

SPRING 2022 ISSUE

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Notre Dame High School's Alumni Newsletter



FROM MS. MACK'S DESK

Spring is said to be a time of new beginnings. As this edition of the Crusader Connection is going to print, I am about to embark on a three week Roadshow in Central and South America to recruit international students for the upcoming school year! This is an extremely exciting time for Notre Dame as we continue to diversify our community.

As I share this with the Notre Dame community, it must be brought to light that my trip has been preceded by the continued generosity of our faculty, staff, students, and their families. Increasing student enrollment at Notre Dame has been a top priority and the opportunity to diversify our International Program is in motion.

In 2018, the former convent was converted into a dormitory to house our students from China. Four years later, with the dorm in need of a renovation, our community graciously responded. Over 60 people joined us for a Crusader Warrior Renovation, held the first weekend in March, to clean, paint and generally spruce up the individual student rooms. Our students then gathered by grade level and focused on projects including painting, making trips to Salvation Army, creating a mural in the dining room, and cleaning carpets! Staff also pitched in on a workday to put some finishing touches on cleaning, painting and sprucing up the building.

In addition to the project at the dorm, our students have also participated in a "Welcome Home" project in conjunction with Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler. Throughout the Lenten season, students have worked to collect items for local homeless families who are preparing to move into permanent housing and start their new beginning.

Once again, our Crusader spirit proved true as we celebrate spring and ready our community for a new beginning.



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INTERNATIONAL DORM RENOVATIONS



WELCOME HOME



In collaboration with Catholic Charities Chemung/Schuyler, the Notre Dame community provided "home essential kits" to five local families currently living in motels while planning to transition to new, permanent homes. Each high school grade level, along with the middle school, sponsored a family and collected various household items that their family would need for their "new beginning". This Lenten project proved once again the generosity of the Notre Dame family!

ALUMNI CORNER



by Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal '81, Business & Alumni Relations Coordinator

Spring is a season of hope, new life, and new beginnings. It brings transformation and change; from darkness to light, from cold to warmth, from grey to bursts of color. The signs of spring are all around us - the sun is shining, days are getting longer, the grass is greener, and flowers are in bloom. And, with the exception of the most recent (and unwelcome but thankfully, short-lived) snowfall, warmer temperatures are on the way. Spring fever has definitely arrived at Notre Dame. Students' smiles are a little bigger and "passing time" in the hallway is a little more boisterous. And, in case you were wondering, "senioritis" is real, and it has arrived.

As the calendar moves closer to the graduation date for the Class of 2022, we are busy making plans for their senior events - prom, signing day, class trip, banquet, baccalaureate. Each event another step closer to their new beginning - whether that is in a college classroom, entering the U.S. Armed Services, taking a gap year, or entering the workforce. The next two months will be filled with excitement and bursts of activity as the soon-to-be graduates make new memories with their families and friends. You can almost feel the anticipation building as they gather, talking excitedly about their plans - for the weekend, the summer, the future. Their bond as a class is strengthening, moving together toward the future, while each on their own individual path. They are starting to see themselves in a new light, as they grow into their new selves, their new beginnings.

Alumni News

This newsletter is meant to inform fellow alumni of the great things you are doing, but we need your help in order to do so! Fill us in on your travels, life experiences, accomplishments, careers, volunteer work, etc. (pictures are always welcome) so that we can share your news with your classmates!

You may submit news directly to Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal '81 at ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com or to ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com

We hope to hear from you soon! Thank you!

Planning your reunion?

If your class has a reunion coming up, please contact Eileen McCarthy Ruppenthal '81 at ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com to share your plans, schedule a school tour, request a class list, or for any other assistance you may need.

