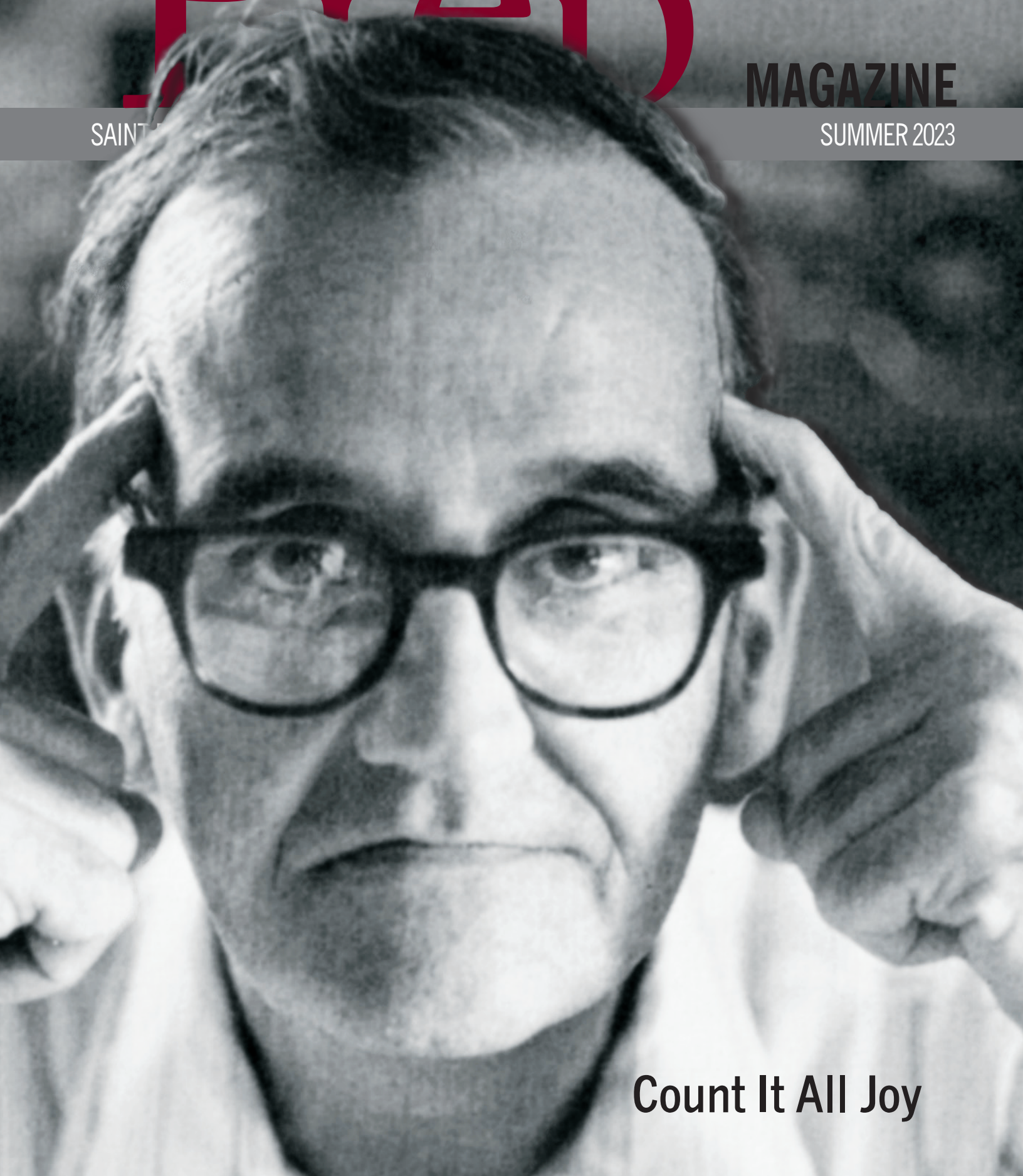


Pren

MAGAZINE

SAINT

SUMMER 2023



Count It All Joy

One Community, One Prep

Anyone who knows me, even just casually, knows of my affection for our institution. And I know I am not alone in my love of "The Prep." So many of us have the same, inherent affinity. But I often wondered, what is it that so captivates us? Why do I feel compelled to stop someone in their tracks to say hi, just because they're wearing Prep swag? Recently, it hit me: togetherness. Despite our varied backgrounds before entering Prep, and the different paths we have taken upon leaving, it is that inclination, that drive, to always welcome one another that makes us unique. It makes us great.

