



St. Rita of Cascia High School
7740 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Stay in touch with St. Rita.



28th Annual *Caritas* Valentine Dinner Dance

You are cordially invited to attend
the Twenty-Eighth Annual
Valentine Dinner Dance
Saturday, February 11, 2017

Optional 5:15 p.m. Sunday Obligation Mass
6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception • 7:00 p.m. Dinner

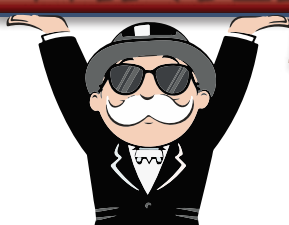
Loews Chicago Hotel • 455 N. Park Dr, Chicago, IL

\$350 per person | \$3500 table of ten | \$5000 corporate tables
Featuring Silent Auction | Live Auction | Live Music | Until 11p.m.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT



WINTERFEST



ST. RITA WINTERFEST XIII

SAT. JANUARY 28, 2017 • 6:30 pm - Midnight

EVENT and RAFFLE Tickets can be purchased
through the Office of Institutional Advancement
by calling 773.925.5029 or visiting stritahs.com

Pre-Paid \$50 • At Door \$60 • Seniors \$30

Includes Dinner, Open Bar & Live Entertainment by
RENDITION, THE LARKIN & MORAN BROTHERS & LATE NIGHT.

Grand Raffle Tickets \$100 • No more than 900 will be sold!
GRAND PRIZE \$20,000 and NINE \$1,000 PRIZES

ANNUAL REPORT



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016



BECAUSE OF YOU!

VERITAS | UNITAS | CARITAS

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A MESSAGE FROM FR. PAUL GALETTO, O.S.A.

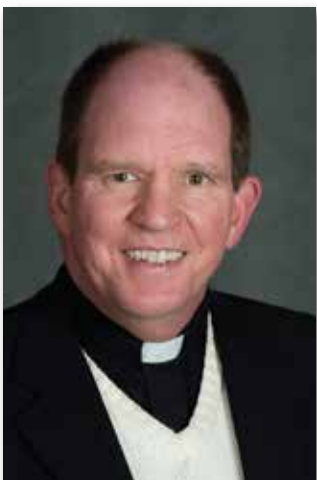
Dear Alumni, friends and Ritamen,

The first thing I came to realize is that Chicago is a land of choices. Back East my only choice was paper or plastic; but here it is deep dish or thin crust; O'Hare or Midway, (and the most treacherous one of all) Sox or Cubs. I must say that it is impossible not to pick a winner; they are all so good. (Ugh, I think I sound like a politician!)

I am so looking forward to my tenure at St. Rita High School as Head of School and Chief Executive Officer. I inherit a great situation from Ernie Mrozek '71 and the Augustinians that have preceded him, especially Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA, '83. I have been given a great staff with whom to work: Mike Zunica as President, Brendan Conroy as Principal and the other members of the St. Rita family. I am greatly honored by the trust Fr. Bernie Scianna, OSA, '83 and his Council as well as the Board of Directors of St. Rita High School has placed in me.

After having spent the last two years at Villanova University both teaching and as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I am delighted to return to secondary education. Before I went to Villanova I was President of St. Augustine Prep in Richland, New Jersey. In my time there I took enrollment from 235 to 700, built a twenty million dollar expansion of facilities and dramatically improved college admissions as well as the academic and athletic programs of the school. I must admit that I am a sports fanatic (can I take both the Cubs and the Sox?). In my last year at St. Augustine, the school earned six state titles and played in the finals of three other sports. To me, academic and athletic excellence go hand in hand. People ask me why I left Villanova and I tell them, "I won the NCAA Championship while I was there and so my work was done!"

What I love about St. Rita High School is that it is in great shape. My goal is to make the great greater. My academic credentials and experiences will be put to immediate use in making some changes to the curriculum of the school. I love working with Admissions and I have several plans that I hope will increase the number of applications of young men seeking a great education. I am on fire with desire.



Yes, I realize that the south side of Chicago is a place of many great choices; however, when it comes to picking a place to educate one's son, the choice will be clear and obvious. There is no better place than St. Rita High School. Go Mustangs!

Sincerely,

Fr Paul W. Galetto, O.S.A.

Fr. Paul W. Galetto, OSA, Ph.D.
Head of School/CEO

SPORTS ROUND-UP

SPRING UPDATE BASEBALL

Leading 3-1 with five outs to go in front of an overflow crowd, the varsity baseball had the state's top-ranked team on the ropes, but a two-run homer in the sixth and a walk-off bloop double just inside the right field foul line in the bottom of the seventh brought the Mustangs' season to an abrupt end with a tough 4-3 loss in the sectional semi-finals.



It was another successful season for Head Coach Mike Zunica's ball club as they finished (29-9) on the year including the H.I.T. Tournament championship in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Do It Stevie's Way Tournament championship in late May.

The Mustangs were lead by first team all-CCL Blue selections, seniors Dom Sarro, Danny Gleaves, and Mateo Zunica. Zunica and Gleaves were also named first and second team all-area respectively in the Daily Southtown while Zunica added a third team all-state selection by The Prep Baseball Report to his resume.

On the mound, the Mustangs were lead by junior ace Steve Washilewski, who finished with an (8-2) record on the season. Other key contributors included senior third baseman Ray Hansen, junior pitcher/second baseman Matt Verdun, and senior pitcher Max Franklin.

Another milestone that occurred during the 2016 season, Head Coach Mike Zunica notched his 600th career victory in his 21st season as a head coach including the last twenty at St. Rita. The 2017 season will be Zunica's last in the Mustang dugout, as St. Rita's all-time wins leader will turn his focus to his new role as President of St. Rita.

LACROSSE

The 2016 Lacrosse season saw the varsity Mustangs finish in third place in the Catholic League with an overall record of 14-9. In the playoffs they were a state quarterfinalist for the fourth year in a row. Several varsity Mustangs were named to the all conference team including: Aidan Sweeney and Danny Lawler to the first team. Tim Martino, Myles Leyden and Nick Healy all earned second team honors.

Head Coach Jimmy Juchinski '97 was named the CCL Lawless Coach of the Year. He is a two-time winner of this prestigious award. Coach Juchinski said, "Out of 35 players on the varsity team only three were seniors, nine freshmen were asked to play up at the varsity level in 2016. We return 32 players for the 2017 spring season. We'll be ready for the competition."