Alumni Chronicles



Left to right: Meara, Katie, and Emma Pollock, Kerry and her husband, Chris Pollock

by Kerry Curran '92

This past winter, I bought a ring from a local jewelry artist in Ithaca named Mickey Roof. This particular ring caught my eye because the artist used things from the natural world to create two molds. For the band, she had made a mold out of a branch of a sapling; perched on top of those delicate gold twigs, she placed a cluster of hexagonal cells, cast from a real Paper Wasp nest. Compared to other, more feared wasps, like hornets, paper wasps are less aggressive in nature; they are often valued by gardeners for their dual roles of pollinator and pest-consumer. In addition, they build unusual, open hives, shaped like umbrellas, combining their

own saliva with the fibers of the plants and trees that surround them. In many ways, the paper wasp literally shapes its nest with its own gifts while improving the world around it. When I brought the ring up to the register to purchase, Mickey asked me why I picked it. My answer, though unplanned, came quickly: "Because I believe in the hive."

One of the many ways I benefitted from attending and working at a variety of Catholic Schools was being introduced to more holistic and equitable ways to approach the world I encountered. While at Georgetown University as an undergrad, I learned about the Jesuit ideal of "Servant Leadership". This model of leadership has since become recognized in the secular world, framed as the antithesis of the common approach of putting the most power at the top of an organization. Instead, it offers an alternative: the emphasis is on the well-being of those served, and the leaders make sure to share their power with all the members of their community. But at its heart, it is the model of Jesus: it honors radical empathy, humility, and a commitment to compassionate work. When I learned about this Jesuit idea, I immediately thought of a handful of nuns I encountered here at Notre Dame, both in childhood and in my high school years. The Jesuits may have claimed the term first, but sisters like Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue had most certainly perfected this model in all the realms they existed in. I realized then, as I still do, that I benefitted from being part of their hive and was given a phenomenal, all-female-led model of leadership.

Though the days of "Camp Maplewood" are long over, I am sure many Elmirans and ND alum still have some memory of the summer camp Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue would run for 5 weeks each summer. Organized as predictably as a working hive, each week brought the same simple, but joyful routine. On Monday morning, kids would be greeted by Sr. Nathaniel handing out color-coded name tags pasted on the back of lunch trays, separating each camper by age and connecting them with a handful of junior high and high school counselors to form a team. Some of these campers came from the same schools and neighborhoods, but some of them arrived from parts of town that we were not familiar with, thereby creating a much more diverse group of children. All members of our community were welcome at Maplewood.

Each day brought a chance for sports, hikes, art projects, and swimming in the convent pool, always on a rotating schedule with fairness in mind. Though structured, it was not boring; the nuns worked in simple surprises that rarely failed to thrill us: fresh pretzel-making day, penny candy Bingo games, and camp-wide Olympics where ALL the people present would compete. We would shriek with delight as Sr. Sue took on a bunch of the high schoolers in an epic kickball competition. And, of course, on hot days, the following two-word phrase might finally be declared after the lunchtime sing-a-long under the willow trees: "DOUBLE SWIM!" You would have thought we had each won a brand new bike, the way we 60 campers screamed like it had suddenly become the best day ever.

ALUMNI CHRONICLES (continued from page 4)

Looking back with adult eyes, I realize now why the whole operation worked so well. Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue made sure to open it up to many communities: children from all neighborhoods, “junior counselors” from the local middle schools, and “senior counselors” that were their own ND students. This was a welcoming place where each person knew their value, the nuns tending to the greater population when their school nest was on summer vacation. Equally important was their commitment to joy---Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue really seemed to revel in the activities as much as their campers. Was there a single summertime camp song that Sr. Nathaniel didn’t know all the words to? Can anyone forget the sound of Sr. Sue’s boisterous laugh when she started horsing around during our field games? They were equal, enthusiastic participants, and so none of us ever felt like we were being dumped at camp. That’s not to say it wasn’t challenging for those nuns---I bet they slept hard each night for each of those 5 weeks. But they led with compassion and joy, and that’s all the invitation any of us ever needs, wherever we find ourselves.

