

# EYE *of* THE HURRICANE

THE MARIAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, FALL 2024



## INSIDE

Pages of Success: Celebrating Alumni Authors.....	20
The Journey of Bryan Bulaga '07.....	26
Generations of Traditions.....	32
Sister Faustina Marie – Morgan Litterer '17 .....	34

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**A**s the Superintendent of Marian Central Catholic High School, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I share with you the exciting developments and achievements of our institution. Our commitment to develop a dynamic, supportive, and innovative educational environment has never been stronger.

At Marian Central, we believe that education is more than just a series of classes; it is a transformative experience that shapes the future leaders of tomorrow. Our dedicated faculty and staff are deeply invested in nurturing each student's unique potential, providing a well-rounded education that balances academic rigor with spiritual and personal growth. I highlight some of the remarkable initiatives and programs that are making a profound impact on our students and their families.

Recently, we have remodeled our athletic commons area, renovated the entrance of the school with an upcoming monument of our Holy Mother as its centerpiece. We have also added air conditioning to all our classrooms and have upgraded the security cameras in and around our school. Our commitment to academic excellence is now matched by our dedication to become a more student-centered school. In what I consider our most important improvement comes by our dedicated administration, where we all have worked very hard to foster a culture of inclusivity and empathy as we aim to create the safest and most supportive environment where every faculty/staff and student feels valued.

As we look to the future, our focus remains on continuous improvement and innovation. We are excited about developing new course offerings in our business department and in our STEM classes, which will further enhance our students' learning experiences. Our goal remains to equip our students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to excel in this ever-evolving world.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Marian Central Catholic High School. We are proud of the strides we are making and are excited about the future. Together, we are building a bright future for our students, one filled with opportunities, challenges, and success.

Warm regards,

*Mike Shukis*

**Mike Shukis**



### MISSION STATEMENT

Since the founding of Marian Central Catholic High School, its mission has been and continues to be developing students spiritually, morally, academically, and socially by integrating the teachings of Jesus Christ with a value-centered curriculum.

In a safe family atmosphere, the faculty and administration challenge students not only to reach their highest academic potential, but also to adopt a disciplined work ethic necessary to become contributing self-sufficient citizens who move confidently into the world, and to use their talents and gifts to lead and serve others.



**Kaitlin (Thompson) Bordeaux '09**  
Director of Advancement

**Brad Williams**  
Dean of Students

**Debra Cunico**  
Director of Curriculum and Professional Development

**Cody O'Neill '09**  
Athletic Director

**Reverend Charles Warren**  
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**Mike Shukis**  
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The *Eye of the Hurricane* is produced annually for the alumni, family, and friends of Marian Central Catholic High School. Please report any address changes or corrections to MCCHS Advancement Office at 815.338.4220, x125 or email [kbordeaux@marian.com](mailto:kbordeaux@marian.com)

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# CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: Grace Schneider's Growth Through the LGMC Youth Community Leadership Program

In the summer of 2024, **Grace Schneider**, a junior at Marian Central Catholic High School, embarked on an extraordinary journey that would forever shape her understanding of leadership, community, and personal growth. Grace was one of the sixteen fortunate students selected for the prestigious Youth Community Leadership Program by Leadership Greater McHenry County (LGMC). This program, dedicated to nurturing the next generation of servant-leaders, offers an immersive experience that pushes its participants beyond their comfort zones and into the heart of their communities.

**P**rogram with a Purpose  
The LGMC Youth Community Leadership Program is more than just a leadership course. It's an interactive class designed to cultivate a deep awareness of community needs while fostering servant-leadership qualities in its participants. Through a series of carefully structured events—ranging from leadership development days and government sessions to healthcare forums and nonprofit visits—the program provides an in-depth exploration of the challenges and opportunities within McHenry County.

Grace described the program as one that is deeply committed to “creating leaders” who are not only aware of the needs around them but are also eager to contribute to the betterment of society. The program's mission resonated with her from the moment she learned about it through Mrs. Diamond, the guidance secretary at her school.

### The Journey Begins

The program's rigorous selection process ensures that only the most dedicated and



passionate students are chosen. Grace recalls her interview as a nerve-wracking but valuable experience -- one that tested her commitment to her school, community, and personal leadership goals. After a competitive interview process at her school, Grace was thrilled to be selected to represent her high school, marking the beginning of an unforgettable journey.

### Immersive Learning

Over the course of several months, Grace and her fellow participants met once a month for various activities designed to challenge and inspire them. These sessions were far from typical

classroom experiences. Instead, they involved guest speakers, interactive workshops, and hands-on activities that encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones. “They make you speak a lot,” Grace admits, but it was this very challenge that helped her grow more confident in her voice.

One of the standout moments for Grace was the People in Need Forum, where participants were exposed to the myriads of issues facing their community. Additionally, a nonprofit fair allowed Grace to explore different organizations and choose those that resonated with her and her group. Her sponsor, Ms. Stacy, from “One Million Monarchs” (a nonprofit dedicated to supporting grieving teens), provided invaluable guidance throughout the program.

### Building Connections

Networking was another significant benefit of the program. Grace fondly recalls the many people she met, each offering a unique perspective and insight into leadership and community service. The retreats were particularly memorable, not just for the learning



## PROSPERING PARTNERSHIPS

Kelly Scimeca '96 is the Director of The Office of Special Projects - McHenry County Specialty Courts. The mission of the specialty courts is to make the community safer by providing a collaborative intervention program designed to provide restorative care, treatment, and legal accountability to offenders in McHenry County. Since being the director, she has started the Ride to Recovery Bus. They partner with Independence Health and Therapy and the McHenry County Department of Transportation to run a bus that is free to all of McHenry County.

Last school year, the Marian Central Business classes helped support the specialty courts by donating business suits and toiletries. Kelly is excited to see how the partnership continues in the 2024-25 school year!

If you are interested in the specialty courts, contact Kelly or The Community Foundation for McHenry County Foundation:



experiences but also for the camaraderie they fostered. Grace shares a humorous story about how her group once piled into an elevator and, on the count of three, jumped in unison—a moment that perfectly encapsulated the fun and bonding that the program encouraged.

### Lasting Impact

The lessons Grace learned from the LGMC program extend far beyond the scheduled events. The program's emphasis on stepping out of her comfort zone and engaging with the community has had a profound impact on her daily life. She now approaches challenges with greater confidence and a strong sense of purpose, looking for ways to contribute positively to the world around her.

Reflecting on her overall experience, Grace notes that the program made her more aware of her

surroundings and offered a fresh perspective on the community she's part of. "Everyone left involved in something else that they weren't involved in before," she says, highlighting how the program not only developed her skills but also inspired her peers to act in their own lives.

### A Bright Future Ahead

As Grace looks to the future, she carries with her the invaluable lessons learned from the Leadership Greater McHenry County program. It's clear that this experience has set her on a path toward becoming a leader who is not just aware of the world's needs, but actively working to address them. In her own words, the program was about "creating leaders who are looking to make real change for the betterment of society," and Grace is now more equipped than ever to take on that challenge. 

# Marian Central Makes Strides Forward in World Language Department



**M**arian Central Catholic is excited to announce, through the Illinois State Board of Education, that it has established the State Seal of Biliteracy in recognition of juniors or seniors at Marian who have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in two or more world languages. In addition to the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy, Marian proudly announces the ability for its students to earn the Global Seal of Biliteracy, which enables those who earn the seal the ability to demonstrate, through testing, their language skills to any school or employer across the country. Both opportunities for the students to earn the Seals represent Marian Central Catholic's commitment to providing the resources for its students to succeed in life after high school.

*"I was excited to launch our Biliteracy Seal program at the beginning of this year," said Mrs. Debra Cunico, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development. "After quite a few students have tested and achieved both state and global status already this year, I am even more certain that implementing this program for the students of Marian is extremely beneficial! I am looking forward to seeing this program grow and expand to allow for more heritage and second language learners to reap the benefits of their biliteracy as they continue their education and step into their careers."*

As a college-preparatory school, Marian Central takes pride in developing graduates who are prepared to be well-rounded citizens of the world. The addition of the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy and Global Seal of Biliteracy helps Marian achieve this goal. The award is a statement of accomplishment that shows

a student's hard work and preparation to enter society as a global citizen. Besides the initial benefit of being able to add the Seal to the student's college applications and resumes, the Seal encourages the students to think past their native language, developing empathy and an understanding for others. Lastly, the Seal represents the student taking responsibility and setting themselves up for success in their career in an interconnected world.

With this being the first year both Seals of Biliteracy are being offered, there has been a great response. Seven Marian students have completed their testing, and of those seven, five have already earned their Seals. Marian Central Catholic High School is excited to offer the Seal of Biliteracy, an opportunity for its students to continue to push the limitations and breakdown language barriers. 



**Valedictorian: Samuel Hoover '24**  
Attending University of Illinois

*"Through failures and successes, the deferred and actualized dreams, keep close your friends and family, to form a more perfect union than one alone could ever be."*



**Salutatorian: Michaela Johnson '24**  
Attending University of Michigan

*"If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. We have shared all three during our 720 days together, making not only our days full, but our time unforgettable."*



## ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS 2023-24

- Max Astacio '24
- Cody Brockner '24
- Alexander Burdzy '24
- Amanda Demiglio Clarkson '24
- Samuel Hoover '24
- Michaela Johnson '24
- Fiona Morris '24
- Maja Tryba '24

# Marian Central Catholic High School

PROUDLY HONORS

# THE CLASS OF 2024



## **BY THE NUMBERS**

### 76 Students Earned:

- \$18.2M in College Scholarships
- 96% College Bound
- 3% Workforce
- 1% Military Service
- 8 Illinois State Scholars
- 11% Collegiate Athletes
- 3.82 Class GPA

*Advancing in faith and  
knowledge since 1959*



# McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

## Partnership for College and Career Success (PCCS) Program



Through the partnership, the school has added to the traditional curriculum by allowing students to start working on a professional certificate or associate degree while attending high school. Adding the PCCS program gives students the opportunity to explore different trades and career paths before college. By the commitment of keeping up with trends, Marian Central continues to create an environment where students feel supported, engaged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

### COURSES OFFERED THROUGH THE PROGRAM:

- Automotive Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Fire Science/EMT/Criminal Justice
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Manufacturing
- Nursing Assistant Program

#### Mrs. Kelly Hilton, Guidance Director:

*“Our connection with McHenry County College through the Partnership for College and Career Success allows our juniors and seniors some amazing opportunities to gain experience in specialized career areas of interest prior to going to college. In addition, they earn college credits and boost their academic record, which could potentially open more doors in the admissions process.”*

#### Airalih Morales '25 – Early Childhood Education:

*“Being able to participate in the PCCS program has been the best opportunity with being able to experience college while still attending school.”*

#### Charles Garrity '25 - HVAC Program:

*“I am enjoying the classes so far, especially the hands-on experience that takes place three days a week.”*

#### Erin Johnson '26 - Criminal Justice Program:

*“The instructors are great and very knowledgeable because they actually work directly in the field of criminal justice in addition to teaching the course.”*

*“As a school, it is crucial to stay aligned with evolving societal trends by proactively addressing the changing needs and aspirations of our students. Marian Central has been able to evolve by forming a partnership with MCC.”*



# Moving Forward: Enrollment

**A**s we reflect on this past academic year, we are thrilled to share some remarkable news about our school's enrollment. This year, Marian stands out as the only high school in the Diocese of Rockford to experience an increase in student enrollment. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our admissions team, along with the invaluable support from our parent ambassadors.

Our efforts to create welcoming and engaging opportunities for prospective students have truly made a difference. Through our innovative VIP Shadow Days, students have the chance to experience a day in the life at our school, connecting with current students and teachers while exploring our vibrant community. Additionally, our specially designed visit days for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have opened the doors for younger students to get a taste of the unique educational and spiritual experiences we offer.

We believe that our commitment to providing a welcoming and nurturing environment is key to attracting new families. The enthusiasm and dedication of our faculty and staff have played an integral role in showcasing what makes our school special.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this achievement—your support and passion for our mission have made a lasting impact. As we look forward to welcoming even more students into our community, we invite anyone who has or knows of prospective students to schedule a VIP Shadow Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand what makes our school a unique place to learn and grow. Thank you for your continued support and for being an essential part of our mission. Here's to an exciting future ahead of the next generations of Hurricanes!