TRACK

The 2016 Track season had some major successes. Two school records were broken, five athletes were selected to the All-Catholic League team and the team finished second at the IHSA sectional. Tyrique Thomas signed to continue running track with Concordia University-Chicago.

We look forward to the 2017 season as 85% of the team will return, including four athletes who ranked among the top-15 freshmen in the state



Marcus Coleman, Mick Doyle, and Daylen Wilson). Stefanski is ranked as Illinois' #1 freshmen 400m runner (indoors and outdoors).



VOLLEYBALL

The St. Rita Volleyball team opened up Chicago Catholic League play with a three set win at Loyola (16-25, 30-28, 25-21). The Spiking Mustangs went on to beat Mt. Carmel in two sets, (25-14, 25-17), gritted out a three-set match against Wheaton St. Francis (23-25, 25-22, 25-20), and then another two-set win over St. Ignatius (25-19, 25-21). St. Rita Volleyball entered the final week of league play against Providence. They dominated the final two sets for a 17-25, 25-15, 25-17 victory to move to 5-0 in conference and clinch at least a share of the title, their first since 2009, and only the second CCL title in program history.

Senior Setter, Mike Long totaled 768 assists on the season, along with 35 blocks and 14 aces. The Mustangs offense was paced all season by Senior Right Side Hitter, Aidan Mitchell (226 kills, 57 blocks, 21 aces) and Junior Middle Blocker, Brendan Murney (182 kills, 72 blocks, 19 aces). Junior Outside Hitters, Liam Kelly (183 kills, 197 digs, 17 aces) and Sean Coghlan (146 kills, 146 digs, 19 aces), and Senior Middle Blocker, Tim Carroll (116 kills, 60 blocks) were key contributors offensively and defensively all season. Sophomore Libero, Mike Mitchell (192 digs, 14 aces) was called up a few weeks into the season and played a huge role both from the service line and defensively. The Mustangs finished the 2016 campaign with a 22-15 (5-1 in CCL) record and won their first

Regional Championship since 2013.

FALL UPDATE

It has been another busy but exciting fall sports season around St. Rita. The golf, cross country, soccer and football seasons are in the home stretch as the Mustangs look to finish their seasons strongly.

FOOTBALL

The varsity football team, finished the regular season with a (5-4, 2-2) record, has been involved in some wild games so far in the 2016 season. With a newly installed fast-paced offensive attack, Coach Todd Kuska's "Fighting Mustangs" have averaged over 35 points per game thus far and have a few last second wins on their resume.

The season started at Soldier Field against ESCC member St. Patrick. The Shamrocks took a commanding 33-14 lead into the halftime locker room, but the Mustangs came storming back scoring on their first four possessions of the second half to cut the deficit to 47-44. Unfortunately, two fourth quarter opportunities to take the lead came up empty and St. Rita fell to (0-1).

Highly touted Rich Central came to Doyle Stadium for the home opener week two, and the Mustangs ran them off the field by a score a 56-19.

Week three was the CCL Blue opener versus Augustinian rival Providence Catholic. The Mustangs fell behind again and trailed 24-14 in the fourth quarter, but a long touchdown drive by the offense cut the deficit to 24-21



with about five minutes to play. Then St. Rita interceded! With about two minutes to go and the Celtics on the Mustang one-yrd line, Providence fumbled, and senior Liam Kelly recovered on the six. Junior quarterback Jake Zylman then led the St. Rita offense with no timeouts down the field into Providence territory where sophomore kicker Gavin Motl drilled a 44-yrd field goal in the final seconds to send the game to overtime. After Providence scored first in the extra time, St. Rita faced a fourth and goal from the eight when Zylman hit senior receiver Timmy Zaleski in the back corner of the end zone for the touchdown. The decision by Coach Kuska that followed would prove to be season-changing as the St. Rita offense lined up from the three-yrd line to attempt the two-pt conversion for the win. Zylman handed off to speedy sophomore receiver Jake Stefanski around right end, and he plowed into the end zone sending the Mustang faithful into a frenzy following the thrilling 32-31 win.

After a tough homecoming loss to St. Laurence 45-42 on a tipped pass turned into a 44-yrd touchdown for the Vikings in the closing seconds, St. Rita headed to Gately Stadium to continue the greatest high school rivalry in the state versus Mount Carmel. In another must-win game, the Mustangs struck first when senior safety AJ Jones scooped up a Caravan fumble and ran it in for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead early in the game. The Mustangs and Caravan would trade punches throughout the game as the game was tied at 7, 14, 21, and 28. After a missed field goal attempt by Mount Carmel with just over three minutes to play, the Mustang offense took over on their own twenty-yard line looking for the winning score. A few great runs by senior running back Sean Rule and a key fourth down conversion run by sophomore Jake Stefanski set the stage for St. Rita sophomore kicker Gavin Motl. With less than a second to play, Motl confidently nailed a 34yd field goal sending St. Rita to (2-0) in the CCL Blue and (3-2) overall.

The Mustangs next travelled to number ranked Loyola where the Ramblers proved to be too much for the Mustangs in a 35-3 win. St. Rita will look to win two of their final three games to qualify for the state play-offs and make a run in the Class 7A field.



CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team led by first year coach and 2007 St. Rita grad Dave Letourneau has had a strong season. They are lead by seniors Nick Martone and Oscar Martinez who have consistently run the three-mile in 19 minutes or less and they have improved their times every week since the start of the season in August.

SOCCER

The soccer team, coached by St. Rita grads Tim McCarthy '85 and Bob Kellam '92, are lead by senior Boo Murphy, who leads the team in goals with ten. Also, senior John Ocampo has scored twice off of direct kicks. The team was also awarded the IHSA All-Academic and Sectional Sportsmanship Award. They are also in the process of finishing the new Soccer House, located on the east end of Doyle Stadium, which will serve as a locker room and training facility for the soccer program.



GOLF

The Golf Team, led by head coach Pete Godfrey, has had one its most successful seasons in recent memory posting a (6-2) record in dual meets while also advancing the entire team into the sectional tournament, which St. Rita will host for the first time in school history. The team is led by juniors Kevin Healy and Bryan Scheid, who posted an 83 and an 85 in the regional tournament.



