

SUMMER 2020

Vol. 11 No. 3 • A Magazine for Alumni, Parents and Friends of Marist Catholic High School • Eugene, Oregon

# MARIST



W E A R E O N E



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is usually a time of transition but it seems as if we've been transitioning for months already — moving from what we knew as “normal” to the uncertainty of what normal is anymore. From classes on campus, to remote learning; from 450 auction guests in the Activity Center to a livestream event that attracted nearly 600 viewers and raised more than \$400,000 (nearly as much as it would have otherwise); from end-of-year traditions for students, especially our seniors, to a virtually-distanced graduation watched by families and friends online.

Photo by Toni Cooper



And as if a worldwide pandemic wasn't enough, our nation is also in the midst of both social and economic unrest — unrest that touches the lives and hearts of everyone but will hopefully be the necessary catalyst to lead us to a more just world for all.

How we respond as individuals and a community will be telling. Excerpts from Marist's valedictorian and salutatorian graduation speeches on pages 2-4 eloquently convey how our youth feel they are being called to action as they go out into the world.

These past eight years at Marist have been an important and meaningful chapter in my life and I sincerely thank you for your partnership. As I pass the school leadership baton to my successor, David Welch, I am confident that this is the right time for transition at Marist. I know that our community will embrace David, as you did me, helping him lead a renewed, shared vision for our 52-year old institution. What won't change is the resolve of Marist's leadership and staff to continue to be an excellent academic institution grounded in faith and committed to helping students lead and serve to their fullest potential.

You can meet David in the Take 5 article on page 25 and by the next issue of the Marist Magazine, he'll be the one to pen this page.

Like you, I care so much about Marist and our students and families. I have felt called to serve in this role because I believe in Catholic education and I believe in the importance of providing a safe environment for teens to learn and grow intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Leading a Catholic school takes vision, vigilance, commitment, courage and an awareness that education takes place in more than just the classroom. I know that David Welch understands that and I will be actively praying for, cheering for, and supporting him and Marist from the sidelines. I hope you'll join me.

We Are One.



*Suzanne Graf*  
Suzanne Graf

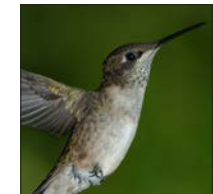
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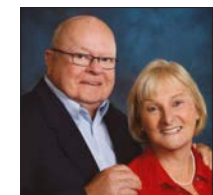
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**ON THE COVER:**  
After spending their entire fourth quarter doing school from home, the Class of 2020 celebrates with a hat toss at their graduation ceremony held in the Marist courtyard on June 26. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, family and friends watched via livestream. Photo by Toni Cooper.

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# A Graduation Like No Other

## Prophetic words from the Class of 2020

**T**hey did it. First, they completed their final semester of classes from home. Then, they gathered at school on what would have been their graduation day to drink root beer floats, take pictures and gain some kind of closure. And then, finally, they really did it. They walked across “the stage” in the Marist courtyard to receive their diplomas from gloved hands — no parents or families cheering them on, no picture with the principal or president and no hugs from the staff — but they did it. Together. In person.

It may have been 20 days later than expected, but on June 26, the Class of 2020 gathered for the last time in a unique end to an extraordinary four years.

With chairs set up six feet apart, the 2020 Marist Graduation began with prayer and the lovely sounds

of Proclaim echoing through the courtyard in the 90-degree heat of the late June afternoon. Then, after brief messages of welcome from President Graf and Principal Baker, several members of the Class of 2020 stepped forward to impart their final words of wisdom to their classmates and more than 200 screens that joined the celebration online in a ceremony unlike any other in Marist’s history.

However, history was not on the minds of these students. Rather, they were focused on the challenges, hopes and promises of the future — for themselves individually, but also for a world that is changing and their place in that changing world. The levity, relief and gratitude normally shared in graduation speeches was present but it was leavened with tones of solidarity and prophecy.

Lauren Barry, the class valedictorian, shared:

*In four years of late night homework assignments, and stress that is sometimes indescribable, we have been given the tools to think critically, which has led us to the point of having a voice that we can use to speak our truths and express ourselves. It’s a voice that we can wield and shout to promote change around us, and when needed, it’s a voice we can use to sit back and listen.*

*I think our motto here is dope. It just makes me smile when I hear it: We Are One. In so many ways, we live this motto to its fullest. We are one when we scream on the sidelines under the Friday night lights, we are one when we work as table groups to solve that unsolvable math problem, we are one when the joy of laughter flutters around the hallways, we are one when we are together. In many ways though, we have not reached the potential of those three words: We Are One.*

*Who is “we,” as grammatically incorrect as that sounds? ... I believe “we” refers to everyone and we cannot truly be one until we see that. And on that day, we will be one in its fullest sense.*

*We will be one when each and every person feels they belong.*

*We will be one when there is equal opportunity.*

*We will be one when every voice is heard.*

*We will be one when the color of one’s skin, who they love, how they identify and what they look like does not determine their humanity.*

*We will be one when we learn to listen, to discern and to act.*

*We will be one when we realize the relevance of the gift of privilege surrounding us, when we see that it does not discount our hard work, but plays an important role in how we live our lives.*

*We will be one when we have freedom and we cannot have freedom until we all have freedom.*

*So right now, we are really not one in its fullest sense, but we have the opportunity every single day to change that. It starts here with us. It starts by listening.*

*... So right now, on June 26, our last time all together on the Marist campus, six feet apart, amidst a global pandemic, I dare you. I double dog, triple dog, that’s what she said, alternative TikTok, every single thing that you can add to the end of that, dare you to go out and do something that makes our world a better place.*

Joey Braud, the class salutatorian, shared:

*In our time at Marist, we have grown immensely and have learned so much. Sometimes the material was challenging, maybe it felt a little unnecessary, but the things we learned*

*mean so much in our world today, especially in the fight against systemic inequalities.*

*In language arts and history, we learn that patriotism is not blindly following the status quo but fighting for a society that works for everyone, not just those in power.*

*In math and science, we observe patterns and adjust them in order to fix the errors that we discover. When there are systems that clearly aren’t working, we change the equation so that we can evolve.*

*In world languages, we learn to appreciate diversity and differences, and in theology we are told to value love, justice and mercy.*

*In our art classes, we gain the understanding that personal expression and storytelling often begin as small ripples but have the potential to grow into towering waves of change.*



We as a class are so well equipped to take on the struggles that our society faces today. We should feel inspired, excited and empowered. We should not only feel a desire to act, but a need to. Our generation is proving that we are capable of acknowledging where we fall short and when we need to step up. I don't think we as a class are any different. We are ready. We are ready to fight for a future in which we challenge ourselves and others to do better, and to fix what has been laid out in front of us. We are ready to recognize that our society does not work for everyone and in many senses runs on outdated concepts.

... To many people, change can be daunting because it is often hard to envision something other than what we have. But change is our chance to rebuild. By embracing the chance to evolve and advance, we will have the opportunity to construct ourselves and the community around us so that it is better for everyone, regardless of skin color, economic background, gender, sexuality or anything else that people unrightfully use to hold others down.

... Our senior year was not what we expected, but we have faced our challenges, overcome them, and did not wither when the odds seemed stacked against us. Rather we have grown as people and by doing so we will be able to plant seeds of change in hopes of creating a society that blossoms in full color for people of all colors, identities and backgrounds.

The willingness of these students to speak to the moment with eloquence and conviction reflects that Marist continues to play an important role in the development of the hearts and minds of its students. The seeds of justice are obviously planted first at home, but what an honor it is to nurture those seeds and watch them grow.

And while the speeches have ended, and the folding chairs, gowns and tassels have been put away, we expect that the Class of 2020 will continue to find ways to be remembered. Way back in October, in the time before COVID-19, there was a photo taken of this class at Homecoming, holding a sign saying "Don't Forget About the Class of 2020." How prophetic. ☘



During the 2019 Homecoming festivities in October, the senior class strikes a pose at the end of their class dance performance with the now prophetic words: Don't Forget About the Class of 2020.



Valedictorian Lauren Barry takes a selfie with friends and staff at a Root Beer Social for the graduates on their original graduation date, June 6.



Senior Joey Braud in a reflective moment after receiving his salutatorian medal at the graduation ceremony on June 26.