Being a member of the Prep community brings us *all* together. Alumni, current students, faculty, staff, parents—we are all one. Our togetherness begins on our first day as "frosh" (or for some, at HAP), but it doesn't end at graduation. It endures forever. Importantly, our togetherness is not limited to those from our own time at Prep; it transcends generations. To borrow a line from the movie, *Jerry Maguire*, "you had me at Saint Peter's Prep." Mention Prep, and you're in! Togetherness is also the only rational explanation for the sustained involvement of so many. Alumni from as far back as the 1940s and '50s continue to have a profound impact on Prep. This is in addition to the countless small, yet important, interactions that happen every day amongst our community.

Tony Azzarto, S.J. embodied the spirit of togetherness. He always drew us in, not just to him, or to Prep, but to one another. Prep on the Road with Fr. Azzarto was a unique way to bring us together, with a host opening their home to celebrate mass with any and all members of the Prep community. I'll never forget the first time I attended a Prep on the Road mass at the home of Mary and Don McLaughlin, '58. One could not help but feel part of something bigger. Tony also fostered a sense of togetherness with his cards and letters (although mostly illegible!), not to mention the many photos he sent out after every event. He even begrudgingly "allowed" Prep to celebrate his 80th birthday, bringing hundreds from the Prep community together. And sadly, but proudly, we came together once again to celebrate his life when he passed in April.

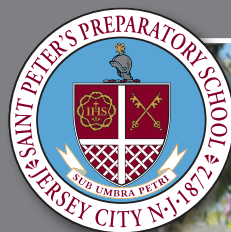
Another beacon of Prep togetherness is my predecessor, Phil McGovern, '76, P'11, who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the past eleven years. We are all indebted to Phil for the care, counsel, and leadership he provided, and will continue to provide, as he remains on as Prep's legal counsel. I know no better example of a Prep legend than Phil. Thank you!

Our togetherness is far-reaching, much broader than Grand & Warren. This is what I believe the Jesuit ideal of being "men and women for others" means—to make the world feel smaller to those we come into contact with—to be together. As I begin my journey as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees, the theme of togetherness will guide me. We are all one community, one Prep. I couldn't be more excited and honored to be in this position.

Go Prep!



Brian Archer, '86
Chair, Saint Peter's Prep Board of Trustees



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Michael Gomez, Ed.D., '91
President

Chris Caulfield, '03
Principal

Mike Jiran, '03
Editor

John Irvine, '83, P'11
Sports Editor

Matthew Holowienka, '11
Jim Horan, '70
Kate Lillis-Magnus
Contributors

Mark Wyville, '76, P'11, '18
Select Photography

Mace Duncan Ohleyer | Hotplate
Original Design Concept

Mike Jiran, '03
Matthew Holowienka, '11
Additional Photography

Mike Jiran, '03
Layout

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CONTACT US:

Alumni Relations: alumni@spprep.org or 201-547-6413
Communications: info@spprep.org or 201-547-2308

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ON THE COVER: Of the thousands of photos of Fr. Tony Azzarto, S.J. taken during his legendary tenure at Prep, perhaps none captures the essence of his personality better than this one, from the 1992 *Petrean*. It featured prominently in Prep's memorials of Fr. Azzarto, and a watercolor painting based on it once adorned the principal's office.

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In All Things, All People, All Places

In 1963, a young Jesuit scholastic, Tony Azzarto, S.J., walked through the doors at Grand & Warren for the first time. Over the next 60 years, he "walked the walk," modeling what it means to encounter God in all things, what it means to accompany others through a ministry of presence, and, ultimately, what it means to be Saint Peter's Prep.