Best,

**Liam Kirwan '13**

*Associate Director of Admissions  
& Advancement*



**MARIAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC**

**VIP DAY**

**Experience a day in the life of a  
Hurricane!**

- ✓ Shadow a Marian Student
- ✓ Complimentary lunch
- ✓ Meet teachers and staff
- ✓ Make new friends

**ALL ACCESS**  
**SCAN TO SCHEDULE NOW!**





# ATHLETICS



# HISTORY MADE!

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 7:30pm, the Marian Central Wrestling Team achieved a historic milestone by being crowned the IHSAA 1A Team State Champions for the first time in school history. Competing at the Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington, IL, they defeated Coal City to earn the title.

# IHSAA 1A TEAM



**TEAM AWARDS:**

- Chicagoland Christian Conference Champions
- Regional Champions

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:**

**State Champ – Brayden Teunissen '25 (120 lbs)**

**State Champ – Jimmy Mastny '27 (157 lbs)**

2nd Place – Vance Williams '25 (132 lbs)

3rd Place – Anthony Alanis '24 (113 lbs)

4th Place – Austin Hagevold '26 (106 lbs)

6th Place – Max Astacio '24 (165 lbs)

State Qualifier - Andrew Alvarado '24 (138 lbs)

State Qualifier - Dan French '26 (190 lbs)

**2023-2024 TEAM ROSTER:**

**Varsity**

- Anthony Alanis '24 (120 lbs)
- Andrew Alvarado '25 (130 lbs)
- Nicholas Astacio '27 (165 lbs)
- Max Astacio '24 (165 lbs)
- Connor Cassels '25 (165 lbs)
- Kaleb Eckman '25 (260 lbs)
- Dan French '26 (170 lbs)
- Chandler Gardner '24 (113 lbs)
- Josh Gawronski '26 (148 lbs)

- William Gillaspie '24 (140 lbs)
- Austin Hagevold '26 (106 lbs)
- George Kordopitoulas '27 (250 lbs)
- Eugene (Jin) Loftin '27 (139 lbs)
- Jimmy Mastny '27 (165 lbs)
- Josiah Perez '26 (120 lbs)
- Brayden Teunissen '25 (125 lbs)
- Vance Williams '25 (138 lbs)

**COACHING STAFF (VARSITY)**

- Jordan Blanton, Head Coach
- Ryan Prater, Head Coach
- Jim Herff '87, Assistant Coach
- Steven Sarfo '25, Student Manager
- Gustavo Esquivel '25, Student Manager

**COACHING STAFF (JV)**

- Jerry Miceli, Head Coach
- Randy Kline, Assistant Coach



*“We capped off a storybook season with the first state championship in school history! Our team was led by an incredible group of seniors (Max Astacio, Anthony Alanis, Chandler Gardner, and Bill Gillaspie) that bought into our vision for the program and set the bar incredibly high. It was a total team effort, and the depth and skill of our wrestlers was on full display. To watch our wrestlers maneuver through a national level schedule, off the mat adversity, and still excel in their academics and as members of the Hurricane family was exactly what Marian Central Wrestling is all about! For the rest of history, the 2024 MCC Hurricane wrestling program will be remembered as State Champions!!”*

**Jordan Blanton and Ryan Prater**  
Co-head Coaches

**26-11**  
**TEAM RECORD**

STATE CHAMPIONS

# ATHLETE OF THE YEAR!



## The 2023-2024 McHenry County Male Athlete of the Year: Christian Bentancur

Christian Bentancur '24, a name known throughout the Marian Community, has become synonymous with athletic excellence. As a record-breaking football and basketball star, his journey to the top has been nothing short of remarkable. But beyond the accolades and the stats, Christian is defined by his unwavering faith, the strength of his family, and his commitment to being the best version of himself—both on and off the field.

### Achievements That Speak Volumes

Christian's athletic achievements are nothing short of extraordinary. In football, he graduated from Marian Central holding every single receiving record there is. For the state, he racked up 3,867 IHSA career receiving yards, ranking him second in Illinois. He has a total of 51 IHSA career touchdowns, earning him the ranking of third. Lastly, he cumulated 231 IHSA career receptions, leaving him fifth in the state. On the basketball court, he has surpassed the 2,000-point mark, becoming Marian

Central's all-time leading scorer. He is the only athlete in IHSA history to score over 2,000 points and have over 200 career receptions. "Having records in one sport is incredible, but having records in both sports is truly a blessing from God," he says, reflecting on his dual-sport success.

### Memorable Moments and Milestones

One of the pivotal moments in Christian's high school career came during his freshman year, right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I was on the JV team for a while, until one day I got pulled up to see what I could do. I had to work harder than everyone else to earn a spot, which I eventually did," he recalls. It was a turning point that taught him the value of perseverance. Fast forward to his senior year, and Christian's season became a culmination of all the hard work and dedication he had put in. "Achieving all the records and having the season I did stood out the most to me," he reflects.

“

**Having records in one sport is incredible, but having records in both sports is truly a blessing from God.”**

It was a year that solidified his legacy as one of the best athletes Marian Central has ever seen.

### The Recruitment Journey

Christian's recruitment journey started early, with his first offer coming in his sophomore year. From that point on, the football world took notice of his incredible talent. After being highly sought after by numerous programs, he ultimately chose Clemson, citing their "family environment and elite program" as the deciding factors. For Christian, it wasn't just about choosing a team; it was about finding a place that aligned with his values and long-term goals.

### Balancing Pressure and Pre-Game Rituals

The pressure of being a top athlete can be overwhelming, but Christian has found ways to stay grounded. "I just like to be me and not let anything on social media affect the person that I am," he explains. This mindset has helped him block out the noise and focus on what truly matters. His pre-game ritual? A nap. It's a simple but effective routine that helps him clear his mind and energize for the game ahead.

### The Power of Family

At the core of Christian's journey is the support of his family, which has been an essential part of his rise to stardom. "I want to thank my dad for pushing me even when I felt it was too much, and my mom for the everlasting love," Christian shares. His parents have been his biggest supporters, motivating him through the highs and lows of his athletic career. It's clear that the love and guidance from his family have kept him grounded, even in the face of immense pressure.

### Faith and Values: The Marian Central Influence

Attending Marian Central Catholic High



CLEMSON  
UNIVERSITY

**CHRISTIAN WAS A  
4-STAR RECRUIT,  
RECEIVING 37 DIVISION I  
OFFERS BEFORE COMMITTING  
TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY.**



School has been a defining chapter in Christian's life. The school's Catholic values have influenced him deeply, shaping his approach to both sports and life. "It influenced me to do everything in the name of God, with my faith being the foundation to which I play," he shares. Marian Central also provided an environment that pushed Christian to be

Continued on Next Page

both academically elite and athletically determined. The coaches played a crucial role in his development. “They helped me develop skills in life through the relationships we’ve built, and they kept me grounded,” Christian says of the coaching staff.

**Life Beyond Sports**

When he’s not on the field, Christian enjoys a range of activities that showcase his well-rounded personality. “I spend my free time in college either playing the guitar or golfing with friends,” he says, surprising many who may only see him as a competitor. His love for music also plays a role in his pre-game rituals, as Noah Kahan’s music—specifically the song “The View”—pumps him up before every big game. It’s a unique mix of creativity and athleticism that makes Christian stand out.

**Legacy and Future Aspirations**

When asked about how he wants to be remembered, Christian’s response speaks volumes about his character. “I hope people just remember the person that I am. Having records is great, but being a good person and helping others to be at their best is what I hope people most remember.” It’s this humility that has endeared him to his teammates, coaches, and community.

As for the future, Christian’s aspirations in football are clear. He hopes to win a national championship and eventually be drafted within the first three or four rounds. But for now, he’s focused on “taking baby steps and getting better every day.” With football talent, work ethic, and faith, there’s no doubt that Christian’s future in football is bright.

**A Lifelong Hurricane**

As Christian takes the next steps in his journey, he leaves Marian Central with a deep sense of gratitude. “Marian is

a lifelong family,” he says. “I am forever a Hurricane.” His legacy at the school, both as a record-breaking athlete and a person of strong character, will undoubtedly inspire future generations of students.

In the end, Christian Bentancur’s story is one of faith, family, and hard work. His journey may have started on the fields and courts of Marian Central, but it’s clear that his impact will be felt for years to come—both in the world of sports and beyond. 🏈



“Marian is a lifelong family. I am forever a Hurricane!”

# GIRLS BASKETBALL

## COACH OF THE YEAR

*“We accredit our success to having a team of high character, smart and competitive players. We’ve been able to change the culture and establish a standard of how we play basketball. The Marian edge is playing aggressive defense by always pressuring the basketball to produce stops, leading to transition scoring. More importantly, we play with personality to become the best versions of ourselves while having fun.” - Coach Lee Brown*



# 1,000 POINTS!

The 2023-2024 season was nothing short of spectacular for our Marian Girls Basketball Team! They made history, setting a record for the most wins in a single season, finishing with an impressive 27-5. With this milestone, the team secured back-to-back 20-win seasons, solidifying their legacy as a powerhouse.

**Their hard work and determination paid off as they finished the season on a high note, clinching the coveted Regional Championship title!**

**MADISON KENYON '24** became the 4th player in the program history to surpass 1,000 points!

**COACH LEE BROWN** was named the Northwest Herald's Girls Basketball Coach of the Year for the second year in a row! 

## ATHLETICS

### GIRLS GOLF

Finding success on the greens, the dynamic duo, Nina Notaro '25 and Ella Notaro '24, had an exciting season. At the first ever Chicagoland Christian Conference Tournament, Nina shot an 88, placing 3rd while Ella shot a 78, placing 1st! Both sisters went on to qualify for Class 1A State. In her debut, Ella placed 35th overall.

### BOYS GOLF

Peter Louise '25 advanced to his second straight state match, tying for 20th in Class 1A with the scores of 81 and 76!



### FOOTBALL

Earning all-state honors, both Christian Betancur '24 and Cale McThenia '24 left their mark on Hurricane Football, moving on to play division I.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Joining the history book for the boys' program, Cale McThenia '24 scored 1,000 points and Christian Bentancur '24 became the all-time leading scorer with 2,049 points.

### GIRLS TENNIS

The team finished the 2023-2024 season 17-2 in dual matches. Winning the inaugural Chicagoland Christian Conference Tournament and being Sectional Champs, our girls had a season to remember!

### Individual State Qualifiers:

- Kaitlyn Remke '25
- Madison Kenyon '24

### Doubles State Qualifiers:

- Jenna Remke '26 & Holly Garrelts '24

### TRACK

#### State Qualifiers

- 300 hurdles Kaitlyn Remke '25
- Long jump Amelia Reiche '24
- 4x200 relay Amelia Reiche '24, Kaitlyn Remke '25, Jenna Remke '26, Kalia Parris '27

**Christine Chmiel '26**  
 Chicagoland Christian  
 Conference -  
 Pitcher of the Year



# HURRICANE WARNING

## Reported for Softball at Marian!

BY CHRISTINE CHMIEL '26

**H**urricanes Softball is back! The 2024 season made an impact on Marian Central Catholic's softball program. Before this past season, the softball program did not have a team for three seasons due to the lack of interest and obvious effects from COVID. But with positive reinforcement, the Marian softball community is back playing on the Field of Dreams.

The revamping of the softball program was all made possible from the support of alumni head coach, Paul Sandall '81, Coach Pam, Coach Chuck, and athletic director, Cody O'Neill '09. When asked what it meant to come back and coach at his alma mater, Coach Paul explained, "Coming back to Marian was a great honor. It was filled with a lot of anticipation and excitement. I was excited to start the program back up and try to bring Marian back to a successful program." An uplifting coach makes all the difference for a team's drive, and Coach Paul was that difference. He organized open gyms, off season workouts, and an informational meeting to

get the word out about softball. Having his alumni connection and coaching knowledge quickly brought ease to many. Everyone quickly learned and gravitated towards his positive and determined coaching style. "This season went far better than I could've ever expected; our team environment was so positive and uplifting and I contribute that to all of the girls and Coach Paul!" said Holly Garrelts '24. Many returning and graduated players have expressed great love towards Coach Paul and his dedication towards the program.

The 2024 season was an arguably successful season, with the team finishing 13-13. A .500 record was our initial goal for it being our first team in four years. We were pleased to reach our overall goal and look at it as an achievement to build off! Our fight to win was shown by finishing 2nd in the Chicagoland Christian Conference. We also won the first regional game for Marian Central Softball since 2019! These accomplishments were all made possible by our family-like connection, fight to win, and competitiveness. Marian is a family in and of itself, and as

a softball team on and off the field we have made countless memories. Whether it was team dinner with our coaches after away games, bus ride jam sessions, or just simple laughs with Coach Paul, our bond was truly family-like.