## SENIOR STATS

The Class of 2020 stepped up big time for the challenges of remote learning and continued being Marist in a way that has never been done before. They responded to the loss of their campus community and cherished senior year milestones with generosity, resiliency, good humor and hopefulness...they inspired us. But that is not a surprise: they have been an inspiration all along.

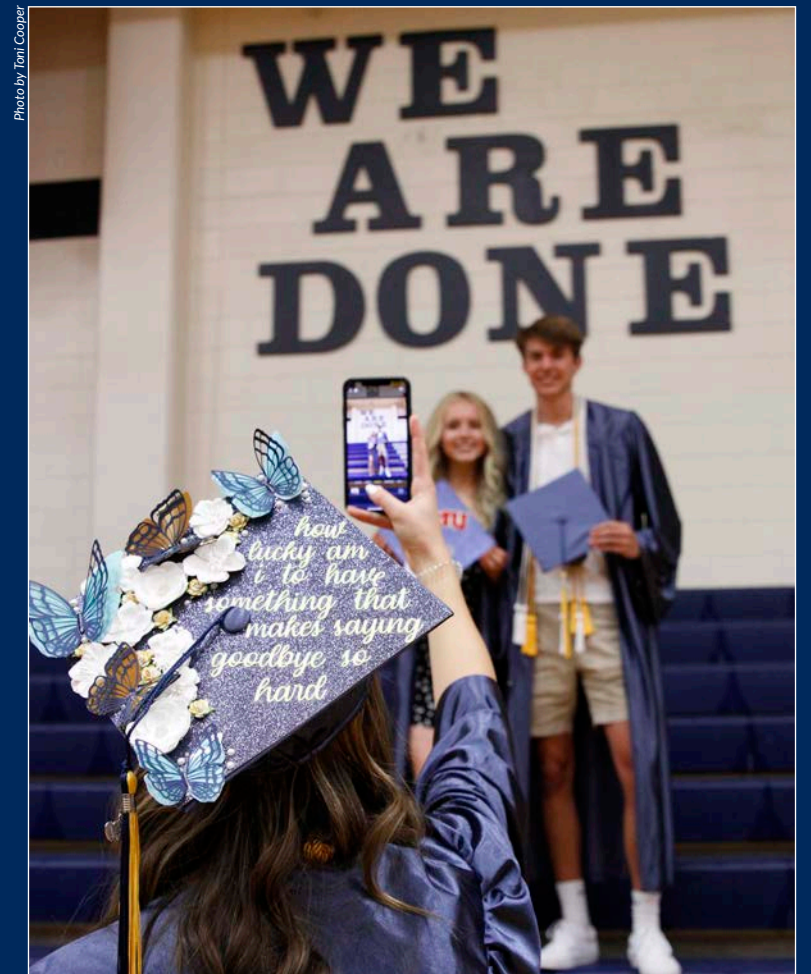
The Class of 2020 ...

- ... was the first class to use iPads all four years.
- ... included founding members of Spartan SMART, a class set up to help staff and classmates navigate new technology and a new learner management system.
- ... was the first class to use our new science wing all four years—a place where many have discovered a vocation for medicine, science and engineering.
- ... took a stand against bullying by launching RISE Leaders, and then lent a hand training local middle schoolers.
- ... helped celebrate Marist's 50th anniversary in 2018.
- ... helped us move from the fields and courts of the Midwestern League to the fields and courts of the Sky Em.
- ... experienced the first-ever Lane County Search and Rescue extraction of students from an Encounter and a treacherous six-hour drive from St. Benedict during the snowstorm of February 2018.
- ... provided Marist for Life leadership that resulted in 11,017 donated diapers.
- ... had junior student leaders who lobbied so that men could grow facial hair and ladies could legally wear leggings with long sweatshirts, and anyone could wear ripped jeans or have a tasteful nose ring.
- ... had five members who gave up six weeks of their senior summer to serve Genesis full-time, spending their days sounding out letter-combinations, handing out snacks and showing at-risk children how to find joy and belonging at school.
- ... provided 1,485 hours of reading support to local children of poverty.
- ... carried their jars on campus, ran fundraisers and prepared for a Mr. and Ms. Spartan Pageant that | was not to be, but still raised more than \$42,000 to save babies who have not even been born yet.
- ... was the first senior class to experience the beauty of a 9 a.m. start time.
- ... ran a blood drive their senior year that helped save 117 lives.
- ... performed a grand total of 8,352 hours of service — five students served 100+ hours, when only 50 were required; 40 students served the elderly; 22 students made service trips, including 10 internationally.

Congratulations, Class of 2020, and thank you!



Family members of the Class of 2020 line Kingsley Road to cheer on the seniors as they arrive for their graduation ceremony. Since graduation was a student and staff event, the families then raced home to watch the livestreamed event. To maintain social distancing guidelines, campus was opened up the following day to the grad and their families at appointed times so they could take pictures and celebrate four years of hard work well done.



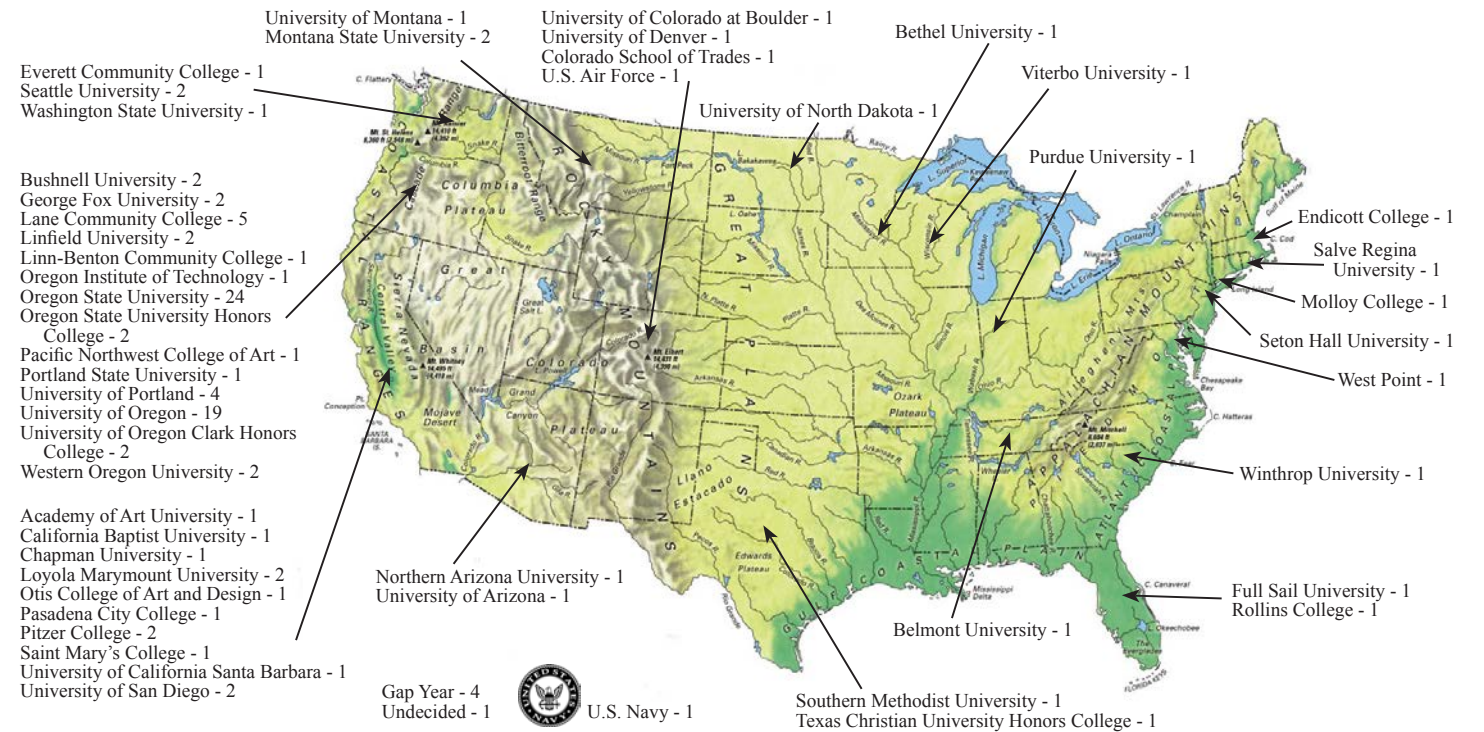
Senior Ellie Gonyea, wearing a grad cap she decorated herself, takes a photo of classmates Jacqueline Potwora and Aiden Fitzpatrick at a Root Beer Social hosted for the grads on their original graduation date before it was postponed to late June due to COVID-19.