HELLO FR. RICHIE



Father Richie Mercado, O.S.A. was ordained on June 11, 2016 and has been appointed Director of Augustinian Mission and School Chaplain at St. Rita of Cascia High School for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Q: Growing up in the Philippines, what made you decide to become an Augustinian Friar?

A: When I was a senior in high school, several religious communities came to my school to talk about vocations. I participated in retreats for three of them and decided to join the Augustinians.

Q: What is your vision for your new roles as Director of Augustinian Mission and Chaplain at St. Rita? People say you have an outgoing personality and you are a very energetic young man. They think you are going to be a good influence on

the students because of that.

A: Well, I hope so. Of course, there are two jobs involved here: one is like being the “pastor of the school”. I’m sure the students are members of their own home parish but there is also a spiritual component at school. I will be there as the chaplain for the spiritual needs of the students, the faculty, the families and the alumni. The other part is being a member of the administration, the leadership of the school. As the Director of Mission, my job is to make sure that the school is Augustinian in the first place, and of course, Catholic. Those are the two non-negotiables.

Q: I hear people say St. Rita High School’s greatest attribute is our Augustinian Catholic identity and how there’s a need for values to be taught to kids in today’s world. I’m wondering if you agree with that.

A: I totally agree. It’s not just a Catholic School –it’s an Augustinian school. Of course, in all our Augustinian institutions, we always try to incorporate the three values Caritas, Veritas and Unitas into the lives of the students, faculty and, beyond that, the families we encounter every day. I am positive that the students will never realize it when they are here but when they are gone, they will say, “I learned that at St. Rita High School and I’m proud to be a Ritaman,” because it’s part of the journey. We say we are always in this together – one mind and one heart on our way to God; and that’s very Augustinian.

Q: I heard a rumor that you might be the first Augustinian priest assigned to St. Rita who was brought into formation with Fr. Tom as Vocations Director.

A: I am the first one who was ordained a priest. This past summer we had eleven novices take their first vows, including one St. Rita alumnus. This was the largest class in many, many years and in fact, three others had ties to the Chicago area. The tradition still goes on at St. Rita.

St. Rita Administration

Pictured Left to Right:



Mike Zunica HON

President,
Director of Advancement,
Director of Athletics

**Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A.
Ph.D. '83**

Prior Provincial,
Midwest Augustinians

Fr. Paul Galetto, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Head of School and Chief
Executive Officer

Fr. Richie Mercado, O.S.A.

Director of Augustinian Mission

Brendan Conroy HON

Principal

Ernie Mrozek '71

Chairman of the Board

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

St. Rita is pleased to welcome several new faculty and staff members to the community for the 2016-2017 academic year. Principal Brendan Conroy says the new additions are an “unbelievably talented and committed group of professionals who have chosen to come to St. Rita although they had other professional choices. We are thrilled to have them as part of the team and look forward to the great contribution they will make inside and outside the classroom.”



Rosemary Boldt
English Faculty
BA Dominican University



Fr. Paul Galetto, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Head of School/CEO
BA Villanova University
STB Gregorian University (Rome, Italy)
MA Villanova University
Ph.D. Catholic University



Eileen Scaduto
Math Faculty
BA Math Education, St. Xavier University



William (Buddy) Dolan
Latin Faculty
BA College of the Holy Cross
MA University of Notre Dame



Fr. Richie Mercado, O.S.A.
*Director of Augustinian Mission
& Chaplain*
BA San Agustin Seminary
BS DeVry University
MA Catholic Theological Union



Eric Sieloff
Director of Testing Center
BA St. Xavier University



Laura Fleck
Director of Alumni Relations/Grant Writer
BA Northwestern University



Andrew McIntosh
Theology Faculty
BA Loras College
MEd University of Illinois



Eileen Spulak
CFO/Comptroller
BA Loyola University

Not pictured. Mike Boyd '01,
Health & PE Faculty,
BA University of Illinois,
MEd Chicago State University



Guy Valponi
Theology Faculty
BA Loyola University Chicago

THE 1905 GUILD

Creating Extraordinary Opportunities – Preserving St. Rita’s Future.

A solid financial future – it is a goal that you and St. Rita of Cascia High School share. We are careful about building our assets and providing for our family while looking to the future. You can achieve this with a planned gift to St. Rita of Cascia High School.

With a planned giving strategy tailored to your family's needs, you can put your assets to work for any program at St. Rita, while you and the school share in the benefits, such as:

- The chance to leave a meaningful legacy
- A secure income stream for you or a loved one
- The ability to save on your income and estate taxes
- The peace of mind knowing your family’s and St. Rita’s future are secure

The 1905 Guild is named in honor of Fr. James F. Green, O.S.A. whose vision and foresight brought the Augustinian core values of Truth, Unity and Love to 63rd and Oakley 111-years ago when he founded St. Rita of Cascia High School. This honorary society celebrates the traditions of St. Rita of Cascia High School and its legacy for the future. It is comprised of generous benefactors who have provided for St. Rita of Cascia High School in their estate plans.

There are several ways to become a member of the 1905 Guild, including:

- Cash Gifts – most often made in the form of cash, checks or electronic transfers.
- Securities – gifts of appreciated securities are a quick and easy way to support our school and realize tax savings
- Life Income Gifts – Income producing gifts can provide donors with an income stream, potential tax-savings and the satisfaction of supplying St. Rita with vital long-term resources.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts – Cash, securities or other appreciated assets are placed into a trust, where the trust can pay a percentage of the principal to St. Rita.
- Life Insurance – policies owned that are no longer needed for their original purpose may be used to make a gift that can provide welcome income tax savings and may result in significant estate tax savings in the future.
- Retirement Assets – you can name St. Rita as a beneficiary of any qualified retirement plan.
- Real Estate – You can make a gift through a donation of residential, commercial or underdeveloped real estate.

For additional information on how to add St. Rita of Cascia High School to your final estate plans, please contact Mike Zunica, President, and Director of Advancement at (773) 925-5029 or at mzunica@stritahs.com.



THANK YOU FR. TOM FOR YOUR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL



Fr. Tom with Bro. Joe Ruiz, O.S.A. and Fr. Richie Mercado, O.S.A., two Augustinians now ministering at St. Rita. Bringing new Augustinians into the Order is how Fr. Tom is helping St. Rita High School today.