Which brings me to proudly say how thrilled I am to start getting back to work with my teammates! With returning and incoming players, MC softball will be on the charts for the 2nd year in a row! Starting with an informational meeting during the winter and team open gyms to follow, Chicagoland Christian Conference, we're coming for you! 



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



## ABBY NOE '19

Graduated Suma Cum Laude from Texas State University and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on May 19, 2023, Abby serves as a Contracting Officer at Dyess AFB in Abilene, TX.



## ANDREW RIPLINGER '04

Andrew is a Diplomat - Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. State Department. Since joining the U.S. State Department in 2014, he has served abroad in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Canberra, Australia; Islamabad, Pakistan; Taipei, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, China. He is currently the U.S. Consulate General for Hong Kong and Macau.



## JEN LADA '98

Jen Lada is a reporter and host for ESPN. She appears primarily on College GameDay and College Football Live. A Sports Emmy-winning features reporter, Lada also contributes to ESPN's storytelling brand SC Featured, Outside the Lines and E60.



## THOR PAGLIALONG '19

Recent United States Air Force Academy graduate, and now a commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, he is spending this year as a graduate assistant football coach, passing his knowledge to the athletes at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School.



## LORILYNN (VOGT) BOWIE '79

Earning her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership in 2020, she is now a Professor of Education and Special Education Law and Special Education for teachers. She is also the founder and CEO of Education Advocacy, LLC.



## SISTER KAREN MARIE KVIDERA '61

This past year, Sister Karen celebrated her 60th jubilee (anniversary) as a Springfield Dominican Sister. She is currently working in the Scholarship Department and Counseling office at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, Illinois.



## LUCCA KENYON '18

Lucca is currently the events and communications coordinator for the Office of World Mission/Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. She was recently featured in the Catholic Herald sharing her story on how her love for golf and God became one in the same to overcome the challenges of playing a collegiate sport.



## STEPHANIE (PAULEY) MCMILLAN '08

In June, Stephanie celebrated her five-year anniversary flying with Air Evac 156 – Madison Co. and six-year anniversary as a flight nurse. She states, "I truly am living out my dream job."



## ELIZABETH OLIVERA '12

She is an associate in Cozen O'Connor's Immigration Practice and in June she was honored with receiving the Rising Stars Award from the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC). Elizabeth serves as the Secretary of the Executive Board for the National Filipino American Lawyers Association and on the board of directors of the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago. She is also a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and serves on the New Members Division committee for the Chicago Chapter.



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# Coming Back Home!

Marian Central Catholic is more than just an educational institution; it's a home away from home. This article focuses on three alumni who were inspired by their own experiences as students and answered the call to give back to the high school that helped shape them. This is a story about continuing the legacy of mentoring and guiding the next generation, building them into men and women for life. At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, Ms. Arza, Ms. Hess, and Ms. Garrelts all started full-time for Marian Central, each having their own story and reasonings for their return to their alma mater.



**OLIVIA ARZA '20**  
English Teacher

Ms. Arza describes her return to her alma mater as being “a very full circle feeling to be back as a teacher.” Not only teaching some students who are younger siblings of her former classmates, but also reuniting with some of the teachers who taught her during her time at Marian, this opportunity for Ms. Arza came with a sense of pride and familiarity.

In her time at Marian Central, a passion of Ms. Arza's was the yearbook club. Now that she is a teacher, she has taken over the club and is its moderator. She loves that she can bring her experiences to her students in a new perspective as teacher. She said, “The first day of school was truly déjà vu,” as she had her highlighter yellow mentor shirt on and a camera around her neck ready to take photos – exactly how she looked on her first day of senior year. Ms. Arza is looking forward to creating strong relationships with both her students and coworkers and enjoying being back “home” at Marian!



**MONIKA HESS '18**  
Accounting Teacher & Academic Resources

Being a former student, Ms. Hess believes her experiences at Marian have greatly impacted her and her teaching style. She plans on using her experiences for the betterment of her students. She can “see herself in a lot of her students, from bright-eyed, timid freshman and sophomores to diligent, hardworking juniors and seniors.”

When Ms. Hess thinks back to her time at Marian Central, she remembers sitting in the classrooms thinking:

**“How cool would it be to have a classroom of my own someday? One where I could lead fascinating lessons and plan engaging projects and activities?”**

Ms. Hess has had varying experiences teaching in Wisconsin and Illinois, both in public and private schools, but none quite felt like home... that is, until she stepped into her classroom at Marian Central.



**VANNESSA GARRELTS '18**  
Director of Communications

Ms. Garrelts is no stranger to Marian Central. She is the youngest of four siblings in her family to be a Hurricane, all of them following in the footsteps of her late father, Stephen Garrelts '83. When asked why she returned to her alma mater, Ms. Garrelts says, “It was the right place at the right time. I had just moved home (tentatively) after earning my master's degree and was debating whether to stay (home) or let my job search take me elsewhere.” With the familiarity of being back at a place that taught Ms. Garrelts so much, Marian Central provided an opportunity for her that she could not pass up. She is eager to share all the exciting developments happening at the school and to ignite a renewed sense of pride and enthusiasm for what it truly means to be a Hurricane.

Ms. Arza, Ms. Hess, and Ms. Garrelts bring with them not only a love for the school, but also a firsthand understanding of its mission, values, and culture. They remember what it was like to walk the same halls, participate in the same traditions, and grow within a faith-centered environment. 

# PAGES OF SUCCESS:

BY AUDRYE SZAFRANSKI '27



## Marian's Award-Winning Author DONNA KATHRYN KELLY '86

When looking back at her time at Marian, Donna Kathryn Kelly thinks of the camaraderie of her classmates where she's created lifelong friendships. In reflection of her life during high school, she describes "Living in a northern suburban town in the mid-1980s was like living in a John Hughes movie. Life back then was all cornfields, camaros, heavy metal music, bonfires, and football games."

In retrospect of her educational journey at Marian, Donna recalls a couple of important people who left a lasting impact and helped her get to where she is today. She explains, "Yes, one educator stands out as a particular influence on my life and my writing career. In my senior year, my Spanish class instructor, Kathleen Ansley, made a point of recognizing my interest in literature, and lent me several Herman Hesse novels, including *Steppenwolf* and *Siddhartha*." This meant so much to Donna because the teacher reached out to her on a personal level and shared a common interest. This support from Kathleen furthered Donna's initial journey of becoming an author. Another figure at the time that Donna looked up to is the past principal, Thomas Landers. Donna saw him as a role model at that point in her life, and the years after she had graduated.

Donna was a voracious reader, which led to her interest in pursuing a career in writing. In the beginning, poetry was her

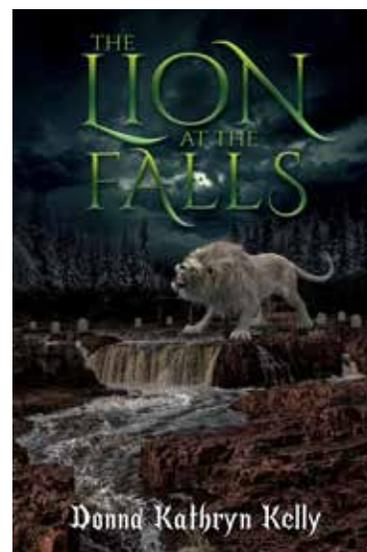
first love, which was greatly influenced by her relationship with her grandmother. Reminiscing about their relationship, Donna says, "My grandmother, Charlotte Costello, was a poet, and we typically would each read one of our poems aloud at holiday gatherings." From there on, Donna's love for writing continued. "I started composing poetry in spiral-bound notebooks when I was around eleven years old," she recalls. She has kept all the poems she wrote in her adolescence, including a love poem she wrote that appeared in the Marian newsletter in 1986. Fast forwarding to college, her writing flourished as she studied creative writing at Florida State University. She took workshop courses during her time there to enhance her techniques in areas more directed towards drama and fiction. This is the time when she took her writing abilities to the next level.

A typical day for Donna is working as an attorney, but she has ultimately reduced her hours to find more time to pursue poetry and fiction writing. She still works part time in the civil division of a state's attorney's office. "Limiting my legal-work hours has given me the opportunity to focus on my creative writing," she says. Her years of working as an assistant public defender have heavily influenced her writing, specifically, the concept of offender rehabilitation, which has been the underlying theme in all three of her books.

Donna has quite a few highlights in her career. As an appellate defender, a case she handled was featured in an HBO documentary, *The Murders at Starved Rock*; she appears exclusively in episode two of the show. In her success as an author her newly released novel, *The Lion at the Falls*, was a 2024 finalist for the Killer Nashville Clayward Award. The story also won third place in the 2024 West Virginia Writers' Competition.

In her free time, Donna is found working on her two new novels, one being a suspense novel that follows a judicial candidate who is running against the daughter of a professional football player, and the other being a political thriller involving a salon owner who is the target of a corrupt federal investigation. The working title for that one is *The Insurrections of Thornwood Lane*.

To many, writing is a craft, a form of art using words to create a story and letting the reader create pictures in their mind. Donna's journey and works exemplify her love and passion for writing. Reflecting upon her own journey, Donna's advice to any young author would be "to put the internet down, read a book, and don't stop – even when you start your writing career. The best writers are the ones who read regularly." 



To read more on Donna's award-winning book, *The Lions at the Falls*, scan the QR code.

# Celebrating Our Alumni Authors



## Reflections on Faith, Legacy, and the Journey to “The Pivotal Pastor”

In 2022, **DAVE KENNEBECK '63** found himself on an unexpected path—a path that culminated in the publication of his first book, *The Pivotal Pastor*. His journey of self-publishing was born out of love, loss, and the desire to honor a man whose spiritual leadership profoundly shaped his community. The book is dedicated to Fr. Ron Lewinski, who passed away in 2017. His ministry, vision, and role as the “pivotal pastor” of his parish inspired Dave to tell his story.

Initially, he wasn't sure he would be the one to write it. The idea began forming in 2017, but it wasn't until Easter of 2018 that Dave seriously started his research. Life intervened, and with the arrival of COVID-19 in 2020, his progress came to a halt. But in 2022, with the 20th anniversary of the dedication of their new church looming, he felt a renewed urgency to finish the project. That year was a whirlwind of writing, editing, and learning new skills like graphic design and page composition. His background in IT, entrepreneurship, and the work ethic instilled in him by his education at Marian Central Catholic High School gave him the tools he needed to self-publish.

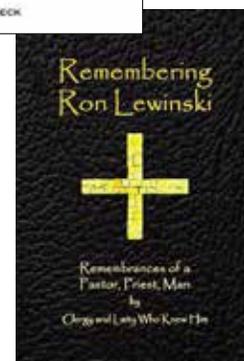
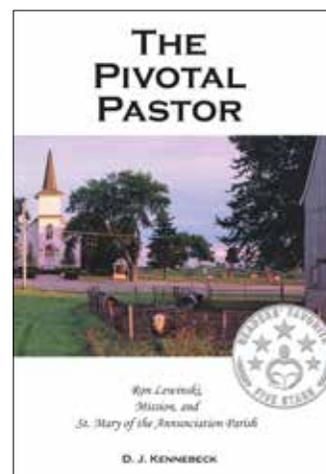
Reflecting on his career, Dave realized it was never publishing that drew him in. His professional life revolved around IT, with long tenures at companies like NCR and AT&T. Along the way, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to diverse ventures—from independent IT consulting to running a children's theme party business called “Let's Pretend” with his wife. But no matter the career, the foundational values he learned through his Catholic education at Marian were always with him, guiding every decision he made.

When thinking about his experience at Marian he states, “It's interesting to think about how Marian shaped me, not just in terms of academics but in my worldview. The faculty at the time set high expectations for us, and the overall experience was far superior to what many of us would have had in public school.” The morals and ethics that Marian instilled in Dave continued to shape his professional and personal life. These values inspired him to take on the challenge of self-publishing *The Pivotal Pastor*. Though writing the book was outside his usual scope of work, he found that all his prior experiences contributed to its completion. Dave explains, “Being the author, editor, photographer, and designer for the project was demanding, but also deeply fulfilling.”

Dave says, “One of the most meaningful aspects of writing *The Pivotal Pastor* was reconnecting with the community that Fr. Ron Lewinski served so faithfully.” During his research, he interviewed many people who had been influenced by his ministry, including Fr. Don Senior, a

well-known biblical scholar who passed away shortly before the book's publication. His memories, along with those of others, helped Dave paint a fuller picture of Fr. Ron's legacy.