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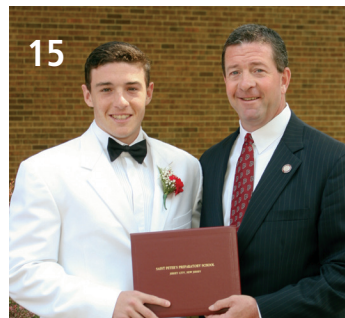
To Ask Not for Reward

At the conclusion of his 11 years of service as chair of Prep's Board of Trustees, Phil McGovern, '76, P'11 reflects on his lifelong Prep journey.

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Large crowds, small crowds...certain faces just seem to always be there if it's a Prep crowd.

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Crew rows to a state title; Sectional crown for Basketball; Winter and Spring Marauders run rampant in Hudson County, with titles for Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, Swimming, Wrestling, Basketball, Baseball, and Tennis.

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Class of 2023's Moment in the Sun

Graduation day brought a light drizzle to Keenan Field, followed by a heavier cloudburst around 9:15. With Prep's 145th Commencement set for 10 o'clock, everyone was thinking it, even if no one would say it: what if the rain doesn't stop? But as if someone had flipped a switch, hazy sunshine took hold over downtown Jersey City just in time for Prep to celebrate the Class of 2023. In a way, it was only fitting that graduation day would begin with uncertainty for this newest crop of Prep alumni, whose freshman year was upended by the arrival of COVID-19. And in the same way, it was only fitting for this outstanding class that the skies would clear (as much as they could clear that smoky first week of June!) as the morning wore on.

Susan Woolever, Ph.D., Director of Campus Ministry, opened the ceremony with an invocation. "Dear God, what an honor it is to be on the road with these young persons, Prep's Class of 2023. You have journeyed with them thus far on the road, and provided them with companions through their friends, families, teachers, and coaches." She added, "We give you our time this morning and the futures of these graduates, inviting your presence to be known, for our hearts to be open to experiencing only goodness, and for our words and actions to be glorifying to you."

Student speaker Rishi Bhandari, '23, who also served as student council president among many other leadership roles, reminded his classmates of the ups and downs that have defined their years at Prep. Drawing inspiration from the statue of Saint Peter on Warren Street that he helped to unveil in September, he noted, "The story of Saint Peter, his shadow, and the golden keys mirror the high school experience of many Prep students in its themes of courage, brotherhood, and resilience."

Just as the Class of 2023 became well-established at Prep during the spring of their freshman year, the sudden arrival of the pandemic closed campus while casting the world beyond these walls into disarray. Their sophomore year was devoted to negotiating hybrid classes and limited student activities. "When we were forced to navigate these new turbulent waters, we refused to be defeated, a testament to the Prep spirit that defines our class." Junior and senior years brought a gradual return to the fullness of the Prep experience, and the class took full advantage in every area, leaving an indelible mark on the place they have called home.

"With the golden keys in our hands and the Jesuit ideals in our hearts, we strive to make our mark upon the world," he said. "Let us depart from this sacred space with a new sense of clarity and fortitude to live out the core values that define us as Prep men: competence, conscience, and compassion. Together, let us march forward as fearless pioneers, enthusiastic trailblazers, and adventurous fishermen, actively exploring the boundaries of uncharted waters, always seeking to learn more."

Salvatore Veniero, '05, Director of Global Initiatives and a member of the World Languages Department, was this year's faculty speaker. He shared part of his experience reaching out to





potential partner schools around the globe for Prep's exchange programs. "Whenever I am trying to explain what Prep is like to a potential partner school, I am talking about our Prep guys. I am describing, usually bragging, about you and explaining why you make this the perfect school to partner with.

"I know many times throughout your Prep careers you have heard about the Grad at Grad – The graduate of a Jesuit school at graduation – and the values that such a person is supposed to embody," he continued. "Well, you're here now, the graduates at graduation, and the extent to which you live up to those values determines what Prep is."

