final Four NYSPHSAA Championships

14 State Championship Finals

10 State Championships

9 Federation Championships

1998 & 2002 - National Coach of the Year  
awarded by WBCA Region 1

2010 - Inducted into NYS Basketball Hall of Fame

2011 - Inducted into the Inaugural Class of the  
Lourdes Athletic Hall of Fame





## A Message from the Athletic Director, Matt Petruzzelli

It is with pleasure that I share with you a brief update on Warrior Athletics. As we reflect on the 2022-23 school year thus far, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

As most of you know, the Warriors made the jump from Section I to Section IX this past school year, hoping to find a new home where our student-athletes could participate in healthy competition year in and year out. The Warriors have flourished with the move, seeing success since the very first contest. In the fall season alone, numerous student-athletes were recognized for their individual efforts and accomplishments. We had six All-State selections, two Poughkeepsie Journal Players of the Year, and twenty-one Poughkeepsie Journal All-Stars. Two of our coaches were also recognized for their work. Boys Soccer Coach Roy Kievit and Football Coach Sean Keenan, '82, were both awarded with "Coach of the Year" honors in their respective sports. As programs, the Warriors earned multiple titles as well. Our Boys Soccer program led the way as MHAL Champions, Section IX Champions, and Class B state finalists. Following them were the Girls Tennis, Football, and Girls Soccer programs, who also won sectional titles. The Volleyball program put on a good showing as well, making it to the sectional title game.

The bar was set high after a stellar fall season as we prepared for winter sports competition. It started with a bang when junior Simone Pelish eclipsed 1,000 career points in the first game of the year. This milestone was followed by Coach Jim Santoro's 400th career win as head coach of the Warriors Boys Basketball team. The Girls and Boys Basketball programs saw great success this winter as they both made it to the sectional finals. For the boys this came after a great run where they won the MHAL title. The basketball programs have a lot of promise for the future as juniors Simone Pelish and Patrick Faughnan were named MHAL MVPs, and Faughnan got the nod as the Dutchess County Basketball Coaches Association MVP for the 2022-23 season. The Wrestling program had three wrestlers who placed third and one who placed fourth at the sectional meet, a great accomplishment for our young program. Our Indoor Track program also had a strong season with five

first-place finishes at the sectional meet in February and five athletes represented at the Nike National event for the 400m and 1600m Sprint Medley Relay.

The spring should be another exciting season for the Warriors as our teams have been working hard all winter in preparation for their upcoming seasons.

And while there has been so much to celebrate for our current student-athletes, we have also had the special opportunity to celebrate some of our former ones. Like most of the Lourdes community, we have been following the success story of former Warrior Maddy Siegrist '18 as she wraps up a historic career with the Villanova Wildcats. As a Warrior, Maddy was a two-time Poughkeepsie Journal Player of the Year and All-State selection leading the way for the Girls Basketball program. Maddy has done the same on the college stage, setting numerous records at Villanova and leading her team to the Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA March Madness tournament. Maddy's individual accomplishments include all-time leading scorer in Villanova basketball history (Men & Women), Big East single-game scoring record holder, Big East conference game all-time leading scorer, Philadelphia Big 5 all-time women's leading scorer, eclipsing 1,000 rebounds, and many more. We look forward to supporting Maddy as she continues her basketball career at the professional level as a member of the WNBA Dallas Wings!

Another record-breaking former Warrior is Michael Faughnan '19, who has been swimming for Iona University for the last four years. Michael left OLL as an All-American in his senior campaign and still holds multiple records for the Warriors. Michael has continued his success with the Gaels this season, placing first in all three of his events in this year's MAAC Championships. He also qualified for Nationals in two events and set a MAAC record in the 500-yard freestyle. Faughnan was named MAAC Most Outstanding Swimmer and is the first Iona male swimmer to compete for a national title.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted and supported us this year and throughout the years. Our staff and student-athletes hope to keep making you proud!





