Learning Center
Living testimony to our emphasis on academic excellence, helping each other out as brothers and developing young men to become leaders

Today, Tomorrow
Dr. David Deramo ’93 takes a long term view about how to help athletes get back in the game for today, tomorrow and the future.

Returning Home
Jim Dowling ’64 made a lot of good friends and had a lot of laughs and now finds himself in a position to give back and lend a hand.

Lessons Learned
For Brian Hughes ’86 giving back to others, treating everyone with respect and being a better person every day has always been the goal.

On A Mission
Tobe Ibeabuchi ’17 is on a mission to make an everlasting impact in the medical field and in the world.

2016 Crusader Gala
A Night at the Masquerade Ball
MARCH 2017
Sunday, March 26, 2017
19th Hall of Fame Dinner Reception
Seasons – 644 Pascack Rd, Washington Township, NJ
Cocktail hour: 5 p.m.
Dinner: 6 p.m.

APRIL 2017
Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Bergen Catholic Crusaders on the Road to Chicago
Alumni Cocktail Reception
Hosted by Heather Andreana & B. J. O’Connor ’92
6–8 p.m.
In their home in Orland Park, IL
(The address will be given when you RSVP)

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Careers4Crusaders Networking Event
Bergen Catholic High School

MAY 2017
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
Class Chair Get Together
Bacari Grill, Washington Township, NJ

Thursday, May 25, 2017
Cigar Night (Annual event, Thursday before Memorial Day)
River Vale Country Club 7–9 p.m.

Monday, May 29, 2017
Memorial Day Run
Veterans Memorial Field, Ridgewood, NJ

JUNE 2017
Thursday, June 9, 2017
Hoboken on Tap (Annual event, Second Thursday in June)
Biggies, Hoboken, NJ

Monday, June 12, 2017
Bergen Catholic Golf Classic
Upper Montclair Country Club – Clifton, NJ
Noon shotgun start
Congratulations to our 2017 Honorees:
Tony Labozetta & Dean Vafiadis, DDS

SEPTEMBER 2017
Friday–Saturday, September 29–30, 2017
Homecoming Weekend & The Class of 1967 50th Reunion
Please stay tuned for further details

OCTOBER 2017
Monday, October 23, 2017
Wine Tasting
Bacari Grill, Washington Township

NOVEMBER 2017
Saturday, November 4, 2017
Memorial Mass

Friday, November 17, 2017
Crusader Gala
Venetian, Garfield, NJ

Also To Be Scheduled:
Service Projects, Theology on Tap, Mentoring Events

Unless otherwise noted, please contact Marge Quinn at 201-634-4142 for event information, RSVPs and payment.
Dear Reader,

I write in February 2017 from Lima, Peru, as we finish our second Immersion Experience.

Each morning we say the prayer in honor of the Founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Rice:

“Edmund moved by the Spirit opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty, ignorance and injustice. He afforded them an opportunity for a Christian education and engaged on their behalf in other works of compassion.”

The foundational principles of our educational program are called The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education.

Three of the Essential Elements are:

• Stand in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty, and injustice;
• Celebrate the value and dignity of each person;
• Pursue excellence in all endeavors.

This issue of Crusader magazine, with its feature story on the Learning Center, the accomplishments of our graduates and present students, and tributes to Brother Beyer and Joseph Branciforte, shows the action of the Essential Elements and the Blessed Edmund Rice prayer present and animating the mission of Bergen Catholic High School.

Sincerely,

Br. Brian M. Walsh
President
THE LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center at Bergen Catholic doesn’t look much like a traditional classroom: Lamps are scattered across a few tables, carpeting is on the floor and several comfortable chairs form a reading nook in the corner, but what happens there fosters learning in unique and very successful ways. Just three years old, the Learning Center was created for students with learning differences—those who have an accommodation plan such as an IEP (Individualized Education Program)—and simply need modifications and support to help them reach their potential. “This is where our team helps meet their needs,” says Learning Center Director Silvia Farinella.

Bergen Catholic President Brother Walsh and Principal Tim McElhinney had a vision several years ago about how to support students with learning differences. They knew the need was there and they developed the Learning Center Program. Silvia was brought on to get it going. Their original vision, commitment and continued support has been instrumental in the success and growth of the Learning Center.

There are about 65 students enrolled in the center, with anywhere from two to seven students from all grades in the room at any given time, which Silvia says is a great dynamic for learning. “We might have an upper classman in the room who overhears that a freshman is having trouble with a geometry problem, and he’ll jump in to help. It’s an incredibly collaborative learning environment, whether it’s us as teachers helping or a fellow student, it’s about helping each other.” New this year, she says, the Math Honors Society students come during
activity periods and after school as peer tutors, helping with homework or test prep.

Students in the program are scheduled for the Learning Center during phys. ed. class and are met by Silvia as well as Brother Quinn, a Learning Center specialist. In addition, students can attend during activity period and after school. “The goal of the Learning Center is to work with each student in a manner that is in tune with the way they learn best,” says Silvia. “Sometimes half the battle is helping students figure out how they learn,” she says.

The Bergen Catholic brotherhood extends to all who are here at Bergen Catholic. “The Learning Center does not function alone,” says Silvia. “It is truly a team effort. There is open communication and support between our team, administrators, faculty and staff.”

“Building student confidence is very important, so we encourage self-advocacy when communicating with their teachers,” says Silvia. “An assignment or a problem might be difficult and they may need a little guidance, but solving it builds confidence and small successes lead to other larger successes.” She sees it happen every day.

In the space, which Silvia describes as “low key but very productive,” there is the reading nook with five comfortable chairs for quiet reading, an arrangement of desks near a white board for small group learning, and tables where the team can work with students on skills such as editing, time management and organization. Students may also choose to use a single desk when they want to work independently. “It’s very student centered,” she says. “When the kids come in they know where to go and who to work with for any specific help they need.”

In addition to Silvia and Brother Quinn, the Learning Center team also has two instructors from Bergen County who provide services to non-public schools. Together they offer academic and supplemental support to students. “I see our team as facilitators, we’re working to let the kids be their own advocates, to help each student recognize his learning style and unlock their potential,” says Silvia. “It brings me so much joy when a student comes running in to tell us he got accepted to the college of his choice, got an A on a difficult assignment or made the honor roll.”

When a supervisor for Bergen County came in recently to observe Learning Center instructors, she told Silvia she was very impressed with what she saw happening. “She told me we should be a model for all non-public schools in the county,” Silvia said. “She liked the way the students came in and knew exactly where they needed to be, whether it was a quiet space or in a small learning group. She also liked the way the Learning Center team interacted with the students and how the students interacted with each other.”

“The mission of the school is really reflected in this program,” she adds. “It fits in beautifully with our emphasis on academic excellence, helping each other out as brothers and developing young men to become leaders.”
When as a middle school student, a young David Deramo ’93 was looking for the right private parochial school fit he had two criteria in mind: A school with both a strong academic program and a strong athletic program. It didn’t take long to find one place that fit the bill on both fronts. “I wanted a competitive, high-caliber education and found it at Bergen Catholic,” says the Ridgefield native. After graduating first in his class, as well as enjoying a successful four-year career on the Crusader baseball team, David carried his love of sports to his life’s work as an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine.

In practice for nearly 10 years at Englewood Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, David partners with his cousin, orthopedic surgeon Robert Doidge, whose sons Rob and Drew are also Bergen Catholic graduates. “Being a former athlete I think helps me in treating young athletes,” he says. “I tell them I was there once, I know how anxious they are to get back on the field or on the court but it’s important to do it the right way, to make sure that 10 years from now they’re not developing a complication from undertreatment or mistreatment. My job as a doctor is to get them back playing, but to do it safely.”

Currently living in Harrington Park with his wife, Jeannine, and their daughters Ava, 12, Kaitlyn, 9 and Ella, 6, life can be hectic for a doctor and father of three. “We stay busy with our girls’ activities. You’d be surprised how quickly time gets dwindled away when you have sporting events and everything that comes with having three young ladies in the house,” he says.

Looking back at his four years at Bergen and considering important life-long influences, one teacher in particular, Brother Jensen, stands out for the way he taught his students, inside of the classroom and out. “Brother Jensen was my math teacher as well as my sophomore baseball coach,” David recounts. “But what he really taught me was about life. He was very ill with kidney disease, but you would never know it, he was such a positive force. He loved us and wanted us to learn. I can’t speak enough about how much he taught me about being a good person,” he says.