# WHERE IS THE CLASS OF 2020 GOING?

The class of 2020 is venturing to 50 schools and 19 states across the country



## THE CLASS OF 2020

- |                             |                              |                            |                                  |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ryleigh Hart Andersen       | James Robert Cross IV        | Luke Hathaway Henry        | Declan Thomas McElligott         | Caroline Allen Robinson      |
| Joseph James Anderson       | Frederick Jackson Crowell    | Alexander Charles Holmberg | Tadhg Gabriel McElligott         | Michael Anthony Rochon       |
| Gabriella Marie Angelastro  | Konnor Luke Cunningham       | Matthew Joseph Hopkins     | Julia Chelsey Medina             | Jessica Marie Roth           |
| Amanda Elizabeth Arnold     | Cole Milton Decker           | Santanna Elena James       | Elizabeth Laura Meigs            | Thomas James Schombert       |
| Ethan Gabriel Avila         | Kindal Belle DeLess          | Amanda Leigh Jewett        | Isaac Ernest Milovich            | Ethan Bradley Schwartz       |
| Jaden Sebastian Backer      | Alexis Chantal Dorfler       | Catherine Emilia Kalstad   | Alejandro Luis Mirabal           | Maxwell Arthur Solomon       |
| Dakota Charles Baker        | Lileauna Faith Durazo-Garcia | Georgia Love Karam         | Charles Andrew Moore             | Nicholas Alan Stice          |
| Mia Angelica Barajas        | Aubrie Lyn Ellison           | Harper Grace Kast          | Sally Ann Moore                  | Nikola Michael Sušec         |
| Lauren Elizabeth Barry      | Lauren Elizabeth Englet      | Makena Elise Kealoha       | Samuel Austin Morehouse          | Annabel Marie Swangard       |
| Andrew Colin Bascom         | Lily Thomas Fitzharris       | Adeline Erin Kelly         | April Xiaosheng Murray           | Griffin Lane Sydow           |
| Samuel Fillmore Bell        | Mark Thomas Fitzharris       | Seung Ju Kim               | Sailor Jaye O'Hara               | Katherine Ann Thompson       |
| Donald Renato Bertucci      | Aidan James Fitzpatrick      | Ryan Patrick Kirk          | Michael Dempsey O'Leary          | Jordan Benjamin Thornton     |
| Amy Jean Blanchard          | Andrew John Fudge            | Karlynn Paige Kline        | John Wylie Over                  | Lucinda Grace Min Tsai       |
| Brandon James Boresek       | Olivia Marie Gates           | Heidi Anna Knebel          | Sierra Leigh Ann Owen            | Evan Benjamin Bunnao Villano |
| Zane Emil Brainard          | Elizabeth Lynn Gonyea        | Grace Hye Won Koester      | Carsyn Faith Oxenreider          | Zhenyu (Harry) Wang          |
| Joseph Denis Braud IV       | Anthony Dillon Green         | Regan Dian LaCoste         | Timothy Fraser Patton            | Wiley Edward Watts           |
| Andrew Joseph Braun         | Kennedy Ann Green            | Michael Thomas Lee         | Teagan Clare Peterson            | Kenneth Eduard Weber         |
| Max J. Campbell             | Kallie Anne Harding          | Hayden Zachary Loboy       | Elliette Frances-Louise Phillips | Hannah Christine Welch       |
| Emmanuel Cano               | Nicholas Minoru Haskins      | Nicholas Alexander Lund    | Jacob Michael Pifer              | Brock Francis Williams       |
| Olivia Lynn Carlin          | Xinyu (Rainia) He            | Emily Rose Martin          | Jacqueline Stewart Potwora       | Elizabeth Anne Wisely        |
| Jared Andrew Charbonneau    | Christopher William Heer     | Amber Savanna May          | McKenna Anne Priske              | Kenadi Reese Witschger       |
| William Norman Christiansen | Lauren Kathryn Heer          | Allison Meri McAllister    | Benjamin Patrick Randol          | Isabella Anne Zachem         |
| Gabriella Alissa Coulombe   | Emmerine Anne Helbling       | Colin James McCarthy       | Arnav Dinesh Reddy               | Junjie (Peter) Zhang         |

## AWARDS & HONORS

- Valedictorian Medalist ..... Lauren Elizabeth Barry
- Salutatorian Medalist..... Joseph Denis Braud
- Most Reverend Francis P. Leipzig Award
- For School Involvement ..... Emmerine Anne Helbling
- Monsignor Edmund Murnane Award
- For Christian Development..... James Robert Cross IV
- Gloria Schrieber Award
- For Excellence in Girls Athletics..... Sally Ann Moore
- Thomas Kerns Award
- For Excellence in Boys Athletics ..... Samuel Fillmore Bell

### 2020 MARIST SCHOLARS (4.0 or higher weighted GPA)

- |                           |                         |                              |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ryleigh Hart Andersen     | Aidan James Fitzpatrick | Elizabeth Laura Meigs        |
| Ethan Gabriel Avila       | Andrew John Fudge       | Charles Andrew Moore         |
| Dakota Charles Baker      | Elizabeth Lynn Gonyea   | Sally Ann Moore              |
| Lauren Elizabeth Barry    | Kennedy Ann Green       | April Xiaosheng Murray       |
| Donald Renato Bertucci    | Lauren Kathryn Heer     | Jacqueline Stewart Potwora   |
| Joseph Denis Braud IV     | Emmerine Anne Helbling  | McKenna Anne Priske          |
| Olivia Lynn Carlin        | Amanda Leigh Jewett     | Caroline Allen Robinson      |
| Jared Andrew Charbonneau  | Georgia Love Karam      | Jessica Marie Roth           |
| James Robert Cross IV     | Adeline Erin Kelly      | Nicholas Alan Stice          |
| Frederick Jackson Crowell | Heidi Anna Knebel       | Nikola Michael Sušec         |
| Aubrie Lyn Ellison        | Allison Meri McAllister | Annabel Marie Swangard       |
| Lily Thomas Fitzharris    | Julia Chelsey Medina    | Evan Benjamin Bunnao Villano |

### Who's playing at the next level?

Some members of the Class of 2020 will be continuing their competitive careers at the next level:

- JJ Anderson**  
Linfield University - Basketball
- Lauren Barry**  
Rollins College - Swimming
- Sam Bell**  
Winthrop University - Soccer
- Max Campbell**  
Linfield University - Football
- Jack Crowell**  
Seattle University - XC and T&F
- Colin McCarthy**  
Bushnell University - eSports
- Isaac Milovich**  
Viterbo University - Baseball
- John Over**  
Everett CC - Baseball
- McKenna Priske**  
University of San Diego - XC and T&F
- Lucy Tsai**  
St. Mary's College - XC and T&F
- Evan Villano**  
Pitzer College - XC and T&F
- Wiley Watts**  
Lane CC - XC and T&F
- Bella Zachem**  
Endicott College - XC and T&F



# Sister Janet

Sister Janet, Sister Janet!  
How does your garden grow?

This nursery rhyme adaptation is a loving tribute to the dedication of Sister Janet Marcisz, SNJM, kindergarten teacher, mentor and friend to so many Marist graduates and their families. For 17 years, she lovingly tended St. Paul's "kindergarten" — a 19th century German term meaning "children's garden."

Born in Chicago, Sister Janet and her family moved to Medford in 1948 where she and her siblings attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and St. Mary's High School. She continued her education at Marylhurst with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and fell in love with their way of life. She professed her final vows to the Order in 1973.

Sister Janet began her career in education as a first grade teacher in Medford where she herself had been a first grader. Her long teaching career took her to Portland, Lake Oswego, The Dalles, Salem and finally to St. Paul's in Eugene from 1992-2008.