Fr. Tom with the 11 novices who professed their first vows on July 31st.

Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A. '83 has held many roles at St. Rita High School, possibly more than any other Ritaman. He has been a student, band member, band president, Knight of Augustine, monastery employee, summer maintenance worker, teacher, campus minister, chaplain, principal, president and chairman of the board. While he is currently director of the St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel and also chairman of the board emeritus, Fr. Tom's main job is Vocation Director for the Our Mother of Good Counsel (Midwest) and St. Thomas of Villanova (East) Provinces of the Augustinians.

One of the most frequently asked questions we get in the alumni office is, "What is Fr. Tom's role now?" So we recently spent some time with Fr. Tom discussing his time at St. Rita and his current position and duties as the Augustinian Vocation Director based at Villanova University.

Q: When did your time at St. Rita begin?

A: I started at band camp in summer 1979 and as a freshman in the fall of '79. That's where I met my classmate [and current Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians] Fr. Bernie Scianna, O.S.A. '83. We've been friends ever since. I was actually going to quit the band. I went to see the band director [legendary Mr. Lou Ricci '53] to quit. He talked to me for at least a half hour, convincing me to give it a try. And I have to say, that was some of the best advice that I've ever been given. Being involved at St. Rita is what makes the experience so great. No one should be a "2:30 kid"--leaving campus at the end of the classes every day.

Q: How did you decide to be an Augustinian friar and priest?

A: I met the Augustinians and came to know them and the Augustinian community first at St. Rita. Fr. Lavern Flach, O.S.A. gave me a job answering phones in the monastery. After junior year, Fr. Pat Murphy, O.S.A. '66 was really the key in my discernment in becoming an Augustinian. Br. Joe Fisher, O.S.A., Fr. Flach, O.S.A., Fr. Ed Griffin, O.S.A., Br. Larry Sparacino, O.S.A., and Fr. Leo Cavanaugh, O.S.A., just to name a few, were also big influences on my life. Through their actions and examples they helped me decide to enter the pre-novitiate program at Villanova University. (I was there when the basketball team won the

NCAA Tournament in 1985—so that was pretty cool!) I looked at my time in formation as a year commitment—one year at a time.

Q: What influenced your decision to become the Augustinian Vocation Director?

A: In 2007, Fr. Bernie '83, Br. Gary Hresil, O.S.A. '86 and I were sitting in the St. Rita monastery yard, talking about having only one guy in formation for the Province. If he persevered, he would be the first ordination in 15 years. So the three of us were discussing why no one was joining, since we knew what a great life we led as Augustinians. We felt we had two options: 1. Let the Province die gracefully (the Order will never die, because it is flourishing in many parts of the world) or 2. Do something about it. That's when the three of us decided to go to the Provincial and say, "We are willing to do something to increase vocations." I volunteered as vocation director; but I still wanted to keep my ministry as St. Rita President at that time. Consequently, I invited Sr. Ardis Cloutier, O.S.F. to run the vocation office. Sr. Ardis has now retired and we've moved the office to Villanova University for 2016-17. We are proud to say we now have 40 men in formation at this time.

Q: Speaking of formation, your role as Vocation Director is to play a key role in the lives of young men exploring the possibility of religious life as an Augustinian Friar. What do you say to them?

A: I say to guys, "You're not signing up for seven or eight years. You're signing up for one year. If you feel called give it a try. After one year, if it seems right, go on for another year. If not, then you can leave." We keep formation an individualized process. Every young man has his own specific timeline that works best with his formation.

Q: What keeps you motivated as an Augustinian, and in your current role as Vocation Director?

A: I can remember when I got the Augustinian habit for the first time [in the novitiate in Racine, Wisconsin]—how excited I was. That was 1987. And even today when I put the habit on, I feel that excitement. That's how much I love being an Augustinian. There is no more visible sign of being an Augustinian than wearing the habit.

Q: What is your relationship with St. Rita High School now?

A: First and foremost, I'm a proud alumnus and strong supporter of St. Rita. Also, I have a room in the monastery. That is my headquarters when I am working in the Midwest (Our Mother of Good Counsel) Province. I am the Director of the Shrine. However, I no longer have an official role at the school.

Q: What is something about St. Rita that impresses you?

A: What I'm really proud about at St. Rita is that we have truly great kids--and they really want to be here. Many of the kids pass up several other schools just to get here. I believe that's due to the Augustinian community that is present at St. Rita. No one gets lost in the crowd at St. Rita High School. Every Ritaman is important. Another point I'm pleased with, related to the budget and indicative of the solid leadership in place at St. Rita, is the fact that we've operated in the black for the last six years in a row. We live within our means and provide an excellent education to Ritamen at the same time.

I look forward to bringing in more young men becoming Augustinians, like Fr. Richie Mercado, O.S.A. and Brother Joe Ruiz O.S.A. who are now ministering at St. Rita.

Visit www.augustinianvocations.org to learn more about Augustinian vocations.

Father Tom has impacted the lives of thousands of Ritamen in his tenures as our President, Chairman of the Board, and Chaplain. He is now committed to promoting a "Culture of Vocation" across the country and recruiting dozens of vocations into the Augustinian Order. Several of these men are familiar faces to us here at St. Rita. We are happy to announce that he will be honored at next April's Augustinian Gala!

**Please Join the Augustinians in Honoring
Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.
At the Fifth Annual Augustinian Gala**

Friday, April 28, 2017 • The Drake Hotel | 140 E Walton St | Chicago, IL 60611
Reservations, program book opportunities, and other sponsorships now available!
augustiniangala.org



Dear Friends of the Augustinians,

Welcome to another year at Saint Rita of Cascia High School! I hope that by now many of you are growing accustomed to the new changes by the new leadership team made at the school. Every change we implement, from reintroducing weekly all-school Masses to our students having more time between classes, is made specifically with the goal of forming Ritamen in both mind and heart. As Augustine said in his Rule, "The main purpose of you having come together is to live harmoniously in your house, intent upon God in oneness of mind and heart." The Augustinians apply this teaching not only in our lives as friars in the monastery but also in our ministries in schools, parishes, and missions.