The call to help others, which he credits to his education at Bergen Catholic, doesn’t stop when his workday ends. “I joke that I’m invited to backyard barbeques with friends in case someone gets hurt,” he says. “But I would never say no to anyone. I see a slew of kids every week right in our kitchen who need an injury to be checked out,” he says. “I’d never turn anyone away… my friends can always depend on me if they need help.”

David serves as a Class Chair for the Class of 1993 and is proud to say he remains close to his classmates to this day. “We try to get together when there is a Hall of Fame dinner at Bergen Catholic or a state playoff game. I also make a point to get together for dinner with them every few months and we see each other in the summer at the shore. Without a doubt, to this day, if I needed something the people I would reach out to first would be my friends from Bergen Catholic, and I hope I would be that person to my friends as well.”
A CRUSADER
Returns Home

Visiting Bergen Catholic last fall, alum Jim Dowling ’64 took a tour of the campus athletic facility with Zeke Rodgers ’92, the school’s VP for Advancement. Both former Crusader football players, Jim asked Zeke a question. “Did you know that my senior year our team went 7-2 and won the school’s first state championship?” Unaware of that stat, Zeke walked them over to a nearby wall where team photos were hung and “lo and behold the first picture on the wall was of our 1963 team,” Jim says.

Growing up in Edgewater and attending grammar school in Fort Lee, there was no question whether he would be going to a Catholic high school. “It was just a question of where and since many of my Fort Lee friends were at Bergen that’s where I ended up,” he says. But it was no easy trip. “There was no direct route to Oradell from Edgewater so I had to take a public bus to get to the school bus,” he says. And freshman year, because his class was so large, they had split sessions. “I went to football practice in the morning from 8:15 to 11, then to school from noon to 4:30, and after school we often went back to practice,” he recalls. “That was a long day.”

Looking back on impressions from his time at school Jim remembers then founding principal Brother McKenna as an “extremely personable” man. “He had met my parents once at the beginning of my freshman year,” says Jim. “Then when he saw them again several months later he remembered that my father was a policeman and my mother worked for the telephone company. He was a rare individual.”

Living in Norwood with Joanne, his wife of almost 38 years, and with two grown sons who live fairly close by, Jim has not strayed far from his roots. “I have lived in Bergen County my whole life,” he says. Following an undergraduate degree, then an MBA, both from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Jim has been in the investment business in New York City since 1969, and is now a Managing Director at Jefferies Capital Partners for the past 16 years.

In the last dozen or so years he has focused on helping children, through his charitable donations. “My philosophy is kids need an even break and if someone was dealt a bad hand in life you should do something to help them,” he says. “It was as simple as that.” He had been giving to children-focused organizations for many years when, he says, a few years ago a light bulb went off. “I had gone to a Catholic school that basically is shaping the lives of young people so why not help them?” And with the help of former classmate and recently retired VP for Advancement Joe Branciforte, he started reacquainting himself with the school, starting with a visit back three or four years ago for the first time basically since graduation, then went to a few golf tournaments and class reunions. “I reconnected with my school,” he says.

Even with what seems like a lifetime ago from his time in high school, Jim still feels the impact of his time there. “It’s tough to come out of Bergen Catholic and not be prepared to succeed in life,” he says. “But it’s not only the school, it’s the friends you make that define the school. I made a lot of good friends and we had a lot of laughs and it’s nice to be in a position now to give back and lend a hand where I can.”
Lessons Learned
LESSONS LIVED

Brian Hughes ’86 has to credit his mother for ending up at Bergen Catholic. “I was from New Milford originally, then we moved to Upper Saddle River, and it was my mom who was the driving force behind me going to Bergen,” he says. “Not many kids were making the trip from Upper Saddle River to Oradell every day but she wanted a religious education for me and had heard of the school’s excellent academic reputation, so it was some good foresight by her and I’m very grateful for that.”
He’s also grateful that the values taught to him during his school years helped him lead the kind of life that would make both of his parents proud. The owner of Hughes Environmental Engineering, a mechanical service business specializing in air conditioning, heating and refrigeration based in Mahwah, Brian views his business and career as an extension to do God’s work. “We’re a for-profit company and nondenominational but I see our real underlying mission as promoting good values, which comes from my time at school,” he says.

As a football player at Bergen, Brian made close friends on the team but many of his friends either played other sports or none at all. That, he says, is the Bergen Catholic way. “We didn’t just run around with our sports packs, whether your focus was academics or sports or both. In the end, we were all just boys who came to school who dressed the same trying to become better young men. That, and not just a focus on athletics, was the greater glue at Bergen Catholic,” he says.

One of the lasting effects he still carries with him from his teachers was becoming a lifelong learner. “I’m always grabbing books about topics that interest me or reading articles online,” he says. “The seed of learning was planted in me back then to carry on my curiosity to always keep learning.” Preparing for a trip to Argentina recently, he fondly recalled how one of his favorite teachers, Richard D’Orazio, encouraged him to continue his foreign language studies when he went off to college at Williams. “Although I am not fluent,” he says. “To this day I read books in Spanish and listen to the Spanish CNN channel.”

“The mission of the school is the way I like to live my life, at work and at home,” he says. Giving back to others, treating everyone with respect and reaching for the higher goal of being a better person every day. Serving on the Board of Directors of the YMCA in Ridgewood, participating in charitable work through his company and his church as well as serving as Bergen Catholic’s Alumni Association President, Brian is achieving just that.

Brian lives in Ridgewood with his wife, Stacy, and their three boys, Teddy, 10, Sam, 13 and Henry, 15, who is currently a sophomore at Bergen. While Brian is pleased and proud that Henry is a Crusader, it’s essential to him that Henry’s experience at Bergen be his own. “The school belongs to him now,” he says. “For Henry, he’s the student, not me, and he needs to own that without me putting my thumb on the scale.” As a member of the soccer and track teams, Henry ’19 is well on his way to that goal. And his younger brother Sam is soon to follow, recently enrolling as an upcoming freshman in the fall.
A Crusader on a Mission
A bout five years ago, walking the halls of Bergen Catholic as a Crusader for a Day, then 8th grader Tobe Ibeabuchi ’17 noticed something he hadn’t seen at the other private schools he’d visited. “I immediately felt a sense of positivity and a warmth all around me,” he says. “It came from the teachers and the students, which was very appealing to me.” Growing up in Bergenfield, Tobe always knew that in furthering his education he wanted to go to a high school with an excellent reputation where he would be academically challenged. He found that and more. Graduating this spring with First Honors and on the Principal’s List, Tobe will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall majoring in biology, with future plans to attend medical school.

His desire to become a physician hits close to home. Both of his parents are doctors: his father, Onuora Ibeabuchi, is an internist, and his mother, Adaeze Ibeabuchi, is a nephrologist, or kidney doctor, and they both immigrated from Nigeria. One of five children, Tobe was raised in a family of faith, going to church at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Englewood every Sunday, often serving as an acolyte, assisting the priest during services. “It’s an important part of my life, and the atmosphere of faith is an important part of being at Bergen Catholic,” he says.

As a basketball player in his first three years at Bergen, Tobe says many of the lessons his coaches taught him applied to life off the court as well as on. “They taught us about how important it is to have the right morals,” he said. “All three of my coaches every year I played instilled in us the values of trust, caring and commitment.” In the classroom he credits teacher Mr. Yuz for encouraging his love of math. “I saw how passionate Mr. Yuz was for math, and it spreads throughout the classroom. He wants us to always be the best that we can be,” he says.

The spirit of students at sporting events never fails to energize Tobe and his friends. “It’s a lively crowd, especially when we play against our biggest rivals. We chant and scream all of the different Bergen Catholic cheers. There is nothing like that anywhere I’ve seen.” Tobe describes the closeness he feels with his fellow senior class members this way: “Growing up in Bergenfield I had a very tight group of five or so best friends whom I did everything with. We played sports and hung out together, we were very close. That is basically how I feel about my entire senior class—we’re a very close knit brotherhood that I’m honored to be a part of.”

With a summer of volunteering and college prep classes on tap, staying idle is not an option. “I like to keep busy, I feel like if you’re staying idle then you’re not progressing. I like to use every minute of my day doing something, whether it’s studying, being part of school activities or being with my friends.” And for his future beyond that, more big plans: “My ultimate goal is to become a physician and I hope to not only be a doctor but to make an everlasting impact in the medical field and in the world.”
2016 Crusader Gala
A NIGHT AT THE MASQUERADE BALL

We would like to thank everyone who played a role in making our Crusader Gala a spectacular event! Our Gala this year was a Masquerade Ball, black tie optional, and all guests were given a mask to enhance the fun of the evening.