When she first came to St. Paul's, her kindergarten class was in what was then the housekeeper's room in the rectory. As the parish grew, that building was replaced with the parish center and Sister's classroom was moved to a modular house on the property. Sister accepted the move, but required one important modification: more windows. She and her students needed to be able to see outside — to watch the squirrels run and play, monitor the progress of daffodil bulbs, observe the pear tree they had adopted and "grow with the seasons." Over the years, Sister remembers teaching many groups of siblings — the May's, the Donnelly's, the Kelly's, the Mora's, the Hughes' — and



With lots of love from God above  
And grown-up kids all in a row!

so many others, and enjoyed becoming "one of the family."

As the years went by and her 5-year-old students grew up, Sister began the practice of attending their graduation from Marist, capturing that moment with a group photo each year beginning in 2004. She only missed one graduation, when she was in Medford caring for her ailing mother. And, of course, this year.

The Class of 2020 was her final class to "tend" as kindergartners before her retirement and this year would have been the last time to call her "kids" over for a photo. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Sister was watching from afar as they commenced the next phase in their adventures. (But she did invite the kids to show up early for one quick photo before the event began — an appropriate request for her last class.)

Fittingly, Sister's own next adventure after her retirement from teaching, took her to a different kind of garden: she is a Lane County Master Gardener through an Oregon State University Extension Service program (although she is quick to say that she's a Duck) and continues to teach others about caring for the earth. Rather than teaching ABC's, she shares advice on plants from asparagus to zinnias; is a specialist in composting, pruning and landscaping; and mentors new trainees. She says that the Master Gardener Program has the same values she taught her kindergartners: "taking care of God's good earth."

Thank you, Sister Janet, for tending your gardens so faithfully and with such love. ☪

## Sister Janet and her St. Paul kindergartners through the years



2020



2019



2018



2017



2014



2015





## Dear Kindergartners,

My heart is so full of love for each of you. You and your families have enfolded me as part of your "growing-up years"; these have been times of joy, adventure and growth.

I remember many of our projects and adventures: pumpkin patch trips, watching wiggly caterpillars turn into monarch butterflies, planting daffodil bulbs, the flowers coming up just when we needed signs of spring and watching the trees around the buildings change with the seasons.

As our new classroom was planned, I told them we needed lots of windows so we could watch the trees around our classroom ... and the squirrels on the bird feeders, snowflakes softly falling. Rain storms and sunshine filled our space.

Remember March 4 when we marched "forth" around the school? Also celebrating the Holy Days and holidays together? Christmas programs, Halloween and Valentine parties? Do you remember the Cinnamon Bear and his adventures about Christmas?

I am still giving away books from the classroom. My nieces and nephew have enjoyed so many; now I am passing them along to my great-nieces and nephews.

So many of our other projects and activities have passed through my mind in the last week. The times we read the stories of Jesus' life and prayed together were some of my favorites.

Finally, there is Georgia Two. She is at home with me. She does miss the stories you read to her. And I can't build a maze of blocks for her to crawl through. I think she likes the quiet.

I am leaving you with my e-mail [jmarcisz@efn.org](mailto:jmarcisz@efn.org) if you have a special memory you would like to share with me. Remember I have many pictures of our activities together.

One last secret. Yes, the handprints just outside the door are mine. I did have help with that project. However, I can't name the person ...

Congratulations to ALL my graduates. You will always be in my heart.

## Sister Janet

Sister Janet Marcisz, SNJM





# Prayer

## in a Time of Trouble

### *Reflections on the Pandemic*

By Rebecca Larson



Unlike the faithful women of the Marist family who have been praying the rosary every week for years, it took the COVID-19 pandemic for me to pick up the rosary, prompted by a desire to do something that would be comforting to my 89-year-old mother who lives alone in a small town in Missouri. I'm praying for her health because I am sincerely afraid I may never see her again in this world.

So for several Sunday afternoons in March and April, my mother, my husband, my son and I were on speaker phone, praying the rosary together. I was so proud one Sunday when my son offered to lead the fifth Glorious mystery ... then I noticed the ornery twinkle in his eyes as he leaned over, grinned and said, "I'm going to pick up the pace!"

Those Sundays were an island of calm, but things have changed with the good weather. Now, since it's golf season, my husband and son are letting my mother and me carry the prayers. And we're praying even more. When my brother in Texas heard about our Sunday rosary, he decided to join us and added, "Well, why not pray it every day? It only takes 15 minutes."

Uh ... sure ... So every day at 6:30 p.m. the three of us pray, taking turns, garbling it up when we forget to mute ourselves, singing every other decade for variety, creating a small oasis of peace and calm in this sea of uncertainty.

One evening, none of us could remember which mysteries were prescribed. (The "mysteries" refer to events in Jesus' life.) I bet my brother a cool \$1 million that my guess was right. I lost. The next day, when my mother jumped into the first mystery without the introductory prayers, he barked, "You owe me three Hail Mary's, Mom!" like he was at a poker game. "That's it," I said, "I'm fining you \$100,000 for correcting our mother! I can't afford to pay you the

million." We all laughed. (And who said the rosary can't be fun!)

Every day we pray that a cure will be found for the virus among a long litany of other intentions: a priest in Missouri who needs a heart transplant, a nephew who needs a job, every missionary in the world, an end to abortions, and then, our own personal intentions, too. (We get a lot of mileage from that shared daily rosary.)

Our rosary takes a lot longer than 15 minutes, due to conversation, but, when our pre-prayer discussions threaten to get a little too fractious, it's wonderful to be able to say, "Let's pray the rosary now" and be united in this meditative spiritual offering that gives us plenty of time to think about our own lives in the context of the life of Jesus. These days I'm particularly drawn to His suffering and passion in the Sorrowful Mysteries, but know the next days will bring joy, glory and light. The rosary witnesses to hope.

A believer in the power of prayer, I am also a believer in science and the science is quite clear: COVID-19 is a contagious disease that can result in death. Apart from the virus itself, what surprises and distresses me these days is the myriad conflicting opinions on prevention and the appropriate time to resume "normal" activities. What is the right thing to do when we live in the midst of so much uncertainty? Socially distance 6 feet apart? 20 feet apart? Wear masks in stores but not when out on a walk? Go back to business in Phase 2? Open everything up and then close it again when (not if) there's a spike in infections?

One thing that often gets me through hard times is wondering how past generations survived wars and plagues and famine. Not always the happiest of thoughts, but it helps me. I often start by framing the problem with "What would

the pioneers do?" Not that I really know, but it makes me feel connected to their hardships and empowered that we too will get through this ... one way or another.

What would my great-great-grandmother in Wales have done? She certainly saw pandemics and famine and lived through them (or someone did) because my family and I are here. But what agonies of uncertainty did she face as she sent her son off to the new land of America and likely never saw him again? Did she even get a letter back? At least I can call my mother and siblings to pray, share our hopes and fears and whistle in the dark together.

And I am afraid. I'm scared to death of both getting the virus and bringing it home to my family and I'll do whatever the CDC says I should to prevent the spread of the disease to others.

So far, my immediate family and I have nothing to complain about (except perhaps each other.) I feel blessed. My husband and I are both working from home, and thanks to Marist's visionary and dedicated staff, my sophomore was able to finish out the year connected to his teachers and classmates.

We did have a scare the other night, though. Our son had a very red and swollen toe, so painful he couldn't walk on it. We set up a telemedicine appointment with a doctor in New Jersey who answered the call from her home, her little girl running around in the background. After "examining" the toe live via cell phone, she said she was concerned it was COVID toe and he needed to be tested. But we had been so careful! Masking, wiping off all surfaces, disinfecting even the eggs in their cartons! The obvious panic I was feeling prompted some truth-telling from our son, who admitted that he had not maintained social distance in some of his skateboarding soirees. He was as worried as we were. But we were able to schedule an in-person appointment with a local doctor the very next day. No COVID toe—it was a nasty staph infection and never was I so thrilled with that diagnosis.

Many, however, have not been so fortunate. Their experiences tell a different story.

My sister, an RN in Ohio, helps patients who have recovered from COVID-19, the fortunate ones who make it off the ventilator after their stay in ICU. She told me about a 47-year-old woman who was sent home with a walker, happy to be alive, but incredibly weak and sad; her husband didn't make it. My sister is witnessing first-hand the ravages of this virus. She is afraid not only for herself as an asthma sufferer, but for the potential consequences of being a nurse

## The Marist staff was asked this question: Looking back on the Coronavirus pandemic, how do you think you'll feel about this experience in 10 years? Here are some of their responses:

"Amazement at how adaptable we were as a school and how quickly we shifted from traditional classrooms to remote learning. Gratitude for the entire Marist community pitching in to help each other."