Our new leadership team includes Father Paul Galetto, O.S.A., Ph.D., who comes to us from Villanova University where he served as the Assistant Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; his ministry there and at other Augustinian schools gives me great confidence that he will be an excellent Head of School and CEO. Mr. Mike Zunica, our new President, Director of Advancement and Director of Athletics will report to Father Galetto. I believe they will collaborate with each other very effectively. Mr. Brendan Conroy continues on as our school's Principal.

Furthermore, our school has a new Chaplain and Director of Augustinian Mission! After several years in the Augustinian formation process, Richie Mercado, O.S.A., was ordained to the priesthood this past June! Father Richie brings with him a great energy and enthusiasm for living out our core Augustinian values. If you ever want to learn more about the charisms of our Order, Father Richie will be happy to talk with you!

With Father Richie taking on this position, we also say goodbye to Father Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., who has served as our Chaplain, not to mention his other assignments here as the President and Chairman of the Board over the past 20 years! Please enjoy his interview in this issue of Tolle Lege, where you'll learn more about his ministry in promoting Augustinian vocations. As a way of saying thank you to all that Father Tom has given our community, I hope you will join me in honoring him at the Augustinian Gala at the Drake Hotel on April 28, 2017. You can find more information about the gala at augustiniangala.org.

Lastly, I want to reiterate my gratitude to Ernie Mrozek for serving as our President the past four years. With me completing my year as the Chairman of the Board, Ernie will now serve as our new Chairman; I'm grateful that Ernie is extending his relationship with us in maintaining a leadership role. I will still be active here in the St. Rita Community not only as a member of our monastery but also as a Director of the Board and as the Prior Provincial for all the Midwest Augustinians.

May God bless you and your loved ones! Saint Rita, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ and St. Augustine,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Fr. Bernie".

Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., Ph.D. '83
Prior Provincial of the Midwest Augustinians

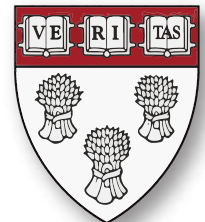


THOMAS J. GRACA
CLASS OF 1993

Tom Graca grew up in Queen of the Universe parish located on Chicago's southwest side in the West Lawn neighborhood. In January 1989 he decided to take the entrance exam at St. Rita along with four of his Cobra classmates. While at St. Rita, in addition to finishing near the top of his class academically, Tom played both football and basketball for the Mustangs.

After graduating in 1993, Graca attended Texas Christian University where he earned his degree in Speech Communication. Tom continued his education by earning Masters' degrees in both Education and Theological studies at UT-Arlington and TCU respectively before earning his law degree from SMU and a doctorate in education from Texas A&M University.

Professionally, Tom has worked in various roles at the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarrant County College, and Eastfield College while also practicing law primarily in the area of employment law. In August of 2013, Tom was hired as the Director of Academic Affairs at Harvard Law School, and in September 2014 he was promoted to Assistant Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs at Harvard.



Tom is married to his wife of 18 years Clare (Bedell) Graca, who is the managing Director of Development at Harvard Business School. They have three children: Adam (8), Zoe (6), who was baptized at St. Rita, and Jordan (4).

Q: How did St. Rita prepare you academically for college and beyond?

A: The critical thinking skills that I learned at St. Rita put me on track for success in college and graduate school.

Q: What stands out about your experience at St. Rita?

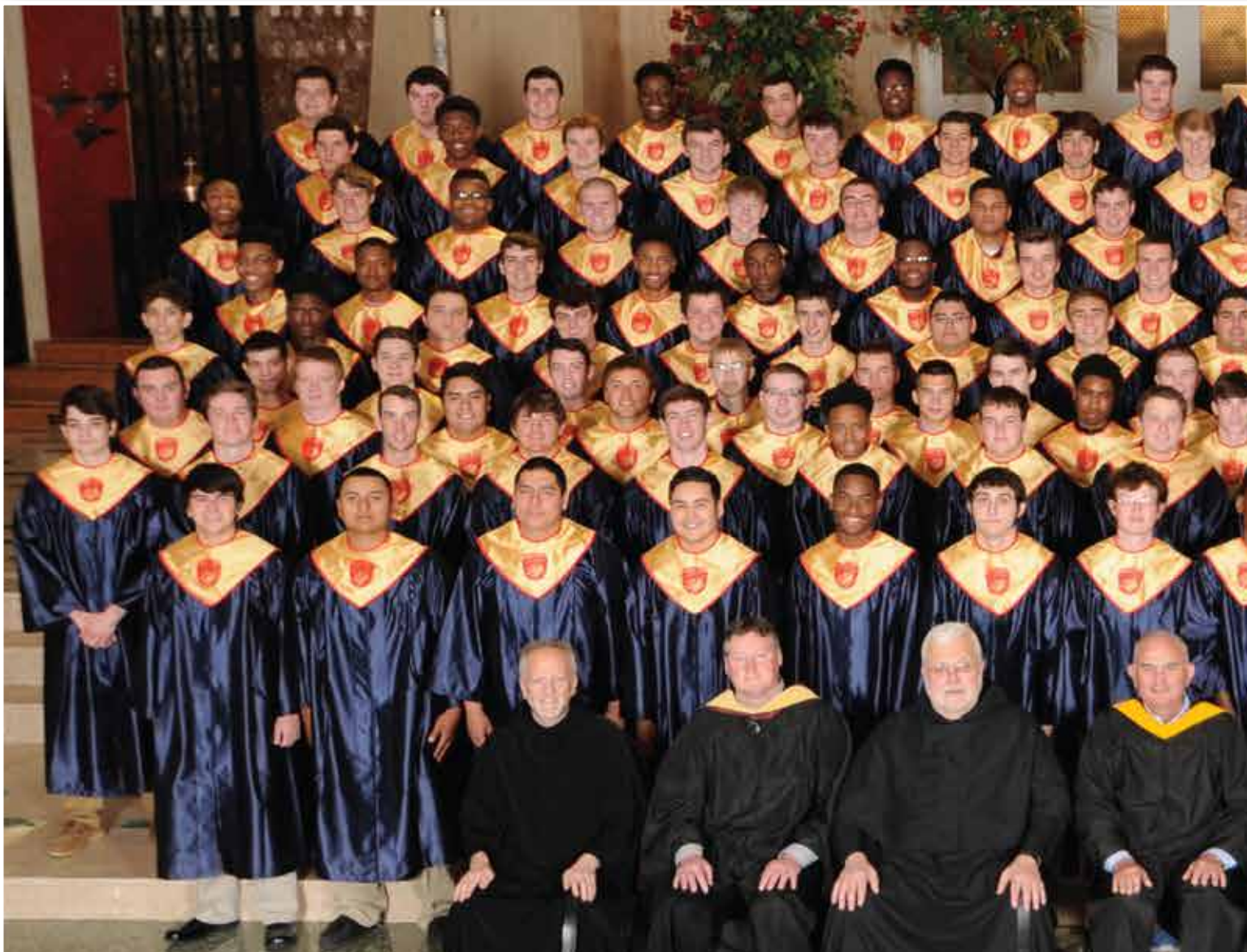
A: My experiences at St. Rita gave me a deeper sense of my own worth and ability to make meaningful contributions to the world. These experiences were certainly not always easy, but I can't think of anything for which I would trade them. St. Rita helped me to appreciate what it means to be a man and helped me become one.

