

SPRING 2023 ISSUE

# CRUSADER CONNECTION

## Notre Dame High School's Alumni Newsletter

### FROM MS. MACK'S DESK



Spring always brings new beginnings! Notre Dame students are busy gearing up for the final quarter of the 2022-2023 school year. Seniors are making important decisions about their future and anxiously awaiting the excitement of celebrations to come. Underclassmen are hard at work preparing for AP and Regents exams, as well as building their schedules for the next school year. They are excited about many new course offerings in computer science, as Corning, Inc. has blessed Notre Dame with a grant to hire a new computer teacher! (If you or anyone you know may

be interested, please give me a call!)

New beginnings for incoming students for the 2023-2024 school year are happening on May 22, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Sister Mary Walter Hickey Library. Parents and students are invited to come and meet staff, hear all about the curriculum, and choose classes for their first year as a Crusader.

Traditions continue at Notre Dame with the upcoming Prom, Junior picnic, Carnival, Senior trip, Senior Signing, Senior Banquet, Baccalaureate, Graduation, and Project Graduation. Our dedicated staff and parents continue to support these events, making the memories last a lifetime for our students.

The relationships that the Class of 2023 have created over the years will be celebrated and the transition for many will be bittersweet. Enjoying these last times together will forever be imprinted in their memories.

***"Spring adds new life  
and new joy  
to all that is"***

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated in February with the theme of "Faith, Excellence, Service". Throughout the week, students were surprised with daily treats sponsored by various ND clubs. In addition to providing dinner at the Elmira Community Kitchen mid-week, students participated in the 2023 Empty Bowls Luncheon, presented by Catholic Charities in partnership with Notre Dame. The busy week ended with the annual assembly where faculty and staff entertained students with a showcase of their "talents". We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful community at Notre Dame!



"ND Cheerleaders" aka Kristie Crossley, Beth Agan, Jessica Ryan, and Marie McCaig



The Singing Shepherds



A musical interlude by members of our fabulous Food Services staff, Paul Mack '82 & Donna Symonds



A reading by Science Teacher, Tom Milliken



"Bags of Hope", ND's 2023 Lenten Project, collected basic household items to be distributed to those experiencing homelessness in our area. Each homeroom was assigned a specific item and the 17 bags were overflowing when delivered to Catholic Charities Samaritan Center. Thank you to all who contributed to this amazing project!

## BAGS OF HOPE LENTEN PROJECT



## ALUMNI CORNER



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

Spring has arrived and the Notre Dame campus is reflective of the change in seasons. Spring sports teams are on the fields, the track, and the tennis courts. Leaves have returned to the trees and the forsythia and daffodils are in bloom. On the days when it is warm enough, students assemble on the front lawn as their teachers treat them to class outside.

With Spring, the march to graduation begins. The soon to be graduates are recognizing how quickly their years at Notre Dame have passed. They are focused on making memories, their day-to-day interactions with friends and classmates taking on more significance. Study halls in the café, laughs in the hall during passing time, after-school practices. Moments that strengthen bonds and cement friendships.

As alumni, our memories are what connect us. While our time as seniors at Notre Dame may have looked different from that of the Class of 2023, the sentiment remains the same. The friendships, activities, and events that defined our years at Notre Dame are the memories that we all carry with us. The memories that we recall with fondness as we remember our time at Notre Dame.

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### Keeping Track

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. so that we can share your news with your classmates!

You may submit news directly to Eileen Ruppenthal '81 at [ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com) or to [ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com](mailto: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 Ruppenthal '81 at [ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com](mailto: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



by Erin Panosian '07

As a 2007 graduate of Notre Dame High School, I feel very fortunate to have had a wonderful high school experience filled with many fond memories. Reflecting on my experience at Notre Dame, I now recognize how many important life lessons I learned during those four years as well as a few realizations I wish I had known back then!

One of my greatest passions was discovered during my time at Notre Dame. Throughout my senior year, I was focused on taking photos and videos of my classmates. I have footage of all the big milestones we experienced that year because I didn't want to miss or forget anything.