It isn’t a great leap of the imagination to see how effectively Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue brought this very model to their yearly Christmas fundraiser and culminating “Golden Mass”. This “open hive” event was based within our ND hallways, but invited us, as students, to start looking outwards and consider our own role in our greater communities during the Christmas Season. Instead of just asking us to write a check or drop off a gift, they organized each day within multiple homerooms, encouraging us to start pooling our daily pocket change, pair up to think of meaningful gifts for each family member we “adopted”, and take turns bringing in all the food items needed to ensure that families around our town would have a feast that mirrored the ones we would enjoy with our own families. I challenge anyone to say that the tableau of gifts around their own Christmas trees was more beautiful or moving than the sight of that Golden Mass stage, adorned with the collective heart and efforts of our Notre Dame High School hive. The focus was not on us, not on the nuns who led us, but on the collective good: such a beautiful example of true Servant Leadership.

It’s been 30 years since I graduated from Notre Dame, but I realize that the hive-minded examples of Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue continue to shape my approach to most things. I am currently an Associate Professor of English at Tompkins Cortland Community College and I chair their Developmental Education department. I love working there, in collaboration with all my colleagues, because we strive to support each part of the students’ experiences, working together to provide them with academic tutoring, financial aid, access to counseling, food banks, and community closets. My current roster contains students as young as 16 and those 10-15 years older than me, from all different stages of life, career, recovery, and reinvention. It is a great source of joy because the students we have within our walls are often also those we encounter in our day-to-day all over the county: students who work in our hospitals, restaurants, factories, banks, schools, and stores. We do our best for them, and in return, they bring those gifts out to the world around them, all of us benefitting in the end.

Dorothy Day, known for founding the Catholic Worker Movement and standing in solidarity with the poor, had an innate understanding of the power of each individual to transform their environment, one action at a time. She said, “What we would like to do is change the world and make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, of the poor, of the destitute...we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world.” That’s the kind of example Notre Dame delivered to us through the servant leadership of Sr. Nathaniel and Sr. Sue. Because of them, the good of the hive lives on.

Alumni News



Sister Elizabeth Ann McGill '02 professed temporary vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience in the presence of family and friends in September 2021, joining the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Sister Liz ministers at Marywood University as the Interim Executive Director of Student Services.



Rebecca (Saggiomo '12) Gentile was recently named Athletic Director for the Corning-Painted Post School District. Becca was a member of Notre Dame's 2011 State Championship Softball team that went 26-0 on the year and was named an all-region selection who hit .413 her senior year. After graduating in 2012, Becca continued her softball career playing for Division I Niagara University while earning a bachelor's degree in secondary education. Congratulations & best of luck, Becca!!



Congratulations to Daniel Mustico '19 who was recently accepted to the SUNYWide Film Festival (SWFF) with his submission "*Aviation in Chemung County*". SWFF was launched in 2009 as an opportunity to showcase the cinematic work of students and faculty from the SUNY system. It provides a platform to highlight the work that best exemplifies the dedication and skill found across the SUNY system. Daniel currently attends Alfred State College, majoring in Digital Media and Animation. Daniel's film submission can be viewed [here](#).

Emma Lowman '21, is a freshman at Binghamton University majoring in Political Science with an English Rhetoric concentration. Emma is currently writing for the BU newspaper, *Pipe Dream*. Her published articles can be read [here](#)





Molly Craig '17 is now a two-time NCAA Champion after winning the 400 Individual Medley title at the Division III Championships held in March. Molly, who also won in 2018, won the title with a time of 4:16.83, more than a second faster than the rest of the field. She bested the field in the Butterfly portion by nearly a second and a half and led the whole race, dropping almost seven seconds from the prelims. A member of the Williams College Swimming and Diving team, Molly earned All-American honors in the 200 Individual Medley & her third overall All-American honor in the 800 free relay. This was Molly's final appearance for the team after graduating in January 2022.



Taylor VanDine '20, starting guard for the Corning Community College Red Barons, has earned All-Mid State Athletic Conference honors.

Taylor is one of 10 players selected to the women's team. The sophomore captain scored 12 points a game and averaged 3.4 three pointers made per game, shooting 35% from three in conference play.