— Andy Oldham,  
Assistant Principal



"I think I'll be proud of how resilient people are. I will also try to remember all the positive things that are coming from this, like people working together, spending quality family time, connecting with others, and just a general interest in other people's well-being."

— Dr. Erin Gallo, Spanish Teacher

"Memories of uncertainty, trust in God, and gratitude for the gift of family, slowing down and time spent together."

— Heidi Susec, Theology Teacher



"I hope I will remember it as a time when we all came together to help protect our community. I also hope that looking back it will have been a catalyst for change — so many inequalities."

— Renee Cool, Science Teacher



— bringing the virus home to her daughter who uses an inhaler daily. My sister is driving to visit our mother for the 4th of July. She'll wear a mask and gloves as she stops along the way, but there is still the possibility of infection. Will she unknowingly bring the virus to our mother?

At the beginning of the pandemic, an alumnus who lives on the East Coast told me that his frail mother here in Eugene was facing surgery with no guarantee of making it through. He wanted to be by her side but could not, out of the fear of bringing the virus to an already tenuous situation. Although she made it through the surgery, she died a few months later, his gentle goodbye said through the telephone. Since she had been in a "graceful decline" for ten years, her death was not unexpected but it made him think about how it must feel to have family members suddenly sicken and die from this virus and unable to be with them. Thousands and thousands have had to live and die this harsh reality.

Another one of my brothers (I have four) who lives in inner-city St. Louis is worried about losing his job like so many others have. He is worried about not being able to float 0% interest loans to help the friends he considers close as family, about helping his son through law school, about being able to fix up the dilapidated house he bought to restore when times were better. He's always lived frugally, but that has been by choice, not necessity. He is experiencing now what others have perhaps always dealt with. And he's afraid.

For most of us, the economic implications are such an unknown. Although Eugene has been relatively untouched by the virus, the economic impact locally and nationally is a reality that some of us have only begun to feel. For the first time ever, my siblings and I have talked about how much money we have in our individual savings accounts and offered to help each other if needed (until we found out who had the most money and then cheerfully rescinded the offer to him). We've even planned worst case scenarios that involve all of us descending on my mother's home. It hasn't come to that and it probably won't, but still.

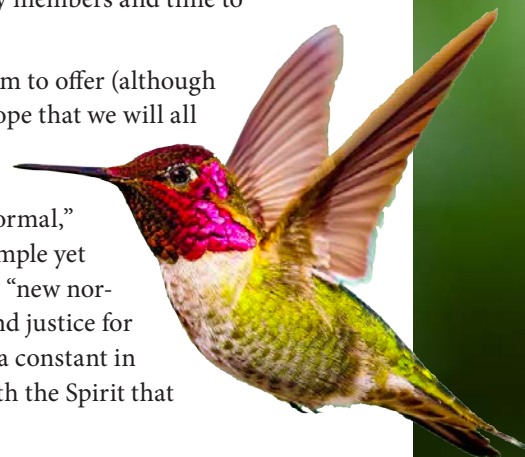
A Marist parent said it's not just his own family he's concerned about, he has 51 employees and the financial health of all these other families weigh on him. Some businesses will not be able to open again; they are gone. Millions of people in our country are facing these same fears.

What does the future hold for all of us? Many times over the past few months, I have heard people say, "If I just had a crystal ball!" The uncertainty is sometimes worse than just knowing the outcome. How bad is it going to get? We know the virus is out there (or is it in here?) but until we have a vaccine (when will that be?), the only defenses are washing hands, not touching your face, wearing a mask and social distancing. Really? That's all we've got? It seems incredible for our "instant" society. Whether it's news or food or shopping or even travel, we are used to getting what we want, where we want and when we want, quickly. We're used to fast fixes and easy answers. Now, there are none. And perhaps that's an unexpected blessing from this time apart.

The forced "shelter in place" has changed our pace. Perhaps we plan and shop once a week rather than popping into the store whenever we feel like it. Maybe we've rediscovered that we can cook and it can actually be enjoyable (and edible). We wait in lines (safely) and might even venture a conversation (from behind a mask) with a stranger. While I've been at home, I'm re-experiencing the quiet joy of a growing garden, a hovering hummingbird gracing a business call made from the patio, a pact made with the little boy next door, negotiated over our separating fence, that, when this is over, I'll bring him cookies and he'll let me climb his willow tree.

Small, simple comforts these days, but I'll take them and I don't take them as a matter of course. I realize I am blessed and not by anything I deserve or have earned. My heart goes out to those who are suffering in any way, to those who are caring for them and to our whole flawed, beautiful country. Maybe this is why I look back to the pioneers. They seem to symbolize a fortitude within us that we don't always know we have. It helps me just keep living one day at a time with the rosary as my daily anchor — a connection with distant family members and time to think and meditate.

I have no profound words of wisdom to offer (although I do have a lot of words), just the hope that we will all take the necessary precautions to keep each other safe and healthy. May we never again get "back to normal," taking for granted something as simple yet profound as a hug; may we create a "new normal" with affordable health care and justice for everyone; and may prayer become a constant in each of our lives, connecting us with the Spirit that animates all things. ✚



## Staff responses, continued...



"I think I'll feel grateful for having everything I needed, and that I was part of a community that lifted me, challenged me to do my best, and bent in the storm without breaking."

— Becky Boyd, English Teacher



"I will remind myself not to take the daily routine for granted. And to be careful what I wish for — I just wanted one snow day!"

— Erica Gingerich, Fine Arts Teacher



"I hope that in ten years we will look back on this as a long, strange road we all went down together and came out OK."

— Walter Fox, History Teacher



"I will always remember this time as being the most cautious and aware of my surroundings than I have ever been before. Always making sure I am respecting other's space and demanding space from others. The hardest part is being away from my daughter and the best is spending time with my husband."

— Sherril Acton, Registrar



"I will feel sad for all of the lives lost. I hope I will feel proud of how I helped my students and my family navigate the pandemic. And I will feel grateful that I like my husband a lot because we will have spent A LOT of time together! :)"

— Julie Ferrari, Campus Ministry & Theology Teacher



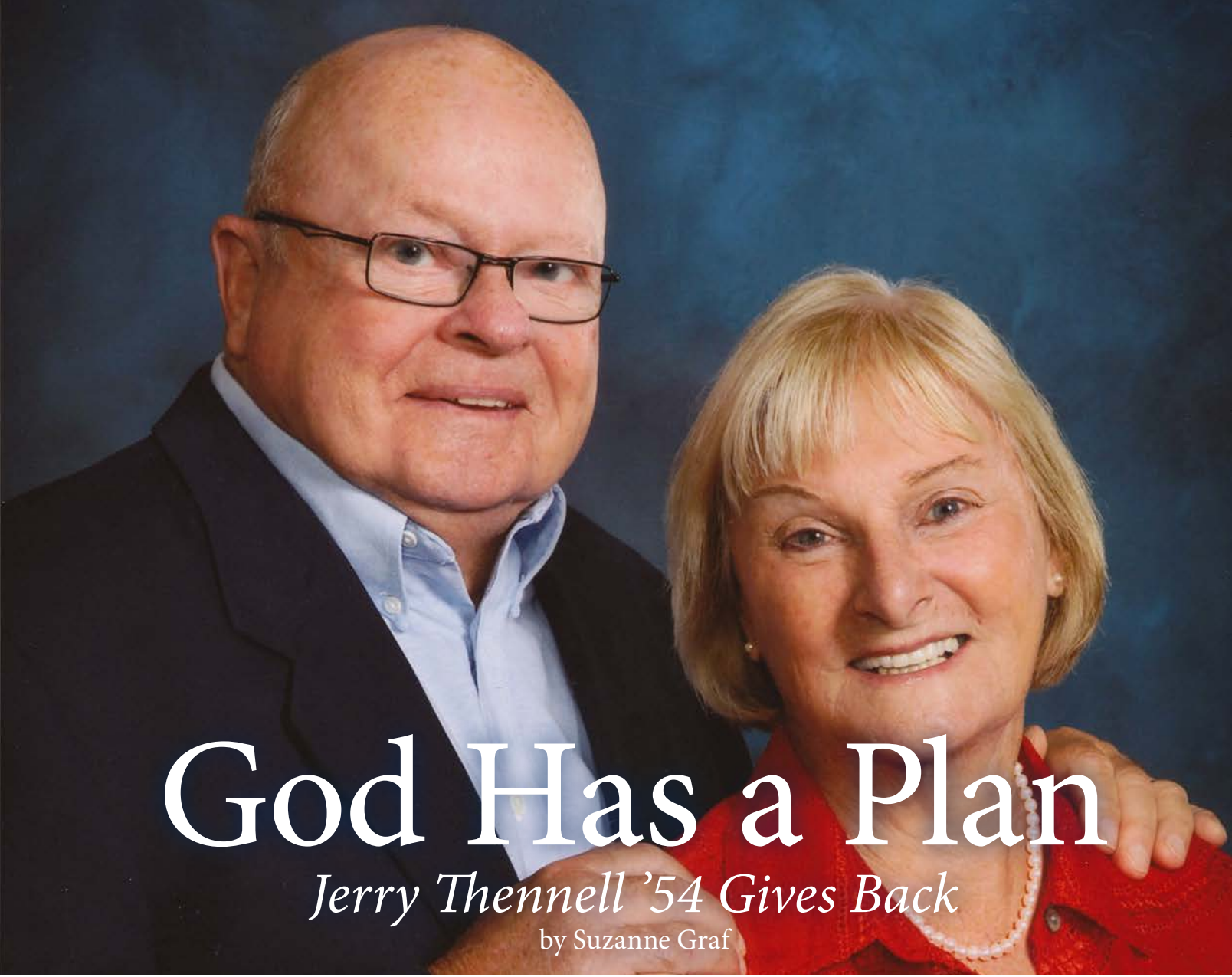
"I think it will have allowed me to get my priorities straight. I am a generally introverted guy and usually enjoy my quiet time. But I realized social isolation is different than introverted. I don't like it at all. I also realize that helping my students grow is why I do this. Chemistry and physics are fine subjects to teach (and I really like them), but now that I am generally relegated to just giving them content as their teacher I miss the times when I can offer insight as an "old person" that helps them through a rough time."