It was during that senior year that I discovered my love of documenting and storytelling which I continue to do today in my professional career as a photographer.

Some people know from an early age what career path they want to follow, but that was not the case for me. I went to college because that seemed like the logical next step, but I had little direction regarding what I wanted to study. Art was always my favorite subject in school, so I knew I was most likely to land a career in the creative industry. I attended the Rochester Institute of Technology and graduated with a BFA in Graphic Design. That degree translated into me working as a graphic designer for a Pittsburgh-based advertising agency where I am still employed a decade later. In addition to design, I am also a freelance photographer and abstract painter. I love that I can build a professional career combining three different creative avenues rather than focusing on one specific medium.

Society puts a lot of pressure on high school students to pick a direction and know what they want to do when they "grow up". In my opinion, the emphasis should be placed on welcoming different experiences to better understand who we truly are. Only then can we make decisions that align with our values and ultimately lead us to live happy and fulfilled lives.

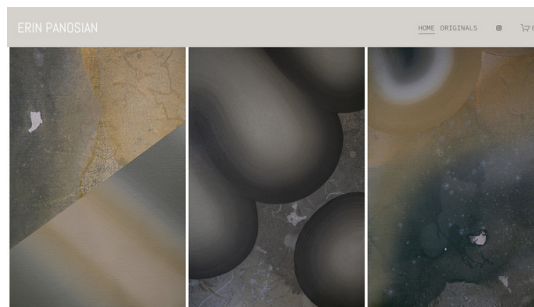
Perhaps the most significant lesson I learned at Notre Dame is the importance of having community in your life. Attending a small school, in a small town, where you know the names of everyone in your graduating class is a unique experience - one that at the time I took for granted. To this day, when I run into people from high school, I still feel a sense of connection with them even if we haven't spoken in years. We are part of a community and that is something that will never change no matter the time or distance.

Notre Dame provided me with a solid foundation to build upon. Looking back on everything that has happened since walking across that graduation stage in 2007, I can honestly say I am both proud of the person I am today and look forward to meeting the person I will be in the future. What would I tell my recently graduated, seventeen-year-old self? There is beauty in uncertainty. You don't always need to know where the path is going to take you as long as you have faith in knowing you will end up where you are supposed to be. Stay open to experiences, people, ideas, and culture for they will teach you something more valuable than anything found in the pages of a textbook.

I am so grateful for my years at Notre Dame and will always be proud to call myself a Crusader.



Above, **Erin Panosian '07** with her family (left to right) parents, Ron & Christine Panosian, nephews Logan & Liam Roe, sister, **Kelley (Panosian '06) Roe**, and brother-in-law, Bill Roe



Erin is an abstract artist whose work can be viewed on website at [www.erinpanosian.com](http://www.erinpanosian.com)



**Erin Panosian '07**

## Alumni News



**Robert Johnson '58** was recently honored by the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) for his continued support of the USMMA and his contributions to the Maritime Industry. Following graduation from Notre Dame, Bob had the option to attend The University of Rochester to study Chemical Engineering or to commit to the appointment he received to USMMA. He chose to attend the Academy for several reasons, one being the attraction of Sea Year, a training period completed in two parts during a cadet's sophomore and junior years. During Bob's Sea Year, he traveled with American Export Lines to what was then called the "Romance Run", the southern Mediterranean, Portugal, Spain, France, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and some of the Greek Islands. The remaining time was spent traveling with United States lines to northern Europe, Germany, France, and a number of Nordic countries. He also had the opportunity to travel to Tunisia, Morocco, and Israel. Bob graduated from USMMA in 1962 as a Licensed Third Mate and immediately set sail to West and South Africa with Farrell Steamship Lines. Within two years, he rose to Second Mate during the height of the Apartheid in South Africa. He later served as an Assistant Port Captain with American President Lines in San Francisco, CA, where he was in charge of ship logistics in the Bay area ports of San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, and Sacramento. During this time, he obtained his Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Lincoln University and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1974. Currently, Bob is enjoying his retirement in Houston, TX.