Isabel Milazzo '18 is on the softball field for SUNY Cortland, pitching in two recent wins for the team.

After striking out two batters in 4 1/3 innings against Wisconsin-La Crosse, Izzy took down another three batters in 3 2/3 innings against Rutgers-Camden. So far this season, Izzy has thrown 17 1/3 innings over six appearances, striking out 11 batters.

Do you have news about our alumni athletes who have continued their athletic careers in college or professionally? Let us know so that we can highlight their accomplishments in an upcoming edition of *Crusader Connection*!

Keeping Track

1960**Jack Mack**

The annual Jack Mack Astronomy Lecture was held on April 26 at the Buffalo State Alumni Center. This year's primary speaker was Dr. Paul Schenk, one of Jack's students in the 70's, who is now a senior staff scientist at the Lunar Planetary Institute in Houston. The new Dr. Jack and Jayne Mack Earth Sciences Scholarship for Buffalo State College will be established, providing at least \$500/year for a student with a genuine interest in astronomy, for up to 4 years. Sadly, Jack passed away in December 2021; his obituary in the Buffalo News can be read [here](#).

2012**Kyle Halm**

Is the owner of SaltCity Leatherworks in Winchester, VA., specializing in handcrafted leather goods made for firefighters and first responders. Kyle's products can be found at www.saltcityleatherworks.com and also on Etsy.

2020**Erik Charnetski**

Was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester at St. John Fisher College. Erik is majoring in Psychology / Pre-Chiropractic Studies.

2020**Austin Gleason**

Was one of ten students inducted into SUNY Oneonta's Edward K. Griesmer chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), a branch of the National Association of Colleges and University Residence Halls for the 2021-22 academic year. Made up of the top one percent of student leaders on campus, NRHH recognizes students who have made outstanding contributions to the residence hall community. Students must be nominated by an Office of Residential Community Life staff member, go through an application and interview, and then be selected for induction through a blind process.

Caroline Rogers

Achieved Thoroughbred Society honors at Skidmore College as a student-athlete earning at least a 3.67 GPA for the Fall 2021 semester.

2016**Lauren Musso**

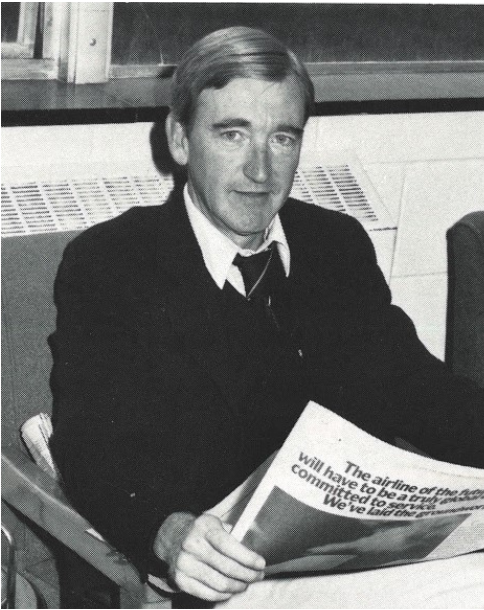
Was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester at SUNY Delhi.

We love to hear from our alumni!!

So that we can share news in a more timely manner, "Keeping Track" will now be included in the quarterly *Crusader Connection* instead of the annual publication *Reflections*.