“In retrospect, I see how God has blessed my life in countless ways—ways that I often didn't fully recognize until years later. Looking back on the twists and turns that brought me here, I feel immense gratitude for the foundation that was laid at Marian, for the people who shaped me along the way, and for the chance to tell the story of a pastor who, in his own way, shaped so many others.” 



Both *The Pivotal Pastor* and *Remembering Ron Lewinski* can be purchased individually or at a discounted combo. To purchase the book(s), scan the QR code. \*At checkout, use the discount code - mcchs20 - to apply a discount to the purchase as well as identify the order as a donation to Marian. The code will be effective until December 20, 2024.\*

ALL proceeds from *The Pivotal Pastor* and *Remembering Ron Lewinski* will be donated to Marian, further solidifying the lasting impact of a Catholic education on our lives and communities.

# Weddings





**CLASS 2006**

**(A) Erin Sweeney** of Colorado Springs, CO, married Dr. Anthony George on May 25, 2024, in Woodstock, Illinois.

**CLASS OF 2009**

**(B) Ray Scarpelli** of Libertyville, IL, married Gabrielle Sinagra on July 13, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois.

**CLASS OF 2011**

**(C) Abbey Johnson** of South Bend, IN, married Matthew Sheldon on June 15, 2024, in Notre Dame, Indiana.

**CLASS OF 2012**

**(D) Kyle Thompson** of Comstock Park, MI, married Zoe Anderson on July 11, 2023, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**(E) Tricia Otten** of Vernon Hills, IL, married Hector Cartagena on September 22, 2023, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

**(F) Carlo Minniti** of Huntley, IL, married Michelle Johnson on April 22, 2024, in Cancun, Mexico.

**(G) Megan Graf** of Crystal Lake, IL, married Brad Walovitch on October 21, 2023, in Mundelein, Illinois.

**CLASS OF 2013**

**(H) Stephen Garrelts II** of Indianapolis, IN, married Jessica Golden on May 20, 2023, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**CLASS OF 2015**

**(I) Michael Hartlieb** of Chicago IL, married Leah Levy on July 13, 2024, in Madison, Wisconsin.

**CLASS OF 2018**

**(J) Isaac Kaufmann** of Lexington, KY, married **Hannah Carney '18** on December 9, 2023, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

**(K) Katie Littner** of Brookfield, IL, married **Jack Schneider '17** on October 14, 2023, in Algonquin, Illinois. Photo of all MC Alumni who attended their wedding!

**CLASS OF 2020**

**(L) Sara Kranenburg** of Frankfort, IL, married Stefan Grantham on July 26, 2024, in Woodstock, Illinois.

# Births



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I

**CLASS OF 2006**

**(A) Nicole (Braun) Shephard** of Lake in the Hills, IL, and husband, Lowell, welcomed Declan Robert on February 1, 2024. He weighed 7 lb 10 oz and was 20 in. long.

**CLASS OF 2008**

**(B) Eric Gustafson** of Dallas, TX, and wife, Stephanie, welcomed John Wayne on June 8, 2024. He weighed 8 lb 8 oz and was 21 in. long.

**(C) Olivia (Wenstrom) Kirkpatrick** of Chicago, IL and husband, Miles, welcomed Cash Scott on February 18, 2024. He weighed 9 lb and was 21 in.

**(D) Jordan Peart** of Chicago, IL, and wife, Tori, welcomed Jordan "JJ" Emerson Jr. on September 19, 2024. He weighed 8 lb 15 oz. and was 21 in. long.

**CLASS OF 2009**

**(E) Stephanie (Robson) Suchowski** of Harvard, IL, and husband, Philip, welcomed Emmet William on January 17, 2024. He joins big brother Liam and big sister Macie. Emmet weighed 8 lb 5 oz and was 21 in. long.

**(F) Corey Passage** of Crystal Lake, IL, and wife, Lea, welcomed John James on January 31, 2024. He weighed 6 lb 5.9 oz and was 19.5 in. long.

**(G) Stephanie (Pavey) Harvey** of Chandler, AZ, and husband, Josh, welcomed Ella Ann on February 13, 2024. She joins big sister Hadley. Ella weighed 7 lb 4 oz.

**(H) Cody O'Neill** of Woodstock, IL and wife, **Kelsey (Harding) O'Neill '11**, welcomed Everett Drew on June 5, 2024. Everett joins big brother Lincoln and big sister Emersyn. Everett weighed 8 lb 7 oz and was 21.5 in. long.

**(I) Kayla (Welch) Shannon** of Woodstock, IL, and husband, Zach, welcomed Ava Kathryn on July 26, 2024. She joins big brothers Jameson, Jaxson, and Jennings. Ava weighed 6 lb 14 oz and was 20 in. long.

**CLASS OF 2010**

**(J) Greg Whalen** of Beavercreek, OH, and wife, Alexis, welcomed Rocky Oliver on January 21, 2024. He weighed 8 lb 1 oz and was 20 in. long.

**(K) Kaitlyn (Flynn) Bentler** of Hillsboro, IA, and husband, Kalvyn, welcomed MaryKate Ann on April 15, 2024. She joins big sisters Mia and Bailey. MaryKate weighed 7 lb 3 oz and was 18 in. long.

**(L) Ashley (Guzak) Hartnett** of Lakewood, CO, and husband, Jack, welcomed Cole James on September 22, 2024. He weighed 6 lb 4 oz.



J



K



L



M



N



O

**CLASS OF 2011**

**(M) Tim LeTourneau** of Williams Bay, WI, and wife, Jess, welcomed Lillian Grace on May 6, 2024. She joins big brother Declan. Lillian weighed 7 lb 6oz.

**CLASS OF 2012**

**(N) Jared Koch** of Manhattan, KS, and wife, Megan, welcomed Carter Dean on March 19, 2024. He weighed 5 lb 7 oz.

**CLASS OF 2014**

**(O) Noah Radwanski** of Lombard, IL, and wife, Olivia, welcomed Natalia Joy on March 5, 2024. She weighed 7 lb 13 oz and was 21 in. long.



From Marian to the NFL, from the NFL to Retirement:

# The Journey of Bryan Bulaga '07

**W**hen Bryan Bulaga looks back on his journey so far, one of the first things that comes to mind is his time at Marian Central Catholic High School. For Bryan, Marian was more than just a place to get an education; it was where lifelong friendships were formed and where he learned the values that would guide him through the rest of his life.



“It was a great experience,” Bryan recalls. “The community at Marian was small and tight-knit, and that’s what I loved about it. You knew everybody, and that created a strong sense of belonging. It was a place where the structure and faith-based education really left a mark on me. As a father now, it’s an experience that I want my kids to have.”

Bryan’s love for sports began as soon as he could walk. Growing up in Illinois, he played every sport the seasons allowed, but by eighth grade, football had captured his heart. As he entered high school, his talent on the gridiron began to shine. By his sophomore year, he was starting on varsity—a pivotal moment came when he made a game-changing interception during a playoff stretch against Byron. “That play was a wake-up call,” Bryan says. “It made me realize my potential in football.”

Playing alongside his older brother and his brother’s friends, Bryan found himself not just excelling on the field but also growing socially, building relationships with older teammates who would guide him both on and off the field. “Football wasn’t just about winning games. It was about forming bonds with my teammates, and those bonds are something I still cherish today.”

Family played an enormous role in Bryan’s development. His parents, Joe and Kathi, were his biggest supporters. He attended Marian with his older brother, Bill ’05, and younger sister, Kim ’09. “Having my siblings there was vital to the person I became,” Bryan reflects. “My family was my biggest support system.” The coaches at Marian, including Coach Brucker, Coach Dirk ’93, and Grandpa Stanger, were like extended family. “They kept me on the straight and narrow,” Bryan remembers. “They didn’t just care about my performance on the field—they cared about the kind of person I was becoming.”

NUMBER

75

**“THE COMMUNITY AT MARIAN WAS SMALL AND TIGHT-KNIT, AND THAT’S WHAT I LOVED ABOUT IT. YOU KNEW EVERYBODY, AND THAT CREATED A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING. IT WAS A PLACE WHERE THE STRUCTURE AND FAITH-BASED EDUCATION REALLY LEFT A MARK ON ME.”**



**A**s Bryan continued to excel in high school, his dreams of playing professional football began to seem more possible. By his junior year, it became clear that college football was in his future, and by his sophomore year in college, he started to believe he could make it to the NFL—though the idea of being a first-round draft pick was not in the script!

That dream became a reality in 2010 when Bryan was drafted 23rd in the first round of the NFL Draft by the Green Bay Packers. He went on to have an illustrious career, spending nine seasons with the Packers and two with the Los Angeles Chargers. In his rookie season, Bryan won Super Bowl XLV with the Packers—a moment he describes as one of the highlights of his career.

Bryan feels nothing but gratitude when looking back on his NFL journey. “I loved every minute of my playing career,” he says. Among the immense success he found, and many wins he and his teammates achieved, “the trials, the injuries, the not so good days—that’s all a part of sports and my story. It’s about the bounce back, the

resilience. I’m extremely grateful for the relationships I built and the opportunities I had.”

In 2019, Bryan had the opportunity to return to the Packers for one more season under a brand-new coaching staff. Bryan is grateful he was welcomed back with open arms from Head Coach Matt LaFleur and his coaching staff. Bryan describes 2019 as “one of the most fun seasons I played in the NFL.” Officially, in 2021, Bryan retired as a Packer, a decision that meant the world to him. “The Packers felt like home,” Bryan says. “I grew up there. I was 21 when I first joined the team, and over the years, I got married, had two children, and experienced life as a Packer. It was an honor to wear that ‘G.’”

### **Today, Bryan is enjoying life after football with his wife, Abbie, and their two children, Declan and Cameron.**

A typical day involves getting the kids ready for school, fitting in a workout, tending to their property, and taking the



kids to their sports practices. “I love being involved in my kids’ sports,” Bryan shares. “There’s nothing more fulfilling than watching them play, especially since my wife, Abbie, and I are like their full-time Uber drivers!”

In his free time, Bryan enjoys golfing and maintaining his property—particularly cutting the grass, which he finds oddly therapeutic. “I’m a big fan of keeping the landscape in check,” he laughs. “Tinkering around the property is one of my hobbies.” Bryan’s transition to life after football also led him to a new career in radio. After



“SLOW DOWN AND ENJOY THE MOMENTS. HIGH SCHOOL WAS ONE OF THE MOST FUN TIMES IN MY LIFE, AND THE FRIENDSHIPS AND BONDS YOU MADE ARE UNBELIEVABLE.”

GB

STORY

GREEN BAY PACKERS  
13-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS | EST. 1919

retiring, he joined ESPN Milwaukee as a radio broadcaster. “It’s been a great way to stay connected to the game,” Bryan says. “I try to use my experience to educate and offer insights that the average fan might not see.”

Reflecting on his journey, Bryan offers advice to the next generation of athletes, “Slow down and enjoy the moments. High school was one of the most fun times in my life, and the friendships and bonds you made are unbelievable. There’s no purer form of sport than in high school—

you’re playing for the love of the game, for your teammates, and for your school. Don’t add pressure to yourself. Just enjoy it and make the most of it.”

Bryan Bulaga’s journey from Marian to the NFL is more than a story about football; it’s a story about the power of community, family, and perseverance. It’s about the lessons learned on and off the field and the importance of staying grounded, no matter where life takes you. Simply be grateful to experience life and don’t miss the important moments. 



# ALUMNI BANQUET

Marian Central Catholic High School proudly recognized a special group of alumni at their Alumni Awards Banquet on April 13, 2024. The event, hosted at the school, was comprised of classmates and friends celebrating each other’s achievements, and reminiscing on the time they spent at Marian.



The Distinguished Alumni Award was awarded to **Mark Middendorf ’83**. The Distinguished Alumni Award is bestowed on alumni who have made a distinct contribution to the community and serve others through Christian values. After serving in various marketing and management positions during his successful corporate career, Mark experienced a significant reversion, and he answered a call to the New Evangelization, co-founding the not-for-profit organization, Lighthouse Catholic Media. Currently, Mark is the President of Ave Maria University. As AMU’s president, Mark has taken pride in continuing to lead and trust in the mission of Catholic universities being essential to the growth of the Church.

The Alumni Excellence Award winners were **Mary Wohnrade ’79** and **Michael Passe ’96**. The Alumni Excellence Award is bestowed on alumni who demonstrate outstanding achievement academically, professionally, or through service to the community or church.