You never know who you'll run in to! While waiting for the start of a pickleball game in Dryden, New York, ND Theology teacher & alumni parent, Jessica Ryan, struck up a conversation with another player and discovered an ND alumna! **Betsy Potter '81** is retired and living in Cortland, NY.



We love to hear from our alumni!!

Please continue to submit  
your news & pictures to [ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ndalumni@notredamehighschool.com)



**Jack Murphy '96** finished in 2:55.51, taking 177th in the 45-49 men's division in this year's Boston Marathon on April 17th. Jack currently lives in Pennsylvania and is an Associate Professor of French at Gettysburg College.

Congratulations to Jim and **Kate (Agan '08) Liska** on the birth of their daughter, Penelope Jane, on March 15, 2023. Kate is the daughter of alumni **Steve '79** & Beth **Agan**.



**Dan '09 & Danielle (Allington '09) Agan** welcomed daughter Eloise Shay Agan on February 28, 2023. Eloise joins 2-year old twins, Avery and Leo. Congratulations to Dan & Danielle and also to grandparents, **Steve '79** & Beth **Agan** and Daryl and **Debbie (Mathers '85) Allington**.



**Isaiah Smallwood '14** received a Golden Ticket to the Hollywood round of American Idol Season 23! Although he did not move to the next round, we have no doubt this is only the beginning for Isaiah!



**Peyton Maloney '20**, a junior at University of South Carolina, is spending the spring semester in Florence, Italy! While based in Italy, she has had the opportunity to travel to Hungary, England, Ireland, Spain, Austria, Germany, Malta, Portugal, & France.



**Tara Backman '22**, was accepted into Corning, Inc.'s Technician Pipeline Program while a senior at ND. The program provides her with employment while attending college and guarantees her a job for 3 years following her graduation. Tara is currently a freshman at Corning Community College and is working in the Gorilla Glass Development Department at Corning, Inc.



**Steven Gough '22**, a freshman at University of Tennessee, stopped by on his spring break and caught up with former teammate, senior Malaki Owens.



**Justin Gordon '22**, stopped in for a visit with Mrs. Tanner. Justin is currently working in the health care industry.



**Rachel Lamoreaux '12** has been announced as a Section 4 Hall of Fame Class of 2023 inductee; the ceremony will take place on April 29 in Binghamton. Rachel holds Notre Dame's record for goals in a season with 40 as a senior, when she had 101 points and helped the Crusaders to the Section 4 Class C crown. With a total of 112 career goals, Rachel was a member of two sectional soccer championship teams and was named to First Team All-State twice and Overall All-State three times. Rachel was also a member of the ND Track Team, qualifying twice for the State meet and contributing to a school relay record. Rachel was inducted into the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame in October 2022.



**Erik Charnetski '20**, a junior at St. John Fisher University majoring in Psychology and a member of the baseball team, was named to the Empire 8 Fall Semester President's List. A total of 1,100 student-athletes from the league's membership were recognized for their excellence in the classroom with President's List distinction, one of the most prestigious honors that the Empire 8 recognizes. Recipients of this honor must earn a 3.75 or higher GPA during the semester, while participating in an NCAA-sponsored sport. In addition, the student-athlete must display positive conduct on and off campus.



**Owen Stewart '22**, a Criminology major, has made six appearances on the year for the George Mason Patriots baseball team, allowing no runs in five of those outings. In his Division 1 debut against FIU (Florida International University), Owen threw three shutout innings, striking out two batters. In subsequent appearances on the mound, Owen has worked scoreless innings of relief against Maine and William & Mary. He also threw scoreless outings against Niagara and Canisius. So far this season, Owen has thrown 12 2/3 innings and allowed five runs, striking out nine.

**Ally Finnerty '22**, has competed in several IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association) events as a member of the LeMoyne College Equestrian Team. Most recently, Ally was named the high-point rider with 2 blue ribbons.