Congratulations to our Honoree: Dan O’Toole ’85, Current Parent. We are extremely grateful for Dan and his generosity, loyalty and dedication to Bergen Catholic. Dan received the Founder’s Medal during the dinner portion of the evening. During his acceptance speech, Dan took a back seat to the accolades and thanked his wife, Claire, for all her unparalleled support throughout the years. Dan and Claire have been raising their family in Oradell since 2000. Katie is a senior at IHA, Aidan is a sophomore at Bergen Catholic and Riley is an 8th grader at St. Joseph’s Grammar School. Dan included in his speech how grateful he is for the many friendships forged while at Bergen Catholic and for the fine examples set by the many brothers that instructed him while at Bergen.

We are indebted to our Current Parent Volunteers: Master of Ceremonies Sandy Cerami ’85, Debbie Regis and Zina Turi for their sacrifice of time, expertise and making sure that the event was done with excellence! A great big thank-you Steven Levya ’82, Sugarflake Bakery for the delicious Gala cookie giveaway. Thank you to our sponsors.

The proceeds from the 2016 Crusader Gala were allocated to our City as Classroom Program. Thank you to all that supported the 2016 Gala.
Peter Furlan and the BC Jazz Ensemble entertaining our guests during the cocktail hour

Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies Sandy Cerami ’85

Bergen Catholic Faculty and Staff gather in unison to celebrate the 2016 Crusader Gala

Thank you to our Current Student Volunteers

Sandy Cerami, Regina Radoslovich and Br. Brian M. Walsh pull the lucky tickets from the raffle drum

2016 Masquerade Ball guests enjoying the evening

Br. James B. Walsh, Jim Jacobsen ’66 and Br. John L. Gilchrist
Honoree
Daniel P. O’Toole ’85

Dan was born in Teaneck, New Jersey, and raised in New Milford where he lived with his parents, Al and Anne, along with his five siblings, Matthew ’81, Mary IHA ’82, Anne PC ’84, Jim ’86 and Eileen AHA ’91. Dan and his siblings attended St. Joseph’s Grammar School in Oradell, New Jersey. Dan aspired to be an all-county basketball legend at Bergen Catholic but failed to make the first cut as a freshman, bringing his dreams to an abrupt halt. He has always given thanks for this “failure” as it gave him a much-needed dose of humility and required him to reinvent himself. Dan gave spring track a try as a freshman, wearing high top basketball sneakers for the first two weeks and only asking his parents for the $20.00 investment in a pair of running shoes after he knew that he would stick with this new sport and had some ability. Dan went on to run cross-country for his sophomore, junior and senior years. You will not find his name in any record book, but he made some great friends on the team and developed a lifelong passion for running. Dan did not run competitively after high school until his mid 40s when he went on to run 9 marathons and rediscover his long-lost love for running.

Dan attended the University of Scranton for four years earning a bachelor’s and master’s in History and graduated magna cum laude. Thereafter, Dan attended the Fordham University School of Law, graduating in 1992. After a brief stint practicing law in New Jersey, in 1993 Dan began practicing law in New York where he has gone on to be a top trial lawyers. On four occasions, Dan has obtained one of the top 10 verdicts in the state of New York and has obtained the largest pain-and-suffering verdict ever in the history of the state of New York in the Court of Claims. He also has the largest personal injury settlement ever against the state of New York. Over the course of his career Dan has obtained more than 100 verdicts and settlements in excess of $1 million. Dan is proud to have played a role in building the highly respected law firm of Block O’Toole & Murphy LLP.

When Dan graduated from St. Joseph’s Grammar School in 1981, he was the recipient of a $200 per annum scholarship. In thanksgiving for this gift, Dan and his wife, Claire, instituted the Egan/O’Toole Scholarship

The O’Toole Family: Riley IHA 2021, Aidan BC 2017, Claire and Dan O’Toole ’85, and Catherine IHA 2017
which for the last 10 years has awarded partial and full scholarships to a boy and girl graduating from St. Joseph’s Grammar School. The male recipient must attend Bergen Catholic High School (as Dan and all of his brothers did), and the female recipient may choose whatever Catholic school she wishes. The scholarship bears his mother’s maiden name and his family name to give thanks to his Irish immigrant grandparents. In addition to the Egan/O’Toole Scholarship, Dan and Claire have been generous donors to Bergen Catholic High School.

Dan and Claire’s lives have been deeply impacted by pediatric illness: he and Claire lost a seven-year-old niece, and they watched friends cope with the challenges presented by autism. Dan has been a major donor to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, the Candlelighters of New York City, and the Francis Pope Memorial, charities that combat pediatric disease and help the families of those coping with the worst challenge a family can face. More locally, Dan and Claire have been major donors to the Institute for Educational Achievement in New Milford, New Jersey, a school that focuses on helping autistic children and young adults achieve their full potential.

Dan and his wife have partially endowed a scholarship at Georgetown University and have established an endowed Scholarship at the Fordham University school of Law to help students facing financial difficulties.

Dan closed his acceptance speech thanking the generosity of the stranger who donated $200 in 1981 that made attending Bergen Catholic a reality for him. He encouraged us all to be emotionally philanthropic with a vision to help others. He reminded us that this is not a dress rehearsal. This is our chance. Accept the invitation and help others. Thank you, Dan.
Dear Alumni,

The 2016–17 school year has been an exciting time at Bergen Catholic High School. The freshman class (Class of 2020) is the third successive class to possess and use both the iPad mini and the MacBook Air in their classes. Teachers utilize the devices and software in exciting ways, which makes the learning experience unique and enriching. In terms of new academic endeavors, the sophomore class is engaged in the use of STEM/robotics kits. Currently, the sophomores are building gear trains and pulleys in order to better understand the concept of mechanical advantage. Additionally, the Junior Year Computer Science Course is focused on coding activities through Code Academy. The 2016–17 school year is also our second year of exclusively using online texts and online resources as well as our third year of using ExamSoft, which is an electronic testing software. As a result, very little paper is utilized at Bergen Catholic.

In terms of extracurricular activities, our students have brought home quite a few championships so far this year:

**Varsity Soccer:** Big North Conference United Division Championship

**Varsity Swimming:** Big North Conference United Division Championship, Bergen County Championship & Bergen County Meet of Champions Championship

**Varsity Indoor Track:** Big North Conference United Division Championship & Bergen County Relay Championship

**Varsity Wrestling:** Big North Conference United Division Championship, North State Sectional Non-Public A Championship & Non-Public A Team Group Championship

**Mock Trial:** Bergen County Championship

The culture of Brotherhood is very much alive with the current group of students. They each take great pride in being a Crusader and living up to the high expectations of you—the Alumni.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McElhinney
Principal
Greetings to the Bergen Catholic Community,

It has been quite a busy admissions season at Bergen Catholic, as we try and put the pieces together of what will be a fine entering class of 2021. We had two open houses in the fall for prospective 8th graders, which were both very successful with many students and their families in attendance. We also had a large number of boys come in and visit as a part of our Crusader for a Day program, some days with upwards of 40 students coming to see what life as a Bergen Catholic student is like. We will have another open house on Wednesday April 26th at 7 p.m. as well as beginning Crusader for a Day visits for 7th graders starting in March. If your son is considering Bergen Catholic, you are more than welcome to attend these events. Thank you for all you do for Bergen Catholic, and please continue to spread news of all of the great things happening here!

Sincerely,

Matthew Rosa and Bill Leonard
The BC Admissions Team
"The Br. Beyer Intramural League Returns"

By Elizabeth Pagnani, Director of Activities, Math Teacher

In the early 1970s, the students at Bergen Catholic High School experienced the newly founded Intramural Sports Program. Begun by Br. Edward Thaddeus “Teddy” Beyer, students had the opportunity to form teams and play various sports against one another. This was a unique addition to their rigorous school days that allowed them to recreationally compete against their friends. Br. Beyer was able to link his passion for teaching young men with his passion for sports and extracurricular activities.

After a brief hiatus in the early 2000s, the Intramural Program made its return this past October with the fall season of Intramural Basketball. Split by grades and into two divisions, 19 teams and over 150 students competed against each other on Tuesdays and Thursdays during activity period. Officiated by students, teams fought their way to the championship round. In December, the top two teams, “Bergen 18” and “Hometown Hoagies,” battled for the championship in front of the entire student body. Bergen 18, a team composed of students from the class of 2018, won the thrilling event. The pressure is on them to hold the highest honor as the spring season has now begun.