- Mary founded Wohnrade Civil Engineers Inc. and is the owner and principal engineer of the firm. Throughout her career, Mary has been recognized for her impact in the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Industry.
- With multiple deployments under his belt, Major Michael served our country with pride and bravery. Michael states, “The pride of being a Marine was worth the pain and time. I would do it all over again if I had to.”

In addition to the alumni awards, Marian Central Catholic was honored to induct four new members to the Athletic Hall of Fame. Both known for their amazing skills on the green, **Scott Smith ’94** and **Luke Waggoner ’12** were inducted for the success they found on the golf course at Marian and in college.

Through her 10-year career at Marian Central, **Coach Deb Rakers** accumulated the most wins in Marian volleyball history. She brought immense success to the volleyball program, placing them on the map and creating a culture of leadership and teamwork.

Lastly, **Chris Streveler ’13** left his mark on Marian Central’s football program as the quarterback in the 2011 and 2012 seasons. He led his team to consecutive conference championships and undefeated regular seasons and now plays professionally.

Director of Advancement, Kaitlin Bordeaux ’09 shares, “Congratulations to all our award winners and inductees. Marian is proud to recognize the hard work and dedication of the recipients in each of their respective fields and careers. On behalf of Marian Central Catholic, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our Alumni Banquet. Your presence added a remarkable warmth and vibrancy to the evening, making it a truly memorable occasion for everyone involved. Seeing so many of you come together to support and cheer on your fellow alumni and friends was truly inspiring. It served as a reminder of the incredible impact our graduates continue to have in the world and the shared values that guide us as a community.” 

# THE MARIAN MENTOR PROGRAM

By Grace Schneider '26



When Marian sees a need, we respond accordingly. The Mentor Program was founded in 2006 as a part of our school's improvement program. Shepherded by former Marian administrators Mrs. Loy and Mrs. MacCready, the program was designed to address the challenging transition freshmen face when entering high school.



**T**raditionally, the shift from being top dog in middle school to the underdog of high school was marked by hazing and lack of support for freshmen. It was right of passage for upperclassmen to give freshmen a hard time and created a division in the school. With that, Marian set out to transform this experience by fostering a welcoming environment where every new student could thrive.

Initially, the program was a collaboration between Mrs. Loy and Mrs. MacCready until 2012, when changes in staffing brought forth new leaders, such as Mrs. Littner who runs the program today. The Mentor Program evolved to include a variety of support structures aimed at easing freshmen into high school life. Today, every freshman and transfer student are paired with a mentor, a dedicated upperclassman who provides guidance and encouragement.

The program's impact is evident in numerous ways. Freshman orientation, picnics, advisory visits, handwritten letters, and private checkups are just a few of the events organized to make the students feel at home. Additionally, mentors are involved in sixth and eighth-grade visits, sending welcome postcards, and even participating in social gathering events for middle schoolers to prepare them for the transition.

One touching example of the program's success is the story of an administrator's daughter. During a football game, she was unaware of the theme and felt out of place and embarrassed, until a mentor stepped in and invited her to sit and cheer with the seniors. This simple gesture of kindness highlights how mentors foster genuine connections and help all students feel included.

This program reflects Marian's Catholic mission by embodying a spirit of service and community. It has not only supported freshmen, but also inspired many former mentors to return as staff or even go into religious life, continuing the cycle of giving back. The relationships the mentor program helps create can last a lifetime. My brother, Jack Schneider '17, says he is "lucky to have found the one in Marian's Mentor Program," as he met his wife of one year, Katie (Littner) Schneider '18, in the program.

Despite the challenges mentors face, balancing their responsibilities while supporting others, the program cultivates essential leadership skills and a sense of familial support. At Marian, we live by our commitment to act as a family, and the Mentor Program is a testament to our dedication to ensuring that every student feels valued and supported from day one. 

# GENERATIONS OF TRADITION: Families of Marian

BY KATHLEEN GREEN '27

Marian has been more than just a school for countless families over the years - it's been a home, a legacy, and a place where generations have found belonging. For many, the decision to join Marian was instant in terms of choosing the perfect place to grow. The exceptional education, paired with the vibrant extracurriculars, has shaped not only students but entire families, offering a sense of community, pride, and a second family.

There have been many great families to walk the halls of Marian Central and I would like to spotlight the families who have been here since the beginning. The families who were the first to enroll in Marian back in 1959, and since then have had their children and their grandchildren continue the generational tradition of being a Hurricane. This is not a story about a beginning or an end... it is a story about legacy.

## THE GUMMERSON FAMILY

An amazing family legacy at Marian Central is the Gummerson family. The Gummerson family has been at Marian for 3 generations.

**FIRST GENERATION** - Their legacy began with 5 siblings. The oldest being Michelle Gummerson '66, followed by the next two siblings, Tim Gummerson '68 and Patrick Gummerson '70, completing this generation of the Gummerson family with the youngest siblings, Karen Gummerson '71 and Mark Gummerson '73.

**SECOND GENERATION** - Fast forwarding to 1986, Mark married his wife Jan (Brown) Gummerson '69. Mark became the stepfather to Jan's two daughters, Nicole '93 and Lisa '98, who both attended Marian, merging the two-family legacies into one.

**THIRD GENERATION** - Much like her mother, Lisa later had a daughter, Dakota, who followed in her footsteps, and is now attending Marian as the class of 2027.

Marian has helped their family grow not only in their faith, but also in their day-to-day life. Mark talked about how Marian helped build lifelong friendships with people from his class, and how they keep in touch today; they even had a 50-year reunion in September of 2023. Lisa talked about how Marian has such a tight-knit community, that she is still able to keep in touch with some of her classmates, because they not only are able to communicate through social media, they also have shared the same idea of spreading the

love of Marian by sending their kids to Marian just as they once attended. Mark says, "It may sound corny, but it comes down to forming values at that stage in your life," when talking about how Marian helped him grow after high school. Overall, Marian is happy to have hosted this amazing family for three generations now and can't wait to see who might be the next to attend from their family.



Picture is Dakota with her Grandparents, Mark and Jan.

## THE GREEN & HARDING FAMILIES

My own family, the Greens & Hardings, has been at Marian for years. Starting with my great-grandfather, George Harding, who lived on the land before Marian was built. Back in the 50s, George graciously donated most of his property with the intention of it being used for something great, and in the following years Marian Central Catholic came to life. Being a man of faith, George decided to transfer his son Tom to Marian for his last two years of high school. George's donation allowed not only his own child, but many other children to get the Catholic education needed to live a faith-filled life. George is remembered and honored for his generosity with the football field being named in his honor to this day.

**FIRST GENERATION** - The first to attend Marian Central was my great uncle, **Tom Harding**, transferring in as a junior. He was a part of the second graduating class of Marian in 1961.

**SECOND GENERATION** - Following in his footsteps, Tom sent two of his three children, **Tracy (Harding) Bungay '80** and **+Steve Harding '82**, to Marian Central. Tom's sister, Mary (Harding) Green did not attend Marian, but believed in the school's mission, ultimately deciding to send all five of her children, including my father, to Marian. My father, **Clancy Green '83**, was the only child to continue the tradition of sending his children to Marian Central.

**THIRD GENERATION** - All four of my half siblings attended Marian starting with the oldest, **Patrick Green '07**, who also married his high school sweetheart, **Teresa (Huemann) Green '07**. After Patrick came **+Kevin Green '09**, followed by **Meghan Green '14**, and lastly **Kersten Green '16**. Finally, I am now attending Marian in the class of 2027, the third generation of Hurricanes. So far, my time at Marian has been one of the best experiences I could ask for. I am part of the Writers Society, French Club and many more clubs, as well as being a manager for the football team, with plans to join many more activities in school.

You never know who the people you meet in high school will be later in your life. Throughout the years, my family members have left their mark by being a part of a variety of sports teams like football, soccer, and wrestling, as well as being involved in many extracurricular clubs. Marian has left many happy memories for all generations of my family, from sports accomplishments to school dances. I could not ask for a better place to learn for the most important four years of my life before I go into the "real world". My family has been honored to be able to call Marian our family's home away from home. 



“

Marian has left many happy memories for all generations of my family, from sports accomplishments to school dances. I could not ask for a better place to learn for the most important 4 years of my life before I go into the 'real world'. My family has been honored to be able to call Marian our family's home away from home.”

# Faith, Trust and Joy

## Highlight Sister Faustina Marie's Profession of First Vows

BY: LYNNE CONNER

originally printed in *The Observer*



Sister Laetitia (far right), the Novice Mistress, prays with Sister Faustina Marie (front) during the Rite of First Profession

With radical trust, joyful radiance and resolute faith, Sister Faustina Marie of Our Eternal Father took her first vows as a Poor Clares nun. The Eucharistic Liturgy for the Rite of First Profession was held on Saturday, July 13, at the Poor Clares of Rockford Corpus Christi Monastery Chapel. Sister Faustina Marie, formerly **Morgan Litterer '17**, had attended St. Mary Church in Huntley.

Father Nicholas Federspiel III, chaplain for the Poor Clares, was the principal celebrant of Mass, joined by several diocesan priests and deacons. In his homily, Father Federspiel contended, "The vows you make today draw upon your power to be a graceful nun. Grace is a favor or kindness expressed to the

undeserving and is precisely what was given to us by Jesus's death on the cross. Grace and truth come through Jesus. Peace will be experienced in your home with your fellow sisters as grace is given."

In making her first vows as a Poor Clare nun, Sister Faustina Marie is roughly one-third of the way through a nine to 12-year formation process that starts with candidacy. In this stage, a young woman is introduced to the Poor Clares way of life and is challenged to distance

herself from the familiar. During the time of postulancy, Poor Clares practices are further explained, and the young woman is guided deeper into her faith journey.

As a novitiate, she becomes a member of the Poor Clares monastic family, receives her habit, religious name and intensifies her fidelity to Christ. She further detaches herself from worldly ways by contemplating vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and enclosure.

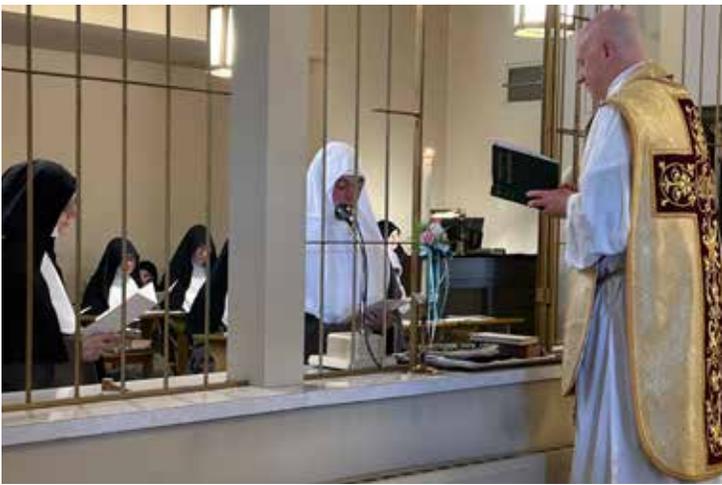
Sister Faustina Marie, in professing her first vows, is considered a juniorate nun, which is the final stage of initial formation. During the Rite of First Profession, her white habit was replaced with a black one, and she received a knotted cord to wear around her waist, symbolizing the Poor Clares vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and enclosure. A crown of greens

commemorating St. Clare was placed on Sister Faustina Marie's head during the ceremony, and she was presented with two prayer books, the Rule of St. Clare and The Liturgy of the Hours. She will renew her first vows annually for at least five years before making solemn vows.

Years of prayer, discernment and a willingness to trust the Holy Spirit's call to religious life are the hallmarks of Sister Faustina Marie's faith journey. "My vocation story began at Marian Central Catholic High School," she said. "I was baptized but knew nothing about God before taking freshman theology class at Marian. This was the first time I truly encountered God and started to consider the deep questions of 'Who am I?' and 'What is the point of life?'"

"Once I realized that Jesus loves me, He is a real person in my life, and it's not just about doctrine, I began to wonder about the plan for my life," Sister Faustina Marie recounted. She became acquainted with the Poor Clare nuns in Rockford after doing a school assignment on their unique way of life. "Initially, I thought these nuns were crazy to live a life of poverty, chastity, obedience and enclosure, but gradually, God kept drawing me back to the Poor Clares through the St. Therese Vocations Camp and visits throughout high school."