Q: What is it like to work at arguably the most prestigious university in the world?

A: Harvard Law School is an amazing place. It is the home of the most significant legal and public policy research in the world as well as some of the very best law teaching. After a year and a half, I am still in awe of the place every morning.

St. Rita of Cascia celebrates 109th Annual Commencement

Saturday, May 21, 2016



On a picture-perfect Saturday morning, the 148 graduates of the class of 2016, along with the faculty and staff, proceeded down Western Avenue and into the St. Rita of Cascia Shrine Chapel to celebrate the 109th Annual Commencement Baccalaureate Mass, celebrated by Very Reverend Bernard Scianna, O.S.A, Ph.D '83. The Shrine Chapel was filled to capacity with the families of the graduates.

During his moving homily, Fr. Scianna challenged the graduates using the words of St. Augustine, "Whenever you feel satisfaction, there you will stop. Say, 'It is

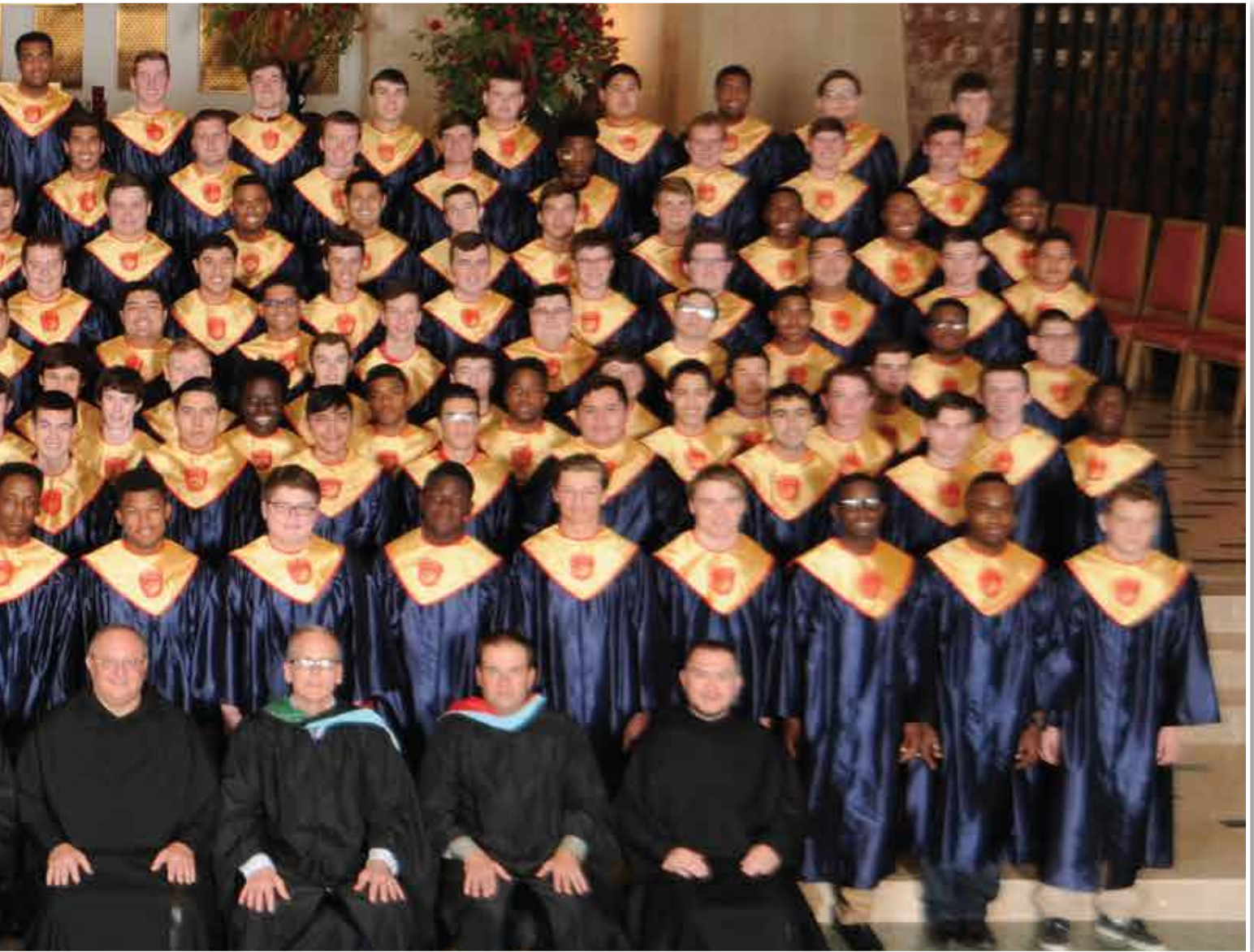
enough', and you are lost. You must look for more; walk onward; make progress." Fr. Scianna reminded the graduates that he, too, is a Ritaman, a member of the class of '83, and encouraged them to "remain connected to the vine", and to come home, where they will always be welcome. Father then asked the graduates that, as they begin the rest of their lives, to be men of generous hearts, of peace and of hope.