Please continue to submit your news & pictures to ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com

In Memoriam



The Notre Dame community was deeply saddened by the passing of John Cain '64 on March 24, 2022. As an alumnus, an alumni parent, and as a long-time faculty member & coach, John left an indelible mark on Notre Dame and all those he encountered. His extraordinary contributions as a teacher and a friend will ensure his legacy continues at Notre Dame. The outpouring of comments on social media was extraordinary as former students, coworkers, and friends shared memories. We are blessed to have known him and we celebrate his life and the gifts he shared with so many of us. May God continue to hold him in the hollow of His hand, until we meet again

PRAYERS FOR OUR DECEASED ALUMNI 2022

January

24 Julie Bennett McInerny '80

February

3 James N. "Jim" Holleran '65
11 Kathleen A. "Sis" Fennell '47
14 Charles A. Jung, Sr. '52
23 Lucy Esposito Gill '59
25 Nancy Keefe Yonko '52
26 Robert "Roy" Gublo '69

March

3 Teresa Connelly Pyhtila '47
17 Judy McManus Palinkas '58
19 Steven Cloke '86
24 John M. Cain '64

April

14 Richard Wronkoski '65

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1962 60th REUNION

DATE: mid-August, 2022

PLACE: TBD

EMAIL: Mary Ellen O'Leary
Meoleary2@gmail.com
or Carole Paul Taladay
Taladay@me.com

CLASS OF 1972 50th REUNION

September 24, 2022

Hibernian Center
701 Kinyon Street, Elmira, NY
Doors open at 4:00 pm
Cash Bar with a meal to follow
(price TBD)

PLEASE RSVP

Cathy Salbego Shippides
cmshippides@gmail.com

Please Reply if you are coming
& if you are bringing a guest

CLASS OF 1970 50th+2 REUNION

October 7 - 8, 2022

FRIDAY NIGHT ICEBREAKER

Hibernian Center
701 Kinyon Street, Elmira, NY

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Bernie Murray's
500 S. Main Street, Elmira, NY

EMAIL:

Tom Eagan
ndclassof1970@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1990 30th+2 REUNION

September 10, 2022

Las Vegas, NV

Please join the Class WhatsApp group

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LQcUtMOSvmsDns3I5erQnx>

All members & friends
of the Class of 1990
are welcome!

CLASS OF 1992 30th REUNION

July 2022

If you are interested in helping to plan,
please contact Rebecca (Sherman) Kieffer
beckykieffer@hotmail.com

The class
is hoping to include
other classes (1991 & 1993) as well

CLASS OF 2012 10th REUNION

August 12-14, 2022

FRIDAY NIGHT - Alive After 5 at Downtown Grind

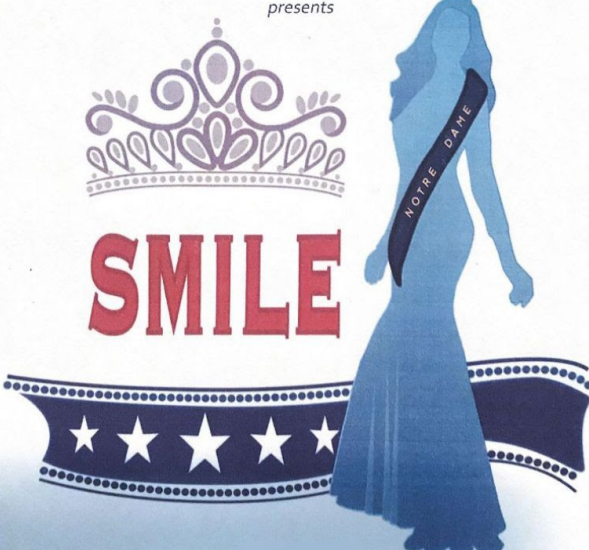
Additional events are being planned
throughout the weekend

Join the Elmira Notre Dame High School
2012 Alumni Facebook group
to stay up to date on information & events.

Interested in helping to plan the reunion weekend?
Reach out to Xavier, Elizabeth, or Brina.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Notre Dame High School
presents



SMILE

Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman
Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Musical based upon the screenplay by Jerry Belson

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 @ 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 1 @ 2:00 PM
Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium

Tickets \$12 General Admission at the Door
SMILE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

Join us at historic Dunn Field
as the Elmira Pioneers take on the
Jamestown Tarp Skunks
on Sunday, June 5, at 4:05 pm.