During her time at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Sister Faustina Marie felt God was calling her to the cloistered life, "It was, and it still is, mysterious to me why God would call me to this life, but there is a profound paradox of living the vows of a Poor Clare nun. We give up things of the



Father Nicholas Federspiel, Poor Clares chaplain, blesses the items that Sister Faustina Marie will receive as she makes her Rite of First Profession, including a knotted cord to wear, a crown of greens, the Rule of St. Clare and The Liturgy of the hours



Alumni – (Left to right) Ryan Jones '20, Tessa Jones '23, and Abigail Jones '17 supporting Sister Faustina Marie after the ceremony.

world to be all-encompassing in our vocation and embrace the whole world in prayer and sacrifice.”

As a contemporary young woman, Sister Faustina Marie has used computers, cell phones, and social media during high school and college, which she will not access as a Poor Clares nun. “Not having communication with family and friends is very hard because I grew up in a loving, normal family environment with lots of activities and social gatherings,” she said. “I know being a cloistered sister is my vocation, but the difficulty of missing my loved ones is always there. In deepening my faith, I draw upon God’s strength and know I am always in union with them.”

Sister Faustina Marie’s mother, Laura Litterer, her cousin, and her grandmother attended the ceremony. “It was a beautiful and sacred moment for my daughter. I struggle with the rule of enclosure that she must take, but I know she has the love and support of her fellow sisters and Mother Dominica. Sister Faustina Marie has a level of faith that we will never understand, which must be what sustains her in the religious life.”

Sister Faustina Marie received the title ‘Our Eternal Father’ as a tribute to her late father, Eric Litterer, who passed away from cancer in 2015. “My vocation story is defined by everything that’s happened to me, and losing my father at 16 impacted my life. I’m amazed at how God used my father’s death and worked through

*“It was, and it still is, mysterious to me why God would call me to this life, but there is a profound paradox of living the vows of a Poor Clare nun. We give up things of the world to be all-encompassing in our vocation and embrace the whole world in prayer and sacrifice.”*

that experience to help me understand His love. I chose the title of Our Eternal Father because God is the Father of all humanity and brings us together as a family like my father did.”

Poor Clares abbess, Mother Dominica Stein, also sees great faith in Sister Faustina Marie’s vocation. “She is very prayerful, loves our Lord very much and desires to give herself to Him. She is very well-rounded in her spiritual development, desires to learn more about her faith and is growing in a beautiful way.”

Sister Faustina Marie summed up her calling to religious life with a quote from Saint John Paul II, “It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness...It is He who stirs within you the desire to do something great with your life, the will to follow an ideal and the courage to make the world more human.” 



### NICHOLAS DOMEK '19

He serves as a full-time campus missionary at the University of Mary in Bismark, ND. His role involves evangelizing on campus and mentoring young men in their discipleship journey. FOCUS, the non-profit organization he works for, recruits recent college graduates to serve on various campuses nationwide.

FOCUS aims to establish genuine friendships with students, share the Gospel, lead them to Jesus, and support their growth as followers of Christ. This process equips them to spread the message and become lifelong evangelists.



You can learn more about Nicholas’ story and how God is using him and FOCUS to change lives by scanning the QR code.



Marian Central Catholic High School has been tremendously blessed with generous support from our Marian community. The giving spirit of our parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, friends, faculty, and staff has sustained and lifted us for decades. This support is critical to ensuring our continuation of providing an exceptional Marian Central Catholic experience and education for all our young men and women.

We are profoundly grateful for you, our Eye of the Hurricane. As storms build and surround us, you represent the calm, clarity, and resilience that keep us strong. Like the eye of a storm, you embody the strength that grounds us, supporting us with steadfast compassion and unity. Together, we weather every challenge, rooted in faith and driven by purpose. This allows us to continually achieve our school's mission to nurture faith, foster academic excellence and build character – equipping our students with the capabilities to face their own storms in the future.

Because of you, our students experience a nurturing environment where they can grow, learn, and thrive. We are grateful for your contributions, which enable us to maintain our commitment to providing a holistic education rooted in Catholic values.

As the Advancement Director and an alumna of Marian Central Catholic, I want to emphasize the vital role that your involvement and investment play in the success of our school and, more importantly, in the development of our students. It is my privilege to give back so that every child can be afforded the same amazing opportunity that my parents gave me, the gift of a Marian Central Catholic education. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our community that has shaped so many lives, including my own.

As we move Marian forward, let us continue to be the Eye of the Hurricane for our students and families. Together, we can cultivate resilience and hope, ensuring that they are prepared to face the world with confidence and compassion.

Thank you for your steadfast support and dedication to our mission.

Gratefully, ,

*Kaitlin Bordeaux*

**Kaitlin (Thompson) Bordeaux '09**  
Director of Advancement and Admissions

# WEEK OF GIVING

The Marian Central community rallied behind our school for the first ever Week of Giving! The Week of Giving lasted from April 15 to April 19. In total, we raised **\$118,456!** All donations during the week went to The Fund for Marian Central, which is dedicated to helping Marian Central Catholic High School advance all aspects of our school. With the funds raised, we will be able to enhance our educational programs, upgrade facilities, and provide more tuition assistance to deserving students. These improvements will enrich the learning environment and open doors to new opportunities for all our students, both present and future Hurricanes. The collective support of the Marian Central Catholic community is the cornerstone of our school's success. It fosters a sense of belonging and pride among students and alumni alike, along

with family and friends, creating a legacy of excellence and values. As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead. With your continued support, we will carry forward the mission of Marian Central Catholic, nurturing minds, inspiring hearts, and fostering a community grounded in faith and service. Your investment provides for our students of today and plans for the generations of students of tomorrow! It was **One Week** of committing to **One Mission** as **One Marian** family.

## HIGHLIGHT FROM THE WEEK:

### Monday: Phone-a-thon!

With the theme of "Answer the Call!" On Monday evening, our dedicated students gathered in the school cafeteria, volunteering to connect with members of the Marian Community. With energy and enthusiasm, they reached out to alumni, parents, and supporters, asking for them to graciously donate to make an impact. Every call made a difference as we strengthen our Marian family ties and advance our mission. 

# \$118,456

WEEK OF GIVING  
TOTAL DONATIONS

# 229

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
DONORS



*"I was so impressed and in awe of our students' maturity and dedication to Marian that they showed when making each phone call. I am so thankful for all that our students do to show pride in our beloved school!"*

— Julie Diamond  
Guidance Secretary

MARIAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S

# Boots, Bow Ties & Bling Gala was a Night to Remember!



**M**arian Central Catholic High School proudly announces the success of its annual gala fundraising event, which took place on March 9, 2024. The event, hosted at the historical Starline Factory in Harvard, was a night full of community, celebration, and generosity, raising money for the advancement of the school.

With the hard work and devotion of Marian's Advancement Office, led by the director Kaitlin Bordeaux '09, and the auction volunteer committee, the event raised over **\$164,458**. This record-breaking support is attributed to the overwhelming generosity from the school's alumni, parents, staff members, and the esteemed community partners.

Superintendent Mike Shukis expresses his deepest gratitude, "Our Marian Central Catholic community is the epitome of generosity. Their investment gives inspiration and provides for our students of today and plans for the generations of students of tomorrow."

For the first time ever, Marian Central Catholic presented a "Meaningful Moment." Amidst the live music, dancing, and laughter of the night, a moment was taken to focus everyone's attention on a testimonial video. Not a dry eye in the room, the video highlighted one of Marian's students who spoke passionately about the positive experience the school had had in his life. He expressed gratitude for the donors who provide tuition assistance. Without their support and kindness, he would have missed out on the past four years of his life at Marian Central. Because of this moment, the generosity of all who were in attendance was taken to a new level. In a matter of minutes, \$27,000 was raised to make Marian's Catholic, college-preparatory education more affordable.

Marian is grateful to all who supported, attended, or volunteered in some fashion. The event's success reflects the dedication and pride of the Marian Central Catholic community to not only uphold the school's mission and values, but it represents the commitment to investing in making our future a brighter one. 



# ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - 2023!



## Marian Central Hosts 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Outing to Support Hurricanes' Athletic Department



The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Marian Central Golf Outing teed off on July 31, 2023, with a spectacular day of golf, camaraderie, and community support. The event, which is a beloved tradition among Marian Central supporters, took place at two premier locations: Bull Valley Golf Club and Woodstock Country Club. With perfect weather and high spirits, the outing brought together alumni, parents, and local businesses for a day dedicated to supporting the Hurricanes' Athletic Department.

The event kicked off at Bull Valley Golf Club at 11:00 a.m., where golfers eagerly took to the challenging course known for its scenic views and rolling fairways. Later in the day, at 1:30 p.m., the second wave of participants teed off at Woodstock Country Club, adding a dynamic element to the outing by offering a change in scenery and company.

The outing was marked by overwhelming community support, with numerous sponsors contributing to the event's success. Many of the holes featured exciting games and contests, adding an extra layer of fun and competition for participants. From the longest drive competitions to closest-to-the-pin challenges, golfers had the chance to showcase their skills while contributing to a great cause.

In addition to the on-course excitement, the day was filled with opportunities for networking and reconnecting with old friends, all while rallying around a shared commitment to Marian Central's student-athletes. The funds raised from the outing will directly benefit the Marian Athletic Department, ensuring that student-athletes continue to have access to the resources and support they need to succeed both on and off the field.

As the sun set on a successful day, participants gathered for a celebratory reception, where awards were handed out to the top performers and special recognition was given to the sponsors who made the event possible. The energy and enthusiasm of the day were a testament to the strong sense of community that surrounds Marian Central and the positive impact that the annual golf outing continues to have on the school's athletic programs.

With the conclusion of the golf outing, the Marian Central community looks forward to many more years of this cherished event, each one bringing together more supporters and raising even greater funds to support the Hurricanes. 

## 2023 GOLF OUTING DONORS & SPONSORS

Althoff Industries  
 American Community Bank & Trust  
 American Residential Services  
 Chas. Herdrich & Son, Inc.  
 CMP Industries  
 Mike '73 & Annette (Pitzen) '75 Coughlin  
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 Dream Vacations, Lenka Tracy  
 Fast Eddie's Car Wash  
 Gordon Flesch Company  
 Keith & Carol Iden  
 J. Garrelts Water Treatment  
 Jim & Jen Kratochvil  
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 Marian Central Athletic Boosters  
 Miceli Drapery Company, Inc.

Morgan Stanley  
 Ron & Lori Nutter  
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 Pintozzi Family  
 Rabine  
 Remke's Garage  
 Riverside Animal Clinic and Holistic Center  
 St. Patrick Catholic Church  
 Studio 10 Salon & Color Spa  
 +Craig & Teresa Timpe  
 Verlo Mattress  
 Tom Verstat  
 Whispering Hills Garden & Landscape Center  
 The Woodstock Independent

+ denotes deceased



*Thank you to all who joined us for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Marian Central Golf Outing! For the second year in a row, we sold out the event and welcomed 144 golfers! The final amount raised was \$80,258!*



# ANNUAL REPORT



## Reflects Gifts from **JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024**

The 1959 Society is comprised of lead investors committed to the future of Marian Central Catholic High School. Membership is open to all individuals, families and organizations that make a minimum \$1,000 annual gift to the school. Each year the school counts on these leadership gifts to provide difference-making projects throughout the campus.

Alliance Contractors Inc.  
Althoff Industries  
American Community Bank & Trust  
American Residential Services  
Anonymous  
Mark & Natalie Andersen  
Brian & Barb Balduf  
Robert & Jane Barkei  
Carole Bartman  
Dale Benoy '70  
Jason & Carmi Bonnet  
Kenneth Buckley  
Bryan '07 & Abbie Bulaga  
Bunker Hill Charities  
Ron '63 & Linda Bykowski  
Catholic Order of Foresters  
Tom '78 & Julie Carey  
Cameron '62 & Christine (Heidtke) '62 Clark  
Wayne '65 & Gail Comeau  
John '76 & Katherine Conerty  
Tim '69 & Kathy Conway  
Daniel '78 & Susan Cooney  
Kent '69 & Deah Cooney  
Melissa Cooney '66  
Tony & Claudine Cutrona  
Fred & Nancy Cwynar  
Sean '08 & Haley Cwynar  
Matt & Michelle Denman  
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Induction Heat Treating Corporation  
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Jason & Jenn Kinney  
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Clayton Malaker '78  
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Morgan Stanley  
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David & Lisa Waggoner  
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Ron '80 & Cheri Waytula  
Doug & Amy Wilson  
Tom Wilson  
Tom Woodroffe '66  
Frederick Wroblewski '63

+ denotes deceased



## Reflects Gifts from JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

The names listed on the following pages recognize those who, through their generous and thoughtful gifts, have partnered with us to strengthen Marian Central Catholic High School. The Fund for Marian Central donors for our fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 are included in this honor roll. We extend a spirit of gratefulness to all those who made a gift to The Fund for Marian Central and to our leadership committee who devoted their time and energy to this successful campaign.