— Ryan Moser, Science Teacher

"I think the thing that will stand out to me the most from this year is how much the Marist community has shown up. My colleagues continued to value the students' well-being above all else. Students were in class, working hard and consistently doing their best. It's been inspiring on a lot of levels. I will also remember teaching my students, home-schooling my kids and I think I'll feel proud that all of us contributed to keeping people healthy and safe."

— Beth Wirth, English Teacher





# God Has a Plan

*Jerry Thenell '54 Gives Back*

by Suzanne Graf

Jerry Thenell '54 is the second of ten children and you could say that Catholic schools are in his blood. His own education started at St. Mary's School in Eugene. After graduating from St. Francis High School in 1954, he attended the University of Oregon for one year but finished his college career at St. Martin's University with a degree in accounting. Some of Jerry's children even attended Marist, as did his wife's.

Jerry's upbringing was humble but rich in Catholic values and practical examples of work ethic. His dad grew Blue Pole beans and his mom was a busy housewife and mother who also found time to work in the kitchen at the Bon Marché.

His service in the Marine Corps after college reinforced those values and taught him the importance of sticking with something, no matter the challenge. Jerry's success for 52 years in the printing business — as owner of Shelton

Turnbull and Instaprint in Eugene — is proof of that. He was meeting with customers up until the day before he retired from Shelton Turnbull.

Giving back to Marist is important to Jerry and his wife Mary Ann. Jerry has served on the Marist Foundation Board, chaired the Marist Auction and continues to support the school through the Annual Fund, Annual Auction and capital campaigns. His planned gift to Marist is a natural extension of decades of generosity.

When asked what he appreciates about Marist, Jerry said, "I value how the school is run, the closed campus and the commitment of the teachers. I value face-to-face relationships. If you invest at Marist, you will feel the vibrancy of the school."

When it comes to a planned gift, Jerry is confident that his life's work and continued support of Marist are part of God's plan. "God and I talk all the time," Jerry says. ☩

# EVERY GIFT CREATES A STORY



Consider including Marist in your will. A planned gift is a meaningful way to impact future generations and leave a **legacy** — one that will touch the lives of countless students and spark their unique Marist story.

Planned gifts ensure that Marist will be well-supported into the future. **Invest in Marist** with a **planned gift** and join Marist's **Legacy Society**. To join, call us today.

### Marist Foundation Legacy Society

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Jon & Terri Anderson  | Steve & Kathryn Hutchinson   |
| Father David Cullings | Ben Salm '77                 |
| Vicky Hanson          | Jerry '54 & Mary Ann Thenell |
| Cory Howard '99       | Jack Tucker '68              |



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## A TRIO OF OLYMPIANS

A virtual victory for the 49th Marist Auction

Emcee for the evening, Jeremy Starr '71 and auctioneer Sid Voorhees get a kick out of watching the three co-chairs parody Olympic history.

For almost 50 years, members of the Marist community have stepped up to chair the annual auction. We've been to Vegas, the Bahamas and Paris; we've gone Country and On Safari. More recently we enjoyed a lively Kentucky Derby with the Nehl's and Dwyer's, visited Santorini with the Elder's, reveled in a Fiesta with the Moore's and Gonyea's and enjoyed a classic Wimbledon with the Cross', Hudson's and Penn's. All of these events contributed significantly to fun and funding for Marist.

And then there was 2020.

Enter three women from different backgrounds and experiences:

Nancy Crowe, a Chicago transplant, mother of two boys — a rising junior and a rising freshman — and a skilled meeting planner by trade. She'd only been to one Marist Auction.

Caryn Kimble, a financial planner, Marist football parent of Spirit Store fame, alumni parent and mother of a

rising senior boy. She's a Marist Auction veteran.

Andrea Malpass, a design and marketing expert and Marist parent of a rising sophomore boy. She had never attended a Marist Auction.



Auction co-chairs Nancy Crowe, Andrea Malpass and Caryn Kimble.

Their chosen theme, the Marist Olympiad, was rather prophetic given that the pandemic restrictions suddenly loomed. How do you have an auction without ... having an auction? They needed the spirit of Olympians to navigate Marist's major fundraiser and community-building event in the wake of COVID-19.

But navigate they did. With perseverance, stamina, creativity and a flair for comedy. (Check out their gold medal performance of Olympic events and memories.)

Sponsors remained committed to the event, virtual though it was. Silent auction baskets were fluffed, photographed and posted online. The Wine Cellar went online and Jerry's Heads/Tails game and the Dessert Dash both became raffles while while the New Car Raffle returned for the second year, this time sponsored by Sheppard Motors. Sid Voorhees, Marist's auctioneer for his 36th year learned how to orchestrate a livestream auction ably assisted by emcee Jeremy Starr '71. Past chairs and volunteers returned to catalog items, decorate the theatre and lend their support.

Cue the trumpets: The Marist Olympiad team did Marist proud and ushered in new ways of succeeding. Brava Nancy, Caryn and Andrea!

# The Marist Olympiad

An auction reimaged for a pandemic world

By Nancy Crowe, Caryn Kimble and Andrea Malpass

Picture it. Hundreds gathered in the gym, which has been transformed into a festive welcoming reception area. Beverages are passed by wait staff as attendees say hello to new and old friends. Light conversation and laughter fill the air. Guests take a moment between conversations to bid on silent auction items placed on rows of draped and decorated tables. The room is abuzz with excitement. The announcement comes over the PA. It is time for the main event...the Live Auction! The crowd is ushered to the door to cross over into the Activities Center, the "main ballroom" for the evening.

This is it. Time for a fun night of socializing, dining with friends, bidding on donated items, trips and adventures. The themed décor is amazing. For the chairs, committee volunteers and staff and their many months of preparation and work, it is all about this moment, and to see how their hard work has paid off. The tables of ten are meticulously set for the delicious meal about to be served. Screens are strategically placed so that the entire room can see what is happening on the stage. Everyone finds their assigned table and prepares to be wined and dined and to raise their paddles for the live auction. The entire crowd is there for one reason — to benefit current and future Marist students. The energy in the room is palpable. It is the same setting year after year



at every annual Marist Auction. Until 2020.