Following Br. Beyer’s death in December, the program was coined “The Br. Beyer Intramural League.” Almost every memory of Br. Beyer includes his creation and execution of the Intramural Program. For years to come, students will compete for the chance to wear “The Br. Beyer Intramural League” championship T-shirts and hoist the Br. Beyer Intramural League trophy.
Mr. Branciforte Has Left The Building

Entering Grade 9 in September 1960, Joseph Branciforte flourished and began to become a Crusader from the inside out. Upon graduation in 1964 he attended, Notre Dame University where he continued the development of his personal philosophy of people first and willingness to serve.

Having had a successful career in banking, in 1997, Joe joined the Development Office of Bergen Catholic, ending his service on January 13, 2017, in the position of Director of Planned Giving.

In his tribute to Joe at his final faculty meeting, Brother Walsh used the following quote:

Shortly after the death of Edmund Rice, a Protestant gentleman wrote, “I knew Mr. Rice well. I respected his nobleness of character, I can appreciate the work he has accomplished… Who could stand by his grave and witness unmoved the wave of sorrow which affected the vast multitude assembled. But why are you sad? Mr. Rice is not dead. He lives, yes he lives the highest, noblest and the greatest of lives. He lives in his noble band of Christian Workers to whom he has bequeathed his spirit and his work.

“Joe, it is as though this gentleman was describing you. You have been Edmund Rice for us. Thank you. Bless you.”

~Brother Walsh

To say that Joe is an extremely proud Domer is to be supposed. He’s an avid fan who can drive out to South Bend with his eyes closed. Joe is also proud of his loving family, his marriage of 36 years to his wife, Cathy, His son Joe Jr. BC ’03 and his daughter Kate AHA ’08; his family makes him happy. Joe worked 24 years in the banking industry for UJB Then returned to his alma mater, and for 20 years has been at BC. To those of us who work with Joe, he is the Razer’s Edge Master and the Query King. He constantly checks his “bring up” to see numbers and file important things. If Joe has his flip chart, he is staff meeting bound. His accuracy and attention to detail are really quite profound. He announces he is taking a vacation day, oh, but what a surprise, he promptly shows up by nine! His dedication to the Class of 1964 and all his handwritten notes assure him the Alumni Cup each and every time. When Joe is not on hold with Blackbaud, he may be on the tennis court. There's another side to Joe on which we shall report... Joe hitchhikded back and forth to Notre Dame while in school. He ran the Boston Marathon in Chuck Taylors. Wasn’t that cool?!!! Joe drove the school bus for the Benefactors’ Reception. Oh, and Joe is right 99.9% of the time, or at least that’s his perception.

Good luck in your retirement, Joe. You will be missed.
The Performing Arts Department at Bergen Catholic continues to raise the cultural awareness and esteem of the arts by providing our students with meaningful experiences and numerous opportunities for public performance. The department continues to showcase the talents of the young men involved in our Vocal Ensemble, Jazz Band and Chamber Ensemble, not only within the school community but throughout the community at large.

In addition to their two annual concerts the Men’s Vocal Ensemble performs at numerous school activities, from open houses, masses, sporting events. They participate in the acclaimed New York Regional National Catholic High School Choral Festival at Saint Malachy’s, the Actors Chapel. In 2014 and 2015, the Men’s Vocal Ensemble was awarded 1st place honors and a superior rating at the Festivals of Music competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and in 2016 at the competition in Williamsburg, Virginia. Bergen’s Jazz Band continues to thrill audiences at their annual concerts and their appearances at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair. This year they will also appear in concert with the Bergen County Community College Jazz Ensemble. They have also performed at the Josie Robertson Plaza at Lincoln Center in New York City. Our Chamber Ensemble is our newest Performing Arts organization and is directed by renowned bassist, Charles Dougherty, an alumnus of Bergen Catholic. This rapidly growing performing group is open to all string, woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists.
The TRI M National Music Honor Society was established at Bergen Catholic during the 2013–14 academic year. The Chapter now boasts 25 members and offers our musicians opportunities for service and leadership.

Our Bergen Goes to Broadway series, open to the entire Bergen Catholic Community, continues to be a huge success. Each season we offer tickets, dinner and transportation to hits that have included On Your Feet, Fiddler On The Roof, Jersey Boys, Kinky Boots, Shuffle Along, Evan Hansen and Hello Dolly.

In celebration of Bergen Catholic’s 60th Anniversary, the Men’s Vocal Ensemble hosted an All Male Choral Festival, featuring performing organizations from neighboring Catholic High Schools and the Rutgers University Male Glee Club as our guest artists. This event has now become a much anticipated tradition among Catholic Men’s High Schools as we all share in hosting this event. This year’s festivities were hosted by Delbarton. The performance by the Bergen Catholic Men’s Ensemble was met with thunderous applause and accolades by the Presidents of both Delbarton and Saint Peter’s Prep.

Bergen Thespians continue to shine as they take the stage in musical productions at Immaculate Conception High School, Immaculate Heart Academy and Mary Help of Christians High School. Our Coffee House Cabaret has become a highlight of our program. Students have the opportunity to showcase their talents as they perform selections of their choice, both vocal and instrumental. These numerous opportunities for performance have enabled us to showcase yet another aspect of what is available to young men at Bergen, enabling them to capitalize on their potential, personally, spiritually and musically. The Arts at Bergen Catholic High School are alive and well and continue to thrive. “Lead On Bergen Catholic High!”
The Performing Arts Department is involved in a whirlwind of activities and hope that many of you will join us for these upcoming events. In March, the Men’s Vocal Ensemble will travel to Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Rhode Island, where the two choruses will take part in master classes and vocal clinics with renowned conductor Dr. Jamie Hillman and present a joint concert that is sure to be spectacular. The boys will also shadow Bishop Hendricken students for a day and experience educational activities at another Christian Brothers school.

For the very first time, the Bergen Catholic Men’s Vocal Ensemble is reaching out to ALL alumni, male faculty and dads who would like to join us in song at our May 24th Spring Concert! There will be two rehearsals prior to the performance date (TBA), where we will prepare two selections to perform with the Ensemble. It promises to be a most memorable experience for all involved. No prior musical experience is necessary, just the desire to truly be “Brothers in Song.”

Please take advantage of the upcoming activities to support the Performing Arts at Bergen Catholic!
The Visual Arts program continues to flourish here at Bergen Catholic with the largest number of students enrolled in the AP Art program yet. This two-year intensive program gives students the opportunity to explore a multitude professional-quality artistic media to create large-scale works. Throughout the two-year sequence, the students are challenged to create a portfolio of 24 complete works to be presented to the College Board for review. Juniors work on the Breadth section of their portfolio where they need to show a mastery of a multitude of media, styles and subject matter. Jonathan Andujar ’18 completed an impressive charcoal drawing of a famous statue, Daniel Yam ’18 focused on perspective to create his painting of a staircase, and Jerry Siracusa ’18 chose a pop art style when creating this portrait of his dog. Throughout their senior year students create the Concentration section of their portfolio where they must choose one theme in which to do an extended investigation. Will Lenz ’17 is exploring how the styles of automobiles has changed throughout the decades in this marker drawing, while Jin Gon Kim ’17 is demonstrating the continued growth of technology and its effect on the Earth in this stunning watercolor painting. Stay tuned to see what other amazing works come from these talented young artists.
Cross Country

The Cross Country team wrapped up their season placing 2nd in the Big North Conference United Division and 4th in the Bergen Meet of Champions. Individual champs included Caleb Shaia ’17, First Team All-County and First Team All-Big North United, and Braedon Fiume ’19, second team All-County and First Team All-Big North United.

Football

This year’s gridiron team had a successful 7-4 season, making it to the state semifinals with eight players earning All-Bergen recognition including seniors Ankaury Camilo ’17, Erik Massey ’17, Ship Idrizi ’17, Jahmel Johnson ’17, Andrew Vito ’17 and Pat Palmer ’17.

Soccer

The Crusaders ended their season 15-2-2 (tying the BC record for fewest losses) and advanced to the semifinals in the BCCA Tournament as well as the State Tournament. Six players were placed on the Big United North 1st team (Miles Franklyn ’17, Cole Bosch ’17, Stephen Teitelbaum ’17, Casey Kelly ’17, Nick Vafiadis ’18 and Joe Barile ’17).