**The Notre Dame Band & Chorus
will perform before & during the game.**

For tickets, contact Michael Cuomo at
cuomom@notredamehighschool.com

See you at Dunn Field!

Notre Dame Project Graduation
Seniors Helping Seniors
Chicken BBQ - May 7th
Pickup @ ND starting at 1pm
\$15
1/2 chicken, mac salad, baked
beans, dinner roll with
butter, and a cookie or brownie.



Sides are being purchased from Meals on Wheels of
Chemung County. Every \$1 spent at Meals on Wheels will
feed 1 senior citizen for one 1 week.

To purchase tickets contact your favorite
senior or email Kristie Crossley at
dp199596@yahoo.com

COME SEE NOTRE DAME BAND & CHORUS Perform at the Elmira Pioneers



VS



ALL PERFORMERS RECEIVE FREE TICKETS
ADDITIONAL TICKETS JUST \$5 (\$4 savings)
SUN JUNE 5 4:05 @ DUNN FIELD

**NOTRE DAME WILL PERFORM BEFORE & DURING THE
GAME! SEATING IS VERY LIMITED! FOR QUESTIONS
PIONEERS @ 607-734-2690**

NUMBER OF TICKETS			
PERFORMER	FREE		
ADDITIONAL	\$5		
*Tickets are limited and subject to availability **Price Per Ticket		Total	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/Money Order payable to: CAN-USA SPORTS LLC <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <small>Name (as it appears on card)</small>		Name: _____ Group Name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	
Billing Address (if different than provided)		Expiration Date	Security Code
City/State/Zip			

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ORDER CONTACT:

MR. CUOMO

cuomom@notredamehighschool.com

All sales are final. No exchanges or refunds. Rain-out policy applies for postponed games. For questions contact us at 607-734-2690

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED INTO MR. CUOMO BY
MAY 27 ORDERS AFTER MAY 27 CONTACT PIONEERS
DIRECTLY AT 607-734-2690 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)**

UPCOMING EVENTS




Honoring the Pillars of Notre Dame is a celebration honoring the outstanding contributions of **Robert Agan, Daniel Burke, John Gough, and John Potter**. Notre Dame will be holding two events to celebrate these pillars of our community. We hope that you will join us in celebrating these four men who have done so much for the Notre Dame community. The first event, naming the ND Basketball Court, will honor John Gough and will be held on Sunday, June 12, at Notre Dame. The second event, naming three wings in the ND International Dorm, will honor Robert Agan, Daniel Burke, and John Potter, and will be held in September 2022. **ALL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NOTRE DAME ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**

All funds raised through sponsorships for these events are designated to support the Raise the Roof Capital Campaign along with a special scholarship fund. **If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or donor, please contact Eileen Ruppenthal '81**, Business & Alumni Relations Coordinator, at 607-734-2267 ext 318 or at ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com



BID TO GIVE is Notre Dame's silent online auction that will take place May 28 - June 11, 2022. We are currently seeking donated items to be placed in the auction. **The deadline to donate is May 26.** To donate an items or an experience, please contact Theresa Tobey, Director of Advancement, at 607-734-2267 ext. 325, or via email at tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com. Your donation(s) may be tax-deductible.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Notre Dame High School

CRUSADER CASH RAFFLE

Ticket Price: \$100

Additional Ticket: \$75

	< 350 Tickets Sold	>350 Tickets Sold
	Silver	Gold
1st Prize	\$5,000	\$10,000
2nd Prize	\$1,000	\$2,500
3rd Prize	\$500	\$1,000

**To purchase tickets contact Theresa Tobey at
tobeyt@notredamehighschool or 607-734-2267**

**Drawing will be held on Sunday, June 12th, 2022, at 3:00 pm
1400 Maple Ave., Elmira, NY 14904**

*Need not be present to win
Must be 18 or over to enter the drawing*

CRUSADER CASH RAFFLE ORDER FORM

Name of Ticket Holder _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of tickets requested _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Winners will be notified if not present at the time of the drawing.