### What is The Fund for Marian Central?

The Fund for Marian Central is Marian Central Catholic High School's annual giving campaign. The Fund for Marian Central adds to the general fund of the school's budget to help improve facilities, enhance the extracurricular programs, upgrade technology, fund tuition assistance and recruit and retain outstanding faculty – in short, ensuring the continuation of quality education. *This list does not include donors to Tuition Assistance, Gala, Golf Outing, or Designated Gifts. These contributions, are recognized in throughout the magazine.*

#### Rev. Euguene C. Baumhofer Society \$25,000+

Richard '64 & Mary Thennes

#### George Harding Society \$10,000-\$24,999

Tom '78 & Julie Carey  
Kent '69 & Deah Cooney  
Matt & Michelle Denman  
Eli Lilly & Co. Foundation  
+Richard & +Charlotte Mankowski

#### Sister Mardelle Society \$5,000-\$9,999

Robert & Jane Barkei  
Cameron '62 & Christine (Heidtke) '62 Clark  
Frank & Sue Falbo

#### Sister Lenore Society \$2,500-\$4,999

Daniel '78 & Susan Cooney  
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Robert & Maryellen (Nye) '62 Fettig  
David & Christina Giesinger  
Erik & Molly Harrison  
Kamin & Adrienne Mahoney  
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Terry & Ellen Sievert  
Julius '65 & Tita Simonini  
Tom Wilson

#### Don Penza Society \$1,500-\$2,499

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Kurt & Denice Taylor  
Dan & Monica Trueblood  
Rev. Charles Warren

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Kenneth Buckley  
Wayne '65 & Gail Comeau  
Tim '69 & Kathy Conway  
Tony & Claudine Cutrona  
Mike & Denise Eesley  
Vijoy Gopalakrishnan & Surya Balakrishna  
Gus Golembiewski  
Clancy '83 & Christina Green  
Mark '73 & Jan (Brown) '69 Gummerson  
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Huntley Festival Foundation Inc.  
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Tom & Carol Landers  
Mark '83 & Christine Middendorf  
Bart & Karen (Jakubowski) '74 Mowry  
Anthony & Peggy Murwin  
Casimir & Lucille Piechota  
Hans & Kathy Rokus  
Burke '69 & Linda Romkowske  
Todd & Lynn Schmid  
Joe & Jane (Nye) '63 Selby  
Mike & Heather Shukis  
John Smith  
Gregg & Christine Tiemann  
Bob & Maria Tonyan  
Kent Truckenbrod  
Tom Woodroffe '66  
Frederick Wroblewski '63

#### The Hurricane Pride Club \$500-\$999

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Kurt & Lyn Knaack  
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John Bierlein

# ANNUAL REPORT

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Todd & Pamela Hayden  
Michael & Kristina Johnson  
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Neil & Pat Morris  
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Michael & Krista Piwonka  
John '67 & Shirley Raycraft  
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Christine (Draus) Welch '66  
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Matthew '91 & Theresa Yegge  
Antonio & Mary Beth Yuk

## **The Via Veritatis Club \$100-\$249**

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Jytte Andersen  
Anonymous  
Vincent & Ma Paz Aragona  
Jorge & Julie Arza  
Anna Bajda  
John Bartman '96  
Marv & Wendy Basch

Bill & Jane Berens  
Todd Bermann  
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James & Kristin Blake  
Kathleen Bligh Yoh  
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James & Susan (O'Brien)  
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Fescenmeyer  
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Jack '08 & Alyssa Gilleland  
Thomas '69 & Lee Gilman  
Lesa Gorbelt  
Andrew Gordon  
Patrick '07 & Teresa (Huemann)  
'07 Green  
Jerry Hagevold  
Mary Hallisy '66

Chuck & Laura (Yegge) '88 Henkel  
Jeff Henning & Diane  
Oldenburger-Henning  
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Amy Hernon  
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Richard '61 & Kathleen Holthaus  
Rich '84 & Tara (O'Connor)  
'89 Hoover  
Harry & Jan Jablonski  
Lee & Jacqui Jakubowicz  
Charles '62 & Diane (Hora)  
'61 Johnson  
Ray Jones & Laura Witek-Jones '93  
Dale & Kathryn Joosten  
Brian & Lisa Keller  
Chris & Rita Kelly  
David '63 & Isabelle Kennebeck  
Laura King  
Thomas '66 & Carol Kobza  
Jared '11 & Megan Koch  
Chet & Patty Kumm  
Joyce Kuster  
Angela Lima  
Barry & Laura (Martino) '85 Littner  
Eugene & Sara Loftin  
Terry & Sharon Maiero  
Maciej & Ann Malinski  
Charles '69 & Christine Marke  
Joseph & Janet Marmion  
Mary Ann (Stilling) Martinez '66  
Kurt '86 & Lilan (Berry)  
Marunde '86  
Chuck & Jeanne Maveus  
Rob McCormick  
Rev. John McFadden '13  
Michael '85 & Jody (Domek)  
'85 McGuire  
James & Kathleen McManus  
Pete '70 & Marisa (Pace) '75 Merkel  
Mike & Peggy (Durkin) '82 Mocogni  
David & Rita Mogg  
David & Susan Murray  
Thomas & Susan Murray  
Robert '74 & Amy Nihan  
John & Christine (Thelen)  
'74 Nobilio  
Christopher '87 & Tracy  
(Martino) '88 Noe  
Richard & Joy O'Connell  
John & Myrna O'Conner  
Mark & Amy Ostrowski  
James & Stacey Parsley  
Piwonka CPA, Inc.

Mary Pollock  
Brian & Erin (Green) '90 Ptacek  
Christopher & Maria Raimondo  
William '65 & Nina Redlin  
Zdzislaw Reszczyński  
Mary Richards '69  
Jeffrey & Kathleen Rogers  
Thomas & Carol (Freund)  
Salzmann '68  
Christopher & Tamra Scheibhofer  
Kat Schmid  
Debra Schultz  
Lori Sciarrone  
Walt Scott  
Robert & Jennifer Seegers  
Steve & Deborah (Grenier)  
'80 Simms  
Edward Slomski  
Geordi Smith  
Tim & Kate Somen  
Chris & Maria Stiles  
Betty Stoltze  
Byron Stone  
Joyce Streveler  
Thomas Stumpf  
Vince & Jennifer Sykora  
Richard Tappan '65  
Robert & Cheralyn Telmanik  
Patricia Thelen '79  
Mark & Julie Thompson  
+Sharon Thompson  
Douglas Tom & Meredith Stenhoff  
Wanda Trader  
Timothy '83 & Maria Truckenbrod  
Nick & Maggie Wake  
William & Christine (Biedermann)  
'67 Walker  
Karen Watkins  
Daniel Waytula '09  
Eugene '68 & Margaret Wedoff  
Ralph Sr. & Dorothy Wenzel  
Gary Raphael & Catherine  
Westphal '66  
Benji '92 & Kelly (Dehn)  
'96 Winkelman  
Bonnie Wirfs '67  
Shawn & Christie Wochner  
Carol Woerter  
Mark '84 & Krista Wohnrade  
Brad Wolf  
James & Pauline Young  
Joe & Erin Zecchin

**The Red and Blue Club Up to \$99**  
Robert & Barbara Anderson

+ denotes deceased

Anonymous  
 Nancy Baumann  
 John Bonnet  
 Robert Borucki  
 Cope '64 & Judy Bradford  
 Michael & Perlita Castro  
 Zaldy Catedrilla  
 Mike & Raquel '79 (Ryan) Chole  
 Tino & Heather Cipolla  
 Kari Cross  
 Thomas & Kimberly (Erwin)  
 '89 Danahy  
 Dea Dandan  
 Neil & Lisa Davis  
 Madelyn Denman '22  
 Timothy & Kristine DiGirolamo  
 Tom & Jeanne Dobbins  
 James & Linda (Holthaus) '64 Dolan  
 Ma Victoria Domingo  
 Thomas & Catherine Dovidio  
 Gerald & Carolyn Dowe  
 Gerald & Susan (Sullivan)  
 '74 Draffkorn  
 Jeffrey & Christine Drake  
 Noelle Dupuis  
 Grant & Brittany (Witek) '98 Ecker  
 Mike & Annie (Truckenbrod)  
 '92 Esposito  
 Linda Fisher  
 Carol (Miller) Freund '64  
 John '68 & Peggy Gallagher  
 Evelyn Garrelts  
 Vanessa Garrelts '18  
 John & Carol Gross  
 Robert & Stephanie Hanlon  
 Dan & Wanda Holtz  
 Joe '78 & Kathy Huemann  
 Thomas & Renae Hughes  
 James & Kathleen Hunyor  
 Robert Iberle  
 Gerard Jr. '71 & Margaret Idstein  
 Terry & Byrdie Jarrett  
 Bradley & Michele Johnson  
 Michael Kearney '60  
 Louis Kobza '72  
 David & Gina Kranenburg  
 Christian & Valerie Kwasigroch  
 Steve Liggett '87  
 Stephen & Kathleen Lingle  
 James & Christy Lipinski  
 Thomas Lordan '67  
 Allen Macote  
 Robert & Mary Fran Madjak  
 Steve & Jane '78 Malek

Walter & Janice McAuliffe  
 Scott McCracken &  
 Jan Jakubowski '77  
 Joseph & Susan McFarland  
 Kevin & Cathy McThenia  
 Tyson & Shannon Meinhold  
 Jeffrey & Colleen (Pratt) '98 Meyrose  
 Michael '75 & Mary Sue Miller  
 John & Jennifer Miner  
 Linda Miner-DiBello  
 John & Anne-Marie Morris  
 Timothy '65 & Corinne Murphy  
 Michael Murray '15  
 Marjorie Natividad  
 Mila Natividad  
 Stephen & Katherine Noon  
 Frank Notaro  
 Gregory Nye '65  
 Ronald '62 & Rhonda (Gibbs)  
 '64 O'Leary  
 John & Annette O'Malley  
 Krystal Pagan  
 Cade Patenaude  
 Mark & Colleen Piefer  
 Randy & Barbara Pischke  
 Steve & Sarah Pivnicka  
 Zbigniew & Eva Plicinski  
 Gordon Power  
 Joseph & Jordanne (LeTourneau)  
 '09 Pregont  
 Charles & Debra Rakers  
 Nick Remke '15  
 Liz (Friesen) Roscoe '03  
 Andrew & Maureen Ross  
 Jack Schmid '23  
 Patrick '68 & Peggie Schmid  
 Ann Schmidt  
 Thomas '64 & Theresa (Reese)  
 '66 Selzer  
 Connie Shay-Hadley  
 Matthew '94 & Katherine  
 (Holtman) '94 Sieck  
 Jonathon Staehling '69  
 Katalina Sumano  
 Brian '85 & Peggy (Gallagher)  
 '85 Truckenbrod  
 Michael Truckenbrod  
 Shelia (Buckley) Veltus '73  
 Barbara Volkman '72  
 Karen White  
 Owen & Gloria Wilson  
 Jerry & Barbara Witek  
 Kathryn Zabroski  
 Lou & Lynn Zecchin

## DESIGNATED GIFTS

**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

The names listed on the following pages recognize those who, through their generous and thoughtful gifts, have partnered with us and made a contribution for a specific purpose or program.