Basketball

With returning seniors Taj Benning ’17 (closing in on career 1,000 points), Gabe Stefanini ’17, Thomas Binelli ’17 and Rhona Eyeyade ’17, they’re looking for experience and chemistry to take them far. They advanced to the Bergen County Jamboree final.
Bowling

With back-to-back victories over Paramus Catholic and Don Bosco Prep, the team hopes to close in on the top spot in Big North United. Kyle Laube ’17 (above center) won the BCCA Championship, as Crusaders place 3rd overall.

Hockey

The Crusaders defeated River Dell in the quarterfinals of the BCCA tournament, 3-0. Wrapping up the season they are looking to finish up strong.

Indoor Track

The indoor track team beat rival Don Bosco to win the Bergen County Relays in January, scoring in all 12 events. The 4x1600 relay team (sophomore Braedon Fiume ’19 and seniors Connor Secora ’17, Billy Rabah ’17 and Caleb Shaia ’17) crushed the school record by 30 seconds and posted the 3rd fastest time in the nation to date. They also won the Big North Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships. They performed well in the NJCTC Indoor Track Championships with Caleb setting a school record in the 1600.

Skiing

Under coach Scott Savage, the team has a full schedule at Mountain Creek.

Swimming

The Crusaders swim team took its fifth straight BCCA Championship, posting season best times in 8 of 11 races under new coach Lia K unnapas.

Wrestling

Ranked #10 nationally in midseason, the Crusaders won their 28th Consecutive District Championship, 6th consecutive and 19th overall North Sectional Championship and its 11th Group Championship!
Regular readers of Crusader Magazine know the honor I have in moving the efforts of the Advancement office forward. My goal is to work with you to enhance Bergen Catholic and uphold our reputation as one of the best catholic high schools in New Jersey.

Here is a brief update on the 2016–17 year through the end of February 2017.

2016 Gala
Amount Raised: $118,122
Notes: Your support has made our City as Classroom program possible. Class trips will begin this year.

Annual Appeal (all funds)
Amount Raised: $310,443
Notes: The appeal consists of over 80 funds that help the school in multiple areas.

Student Tuition Assistance
Amount Raised: $31,248
Notes: On average, every $6,000 raised supports one young man in need for one year.

Annual Fund
Amount Raised: $104,212
Notes: Most critical annual appeal fund. Provides unrestricted funds to areas of greatest need.

Campaign Fund
Amount Raised: $617,819
Notes: We are in the quiet phase of the “Crusade to the Summit” campaign which is focused on revitalizing the campus and enhancing our programs.

May you and your family have a blessed 2017!

Regards,

Zeke Rodgers ’92
Vice President of Advancement
Direct: 201-261-4948
Email: zrodgers@bergencatholic.org
Would you like to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend? Or a special occasion? If so, a brick in Crusader Promenade, located at field level just outside the Nicholas G. Saingas Training Center, may be just for you!

Or, perhaps you would prefer a leaf or a stone on our Tree of Life, located at the entranceway to Hoehl Gymnasium and Hoehl Hall.

Either option will offer you the opportunity to create a perpetual remembrance or recognition for that special loved one, friend or occasion. Whether you choose a brick under the sun and the stars, or a leaf on our cozy, indoor Tree of Life, is up to you.

For further information, please call or email Regina Radoslovich at 201-634-4146 or rradoslovich@bergencatholic.org.

**Crusader Promenade Brick-by-Brick Pricing Chart**
Crusader Promenade is located on the outside eastern edge of the Saingas Training Center, at field level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brick Paver Parameters</th>
<th>Price per brick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; by 8&quot; 3 lines*; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot; by 8&quot; 3 lines*; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot; by 12&quot; 3 lines*; 16 characters/spaces per line</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Extra lines available at additional cost.

**Tree of Life**

- **Leaf Cost:** $1,000
- **Stone Cost:** $5,000

- **Frank Adamiak**
  Class of 1975

- **Gift of Captain & Mrs. Timothy Ahern**
  Class of 1966

- **In Loving Memory of**
  James P. and Helen E. Alrutz
  Thomas J. Alrutz 1961

- **In Loving Memory Of Our Parents Dorothea & Henry**
  Don ’64 & Gary ’70 Armagnac

- **Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Barrett**
  Class of 1965

- **Class of ’72 Remembers**
  Martin “Buff” Wohlforth
  At Its 30th Reunion
What a great honor it is to be chosen to lead our Bergen Catholic Alumni Association. I am grateful to all Crusaders who elected me as President. Serving alongside me is Mike Panos ’72 (Vice President), Kevin Rigby ’72 (Treasurer) and John Amoratis ’77 (Secretary). We also have an incredibly talented and diverse group of volunteers joining your now 18-member Board of Directors. We are all indebted to the service of Mike Haviland ’78, who has personified the role of a dedicated alumnus. Over the last few years, we got even better under Mike’s leadership. The bar for all alumni to support our great school has been raised to a new level. So thank you, Mike! We are honored to have you continue your efforts as our Alumni Association’s President Emeritus this year.

Our Alumni Association now has over 13,000 Crusader Alumni! Our impact on Bergen Catholic has tremendous potential. It is my intention to greatly expand the number of opportunities for alums of all ages and backgrounds to plug back into Bergen Catholic some way, whether it’s through time, talent, or treasure. We need your help recruiting prospective students. We need your help with our Careers4Crusaders initiatives. We need to help Bergen Catholic with its advancement and fundraising. The list goes on.

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” “Here I am,” I said; “send me!”* Isaiah 6:8

So, are you in? Will you help Bergen Catholic? If you were waiting for an invitation, this is it. Contact either Marge Quinn or me today. Deus Vult!

Brian C. Hughes ’86  
President, Bergen Catholic High School Alumni Association
We are happy to announce a new and improved alumni online directory, available only for alumni. Each alumnus has been pre-assigned a username and password, which can be obtained as part of your initial sign-up process on our website at www.bergencatholic.org.

When you arrive at the website’s main page, click on the word “ALUMNI” near the top right corner of the site. Click on the navigation bar link titled “Alumni Online Directory Login.”

**Follow these first-time login steps:**

- At this point, you won’t yet know your username or password, so click on “Forgot login or first time logging in?”
- Supply your email address where indicated and put checkmarks in both the “Username” and “Password” boxes, hit “Send” button.
- If your e-mail address is not on file with us, you will receive a screen that indicates along the top: “Login Help—We are unable to process your request. Please contact Regina Radoslovich at rradoslovich@bergencatholic.org or 201-634-4146.”
- If your email address IS known by us, you will receive two separate emails from Regina, one containing your pre-assigned username. Make a note of it for future login purposes.
- The second email will contain a link labeled: “Password Reset URL”; click on the link, then enter “New Password” of your choosing.
- You will be taken to a screen that will allow you to have access to the Alumni Directory.
- Click on the drop-down in the “Directories” area (the fourth navigation bar item) and select “Alumni.” Note: The first three items on the navigation bar are not operational at this time.
- You will be sent to the New Alumni Online Directory.

We wish you fun in your searches and success in reconnecting with your classmates and friends!
Richard Eastman is the Military Liaison for the Morris County Chamber of Commerce supporting the Army’s Soldier For Life and Community Covenant Programs. He was reappointed as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) in October 2016. He represents Northern New Jersey. Richard served in the army from 1965–1968 as an Ordnance Missile Maintenance Officer/Foreign Liaison. From 1968–1988, he served in the Army Reserves.

Msgr. Robert Sheeran invited Bob Murray ’59 to the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Marin Catholic High School last October, where he offered a special intention prayer for Bob’s wife, Fran, who was recovering from spinal fusion surgery at Marin General Hospital. Bob and Msgr. Sheeran had a nice visit after Mass over coffee in the rectory.

Anthony Cavet celebrated 50 years as a Christian Brother in October 2016.

Michael Smith received the Spirit of Hope Award, presented by the Department of Defense, in a Pentagon ceremony, on September 28, 2016. Michael is retired from the United States Coast Guard. This award is presented to individuals or organizations who embody the core values of: Duty, Honor, Courage, Loyalty, Commitment, Integrity and Selfless Dedication. This prestigious award was inspired by Bob Hope, who gave generously to military men and women for five decades.

Brian Gallagher and his wife, Maureen, (above right) became grandparents on February 7, 2017. Their daughter, Bri-anne (IHA), and son-in-law, Greg Szep, had a baby girl, Reagan Elizabeth. Proud uncles are Dan ’05 and Jack ’11. Great uncles are Jim ’80, Tom ’85, Don Lynch ’77, Tim Lynch ’85 and cousin, AJ Gallagher ’13.