Mr. Veniero concluded, "I hope that you reflect on that today, reflect on what you bring with you from Prep, and how that can shape your future. Then, when you hear about the successes and trials of those sitting around you today I hope you root and care for each other as brothers, protecting the legacy you are entrusted with. That is what Prep Pride means and I am proud to call you my Prep brothers." ✕

The Legacy Continues

New for 2023, alumni who are brothers of graduates were invited to present diplomas. Many of these legacy families are presented below (brothers in gold, fathers in blue, fathers and brothers in maroon). In addition to those pictured below, Jack Adams received his diploma from brothers Matthew, '19 and Patrick, '21; Michael Cangiano received his diploma from his brother Joseph, '21; Nicholas Chiaravalloti received his diploma from his father Nicholas, '90; Conor and Sean Kagel received their diplomas from their brother Liam, '19; Emilio Lopez received his diploma from his brother Reyhan, '21; and Alec Lucken received his diploma from his brother Gage, '22.

Vince Anonuevo with Marc, '16

William Arnone with Hudson Poreda, '19

Allesandro Bonetti with Andrea, '21

George Brattole with Michael Lucia, '16

Ryan Byington with William, '21



Brian Christman with Liam, '19, Brian, '90, and Aidan, '20



Matthew Corwin with Dennis, '87



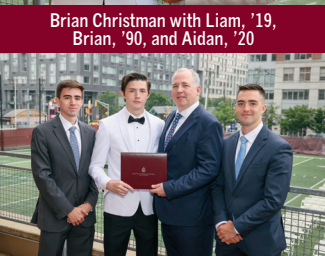
Kevin Fromfield with Mike, '91



Luke Gilhawley with Samuel, '20



Liam Hester with John, '88 and John, '17



Anthony Iglesias with Anthony, '91



Eliot Jablonski with Jeffrey, '88 and Nathaniel, '21



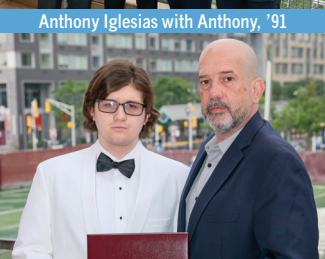
Kenneth Kramer with Jack, '19



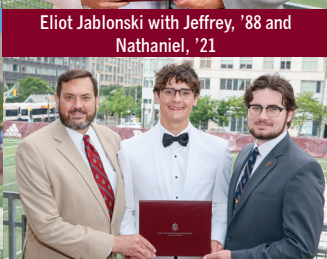
Frank Liggio with Danny, '17 and Brian, '15



Jalen Maharaja with Robert, '98



Zac Malanga with Max, '21



Theodore McCarthy with Durkin, '18



Dylan Mejia with Hendry, '20



Matthew Novak with Bryan, '17



Chialuka Ohadike with Chima, '18



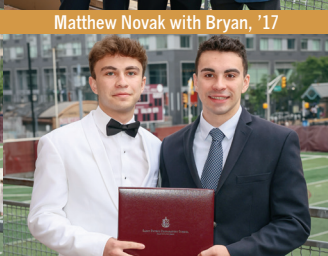
Ethan Peña with Justin, '16



Alex Schimmel with Brandon, '22



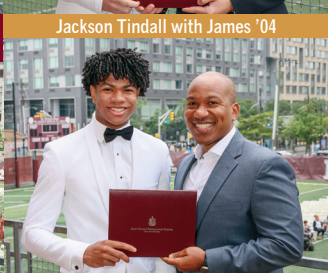
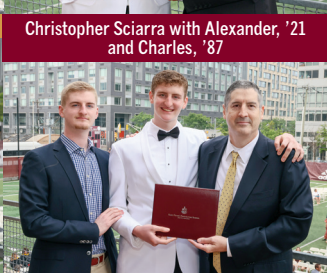
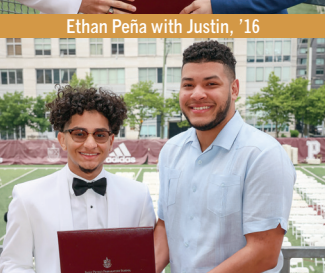
Christopher Sciarra with Alexander, '21 and Charles, '87



Jackson Tindall with James, '04



Leonardo Zamarra with Claudio, '90



Brian Archer, '86 Named Board Chair

This spring, the Board of Trustees of Saint Peter's Prep elected Brian R. Archer, '86 as the board's eighth chairman. He succeeded Phil McGovern, '76, P'11 (see page 15) on July 1. Brian previously served two terms on the board, from 2015-21, and was a member of the board's Finance Committee. For decades, he has also been a stalwart financial supporter of various Prep initiatives, from the Annual Fund, to capital campaigns, to endowed scholarships.