Please complete this form and make your check payable to Notre Dame High School.

Mail to: Notre Dame High School. Attn: Advancement Office

1400 Maple Ave. Elmira, NY 14904

STUDENT LIFE



CRUSADER CLIMATE CLUB

Notre Dame's Crusader Climate Club enjoyed the opportunity to participate in Elmira College's Worldwide Climate Teach-In event. The students attended panel discussions that focused on the variety of issues associated with climate change and some of the solutions that can address these issues both on a personal and global level. Students were encouraged to ask questions and participate in the discourse. The Crusader Climate Club also had a booth at the event and they engaged with passers-by, explaining what the Crusader Climate Club is and what the Club is trying to do here at Notre Dame.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Congratulations to our Science Olympiad Team who recently placed 4th in the Southern Tier Regional Competition. The team had Top 5 finishes in Chem Lab, Cell Biology, Green Generation, Dynamic Planet, Wright Stuff, Trajectory, and Gravity Vehicle.

ROBOTICS



Congratulations to our FRC #3799 Electric Fire team on their runner-up alliance finish at the Finger Lakes Regional Competition!

STUDENT LIFE

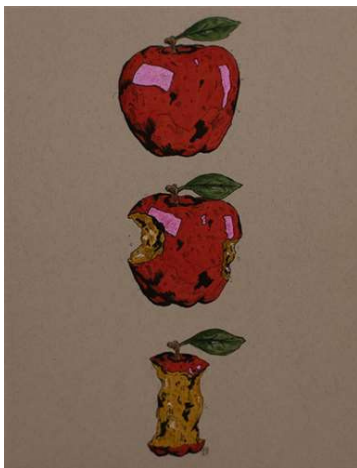
ART DEPARTMENT

Three Notre Dame students were recently recognized at the 2022 Scholastic Art Awards. Senior Kylee Bakley received a Silver Key award in Film and Animation for "King's Adventure", which can be viewed [here](#). She also won a Gold Key in Film and animation for "Friendship", viewed [here](#).

Megan Pratt, a senior, submitted a portfolio of her photographs titled "Serendipity" that received an honorable mention.



Oliver Fogarty, a junior, received a Silver Key for "De-composition" which went on to win the Matthias H. Arnot Award. Oliver also received Honorable Mention for his Drawing and Illustrations "Wendigo" and "Fractured and Entangled".



De-composition



Wendigo



Fractured & Entangled

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA



by Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

*Create in me O God,
a spirit kind and just,
Prepare for me a new heart.*

These words from Dan Shutte's song are so appropriate as we suffer with so many whose lives are being affected by pain, homelessness, and even death. We cannot lose faith or trust, but have hearts filled with hope.

Our Notre Dame students, full of hope are praying for peace in our troubled world. They invited the wider community to join them in praying the rosary for peace when the invasion of Ukraine began and continue these prayers daily. They believe in the power of prayer and God's tender mercy.

They also understand the importance of helping others. During Lent, the classes in collaboration with Catholic Charities of Chemung and Schuyler Counties are participating in a "Welcome Home" project by collecting new or gently used household items for five homeless families currently living in motels with the hope of transitioning into permanent homes soon. They realize that people in these situations have little or no supplies for their resettlements. We continue to witness the inexhaustible generosity of our students, they are indeed special.

May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with you and yours. May He create in you a new heart that is kind and just.

ROSARY FOR PEACE

On February 28, 2022, the Notre Dame Community joined together in praying a Rosary for Peace in our world. With the Sisters of Mercy who sponsor our school, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pope Francis, and the people of Ukraine, we united in prayer to end the war and restore peace.

Gathered in the Notre Dame Chapel, the rosary was led by Notre Dame Seniors Griffin English, Caroline Viselli, Tyler Richards, Grant Crossley, Nicole LaCorazza, and Liam Scarsaletta

To view the Rosary for Peace, please click [here](#):

Give strength
to your people,
O God, and
bless your
people with
peace.

- Psalm 29:11