## Signings



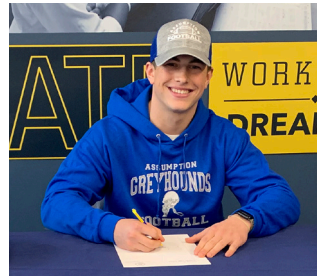
**Nora Zuidema**  
Western Connecticut  
University  
*Lacrosse*



**Vanessa Seymour**  
Hartwick College  
*Volleyball*



**Grace Morra**  
Wagner College  
*D1 Soccer*



**Jack Currie**  
Assumption University  
*Football*



**Matthew Krauza**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic  
Institute  
*Football*



## 400 Wins and Counting!



Coach Santoro celebrated a milestone with his 400th victory when the Lourdes Varsity Boys Basketball team defeated Franklin D. Roosevelt High School on Monday, January 30, 2023.

The Lourdes Boys' Basketball Coach for 34 years, Coach Santoro is so committed to his players and developing their skills, this momentous achievement was barely on his radar.

"It's a nice accomplishment, and I don't want to minimize it," the coach said, "but these wins belong to this team and all the ones that came before them. It's a reflection of the quality kids we have coming here."

Our Lady of Lourdes President Catherine Merryman is thrilled with this prestigious achievement: "Coach Santoro has been such an asset to the Lourdes community, both on and off the court. His dedication and passion for basketball, character building and community

service have shaped many Lourdean Warriors into confident and compassionate individuals. We are so grateful for his many years of being part of the Lourdes basketball program and congratulate him on this truly impressive milestone."

Joining the celebration were past and present players who came from all over to congratulate their coach and mentor. The jubilant group represented many basketball teams from a wide range of years who were thrilled to have been coached by such a dedicated individual. Under Santoro's guidance, the Lourdes boy's basketball program has flourished over the years. Some of his accolades include:

Sectional Titles in 2013 & 2017

State Title appearance in '17

7 League Titles

2 time Dutchess County Coaches Association Coach of the Year

2 time Poughkeepsie Journal Coach of the Year

Over 50 players went on to play basketball in college

Lourdes Athletic Director, Matt Petruzzelli, who has a long history coaching alongside Coach Santoro thanked Coach for his time and dedication over these 34+ years commenting, "Your commitment and accomplishments to the Lourdes community go far beyond winning basketball games. You've had a tremendous impact on the lives of so many of our student-athletes. Your dedication over the years is greatly appreciated. Here's to 500!"







## Pioneer of Lourdes Athletics Passes Away

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Ed Donohue, a former faculty member, coach, and the very first Director of Athletics for Our Lady of Lourdes High School. According to his obituary, he passed away peacefully on January 8, 2023.

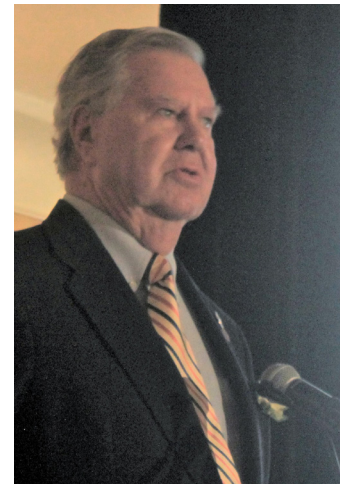
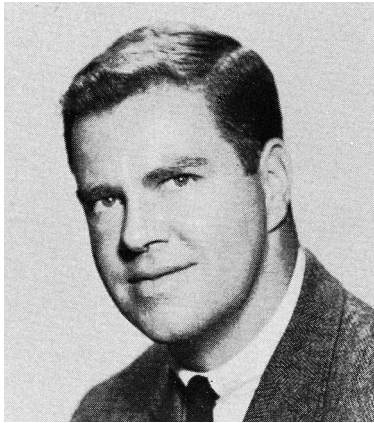
A graduate of the Poughkeepsie High School class of 1947, “Coach D”, as he was known here at Lourdes, excelled in football, baseball and basketball. He went on to attend Niagara University on a football scholarship but only attended one year before being enlisted to serve in the US Air Force. In the Air Force, he continued to play all 3 sports for several years and upon completing his degrees (Bachelor’s & Masters) at Syracuse University and then played semi-pro football for one year.