We had the theme. Marist Olympiad. The auctioneer was scheduled. We had a décor plan. Sponsors and donors were committed. Things were coming together. Then suddenly the Covid-19 shutdown unfolded as if an onion were being peeled. March 13, a National Emergency is declared and plans begin for Oregon schools to close. March 16, public gatherings of more than 25 people are banned. Shortly after that, no more than 10 people could gather....and so on and so on.

As the state restrictions ramped up at the end of March and beginning of April regarding stay-at-home orders and group gatherings, we quickly realized that an in-person event would not be possible. The words "pivot" and "creative" worked their way into our vocabulary. We began to discuss the options and monitor how other organizations were handling their spring auctions. How would a

virtual auction work? What would it feel like? Would people "attend" if it were virtual? Do we postpone until the fall? How do we continue to ask for much needed donations and contributions when so many companies and individuals were suffering through temporary closures and furloughs? How do we celebrate with a global pandemic going on? How do you auction live packages and appeal for tuition assistance, without an auction?

At first, the thought of celebrating anything felt uncomfortable and unsettling. However, the auction is such a significant contributor to the financial health of Marist, cancelling it was not an option. It was decided that we had to move forward with a new date. May 30 was selected to provide time to plan and successfully execute the online event. It was almost a relief once the decision was made. We had a plan. We were moving forward. In the end it was a seemingly easy decision. The auction has always been about the kids. The "show must go on" to ensure their future at Marist.

There is a lot that goes into the annual auction. It takes hundreds of hours and volunteers and months of work for it to come together. But 2020 was going to be very different. It was strange new territory with only a handful of people planning, organizing and executing through weekly Zoom calls. To comply with





The production team behind the scenes at the auction include Dave Hall from Zion Ideas Productions Inc., Marist marketing manager Chris Miller, Marist Advancement administrative coordinator Heather Boyles and auction co-chair Caryn Kimble.

state mandates, less than ten people were on the set in the Marist theatre for the livestreamed event. The traditional auction in the Activity Center normally attracts nearly 500 people. Like anything new, there were a lot of unknowns and a bit of anxiety. The "what-ifs" were plentiful. We were all on pins and needles, concerned about how it was going to go.

What a night! It was not at all how it normally looks or what any of us anticipated a mere seventy-five days prior. The "what if's" melted away as everything went off without a hitch. Four hundred registered bidders logged on for the one-hour live event. For the first time in our auction's history, we had bidders

from all over the country tuning in to watch and participate. There was even a bidder from the United Kingdom! Small gatherings of ten or less took place in private homes. Most importantly, at a time when we are all living with so much uncertainty, the generosity of our donors and participants was overwhelming and emotional.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to everyone who donated their time, contributed auction items, sponsored the event and participated in the auction. The outpouring of support was amazing. The reminders of what an incredible supportive community we belong to are numerous.

We do not know what the 2021

auction will look like. It is our hope that we will once again be able to gather in a large group in the Activity Center. Striving to return to the traditional auction is important not only because it is a much-anticipated social and community-building event, but it will also indicate that the pandemic is over. Now that will be something to celebrate! As one auction veteran who really enjoys the traditional in-person auction said, "It was successful but I hope we never have to do it this way again." However, we know that if we must pivot and get creative, we are ready.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2021 Auction. Until then be safe, be well. WE ARE ONE. 🇺🇸

Photo courtesy of Nancy Crowe



Co-chairs Nancy Crowe and Andrea Malpass enjoy the action from home.

Photo by Tom Cooper



President Suzanne Graf and Principal Stacey Baker watch the auction happen.

Photo by Tom Cooper



Rebecca Larson and Suzanne Graf keep a sharp eye on the progress.

Photo by Tom Cooper



A behind-the-scenes look at the crew running the 49th Annual Marist Auction from the Marist theatre.

Photo by Tom Cooper



Event coordinator Katie Underwood pulls a raffle ticket out of the cup held by auctioneer Sid Vorhees.

Photo by Tom Cooper



Emily Boyd '15 volunteers behind the scenes to help with questions from virtual attendees.

Photo by Tom Cooper



Charles de Gaulle makes an appearance on behalf of his friend, history teacher Jon Nuxoll.



## Spartan Program Raises \$42,000 for the Babies



▲ The 2019-20 Mr. and Ms. Spartan team.

Despite COVID-19's interruption of everything at Marist including the 2020 Mr. and Ms. Spartan Pageant, the Spartan team still managed to raise \$42,000 for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) and Sacred Heart's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Considering that an average good year would bring in approximately \$50,000 total, including pageant ticket sales and the ever-popular Dash-for-Cash segment of the pageant, their work this year was remarkable under the circumstances.

Before being sent home for remote learning, the team raised money by collecting donations in their plastic tubs,

hosting a Trivia Night, holding a Patriot for the Premies dance, and, of course, sending out letters to family and friends describing their mission and asking for donations. "I'm really proud of the hard work the team did on behalf of CMN and the NICU babies, and I am grateful to the Marist community for the tremendous support they gave to the program again this year. I wish we could have finished with the Spartan Pageant and all of the fun that event would have offered, but the team succeeded in meeting its first priority: being baby savers," said Bill Ferrari, English teacher and program coordinator.

## Senior Colin McCarthy Signs with Bushnell University

This Fall, senior Colin McCarthy will be joining the eSports team at Bushnell University (formerly Northwest Christian University) to compete in League of Legends, a multiplayer online video game. Bushnell is the first collegiate team in the state of Oregon to offer athletic scholarships for eSports. Bushnell currently offers scholarships in four different games — League of Legends, Rocket League, Hearthstone and Overwatch — and will be adding Fortnite Battle Royale later. Bushnell is one of just 115 schools in the United



▲ Senior Colin McCarthy signs with Northwest Christian University (now Bushnell University).

States that offer athletic scholarships to highly-skilled videogamers. In 2019, 380 million people around the world actively watched and/or competed in eSports.

## Forever No. 1



▲ Following the cancellation of the OSAA 4A Boys Basketball Championships, the Spartans celebrate as best they can by cutting down the school net and displaying their No. 1 status.

On March 12, after beating No. 16 La Grande in a first round playoff game at home, the No. 1 ranked Spartan boys were headed to the OSAA 4A state boys basketball quarterfinals in Portland just as COVID-19 was posed to shut the state down. At first, OSAA announced that no fans, including parents, could attend the games but then, as the team neared Portland, the OSAA announced they would follow the lead of the NCAA and the NBA and cancel any further competitions. Turn the bus around. The Spartans had been riding a 13-game win streak and it goes without saying that they were heartbroken not to be able to prove themselves against the other top teams in the state. It is the first time since the OSAA started awarding state champions in 1919 that there wouldn't be a boys basketball team crowned champion at any level. The circumstances make the Spartans forever No. 1, but they would have preferred to prove it on the court.

## Softball Earns Top GPA Award

Even though the spring sports season was canceled just two weeks into the season, the softball team still earned the honor of having the top GPA among all 4A softball teams in the OSAA Academic All-State competition based on their first semester grades.

## Marist Wins the Combined Swim District Title



▲ The boys and girls swim teams celebrate their district team win with head coach Ryan Elliott.

Last February, the Marist swim program won the combined team title at the 4A/3A/2A/1A SD3 District Meet after the girls placed second and the boys placed first in an incredibly exciting and dramatic finish.

"It was pandemonium on deck. Everyone was jumping, yelling, screaming," swim coach Ryan Elliott said about the final event of the meet: the boys 400-yard Freestyle Relay performance by freshmen Kyler Lajoie and Jackson Anderson, junior Ryan Watts and sophomore Trent McQuaid. Other top performances for the boys were McQuaid who was second in both the 200-yard Freestyle and the 500-yard

Freestyle and Anderson who was second in the 200-yard Individual Medley. The boys sent two relays and four individuals to the state meet in late February where both Anderson and McQuaid earned sixth place in their individual races.

The top performances for the girls at the district meet include a win in the 400-yard Free Relay by sophomore Sofia James and seniors Lauren Barry, Aubrie Ellison and Lily Fitzharris. Barry also placed first in the 50-yard Freestyle, Ellison was first in the 100-yard Butterfly and second in the 100-yard Backstroke. The 200-yard Medley Relay (James, Barry, Ellison and senior Katie Thompson) placed second.

## Seniors Travel to Guatemala On Medical Mission Trip



▲ Senior Lily Fitzharris helps translate between Spanish and English for the doctors and nurses while on a medical mission trip in Guatemala.