Mark Avallone is the President of Potomac Wealth Advisors, LLC, a full service financial planning firm in Rockville, MD. Mark recently published a book...
titled *Countdown To Financial Freedom, Your Path to a More Meaningful, Active, and Vibrant Retirement*. Mark is also a regular contributor to *Forbes*, and his insights have also appeared in the *Wall Street Journal, USA Today, U.S. News & World Report, The Washington Post* and other leading publications. In addition, he is a frequent guest on the Fox Business Network, CNBC and Fox News Channel. Mark and his wife, Christine, reside in the Washington, DC, area with their daughter Abigail.

**85** Jim Markert (on left) is a Colonel in the Army. He recently redeployed from the Middle East with the III Corps Headquarters. Jim is currently the III Corps Chief of Staff. The family has relocated to Fort Leavenworth where Jim will be the Director of the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). Jim is a 1989 graduate of West Point.

**92** Sean Quinn and his wife, Maureen, are beyond blessed to announce the birth of their son, Connor Sean Quinn, on August 17, 2016. Baby Connor weighed in at 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 21” long. #quinnpartyof5

**99** Jason Porcelli and his wife, Jennifer, are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Brynn Sparrow. Brynn arrived on September 15, 2016. She was 7 pounds 13 ounces of pure joy! Brynn is named after her late brother and the birds who bring comfort to the Porcelli’s, reminding them of Brian, Tatum and Grandpa Tony. Brynn joins big sister, Sammy, and big brother, Shane.

**93** Anthony Callea, Megan and Elliott Grace welcomed John Arthur Callea to their family on November 1, 2016. Everything went off without a hitch!

**00** James Larocca married Diana Becker on December 29, 2016.

Follow us!

[Facebook](www.facebook.com/BergenCatholic)

[Twitter](@BergenCatholic)

[YouTube](www.youtube.com/user/BergenCatholic1955)
01 Tom Zydel and his wife, Jordan, are overjoyed to announce the birth of their first child, a son, Timothy Walter Zydel. Born on January 4, 2017, Timothy is already breaking hearts.

02 Sean Lackey and his wife, Jenna, fell instantly in love with Emma Mary, their first child. Emma was born on October 12, 2016. The Lackey’s live in New York City.

08 Peter Sfraga married Abby McPartland on December 17, 2016. The Best Man was Andrew Gigante ’08, while Alex Brodowski ’08, James Gallo ’08, Brian Casey ’08 and James Polifroni ’05 were also in attendance. Abby is the daughter of Brendan McPartland ’78 and the sister of Frank ’05 and Pete ’14. The bride is also the niece of Joe ’68, John ’69, Brian ’73, Jim ’75, Liam ’77 and Denis ’86. She is the cousin of Pat ’94, Malachy ’96 and Tim ’08. That’s six decades of Bergen men at one gathering!

08 Victor Servito married Juyeun Llopiz on November 2, 2015. They live in Florida.

Doug Sealy ’65 and Kelly Price were visiting New York City in November and wanted to make sure to fit a visit in with Br. Brian Walsh while they were in town. They enjoyed dinner together at Upper Montclair Country Club on November 20th and shared stories of earlier days at Bergen Catholic. Doug met Br. Walsh when he came back to BC for his 50th Class Reunion in October of 2015. Subsequently, Br. Walsh, Marge Quinn and Regina Radoslovich visited with Kelly and Doug in their hometown of Winter Park, Florida, in February 2016 during one of our Crusaders on the Road trips.

“I had not visited BC since I graduated in 1965 and truthfully thought little of my experiences there. I did not stay in touch with any of my classmates. But upon finally returning to campus, I had an overwhelming sense of the values by which I have lived and where they came from. While my life is not a poster child of what even a “good” graduate should be, those embedded values always kept a check on me and served me well. Brother Brian Walsh, to me, is the reminder of the values. He is the jockey riding the horse and I always bet on the jockey.”

— Doug Sealy ’65
Alumni Events

BC Lacrosse Inaugural Alumni Dinner

All Rows LEFT to RIGHT:
Front Row: Michael Reilly, Rusty Parrino (Coach), James Kieler Bachmann, Rick Doerr (Coach), Bob Turco (Coach)
Second Row: Michael Orlando, Sean Maffei, Zach Larsen, Danny Senor, Bobby Ryan, Ryan Warnock, Chris Blewitt
Third Row: Billy Schwartz, Gerard Quinn, Harry Rice, Dan Senor, Dave Wapelhorst, Alec Orlando, Brendan Hamm, Brian Ayers, Robby Williams, Matt Pedrick, Alex Borg, Michael Fodi, Sean McGuire, Alec Talarico, Guy Talarico
Fourth Row: John Allen, Tom Certo, Mike Annechino, Frank Matarazzo, Luke Breslin, Matt Haemmerle, Jack Vinci, Greg Certo, Alex Miller
Fifth Row: Ryan Coyle, Coach Haemmerle, Casey Heffernan, Tommy Pearce, Lance Gibson, Billy McKee

SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED SERVICES?

Calling alumni (or parents of our alumni)! We want to document, honor and thank our alumni who are serving (or have served) our country over the years. In order to build our recognition list, kindly provide the following information:

• Full Name
• Bergen Catholic Graduation Year
• Branch of Service (Army, Navy, Air Force, et al)
• Highest Rank
• Date(s) of Service
• Current (Past) Deployment Location
• Current (Past) Deployment Date(s)

Email your information to rradoslovich@bergencatholic.org or mail to Regina Radoslovich Bergen Catholic 1040 Oradell Avenue Oradell, NJ 07649

Thank you for helping us to recognize and thank our alumni for their service to our country!
Alumni Events

Careers4Crusaders:
Maximizing the Internet to Advance Your Career

On October 13, 2016, the Alumni Association’s Careers4Crusaders team hosted another successful event to promote networking and career information for Bergen Catholic alums of all ages. Featured speakers were Steve ’96 and Christian Estrellado ’00, Managing Partners at Estro Communications. Steve and Chris explained how the internet has totally overturned the traditional job search process, but also—more importantly—how prospective employers screen out or identify potential job candidates.

As Steve Estrellado explained, “From your first job out of college to changing careers, the job search process is not the same. Your next job is 100% online, itemized in keyword phrases. We suggest writing your resume with the keywords described in the employer’s job description. Doing so would align you with their Human Resources automated searching.” Attendees also listened to candid opinions on various websites, such as LinkedIn, Craigslist, Indeed and others. The Alumni Association’s Careers4Crusaders committee chairman, Mike Jordan ’89, added, “It was great to see so many alums come back to Oradell to get great insight from industry experts right here in our own Bergen Catholic family. It was an invaluable resource for our alums.”
Careers4Crusaders – January 2017

On January 12, 2017, the Alumni Association’s Careers4Crusaders team hosted another successful event to promote networking and career information for Bergen Catholic alums of all ages. Over 30 Bergen alums volunteered their time to speak with current Bergen alum currently in college and recent college graduates about career choices. Attendees had a chance to visit with any alums in attendance to discuss both macro and individual issues within the chosen career field of choice. The Alumni Association’s Careers4Crusaders committee chairman, Michael Jordan ’89, added, “It was great to see so many alums come back and heed the advice that regardless of what you may be studying at the moment, your major or minor, and what you may think will be your career path, keeping your options open and learning from a diverse population of experience is crucial to your success.” Future Careers4Crusaders events are in the works and anyone interested in serving on the committee or volunteering in any way is asked to contact Michael Jordan at mjordan@maywoodschools.org or 201-280-2115 for further information.

Thank you to all our Alumni Presenter Volunteers and our young alumni participants who attended our January Careers4Crusaders Event
Alumni Events

Class Chair Letter Signing Event – Tuesday, January 10, 2017 – Bacari Grill

Thank you to all our Class Chairs who came to Bacari Grill on Tuesday, January 10th to sign and write notes on your Class Chair letters. We appreciate your tireless effort and support. We are grateful to our invited guests who were able to join us; thank you to:

Br. Lawrence T. Murphy
Br. J.G. Sullo
Coach John Mazziotta
Gerry Goldee
Tom Fuchs
Angie DeToro

for joining us on January 10th. We took a few minutes during the evening to say thank you and farewell to Joe Branciforte, who retired as of January 13, 2017. Thank you, Joe; your 20 years of service and dedication to Bergen Catholic is commendable. May the next phase of your life bring you all that you seek and more. We’re really going to miss you! We hope retirement brings you the chance to do whatever it is that you always wanted to do but didn’t get to because...you were always working!