### \$10,000-\$24,999

Sean '08 & Haley Cwynar

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Bryan '07 & Abbie Bulaga  
 Bunker Hill Charities  
 Catholic Order of Foresters  
 Melissa Cooney '66  
 Morgan Stanley  
 Richard '64 & Mary Thennes  
 in memory of Bette Waytula

### \$2,500-\$4,999

Frank & Sue Falbo  
 Keith & Carol Iden  
 Jim & Jen Kratochvil  
 Kamin & Adrienne Mahoney  
 Michael & Jennifer McConnell  
 +Rev. James McKittrick  
 Offsides Sports Bar & Grill, Inc  
 Pharma Phrase  
 Daniel & Mallory Schug  
 Kurt & Denice Taylor

### \$1,500-\$2,499

Peter & Suzette Dolter  
 David & Christina Giesinger  
 Gus Golembiewski  
 Cynthia Knox

### \$1,000-\$1,499

Anonymous  
 Charlie Eldredge  
 Scott & Barb Gilleland  
 Homestead Electrical  
 Contracting, LLC  
 Induction Heat Treating  
 Corporation  
 Dan Kammrath  
 Kevin Kirwan  
 Brett '08 & Kirsten Leahy

Most Reverend David J. Malloy,  
 D.D., J.C.L., S.T.D.  
 Loretta Rosenmayer  
 Tom Stumpf  
 Ron '80 & Cheri Waytula  
 Doug & Amy Wilson

### \$500-\$999

Anonymous  
 Greg & Jillian Barry  
 Jim & Kris Blake  
 Steve Cole  
 Jim '80 & Lisa Collins in  
 memory of Bette Waytula  
 Tony & Claudine Cutrona  
 Mike '86 & Ann (Hoover)  
 '86 Eckstein  
 Cargo Equipment  
 Erin Groden in memory of  
 John Groden  
 Lydia Herbst '16  
 Larry Herff  
 Brian Jacobs '04  
 Joel E Fiorelli Insurance Agency, Inc  
 Randy & Gina Kenyon  
 Kilkenny Real Estate Services, LLC  
 Jason & Jenn Kinney  
 Kevin Kirwan  
 Law Office of William J Bligh, P.C.  
 Paul & Trish Mulligan  
 Richard & Joy O'Connell  
 On Target Sales  
 Kevin & Pamela Paulsen  
 Dan & Sandra Prater  
 Superior Electrical  
 Technologies, LLC  
 Ron '80 & Cheri Waytula in  
 memory of Bette Waytula  
 Katherine White  
 M. Thomas '64 & Nancy Yegge

### \$250-\$499

Anonymous  
 Todd Bermann  
 Rene Davis  
 Farmers Insurance Agency  
 Stephen II '13 & Jessie Garrelts  
 Huntley Festival Foundation Inc.  
 Shane Kirwan '15  
 Gregory F. Kubik  
 Eugene & Sara Loftin  
 Michael Murray '15  
 Napoli Pizza  
 Joe '87 & Julie Remke

Erik Streveler '87  
Welch Bros., Inc.  
Timothy & Kristie Williams  
Shawn & Christie Wochner  
Working World Inc.  
Joe & Erin Zecchin

## \$100-\$249

Jytte Andersen  
Mark & Natalie Andersen  
Katie Anthony in memory of  
Bette Waytula  
Michael & Evelyn Antonetti  
Wayne & Elizabeth Beyer  
Patricia Bligh  
Kathleen Bligh Yoh  
Steve & Diane Buss in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
Theresa Carey '74 in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
Michele Coticchio  
Dan '80 & Jo Anne Coughlin  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
John & Nadine Dimare  
Scott & Cindy (Tonyan) '81 Dixon  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
Thomas & Janet Dovidio  
Rita Falco  
Trent Faunce '13  
Rachiel Fordos  
Fox Lake Animal Hospital  
Frisbie & Lohmeyer, Inc.  
Shawn & Chasiti Gerstenkorn  
Joe & Jenny Gilmore  
Mark '73 & Jan (Brown) '69  
Gummerson  
Jocelyn Harding '84  
Kara Hatzai  
Herff's Auto Service & Tire  
Hiwin Corporation  
Harry & Jan Jablonski  
Lee & Jacqui Jakubowicz  
Boris & Gina Jasovic  
Joseph Kahn  
Chris & Rita Kelly  
Christopher & Cristin Kelly  
Karl & Ann (Merryman) '88 Klaus  
Knights of Columbus Assembly  
#2381  
Knights of Columbus Council 11091  
Tom & Carol Landers in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
James & Kathryn Lawler in memory  
of Bette Waytula

Dan & Jill Lipnisky  
Casey '95 & Maureen (Forrest)  
'98 Leonard  
Karen Mahoney  
Andre & Sandra Manaois  
Joan McDonald in memory of  
Bette Waytula  
Mike & Peggy (Durkin) '82 Mocogni  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
David Morphew & Theresa Mally  
The Mission of Cor Jesu  
Chris & Emily (Cucco) '01 Mulka  
in memory of Candace Cole '01  
Christian & Kristine (Chellini) '67  
Newkirk in memory of  
Bette Waytula  
Carolyn Noon  
Donald Olson  
Steve & Maureen Otten  
Katrina Pitas  
Kenneth & Jodie '00 Proschwitz  
Bill Razzino  
William '65 & Nina Redlin  
James '78 & Maureen Ringness  
Marylyn Robertson  
Hans & Kathy Rokus  
Robert '67 & Carol Schaefer  
Samantha Schearer  
Dan & Cindy (Bolger) '70 Schmidt  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
Walt Scott  
Michael '80 & Lora (Baldwin) '80  
Sharp in memory of Bette Waytula  
Paul Slomski '85  
John Smith in memory of  
Bette Waytula  
Pete & Carla Smothers  
Patrick '79 & Tamra Sweeney  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
Vince & Jennifer Sykora  
Bob & Cheralyn Telmanik  
Sandra Timm  
Kyle '12 & Zoe Thompson  
Timothy '83 & Maria Truckenbrod  
Richard & Nancy Wenzel  
WH i3B Bidco LLC  
Andrew Will  
Raymond Zuniga

## Up to \$99

Esther Andersen  
Gnee Andrulis  
Irene Antonetti  
Paul & Kay Barrath

David & Carla Bender in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
Patricia Bligh  
Jason & Carmi Bonnet  
Ben & Kaitlin (Thompson) '09  
Bordeaux  
Thomas Brennan  
Ewa Bucior  
Regina Campanella  
Michelle Cox  
Pasquale & Karin Cutrona  
Miranda DeLongchamp  
Maria Diaz  
Ma Victoria Domingo  
Margaret Dosemagen  
Gary & Bonnie Drzewiecki  
Donna Dziuba  
Buzz & Donna Frett in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
Charles Gawronski  
Joe & Pat Gilmore  
Trisha Hahn  
Kim Harrison  
Mel Harth  
James & Marjorie Herlihy  
James & Monta Hernon  
John Holby  
Oleksandr Hrytsyk  
Robert & Linda Hunt  
IQVIA, Inc  
+Lenny & Linda (Greenwald) '71  
Jakubowicz  
Joseph & Kathleen Kahn  
Lisa Keane  
Arlene Keane  
Thomas & Sandra Keane  
Charles & Sue Kittel  
Brigitte Kratenstein  
Walter & Marian Kurzeja  
David & Stephanie (Kirchner)  
'84 Lamore  
Gavin Maguire  
Marcy Martino  
John & Carole McClarey  
John & Amy (Tonyan) '85 Mercurio  
+Butch & Sue (Conway) '68 Meyer  
Benjamin Navarrete  
Thomas & Minerva Neihoff  
David Ngchee  
Colleen Nieckula  
Chris & Tracy Noe  
Christopher & Tracy Nolan  
Courtney Noonan  
Ronald & Antoinette Oleksy

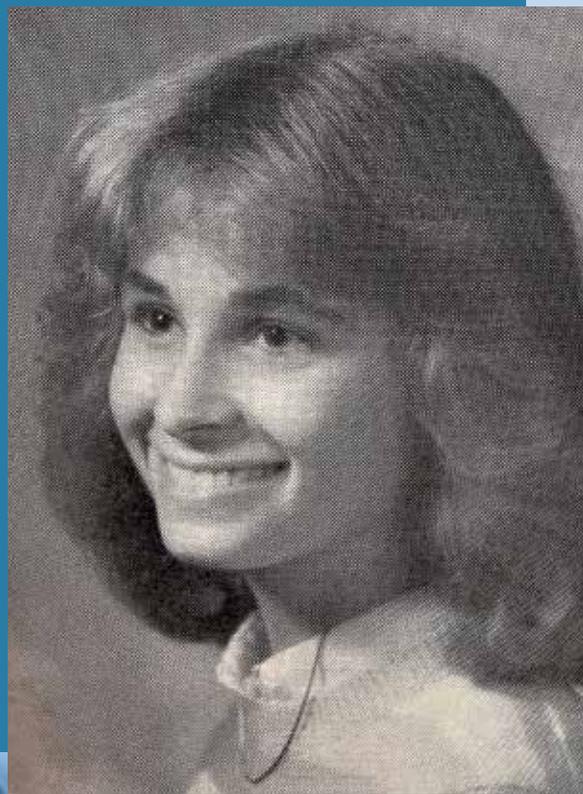
Nancy Orlos  
Mart O'Sullivan  
Keith Parris  
Christan '13 & Meredith '13 Scroggs  
Randy & Barbara Pischke  
George '85 & Beth Powers  
Dawn Robertson-Andre  
Hans & Kathy Rokus in  
memory of Bette Waytula  
Patricia Rothstein  
April Schippers  
Kurt & Joan Schmid  
Thomas Schneider  
Jennifer Schramek  
Ronald & Victoria Schreiner  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
Janet Senn  
Kenneth & Mary Sichz  
Jodi & Sheryl Silverman in memory  
of Laura Caldwell '85  
Tim & Kate Somen  
Amy Sievert O'Keefe  
Patsy Stohlquist  
Thomas Stumpp  
Brad Thorson  
Ronald '98 & Marsha Tonyan  
in memory of Bette Waytula  
Jenny Ugalde  
Andrei Urtiew  
Eric Watkins  
Francene Weyland in memory  
of Bette Waytula  
Douglas Wilson  
Julie Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Lou Zecchin  
Donna Zuwala

## The Heart of Marian Central Society



*The Heart of the Marian Central Society is comprised of individuals and families who have made or will make the school benefactors in their estate plans.*

*If you are considering remembering Marian Central in your will and estate plans, please contact Kaitlin Bordeaux at [kbordeaux@marian.com](mailto:kbordeaux@marian.com).*



### **+MICHELLE GIGON '84**

Michelle's experience at Marian Central Catholic High School left a profound and lasting impact on her life. During her time here, she exemplified dedication and versatility, participating in multiple athletic teams, including track, tennis, and cheerleading. In addition to her commitment to sports, she excelled academically and earned the prestigious title of Illinois State Scholar, a testament to her hard work and what it means to be a Hurricane.

We are honored to have been a part of Michelle's journey and are deeply committed to continuing her legacy through the creation of a memorial scholarship in her name. This scholarship will not only commemorate Michelle's exceptional achievements but also support future students in their academic and extracurricular pursuits, ensuring that her story lives on for generations to come. 

# ENDOWMENTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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Scholarships are funded on a year-to-year basis. Endowments are placed into an investments portfolio and are in perpetuity. If you would like to set up a scholarship or endowment, please contact the Advancement Office at 815-338-4220 x125. New endowments can be established with a minimum gift of \$25,000.

## ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS

+Leo & +Jean Cooney Fund for Catholic Education Endowment

## SCHOLARSHIPS

+Danielle '03 & +Kevin '05 Trueblood Scholarship

+Kay Hansen Memorial Scholarship

+Laura Caldwell '85 Memorial Scholarship

+LeAnn Golembiewski Memorial Scholarship

+Sister Mardelle Scholarship

+Scholnick Spirit Scholarship '00, '02

+ denotes deceased



# Forever a Hurricane

Marian Central Catholic High School honors the following alumni who passed away this year. If you become aware of alumni who have died, please notify the Director of Communications at (815) 338- 4220 x126 or vgarrelts@marian.com.

## 1960s

Frank Sweeney '62 – February 24, 2024

Robert Schmitt '63 - October 15, 2024

Suzanne (Gerasch) Schmitt '64 - September 12, 2024

John Heidtke '65 - October 23, 2024

## 1970s

William Noonan '70 – January 2, 2024

Ralph Wenzel, Jr. '77 – February 18, 2024

## 1980s

William Miller '84 – February 5, 2024

Michelle Gigon '84 – August 10, 2024

Ken Larsen '86 – October 9, 2024

## 1990s

Kristine Zirko '92 – May 31, 2024

## 2000s

Ryan Wilson '02 – August 17, 2024



*“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.”*

# BACK TO CLASS:

## Reunions to Remember!

In 2024, Marian Central Catholic hosted three class reunions: 1964, 1984, and 2004. We would love to host your upcoming reunion. Please contact the Advancement Office to set your date!



Class of  
**1964**



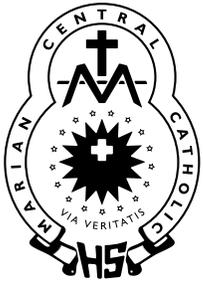
Class of  
**1984**





Class of  
**2004**





Marian Central Catholic High School  
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Woodstock, IL 60098-3099  
815-338-4220

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# *Marian Central Annual Gala*

SAVE

*the*

DATE

**Hosted at the Grand Geneva  
Resort & Spa**

4  
5  
25

April 5, 2025