In his commencement speech, Valedictorian Justin Schmit (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) thanked, among others, his grandfather, John Schmit

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

\$16,117,637

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED



'50, for teaching him the St. Rita fight song at an early age and setting him on the path to enroll at St. Rita. Justin then went on to recognize and thank several teachers for listening and understanding the students. He added, "Being a Ritaman is a special brotherhood and the possibilities for the graduates are endless."

Salutatorian (and future President of the United States, as predicted by his classmates!) Dominic Sarro (Villanova University), thanked his family for making the sacrifices they did to allow him to attend St. Rita. He, too, recognized several teachers and coaches for all they did for him. Dominic then thanked several

of his Ritaman brothers, calling out each by the nicknames they acquired during their time here. He closed by challenging the graduates to remember where they came from and thanking them for welcoming him to the Southside tradition that is St. Rita of Cascia High School.

Outgoing President Ernie Mrozek '71 closed the ceremony by congratulating the graduates for all their efforts and hard work, reminding them that the world will challenge them but their St. Rita education has given them a significant head start in the world.

RITAMEN



TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES



Every month during the academic year St. Rita Alumni from the classes of 1977 and earlier (40+ years) are invited to the McCarthy Center on campus for RITAMEN Luncheons. These informal lunches start at 12:30 p.m. The lunches help our alumni stay connected and keep them up-to-date on the latest St. Rita news through interaction with our administrators and coaches. For more information and to RSVP for the RITAMEN luncheons please contact Sue Connolly at 773-925-5029 or sconnolly@stritahs.com.

Visit our website at www.StRitaHS.com to:

- Update your Alumni Profile
- Help us update St. Rita Military Service Records
- Donate online
- Read the latest St. Rita news
- View the latest publications, including Tolle Lege

RITAMEN CALENDAR

2016-2017 ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR • NEW LUNCHEON TIME 12:30

NOVEMBER

11/9 Ritamen Luncheon

DECEMBER

12/8 Ritamen Mass 9:30am / brunch

JANUARY

1/11 Ritamen Luncheon

1/28 Winterfest

FEBRUARY

2/8 Ritamen Luncheon

2/11 Caritas Valentine Dinner Dance
at Loews Hotel - Chicago

MARCH

3/8 Ritamen Luncheon

APRIL

4/12 Ritamen Luncheon

4/21 Alumni Banquet

MAY

5/10 Ritamen Luncheon

JULY

7/12 Ritamen BBQ

7/21 Scholarship Golf Outing

ST. RITA STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA



St. Rita's Foreign Exchange Program, which is moderated by Spanish teacher Mrs. Colleen Earley, gives students the experience of life in other countries and provides them opportunities that they would not have had otherwise.

This past summer four St. Rita students were afforded the opportunity to experience life "down under" in Brisbane, Australia. After hosting Australian students last fall, St. Rita students Connor Cahill, Frank Fidler, Neil Daly, and Logan Angone travelled to Brisbane at the end of May for an experience of a lifetime. They were accompanied by St. Rita Principal Brendan Conroy and they spent two weeks learning about the Australian culture. According to Cahill, "Australian culture has many similarities to American culture. Thus, it was an easy transition."

The St. Rita contingent spent time at school with the Aussies and even attended some athletic practices, such as soccer, rugby and net ball, which has some similarities to American basketball. They also spent time camping on the beach, going to a pro rugby match and attempting the famous Story Bridge climb.

Although Australians eat foods very similar to Americans, with a real emphasis on meat and seafood, the St. Rita group did get the opportunity to eat kangaroo on their last night there, which according to Cahill, "tasted like hot dogs." Cahill went on to say, "The best part of the trip was learning the religious and educational aspect of another country. It was definitely a life-changing experience."

This year the St. Rita Foreign Exchange Program will look to expand. St. Rita students will spend time with students from other Augustinian schools around the United States.



EIGHT MUSTANGS PARTICIPATE IN AUGUSTINIAN YOUTH ENCOUNTER

Most high school aged-kids spend their summers relaxing at the beach, hanging out with their friends, and just enjoying life. However, eight St. Rita students this summer decided to do something more. They participated in the Augustinian Youth Conference, allowing them the unique opportunity to tour Eastern Europe and experience the culture, language, food, and sites, which took them from Poland to the Czech Republic where they met with students from Augustinian schools and parishes around the world to discuss their faith.



The trip was led by St. Rita Chaplain Father Richie Mercado, theology teacher Brother Joe Ruiz, and long-time science teacher Mrs. Sue Krystof along with Augustinian Father Steve Curry, former St. Rita teacher Mr. Don Krystof and current St. Rita parent Mrs. Dina Scianna. The participating students were Nick Durham, Joey Henze, John Ocampo, Trev Scianna, Stephen Luster, Victor Martinez, Israel Martinez, and Liam Ohle.

The St. Rita contingent left Chicago on July 12th and returned 2 weeks later on the 26th. During their travels, they stopped in places such as: Krakow, Poland; Vienna, Austria; and the Czech Republic just outside Prague.



According to St. Rita senior Joey Henze, the most memorable part of the trip was visiting Auschwitz. Their tour guide told them that “no one leaves these gates without their perspective on life changing.” Henze agreed saying, “Auschwitz is a powerful place that we learn about in history books, but seeing it really allows you to understand the scale of it. It’s such an ominous place where you can really feel the history.”



Students and chaperones from the various Augustinian parishes and schools around the world met throughout the trip to discuss their faith and to get different perspectives from people from different parts of the world. “I could never imagine being able to go across the world and meet with so many different people and to know that our faith brought us all together,” said Henze.



The most memorable part of the trip was visiting Auschwitz.

The 2-week trek across Europe was an experience all involved can agree was life-changing. The people and places the St. Rita students and their chaperones were able to experience were once-in-a-lifetime moments that will stay with them forever.