What Is a Class Chair?
Class Chairs are an extension of the Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations. Class Chairs lead by example by contributing each year to the Annual Campaign at a donation level that is comfortable to each Chair respectively; our goal is to continue to increase alumni participation.

What Are the Responsibilities of a Class Chair?
1. Support the Annual Campaign and attend the January Class Chair Letter Signing Event.
2. Communicate with your classmates about the success stories that are occurring at Bergen Catholic. This is vital information that needs to be shared with all who live in and outside of Bergen County. A quick email or phone call goes a long way to keeping the Brotherhood connected. Your source of information will be your Class Decade Rep.
3. Inform your classmates that they can stay connected with Bergen Catholic on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter.
4. Promote and participate in all Alumni and Advancement functions whenever possible.
5. Planning and organization of class reunions, including recruitment of other Committee Members to achieve the highest possible participation rate.
6. Identify and mentor other Alumni to join the Class Chair team.
7. Act as a Bergen Catholic Ambassador in your local community.
8. Keep Alumni Office informed of email and address changes of your classmates.
9. Remind classmates of the June 30th Campaign deadline and encourage giving to those who have not done so.
10. Once a Crusader, always a Crusader. Deus Vult!

If you believe you know someone who would like to join our Class Chair team, please invite him to join us. If you have any questions, please contact your Decade Rep or any member of the Alumni Board.
Memorial Mass – Saturday, November 5, 2016

Love and light was the message of the 2016 Alumni Association Memorial Mass on November 5, 2016. Thank you to our Campus Minister Fr. Colin Kay for celebrating this beautiful Mass, which was standing room only! Thank you John Amoratis ’77 and Bacari Grill for all you do to make this event so special. Our Memorial Mass and Brunch is a time to gather together and remember all those who we love and miss so dearly; we celebrate the lives of our dearly departed and rejoice together and share fond memories of our loved ones. Thank you to Lori Fernandez for donating the beautiful flowers for our altar that were given in memory of her son Stephen Fernandez ’08. Rest in peace; gone but not forgotten, your memories live forever in our hearts.
Alumni Events

Wine Tasting – Monday, October 24, 2016

The Alumni Association Wine Tasting Event on Monday, October 24th was a great success! Thank you to all who attended, and many thanks to Bacari Grill and John Amoratis ’77. We couldn’t do this event without you!! There was an offering of the finest wines from around the world. We time our Wine Tasting Event so it coincides with purchasing wine for the holidays; please plan to join us in October 2017.

“Weekend night at the Bergen Catholic Alumni Association Wine Tasting hosted by Bacari Grill and the incomparable John Amoratis ’77 who delivered off-the-charts food and wines from Quintessa to Ironside to Overture to Tignanello to Faust to Mer Soleil and so many more monster bottles....It was a chart-topper! Mary and I would like to send a special nod to Marge Quinn and Michael Haviland for organizing this wonderful event. If you missed it, you need to plan for the next one. It is worth every penny...I feel like we ran out on a huge bar tab without paying with the quality of wines we enjoyed!”

— Sandy Cerami ’85
BC Alumni Hockey Game

The game was held on November 25, 2016, at the Ice Vault in Wayne, New Jersey. As usual the game was so much fun. A great time was had by all who played and the relatives and fans who turned out to watch. White won 9-8 after being behind for all but the last few minutes. The entire BC Varsity watched from the stands and mingled before, during and after the game with the alumni. For those who couldn’t make the game, we missed you. We tried for a January game last year but that made it difficult for many to attend. The game was moved back to Black Friday where it will probably stay.

“I am still playing (at 48), I had a game at Ice House last week, one rink over form BC JV at the Ice House. Our locker rooms were across the hall. I went and introduced myself—and was welcomed by the kids openly. Told them to savor every moment. I asked about their season so far and they said they were getting beat up pretty good. But they played CBA that night tooth and nail. Great game for them.

Great to see the future of the program be respectful and then go out and play hard. Loved it.

'Take care.”

— Drew Miller ’86
Reunion Recap

Class of 1966 50-Year Reunion Weekend

On September 23rd and September 24th, the Class of 1966 held their 50th Reunion Weekend. The weekend started with golf on Friday afternoon at White Beeches Golf and Country Club followed by cocktails and dinner in the evening at White Beeches. Saturday’s activities included a tour of the school expertly guided by current Crusaders, pre-game festivities with an introduction of Coach Krayer and members of the first undefeated football team at mid field coin toss and 50-year Reunion Mass celebration in the chapel. The awarding of 50-year Golden Diplomas was done on Saturday night at the reunion dinner at Bacari Grill in Washington Township where many old memories were shared. A truly wonderful weekend was experienced by all. Everyone had such a great time at the reunion that they planned a follow-up Christmas gathering in December, which was just as enjoyable as the reunion weekend.

Thank you to the Class of 1966 Reunion Committee:
John Horan
Jim Jacobsen
Jim Jalil
Phil Russotti
Tony Zupcic
The Reunion Committee would like to thank their special guests who attended the 50th reunion:
Br. John L. Gilchrist • Br. J.B. Walsh • Br. Anton Lips (via skype)

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend on September 23rd and 24th was a great success. The weekend included golf at Emerson Golf Club on Friday. Saturday morning consisted of tours of the school, guided by current Crusaders, followed by pre-game festivities at the BC Woodland Avenue property, home football game at Crusader Stadium vs. Paramus Catholic, and Mass in the BC Chapel at 5 p.m. After Mass, reunion years ending in 1 and 6 headed to the BC Library for cocktails and dinner.

Always great to come back to Bergen and see old friends. Although, that was the most time I’ve ever spent in the library...

– Denis McPartland ’86

Always great to spend some time with my old BC brothers—even if only once every five years—and to reminisce and compare notes on our lives and how the world has changed.

– Steve Janson ’71

The Class of 1961 was well represented: Tom Sheridan, Ted Noble and Joe Mele

Class of 1966 reminiscing while they tour the halls of BC

BC Crusaders getting ready to take on PC
The Class of 1971 had a small turnout but it was great to reconnect with the classmates that were there. It had been over 20 years since I had been back for a reunion. While there have certainly been many upgrades, much of the school seemed the same as when we left. Thank you to the Alumni Association for putting together such a nice event, from the barbecue before the football game to the dinner in the evening. Since our next reunion will be our 50-year reunion, we will need to work together to hopefully have a larger crowd for our 50-year celebration. Go Bergen!

– Bill Reveille ’71
In Memoriam

Brother Edward Thaddeus Beyer: 1924–2017

A legend, an inspiration, one of Bergen Catholic’s “greatest,” Brother Edward Thaddeus Beyer, who passed away at age 92 on January 2nd, spent his 40-year teaching career at Bergen helping turn young Crusaders in their formative years into responsible and caring young adults. Whether it was as a coach on the basketball court or a teacher in his legendary World History classes, his imprint is still felt, even after his retirement at age 85.

Born in New York City and raised in the Hell’s Kitchen section, Brother Beyer earned his B.S. in Education from Fordham University and a master’s degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He entered the Eastern American Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in 1941, prior to his time at Fordham. His long journey to Bergen Catholic took him from New York City to Butte, Montana, to Chicago to Newark then to Oradell, where he landed in 1969 and stayed until retirement in 2009. On arrival at school he was named chairman of the History Department, which he was for over 20 years. In addition to teaching American and Modern History, Brother Beyer also taught Theology and was moderator of the Student Council. Known for his biting wit and no-nonsense approach to teaching, Br. Beyer was source of inspiration to his thousands of former students.

As the freshman basketball coach, Brother Beyer led his teams to a record-setting 12 Bergen County championships from 1975–2003. In 1996 he was the recipient of a Special Award by the Bergen County Coaches Association. His constant presence at home basketball games, even well after his coaching days had passed, became a kind of touchstone for students, their own good luck charm in the flesh.

In his last year of teaching at Bergen Catholic, the school declared March 16 a schoolwide holiday as “Brother Beyer Day,” a big hit with the students and a well-deserved honor for a beloved teacher, mentor and friend.
In Memoriam NEVER FORGOTTEN

Bergen Catholic wishes to extend its prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed away.