## Keeping Track

**1975**

**Denis Sweeney**

Was recently inducted into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame as one of the members of the Class of 2023 in the Contributor category. As a radio play-by-play broadcaster, Sweeney has broadcast over 500 high school/college sporting events since 1979. Over the past year, Denis completed play-by-play duties for Choice 102.1-FM in Sayre, PA, and AM 1380/FM 100.3 WABH Big Country in Bath, NY.

**1980**

**Ann (Milliken) Gerould**

Has announced her candidacy for Town of Elmira Supervisor. Ann is active in many community organizations, serving on several boards, and is currently employed as the Chief Operating Officer for Programs at The ARC of Chemung-Schuyler and is a Licensed Therapist at Southern Tier Counseling Center.

**2011**

**Maxwell Garten**

Was named to Mansfield University's Dean's List for Fall 2022. Max is a student in the Bachelor of Science Applied Mathematics program.

**2017**

**Tyler Baxter**

Was named to Fall 2022 Mansfield University President's List. Tyler is studying in the Bachelor of Science Criminal Justice Administration program.

**2018**

**Taylor Gray**

Earned a spot on the President's List for the Fall 2022 semester at The College of Saint Rose. Taylor is majoring in Forensic Psychology.

**2019**

**Cassandra Uy**

Was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester at the University of Vermont. Cassandra is majoring in Psychological Science.

**2020**

**Erik Charnetski**

Was recognized by St. John Fisher University as a Dean's List honoree for Fall 2022, attaining a 3.5 or higher GPA for the semester.

**2022**

**Alisaundre Finnerty**

A Psychology major, was named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at LeMoyne College

**Derek Simpson**

Was named to the Mansfield University Dean's List, Fall 2022. Derek is in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR DECEASED ALUMNI 2023

**January**

22 Richard Vito Liotino '86

**February**

17 Marjorie Sydlo Olyer '63

19 Jane Ryan Agan '54

**March**

2 Marlene Ann Semesky '61

4 Clifford Jessup '71

9 Suzanne Butler '63

13 Prudence Burke Taylor '66

**April**

13 Anne Fitzpatrick '63

## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

### 2023

#### CLASS OF 1963 60th REUNION

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

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

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

Mass at 4:00 pm  
St. Mary's Southside  
Dinner at Lib's Supper Club  
106 W. 5th Street, Elmira, NY

Please join & follow our private Facebook group at

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/NDHS.  
Class.of.1963](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NDHS.Class.of.1963)

for the latest class news

**EMAIL** Jim Mockler at  
[jim.mockler@gmail.com](mailto:jim.mockler@gmail.com) with your up-to-date contact information to ensure you receive class mailings



#### CLASS OF 1973 50th REUNION

**DATE:** October 20 - 23, 2023

**PLACE:** TBD

**EMAIL:** Mary Buckley  
[marybuckleynd73@gmail.com](mailto:marybuckleynd73@gmail.com)  
or Mark Montanarella  
[montanarella.mark@gmail.com](mailto:montanarella.mark@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is not a Facebook group associated with this class/reunion. Please contact Mary and/or Mark directly



# UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

## 2023

### CLASS OF 1978 45th REUNION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023**

**9-hole Golf Outing**

8:00 - 10:00 am

Elmira Country Club

RSVP: [caseycastilow@yahoo.com](mailto:caseycastilow@yahoo.com)

**Reunion Party**

7:00 - 10:00 pm

Ill Eagle Taphouse

200 East Church St., Elmira, NY

Cash bar and complimentary food

Donations happily accepted  
the night of the event!

RSVP to:

[darlingofrealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:darlingofrealestate@yahoo.com)

[cwalsh7@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cwalsh7@twcny.rr.com)

Please join & follow  
our private Facebook page at  
[facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089724819493](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089724819493)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**

**Mass**

10:30 am

St. Patrick's Church

**Group Tour  
of Notre Dame**

12:00 pm

Meet at Circle Door



### JUGGLERS

The greatest responsibility taken on by the Jugglers was in answer to the National Catholic Theater Conference's invitation to Theater Day, January 26, in Rochester. It was there that under the guidance of the Juggler's moderator, Sister Marie Jasé, Notre Dame was able to present act 1 of the popular musical "Oliver."