Coach D joined Our Lady of Lourdes High School in 1959 as a member of the faculty teaching General Science, Biology, Social Studies, and World History. He is most remembered, however, for establishing the first athletics program for our newly opened high school.

In 2011 we were honored to induct Coach D into our Athletic Hall of Fame. Coach D was part of the inaugural class that included athletic directors and coaches who went on to succeed him: Richard Beams, Brian Giorgis, and Cathy Kelly. During his acceptance speech he remarked, “I feel very close to Our Lady of Lourdes High School to this very day. It was a most life-developing and enjoyable experience dealing with the Marist Brothers and Dominican Sisters. Starting the basketball, football and baseball programs with no gymnasium, fields or equipment was not an easy task. Needless to say, we struggled through it.”

Coach D left Lourdes in 1963 and went on to have a full and successful career at Niagara University and King’s College.

We send our prayers and heartfelt condolences to the Donohue family. It is an honor to have his name forever a part of Lourdes history.





## Lourdes Alumna, Maddy Siegrist '18 Drafted by the Dallas Wings



Former Our Lady of Lourdes High School basketball star Maddy Siegrist was picked third by the Dallas Wings during the WMBA draft on Monday, April 10th. As the third pick, Maddy became the highest-drafted Villanova player in women's basketball history and only the second in program history.

Among her many accolades during her high school and college careers, the former Villanova forward led the NCAA in scoring.

Here is just a glimpse of Maddy's honors over the years. The Lourdes community congratulates Maddy on a fantastic high school and collegiate career! We can't wait to see what lies ahead in the WNBA for Super Siegrist!!!



# MADDY SIEGRIST '18

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CAREER!

- OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGHLIGHTS:
  - X2 POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR
  - X3 ALL-SECTION HONOREE
  - X3 ALL-LEAGUE HONOREE
  - X2 ALL-STATE SELECTION
  - AVERAGED 32.7 PPG & 13.1 REBOUNDS SENIOR YEAR
- VILLANOVA HIGHLIGHTS:
  - '22-'23 D1 WBB LEADING SCORER (29.2 PPG)
  - VILLANOVA ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER (MEN/WOMEN PROGRAMS)
  - X2 BIG EAST PLAYER OF THE YEAR
  - '22-'23 BIG EAST SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
  - 2023 KATRINA MCCLAIN AWARD WINNER
  - X2 USBWA ALL-AMERICAN
  - X1 AP ALL-AMERICAN
  - X1 JOHN R. WOODEN ALL-AMERICAN
  - X3 PHILADELPHIA BIG 5 PLAYER OF THE YEAR
  - '19-'20 BIG EAST ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
  - '19-'20 BIG 5 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR





## William O'Neil '68 Takes Oath of Office as Dutchess County Executive

William F.X. O'Neil was sworn in as the 8th County Executive in Dutchess County history on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 to complete the term of former County Executive Marc Molinaro.

William F.X. O'Neil has served in the Executive Office of Dutchess County Government since 2005. He was appointed Chief of Staff and Dutchess County's first Deputy County Executive in 2012.

Previously, County Executive O'Neil enjoyed a distinguished career as an executive in the healthcare software industry, working as Senior Vice President of Sales for Baxter Healthcare, Chief Operating Officer for MPower, and President of a FISERV subsidiary.