Deceased Alumni

Msgr. Patrick Panos ’60
Brother of Peter ’64, Cousin of James ’66, Mike ’72, Paul ’73, Jimmy ’97, Steven ’99, Timothy ’99 & Mike ’01

Don McCabe ’62
Matthew “Lee” Parker ’62
Brother of Jack ’66, Uncle of Kevin Kelly ’83, Dan Kelly ’86 & Bob ’Trieste ’89, Great Uncle of Liam Kelly ’13, Brendan Kelly ’16 & DJ Kelly ’19

Richard M. Scrofani ’62
James R. Dee ’65
Brother of Robert ’60

William Fullam ’65
Timothy M. Ahern ’66

James J. Mckenna ’66
Brother of John ’63 (RIP) & James J. McKenna ’66

Terry McGlynn ’75
Brother of Dan ’69, Tom ’76 & Ed ’78

Anthony Barrale ’79
Uncle of Thomas Murray ’17 & Brother-in-law of Scott Frankland ’93

James Callan ’82
Tim De Rosa ’82
Brother of Bob ’81

James P. Jones ’90
Christopher M. Griffith ’93

Kevin O’Brien ’04
Brother of Corey ’03

Steven R. Fernandez ’08

Deceased Family and Friends

Charles Babikian
Grandfather of Ryan ’10 & Michael ’16

Anastasia Bagdzinski
Grandmother of Michael ’95 (RIP)

John Bell
Former Track Coach

Br. Edward T. Beyer, C.F.C.
Former BC Faculty & Coach

Susan Biagnani
Mother of Remo ’77 & Grandmother of Philip ’20

Kathleen Buchanan
Mother of Ronald ’76 & Philip ’77

Christopher Burde
Brother of Greg ’64

Judith Canton
Mother of Jimmy ’85

Denise Casalino
Wife of Steven ’74 (RIP) & Brother-in-law of Lawrence ’66

Simon Cols
Father of Nic ’72

Christopher Connelly
Brother of Mike ’70 & Tom ’73

Susanne Crimmins
Mother of Austin ’84 & Mother-in-law of Gene Greco ’80

John Delaney
Father of John ’81

Margaret J. Devine
Mother of Thomas ’79 & Grandmother of Austin ’12 & Brendan ’13

Paul G. Dobbs
Father of Paul ’81

Patricia Ercolano
Sister of Hugo Ercolano BC Staff

Theodore Fattorossi
Father of Jared ’05

Dorothy Fesen
Mother of Robert ’67 & Grandmother of Christopher ’95 & Brian ’99

Patricia A. Fitzpatrick
Mother of Frank ’74 & John ’79

Louis E. George
Father of Craig ’72 & Bob ’81

Paul J. Giblin, Sr.
Father of Todd ’96, Brother of Tom ’98, Uncle of Thomas Freeman ’80 & Grandfather of Brian ’06 & Tom ’06

John A. Haviland
Father of Michael ’78 & Jay ’84, Grandfather of Mike ’06 & Tyler ’09

James F. Higgins
Father of Michael ’97 & Christopher ’04 (RIP)

Karen Holden
Sister-in-law of Anthony Scozzafava ’86 & Aunt of Anthony Scozzafava ’17

Jeffrey Howes
Father of Edward ’17

Robert Hyer
Uncle of Dillon McDermott ’18

Eileen Keegan
Grandmother of James ’18

Rody Kemple
Father of Rody ’84

Kenneth Kiess
Father of Timothy ’18

George Korkis
Father of Don ’80

Anthony Lamanna
Father of Anthony ’83 & Thomas ’84

Grace Joan Lauricella
Aunt of Gerry DiFiore ’77 & Great Aunt of Austin ’08 & Ian ’11

Craig Lipka
Father of Connor ’19

Brendan Malley
Grandfather of Ryan ’20

Peter Manzetti
Father of Pete ’78

Fred Marcon
Father of Mike ’82

Edward Maron
Father of Edward ’76, Michael ’77 & Gerard ’87, Grandfather of Michael ’04, Brendan ’07, Kyle ’09 & Patrick ’12

Patricia Merriman
Mother of Robert Dennerlein ’77 & Bill Merriman ’88

Doris Mogerley
Grandmother of Scott ’12

Jackie Moore
Grandfather of Thomas Gallagher ’17

Thomas Mulroy
Father of Dan ’78 & Grandfather of Dan ’07

Jane Orfali
Aunt of Giovanni Kittaneph ’18

John Patton
Father of Clayton ’05 & Jordan ’11

Vincent Pernicone
Grandfather of Gian Paolo Pernicone ’17

Patricia Pirozzi
Mother of Patrick ’73 & Phil ’77

Dennis Quadraro
Brother of Jerry ’60

Catherine Reveille
Mother of Bill ’71, Pete ’79 & Dave ’80 & Mother-in-law of Gerard Hluchan ’71

Frederick Ruggeri
Father of Tony ’72

Mary F. Russ
Grandmother of Blaise Callicino ’09

James Sansevero
Father of James ’74

Connie Scalabba
Wife of Steve ’72

William G. Shanahan
Wife of Ed ’76 & Tim ’83

Josephine Sheridan
Mother of Peter ’77

Jeffrey Storms
Brother-in-law of Tom Barrett ’65

Helen Suenholz
Mother-in-law of Victor Quinn ’73

Edward Tesselone
Father of Edward ’75 & Michael ’78, Grandfather of Michael ’02

Kathleen A. Tierney
Mother of Bill ’94 (RIP)

John J. Verrier
Father of John ’84

John F. Wanca
Father of Brian ’72

John G. Wells
Father of Bob ’72 (RIP), Grandfather of John Dorney ’98 & Father-in-law of Bill Dorney ’68

Walter Zydel
Grandfather of Tom ’01
Who Should Be Your Retirement Beneficiary? The IRS or Bergen Catholic?

I Choose Bergen Catholic!

Here’s Why You Might Want to Choose Bergen Catholic

Your retirement plan is always subject to federal and state (if applicable) income taxes. And, for some of us, even estate taxes. These taxes can significantly shrink what’s left for your family compared to other estate assets.

Here’s Another Option*

Designate Bergen Catholic as the beneficiary of all, or part of, your retirement accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s, 403Bs—even life insurance policies) and the proceeds will come to us tax-free! Then, make sure your after-tax assets, like bank accounts, stock or real estate, pass to your heirs through your will or trust.

Your loved ones may receive more from your non-retirement estate assets, and Bergen Catholic will benefit, too! And it’s easy to do. Simply complete a “beneficiary designation” form with your retirement account administrator or life insurance agent.

Contact: Zeke Rodgers ’92
Vice President for Advancement
201-261-4948
zrodgers@bergencatholic.org

To learn more about estate planning/planned giving opportunities, visit our web page at www.bergencatholic.org → Giving → Ways to Give → Estate Planning/Planned Giving

*We recommend that you always consult with your estate attorney and/or tax advisor for professional advice and education before making any planning decisions.

Crusader Legacy Society Membership Roll

Thomas J. Alrutz ’61
F. Ronald Biggs ’65 (RIP)
Joseph L. Branciforte ’64
Roger W. Breslin, Jr., Parent
John M. Brunner ’65
Francis X. Donlan ’63
James J. Dowling ’64
Robert E. Fortsch ’73
Deirdre Fortune, Parent
Thomas J. Furlong Jr. ’80 (RIP)
Carl G. Haas, Parent
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Harrington ’62 (RIP)
Michael J. Haviland ’78
Jack C. Howley ’79
Michael James Jordan ’61
Stephen Koll ’69
Mr. (RIP) & Mrs. John Lowe, Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mady, Parents
Peter Manzetti Jr. ’78
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard J. Maughan, Parents
Thomas McCarthy ’72
Mr. & Mrs. James W. O’Brien ’62, Parents
The Honorable John B. Paolella ’67 (2 gifts)
James C. Petrolino ’62
Artie Prior ’59
Robert J. Rapport ’69
Dennis M. Sigrist ’82 (RIP)
Frank J. Sposato ’69 (RIP)
Mary C. Steidl, Parent
Mr. & Mrs. Brian A. Tramontozzi ’90
Kathleen M. Treubig, Parent
John A. Uzzi ’63
Steve Warwick ’60
Mr. & Mrs. James Whelan, Parents
Kurt E. Zecchin ’68 (RIP)
Joseph A. Zodl ’66
Anthony M. Zupcic ’66
The Office of Advancement, guided by the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, seeks to build growing, sustainable relationships with people and organizations who care about the mission of Bergen Catholic High School and to spread the “good news” of Bergen Catholic to all who care to hear it, embrace it and support it with their time, talent, treasure and prayer.