Brian is currently an adjunct professor in accounting at Seton Hall University, where students now benefit from the wisdom of his more than 25 years in the financial services industry. Most recently, he served for ten years as the Head of Global Credit Trading for Citigroup. He had previously held various management and trading positions in New York and London for Citigroup and JP Morgan where he gained an expertise in numerous fixed income and equity products, including derivative instruments. Prior to his career in financial services, Brian worked as a C.P.A. in the audit department of KPMG. Within the world of finance, he served as a board member of the International Swap Dealers Association and an inaugural member of the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission Fixed Income Market Structure Advisory Committee. He currently serves on the investment committee of Astoria Advisors.

Beyond Prep, several other educational institutions have had the benefit of Brian's advice and leadership. He recently joined the Board of Trustees at the University of Scranton (where he is a member of the Class of 1990), having previously served on that board's Investment Committee. He is a member of both the Finance and Audit Committees for KIPP NJ (a network of charter schools in Newark and Camden), and served on the board of Saint Aloysius School in Harlem from 2013-16.

In addition to an accounting degree from Scranton, Brian holds an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from the Stern School of Business at NYU and a masters' degree in education from Drew University. He resides in Chatham with his wife of 30 years, Gina. They have three daughters.

"I am excited to welcome Brian back to our board as our new chair," said Prep President Michael Gomez, Ed.D., '91. "He has proven himself to be a true 'man for others' who truly understands our mission and its power to shape lives.

Dr. Gomez added: "With Brian's great love of our Prep and his outstanding track record in business as well as in education, I know he is ready to help us build on the tremendous work we have achieved with his predecessors, including Phil McGovern." ✕



Remembering James F. Joyce, S.J.: Prep's 26th President

Rev. Jim Joyce, S.J., who served as Prep's president from 1990-94, died in July at age 77. Fr. Joyce also taught history at Prep from 1969-71 while he was a Jesuit scholastic, served as an assistant football and track coach, and later served on Prep's Board of Trustees.

Fr. Joyce's time as president of Prep was fairly brief; in a recent interview, he explained that was by design: "When I was asked to apply by the Provincial, the intent was that it could be for just a few years during which time they would look for someone with more educational administrative experience than I had. I certainly committed to do my best. I loved the school and the students..."

His impact in that relatively short tenure clearly reflects that commitment. Prep's academic offerings continued to grow both in breadth and depth. Other growth areas included collaboration and communication with Prep's Board of Trustees, the modernization of Prep's financial aid program and the introduction of Presidential Scholarships (now known as Ignatian Scholarships). He was a staunch supporter of Prep's great efforts to codify a commitment to what Fr. Joyce later described as "unity in diversity" by addressing bullying and hate speech in the student handbook. In his own words: "[I]t was important to face up to and denounce this type of behavior as absolutely wrong and not in accord with the values or the spirit of the Jesuit education upon which Saint Peter's Prep was centered... it wasn't just a matter of theory, but something that affected the reality of peoples' lives." This was the era when Prep welcomed its first lay principal, Jack Raslowsky, '79, and when the courtyard between the English Building and Warren Street grew to its current size.

Fr. Joyce also oversaw the launch of Prep's first modern capital campaign, Keys to the Future, which would continue into the tenure of his successor, Rev. Jim Keenan, S.J. In a very real way, this was the origin of Prep's campus as we know it today, as the school—with support from alumni, parents, and friends—began to address the need for its eclectic mix of historic and (relatively) newer facilities to keep pace with the growth of academic, athletic, and co-curricular offerings.

Another piece of Fr. Joyce's legacy as Prep president will be familiar to anyone who has walked along Warren Street in the past 30 years. Once again, in his own words: "The most recognizable change in the physical plant during that era arose purely by chance from just staring out the window at the four ugly bricked-up windows of the gym that overlooked the newly renovated outdoor rec area. Four windows, four letters in PREP!" And thus an icon of the Prep campus was born.