A proud alumnu from the OLL class of 1968, the County Executive remarked on his time at Lourdes. "My life has been forever changed for attending Our Lady of Lourdes High School. More than simply the classroom education I received there, I gained deeper lessons that have stayed with me during my career—first as a business executive and now as a government leader. Lourdes stressed the importance of faith, and my faith has guided me in everything I do. Nothing we achieve happens alone; rather, it's only through seeking God's divine inspiration that we reach the fullest potential He grants us. The sense



of family surrounding the Lourdes community is unparalleled, and along with my faith, my family has always been at the center of all I do. Having learned humility, charity and respect at Lourdes, I treat everyone—be it in government or personally—with the same dignity that was shown to me and others at Lourdes. I will always be grateful for the people I met at Lourdes and the insight I gleaned during my time at the school, for they have made me the person I am today."

A Hyde Park native who received his undergraduate degree from Niagara University and his MBA from the University of Utah, County Executive O'Neil achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army before embarking on his successful career.

He currently resides in the Town of Poughkeepsie with his wife Gail.



## Autumn Beeman '22 Awarded Scholarship from The Chamber Foundation, Inc.

Congratulations to Autumn Beeman who was honored at The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Breakfast in June 2022.

Autumn was one of 16 students honored as a scholarship recipient from The Chamber Foundation Inc. She was awarded the Juan Lafuente Leadership Scholarship which was established by the Lafuente family and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce in memory of Juan who lost his life during the attacks on September 11th. Candidates for this scholarship are considered based on the student's demonstration of academic achievement, especially in the areas of math and science; leadership contributions to school and community and character.





# Athletic Hall of Fame

## Tenth Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Inducts 2022 Class

Almost 85 golfers and 150 dinner guests were on hand as we honored our 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees at our tenth annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Golf Classic in June 2022. Our golfers, comprised of our alumni, faculty, parents and friends, enjoyed a wonderful day of golf, friendship and sunshine at McCann Memorial Golf Course and Christos Catering. Golf prizes were awarded to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, along with Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive.

The spirit, pride, and generosity of the Lourdes community were clearly on display that afternoon and into the evening as our guests joined us at Christos Catering during the induction ceremony of the Athletic Hall of Fame. Always a hit, this event is an outstanding reminder of the legacy of our school and the wonderful things that our graduates go on to accomplish. Although we were celebrating their accomplishments as athletes while they were students here, each one has gone on to achieve so much academically and professionally. In their acceptance remarks, each honoree reminisced about wonderful and happy memories from their years at Lourdes, and attributed how much this school has shaped who they are today. Certainly all were “proud to be Lourdeans” that evening.

We were proud to make special mention and honor Mike Malet '66 that evening. Mike is the founder of the Athletic Hall of Fame and sadly passed away in May 2022. His spirit was with us and this event will forever be his legacy!

So much to celebrate!

Finally, special thanks to our sponsors, prize donors, and our hard-working HOF committee members for making this event the outstanding success it is each and every year. We are truly grateful for your support!

Looking forward to 2023!

### Congratulations to this year's honorees:

#### Athletic Teams

1983 Boys Baseball Team

2006 Boys Baseball Team

#### Student-Athletes

Jordan Bledsoe '07

Timothy Bosse '12

Sharon Gaffney '88

Joanna Mulvey '12

Debra Varricchio VanHooft '76

Nicholas vonEgypt '11

Blair Wegescheide '12





# Athletic Hall of Fame





# In Memoriam

## OLL Athletic Hall of Fame Founder, Mike Malet '66 Passes Away

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Mike Malet '66, an educator, coach, proud Lourdes alumnus, and founder of the Our Lady of Lourdes High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 2011, a small committee gathered in the school's alumni office with the objective to recognize and honor former athletic directors, student-athletes, coaches, and volunteers who have made a significant impact on our athletics program. That committee's efforts along with Mike's contacts with former coaches, prior athletic directors, and those who started the athletic programs here got this event on its way. Mike's knowledge of the history of sports here at Lourdes and his amazing memory was key. That first event in 2011 brought tremendous success and was met with unprecedented enthusiasm and excitement from our alumni. This tradition has grown and flourished into what is now our most successful alumni gathering to date.