Just before our state and the country shut down due to COVID-19, seniors Lily and Mark Fitzharris traveled to Guatemala for the second year in a row to serve as medical translators. Lily says that her love for these trips started after a service trip to Mexico her sophomore summer. The two made the trip alongside their dad and a team of people wanting the same thing—to help other people. "Every single Guatemalan person I met was incredibly interesting because they all live such different lives from me, but there are still things that we can relate on, and it's really cool to get a different perspective," Lily said. The Fitzharris returned to Marist just one day before COVID-19 transitioned Marist to remote learning.

At the state meet, the 400-yard Free Relay took third and the 200-yard Medley Relay took fourth, while Ellison was fourth in the 100-yard Backstroke and 5th in the 100-yard Butterfly and James was sixth in both the 200-yard Free and in the 100-yard Backstroke.

## All-American Swimmers



▲ Senior NISCAA Academic All-Americans Katie Thompson, Lauren Barry and Aubrie Ellison.

Senior swimmers Katie Thompson, Lauren Barry and Aubrie Ellison have been selected as Academic All-Americans by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America for their accomplishments in the pool and in the classroom. To qualify for this award the girls had to maintain a 3.6 GPA, place at the state tournament and/or be selected to an all-state team at least once in their high school career.



▲ Senior Lily Fitzharris in Guatemala.



## ALUMNI NOTES

### 1980s



▲ **Julie (Murray) Fulton '88** and Shauna Scott, O'Hara's art teachers, have been selected as winners this year of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) *Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award.*

### 1990s



▲ **Rachel (Godfrey) Carter '94** is now a published author. Her book, *Enduring the Cure: My MS Journey to the Brink of Death and Back* is her personal memoir of her accomplishments and incredible journey with multiple sclerosis.

### 2010s



▲ **Mariah Estill '11** has been working this last year at a cardiology clinic in Seattle. Mariah credits her exceptional teachers at Marist in preparing her for an Honors College Dual Major at

Oregon State University in biology and psychology including undergraduate research publications. Mariah has been accepted to Georgetown School of Medicine M.D program in Washington, D.C. starting August 1. Georgetown gets over 13,000 applicants annually and admits less than 3%.



▲ **Makayla Estill '13** is working towards her Master of Nonprofit Management at the University of Oregon with an emphasis on water resources. Makayla graduated with a dual major in geography and environmental sustainability from the University of Utah in 2017. She then obtained an internship with the Utah Bureau of Reclamation in Water Quality Monitoring and later served as a seasonal Environmental Interpreter for the Oregon State Parks Department in Joseph, Oregon along with being a snowboard instructor at Mt. Hood.



▲ **Eric Hammerschmith '13** has been accepted into the Neuroscience PhD program at Princeton University in New Jersey beginning this fall.



◀ **Natalie Hakala '16** graduated this spring from Concordia University Irvine with a degree in exercise sports science with an emphasis in kinesiology and a minor in biology. She is applying to physician assistant programs this year.



▲ **Ryan Helbling '16** is graduating from the University of Portland this summer with a degree in mechanical engineering and was recently awarded the Rev. Fred Barr C.S.C. Campus Ministry Leadership Award. Ryan's contributions to campus ministry during his four years at UP include assisting with music at campus Masses and serving and providing opportunities for others to engage in their faith life. "Ryan has done all of this with humor, care, enthusiasm, and authenticity," writes UP.

## REUNIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of all class reunions this summer and fall at Marist. We hope to see you all on campus next summer!

## THE SISTER JOHN MAUREEN BACKENSTOS

# Angel Fund



The Sister John Maureen Backenstos Angel Fund was established in honor of an extraordinary woman and educator who had a profound influence on students during her 11 years at Marist. Sister John was known for her personal outreach to those in need. This fund is an emergency account to be used at the discretion of the high school administration for Marist students/families who require financial assistance in times of financial hardship.

Many Marist families have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are concerned that their students will not be able to return to Marist this fall. Angel Funds could be used for registration fees, tuition assistance and other related expenses. This fund aligns perfectly with the lessons Sister John taught about caring for one another. [Read more about the Sr. John Angel Fund](#) and consider being a part of this important effort. Thank you!





TAKE

## David Welch answers five questions in five minutes

After a 23-year career raising funds for higher education around the country, both in public and private institutions, David Welch now joins the Marist community as the school's next president following the retirement of Suzanne Graf. He officially began his new position at Marist on July 1.

### Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama and grew up within a strong community of Catholic schools. My father taught history at Spring Hill College, a Jesuit university in town. Both my sister and I attended Catholic schools from grade school through college. I graduated from Marquette University and my Catholic school education has served me well in my career over the last 23 years. Early in my career, my wife and I transplanted to the Pacific Northwest and have lived in the area for nearly 20 years. I have worked in development at the University of Washington and the University of Oregon and have also spent time on the East Coast working at both the University of North Carolina and Georgetown University. Working with leadership and faculty around the country has given me a unique perspective on the importance and impact of a quality education.

### How do you think your life and professional experiences will help you in your role as president of Marist?

My entire career has been based on forming productive and collaborative relationships with people who care about education. In my leadership roles at the UO and Georgetown, I helped create and define the educational priorities for the institution and then secured the necessary funding. Sitting on leadership teams at high-performing educational institutions, primarily within the arts and sciences divisions, has given me great insights into the complexity of delivering a quality education. I value the president/principal model and look forward to working with Stacey Baker.

### Why are you most excited about being the next president of Marist?

I'm excited to learn everything that is involved in leading a successful Catholic high school. I also look forward to having the opportunity to be more closely connected to students and seeing the impact that a Catholic education can provide them. Lastly, I'm excited about engaging our community, understanding the culture and characteristics that make it successful, and helping build a vision to make sure this great institution continues to be a strong asset for the Eugene community for many years to come.

### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy spending time with my wife and two teenagers and all of their individual pursuits. I am a long distance trail runner and a backpacker. I enjoy good water, good food, good beer — all of which are in abundance here.

### When you were in high school, what did you want to do when you grew up and how did that change?

To be honest, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and that was OK. But I did realize that there was so much more to learn about life and the world around us—and I don't think that has changed. I see education as something that can change anybody's life and provide them with the proper context to view the world around them. Catholic schools provided me with a foundation and perspective of how to look at life going forward. That remains a passion for me — continuing to try to learn and engage with others.



New Marist president David Welch.

# 9 Ways

## To Support Students through the Marist Foundation

1. Pray for our continued success
2. Make an [Annual Fund gift](#)
3. Donate to an existing [scholarship fund](#)
4. Memorial Giving — gifts in memory of, or to honor, a loved one or special occasion
5. Volunteer to serve on a board committee
6. Establish a NEW scholarship fund (\$25,000 minimum)
7. Make the Marist Foundation a charity of choice within funeral arrangements
8. Designate the Marist Foundation beneficiary of a life insurance policy
9. Establish a planned gift within your estate plans

The Marist Foundation is dedicated to providing Marist Catholic High School and its students with funds exclusively for educational and religious purposes, including tuition assistance and other education expenses for students qualifying for financial assistance. The Foundation is responsible for accepting financial contributions, bequests, and gifts from donors; managing restricted and unrestricted endowments; and distributing scholarships and other funds for the benefit of Marist Catholic High School and its students.



**Marist High School Foundation**  
1900 Kingsley Road  
Eugene, OR 97401-1799  
541-686-0251

**Rebecca Larson**  
rlarson@marisths.org



Support our students, teachers and mission with a gift today!



Annual **FUND**



## How your gift makes a difference!

- ✓ Individualized attention with a 12:1 student to teacher ratio
- ✓ Expanded retreat and student service programs
- ✓ Tuition assistance for over 215 students in all grade levels
- ✓ Innovative 1:1 learning technology in the classroom and online
- ✓ Professional development for faculty and staff
- ✓ 50+ athletics, clubs & extracurricular activities

**Every year.  
Every gift matters.**

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

20 Freshman Root Beer Social

### SEPTEMBER

8 Welcome Back Day for students and Freshman Orientation

9 First Day of School

14-18 Welcome Week

18 Mass of the Holy Spirit

19-21 Formation Retreat

26 Freshman Lock-In

### OCTOBER

12-16 Homecoming Week

16 Homecoming Football Game

24-25 Fall Men's Encounter

Visit [marisths.org](http://marisths.org) for updates.