Throwback  
1967

Are you on Facebook?

Join the Notre Dame High School  
Elmira, NY - Alumni Facebook page

## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

### 2024

#### **CLASS OF 1974 50th REUNION**

1974 Notre Dame Classmates!

Our first planning meeting was on Friday, April 21st - survey results show fall as the preferred time of year.

**Our plan is to look at dates in  
October 2024.**

We are reviewing possible venues and ideas for additional events.

**Please try to join us at our next  
planning meeting  
JULY 14, 2023 2:00 pm  
ILL EAGLE TAPHOUSE**

Any ideas, suggestions, or contact information updates should be emailed to Marianne Kalec at [NDclassof74@gmail.com](mailto:NDclassof74@gmail.com)



#### **CLASS OF 1984 40th REUNION**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW &  
SAVE THE DATE!!  
OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2024**

Please send your contact information to  
Konnie Davis  
[konniedavis8@gmail.com](mailto:konniedavis8@gmail.com)  
or  
203-948-5663



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Friday, April 28th @ 7:00 PM**  
**Saturday, April 29th @ 2:00 PM**

Charles & Mary Crossed Auditorium  
 Notre Dame High School

General Admission Tickets \$12.00 available at the door

Be prepared to be wildly entertained by our funny cast and crew of the comedy "The Worst High School Play in the World". We hope to see you there!



### Registration for teams is now open!

Opportunities are available for the following sponsorships:

- Hat sponsor
- Putting Green sponsor
- Beverage sponsor
- Dinner sponsor
- Tee / Green sponsor
- Cart sponsor

Honor/Memorial sponsorships are also available to remember a friend or family member with signs placed throughout the course

**To be a tournament sponsor or to register a team, click [here](#)**

## Notre Dame HIGH SCHOOL

### 2023 Crusader Classic

MARK TWAIN GOLF COURSE

Sunday - May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Shotgun Start at 12:30 PM

## STUDENT LIFE

### ART DEPARTMENT



At the eightieth annual New York/Pennsylvania region Scholastic Art Awards, Notre Dame High School had two award winners. In a competition involving over 50 school districts submitting 700 pieces of art, only 70 were chosen for exhibition.

**ND Junior Sophia McMaster** received a Silver Key for her acrylic painting titled "Soaring Sunset".

**ND Senior Oliver Fogerty** received a Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration for his ink drawing titled "Sing No More". Oliver was also awarded an American Vision Award which is given to the Best in Show, one of only five artists who were honored with this top award. His artwork will be sent to NYC to compete in the Scholastic National Honors.



Students celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year with a red dress-down day and activities including paper cutting, creating Chinese calligraphy bookmarks, and a dumpling making competition. The cafeteria served orange chicken with rice & fortune cookies for lunch. The festivities concluded with the National Chinese Honor Society teaming up with the ND Supper Club to volunteer and provide a Chinese dinner for the Elmira Community Kitchen.

### LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



Dumpling competition winners, team "Dumpster Diving Dumplings" - Francesca Conte, Violet Daly, Allie O'Brien, Olivia Switzer, and Anna Paltrowitz

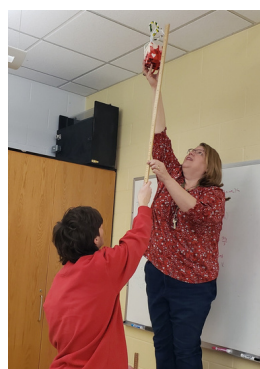


## STUDENT LIFE

### SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Sandy Williams' Regents Physics class conducted an Egg Drop Lab competition as part of their recent studies about Impulse, Momentum and Force. Students took measurements and ran calculations of the theoretical impulse their egg would receive upon crashing with the ground. They then applied their physics knowledge to design containers which attempted to reduce the forces that create that impulse. All of the students did a great job coming up with creative creations, but Hao (John) Zhang had the winning design which allowed the egg to survive not only a fall from the classroom ceiling height but also one from a two-story staircase!



### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Andrew Golden, Lorelei Golden, Mary Ugwoke-Onuzuruike, Ahura Mwesige, Elena Hazelton, Allie O'Brien, Ella Chicone, Isabella Hazelton, Jack Vakiener, Kurt Golden & Jacopo Capone

The Science Olympiad team placed 8th overall in the Southern Tier Regionals with 18 regional teams participating. The team earned medals in five events, placing 3rd in Forensics, 3rd in Green Generation, 4th in Bridge, 4th in Chem Lab, and 4th in Scrambler. Well done Crusaders!

### CLIMATE CRUSADERS

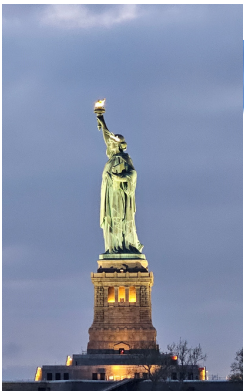


Notre Dame Climate Crusaders attended the Elmira College Environmental Panel, learning about some of the innovative plans the City of Elmira has to try to become more green in the coming decades, along with discussing how the media has been instrumental in raising awareness about environmental issues that could potentially harm our planet.

## STUDENT LIFE

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ND's International Crusaders spent a whirlwind 36 hours taking in the sights of New York City. Highlights included Grand Central Station, the New York Public Library/Bryant Park, a Sunday afternoon game at Yankee Stadium, a Circle Line Sunset Cruise of Lower Manhattan, Times Square, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Central Park



### CONGRATULATIONS!!

#### Top Five Finishers for ND SUNY Corning Community College Math Contest



Hao Zhang - 1st Place



Jacopo Capone



Kurt Golden



Giovanni Reale



Kate Welliver



Aedan Gill



Elena Hazelton



Eve Montanarella



Maggie Moore



Alex Shultz

**CRUSADER DECALS!**

Show your Crusader pride with these ND decals!  
6 inch vinyl, self-adhesive decals for your car, windows, laptop, etc.  
Pick-up & delivery options available  
Order here: <https://tinyurl.com/42bu3udp>

**\$10 each****CRUSADER ATHLETICS ARE NOW ON THE NFHS NETWORK!**

Notre Dame is pleased to announce that all games held in the John T. Gough Gymnasium, on the turf at Brewer Memorial Stadium, and on the baseball and softball fields will be broadcast on the NFHS Network!

A membership is required to watch the network. To set up an account/subscription visit <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com>

If you are interested in being a sponsor  
on the network's Notre Dame page, please contact  
Brad Bellinger, Athletic Manager - [bellingerb@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:bellingerb@notredamehighschool.com)  
Theresa Tobey, Director of Advancement - [tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:tobeyt@notredamehighschool.com)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITA



by Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM

*You show me the path to life,  
fullness of joy in your presence,  
the delight of your right hand forever*

This verse from the psalm response for the Monday after Easter, helps us to feel the presence of the Risen Lord. We feel this presence when we recognize Him in the people we encounter during our day. We believe He is with us keeping us safe showing the path to life; it is the joy of a new life, a new season and a renewal of hope.

The Notre Dame High School community feels this new life of the Easter season. It has a renewed energy for academic rigor, for merciful service to others, for diligent efforts to preserve the earth and for dedicated athletic success. It is a Spring filled with energized teachers and hardworking inquisitive students. Our seniors are looking forward to life after Notre Dame and are almost ready for the challenges of their future. The spirit and traditions are strong and as a school community we are proud to continue the Legacy of the Sisters of Mercy who founded the school in 1955.



### **SPONSOR A STUDENT**

Are you interested in sponsoring a Notre Dame student?  
Your financial support can cover a student's tuition, sports fees, graduation fees, lunch payments, exam fees, or Mercy Online tuition fees.

If you are interested in supporting a Notre Dame student, please contact  
Eileen Ruppenthal '81 at [ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com](mailto:ruppenthale@notredamehighschool.com)

Thank you!!