Mike is a true Lourdean in every sense of the word. He is humble, proud, the ultimate family man, and a die-hard coach and educator. His mission was clear from the beginning. He simply wanted to reignite those memories and passions that Lourdes alumni cherish so



Mike's son, Chris '94 & his wife, Kelly Malet, Mike's sister, Eileen Malet Linn '75, and her husband, Brian, Mike Malet and his wife Cindy enjoy the Athletic Hall of Fame event in 2017.

dearly. Since that time Mike continued to work tirelessly for as long as was possible to maintain the integrity of this program ensuring its continued success and growth. This year we will proudly host our 10th annual event and are forever indebted to Mike for his vision, dedication, and true love for Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

Mike always joked that he felt his presence on the committee could never be considered a "conflict" as he would not be a consideration for the Hall of Fame as an athlete. In 2017, we surprised him with the Warrior Spirit Award which recognizes the true sportsmanship and spirit of Lourdean athletics. Mike wrote the book on those.

Thank you Mike for your commitment and constant support. You are forever a Warrior.

*Please pray for those we have lost from our Lourdes community.*

### Alumni

Karen Cassetta Lackaye '73  
William Coughlin '77  
Ronald Creeden '65  
Kathleen Duggan Wheeler '65  
Peter Christopher Egan '90  
Patricia A. "Patty"  
Hedinger Kirtland '64  
Joseph P. Hines, Jr. '62  
George D. Ingraham '68  
Jude Jarvis (Schaudenecker) '68  
C. Michael Malet '66  
John Joseph Mascolino '72

Susan McKiernan Mathews '63  
D. Peter Nelson '69  
Mark James O'Leary '75  
John E. "Jack" Railing '66  
Linda Santivenere Hilton '62  
Maria Savelli Spaulding '73  
Robert J. Schamberg '62  
Angela Theodoseau '10  
John J. Voelker '71  
Kristopher Westerhuis '86

### Friends

Salvatore Accolla  
Carmine Angelo Belmonte  
Reverend Monsignor  
John J. Brinn  
Anthony V. Campilii  
Jean Marie Carey  
Victoria Curatolo Platania  
Jose De Melo  
Edward Francis Donohue, Jr.  
Eileen M. Furlong  
Ralph Gastin  
Carl M. Hessick  
Georgiana (Joni) Horboychuk  
Jeffrey J. Hoyt

James Jordan  
Edward A. Lecnar  
John E. Mack III  
John F. McElduff  
Joyce Mosher Morgan  
John Joseph Mulcahy  
Douglas Nestler  
Edward G. O'Loughlin  
James Pagliaro  
Pauline Ronzitti  
Joan Saccente  
Frank J. Sarli  
Richard Whearty  
Dolores Ann Wiegand





## **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**

#### **Alumni Association Board**

Robert J. Ranieri '87 – President  
Sarah Cunningham Apmann '88  
Deanna Bellacicco Breault '88  
Ilene M. Cooke '76  
Tony LaRocca '76  
Denise O'Donoghue '83  
Kristi Plass '89  
Donna Morano Walsh '81  
Denise M. O'Shea Watson '75  
Jeannie Sears Wells '88  
Bonnie McHoul Wiegard '85

## **Blue & Gold – Spring 2023 Edition**

### **Editorial Content:**

Rich Curran, Tommy Forr, Karen D'Anselmi, Donohue Family, Christine Kolosky, Christa Maserjian, Sean McMann, Catherine Merryman, Lauren O'Flaherty, William O'Neil - Dutchess County Government Office, Jim Powers, Matt Petruzzelli, Chuck Short, Jeannie Wells

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# Our Lady of Lourdes High School

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## Class of 2023 College Acceptances