IN MEMORIAM

The St. Rita of Cascia High School Office of Institutional Advancement has been notified of the following deaths of alumni, family and friends. Sympathies are expressed to the family members and friends of the following:

William Alback
Joseph Alfano
Robert Andrews
Brother of Fr. Ed Andrews, O.S.A.
Ann Babbington
Sister of Stewart McCutchen '51
John Baker
Rudolph Bardeleben '53
Aldona Bartz
Mother of Dr. Dennis Bartz '71
Jerome Bergamini '50
Lucy Beyer
Beverly Brady
Jimmy Brady
Donald Brannigan
Father of Daniel '86 and Grandfather of Daniel '19
Theresa Briski
Sister of Tony Sorich '49
Robert Broderick
Bob Buras '62
Robert Cahill '47
Father of alums and Grandfather of Joe '09, Kevin '11, Connor '18, Patrick '20
Curtis Calhoun
Cousin of Jim Melody '16 and John Melody '20
Robert J. Casey
Joey Castrodale
John Coghlan
William Corrin '38
Vince Corcoran '62
Mary Coyle
Grandmother of Sean Coyle '17 and Michael Kevin '19
Cornelius Curtin '55
Darin Czubak
Josef DePre
Peter Deskovich '68
Father of Peter '01
Joseph Dinovella
Brother of John '85, uncle of John '13, nephew of Anthony '51 and Dominic '53
William Doody '47
Dan Van Dorp '52
Charlie Dunn
Providence Catholic Junior
Mary Dunne
Sister of John Rowland '39, Grandmother of alums Mike '97, Chris '99, Matt '01, Andy '04 and Dan Taube '06
Mike Edburg
Brother-in-law of Ed Schmit '63
Chuck Enk
Jennifer Fetters
Sister of PJ Mullins '89

Philip Finn '58
Joseph Gaffney
Brother of Fr. John Gaffney, O.S.A.
Julie Ann Gallo
Maureen Ghouleh
Grandmother of junior Mike Botthof
Joan Goewey
Mother of George '85 & Art '84
Mary Lou Gorman
Mother of Joe '81 & Jim '82, Grandmother of Mike '14, Jack '15, Quinn '17, Hugh '19, Matt '19
Loretta Graber
Grandmother of Ryan '02 and Terry
Whitey Gregory
Philomena Grieco
Mother of Dr. Jerry Grieco '71
Jim Hackett
Dorothy Hash
Grandmother of alum Anthony Merlo
Rose Hawkins
Grandmother of David Smith '16
Matthew Heffner
Grandfather of Tyler Pruszewski '20
Don Heintzenan
Patricia Hochgraver
Mother of Rich '71
Eileen Hoppenrath
Mother of Roger '72 and Grandmother of James '14
Robert Hosteny
Cousin of Mary Misiora
Steven Hudson
Stepfather of Antonio Richardson '16
Terry Hughes
Joseph Jaltuch '59
George Joyce '51
Sister Latona Kalis, O.S.F.
John Kane
Maureen Kane
Tom Kelly '50
Jeremy Kennedy
Joe Kerr '43
Jay Kruk
Frank Kureja, Jr. '57
Father of Brian '83
Frank Kureja Jr. '57
Alum and Father of Brian '83
Walter Lech
Sr. Mary Francis Lennartz, O.P.
Former SR Librarian
Gerald J. Lepinske '56
Brother of Harry '47
Gerald Lepinske '56

Roseann Liesea
Jean Marie Lux
Joan Lynch
Patrick Mahoney
Stewart "Buzz" McCutcheon '51
Edward McDonnell '46
Maureen McIntyre
Patrick McGowan '62
Conrad McMillin, Jr.
Frank McNamara '49
John E. McNamara '58
Edward Mensik '50
Baby Kevin Joseph Morrissey
Dolores Moxley
Mother of Brian '75 and Chris '82
Michael Murphy
Grandfather of Mickey '18 and Conor '19 Larkin
Nancy Murphy
Mother of Kathy Johnson - former SR employee, Grandmother of Rita Grad
Brock Nagy
Betty Napelton
Wife of Fran '43, grandmother of Marty '13, Frank '18 and Luke '20
Rich Nestor
Father of Gabriel '98
Eugene Nowak '54
Alum and Father of Andy '83
Eugene Nowak
Father of Andy Nowak '83
Rev. Richard O'Donnell
Bill O'Donnell
Lou O'Grady
Leonard Olson
Colleen O'Shea
Mother of Alderman Matt O'Shea
Edward Palmer
Patty Fitzgerald Pawlowski
Former Ritanette
Robert Persicketti
Vito Piccirillo
Father of Bill '73 and grandfather of Mike '00 and Dominic '05
Mary Ellen Quinn
Tony Robinson
John Rooney
Jennifer Rothermel
Thomas Ryan, Sr. '48
Ann Ryczek
Mother of Dennis Ryczek '62
Kathy Scanlon
Ann Schmid
Jacob Schmitz *Br. Rice Student*
Alice M. Schultz
Mother of Bob Schultz '83
Lee Seaton
John Segredo

Father of John '70 and Jim '73
Joe Seliga '38
Richard Selle '58
Irene Sergio
Mother of Rich Josepher '89
Elizabeth Rose Sexton
Former SR Secretary
Frank M. Sima '66
Frank Sima '66
Greg Skowronski '63
Zigmond Sliazas '49
Alum and grandfather of Dan '15
Rafael Soriano
Grandfather of Marco '17 and Jon Carlo '19
Dorothy Stacken
Great Grandmother of Niko Wiak '19
Nancy Staudinger
Joey Strubin
Carl Strupeck
Father-in-law of Dr. Jack Gardner '64 and grandfather of Jack '13 and Andrew '15
Peter Susami
Ann Swanson *Mother SR Staff*
Mike Swanson
Bernice Sysko
Mother of Bro. Jerome Sysko, O.S.A.
Blanche Torres
Grandmother of Dante '16, Dominic '17 and Dylan '19 Hernandez
Ivy Toutloff
Grandmother of Victor Martinez '18
Ronnie Urdal
Dolores Vavarino
Jason Wallace '93
Nancy Waller
Tom Welch '47
Leonard Wesson '47
Benedict Wieclawek '56
Thomas Wilson
Grandfather of AJ Jones '17
Bill Woods '02
Anna Mary Wysocki
Grandmother of Christopher Bruglio '19
Phil Zehnder '01
Thomas Zimmer '68
Emil Zola '47
Charlene Zoppa
Mother of Joe Marciano
Noame Zuber
Step-daughter of SR Baseball Coach Ernie Alvarez

All attempts at accuracy for this list are made prior to publication. We apologize for any errors in listings or omissions. If there is an error with a listing or an omission, please contact Mike Swanson, Director of Public Relations at 773-925-5020 or at mswanson@stritahs.com.