Current Prep President Michael Gomez, Ed.D., '91 recalled a memory from his time as a Prep student, during Fr. Joyce's tenure as president. "In addition to Fr. Joyce being so supportive since I began my own service as president, I vividly remember a moment from my senior year, and a lesson I hope we can still help our students learn today. After a tough loss in a football game against, I think, North Bergen, all of us in the stands started leaving with heads down. Suddenly we heard Fr. Joyce, who was standing behind the student section, yell for us to stay and sing Pride & Glory. 'You are Saint Peter's Prep!' he said." ✕





Andrew Fonticoba, '24



Marcelo Garcia, '24



Cole Holland, '24



Noah Mendoza, '25

All-State Chorus Selects Four Vox Members

Prep Vox members Andrew Fonticoba, '24, Marcelo Garcia, '24, Cole Holland, '24, and Noah Mendoza, '25 have been accepted into the New Jersey Music Educators' Association All-State Mixed Chorus. The NJ All State Mixed Choir is made up of students from grades 9 through 12 from across the entire state. Members are selected each year through a rigorous audition process, and are selected based on overall musicianship, tonality, and quality of voice.

The All-State Chorus' performances will take place in the fall of next school year: at the NJEA Teachers' Convention in Atlantic City (Friday, November 10, 2023, 8 PM) and at NJPAC in Newark (Sunday, November 19, 2023, 3 PM). ✂

Bands Earn National Recognition

Prep's Concert Band and Jazz Band each placed second in their respective categories when they competed at the National Music Festival in Sandusky, Ohio, this May. ✂



A Major Fellowship for Prep's Fine Arts Chair

This spring, Megan Klim, P'16, long-serving chair of the Fine & Performing Arts Department, was selected as a recipient of the 2023 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship. The individual artist fellowships are competitive awards to New Jersey artists in 12 different arts disciplines, awarded solely on independent peer panel assessment of work samples submitted. The anonymous process is focused solely on artistic quality, and awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their careers. This program is carried out in partnership with the Mid Atlantic Arts.

In addition, Klim was invited to present her work at the New Jersey State Arts Annual, "Re-emergence," (pictured at right) and recently joined the roster of artists at the Ivy Brown Gallery in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. The gallery featured her work in its first exhibition of 2023, "Critically Random." ✂



Little Shop is a Big Hit

Prep Dramatics' spring production of *Little Shop of Horrors* packed O'Keefe Commons for four nights, thrilling audiences with the chillingly comical tale of a struggling flower shop whose fortunes suddenly turn with the arrival of a "strange and interesting plant," only to turn again when the plant reveals it hungers for more than just fame! Howard Ashman and Alan Menken's musical romp—riffing on a 1950s B movie and later to become a 1986 movie in its own right (minus a rewritten ending)—

blends dark humor, puppetry, and a doo-wop-inspired score. And it proved massively popular in a production directed by Prep faculty member Adam Bouley, with Prep colleagues Emily Fencik and Dalma Santana providing musical direction and choreography, respectively.

Once again, Prep Dramatics earned a nomination for the Paper Mill Rising Star Awards, as St. Dominic Academy junior Gabby Beredo (inset) was nominated in the "Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Member" category. ✂



Model UN's Breakout Season

Prep's young diplomats, with the guidance of moderator Mary Anne McElroy, continued to raise the profile of Model UN in the Prep community—and the profile of Prep in the Model UN community! Last fall, the team returned from the South Jersey Model UN Conference with a raft of awards (Best Position Paper, Gabriel Santos, '24; Best Delegates Nicholas Skabich, '23, Nicolai Mendoza, '24, Andrew Norris, '24, and Felix Puig-Seppalainen, '25; Outstanding Delegate Michael Sapp, '24).

Competing with delegations from across the U.S. at the Tufts University MUN Conference in March, Prep won Best Small Delegation, while Nicolai Mendoza, '24 was named Best Delegate and Jeremy Kamber, '24 received an Honorable Mention. They later enjoyed similar success against elite local competition at the Stuyvesant High School conference in New York (Best Delegates Aiden Moran, '24 and Michael Sapp, '24; Outstanding Delegates Nicolai Mendoza, '24 and Andrew Norris, '24; Honorable Mention Finn Getz, '25 and Liam Morrison, '25).

Prep also hosted its own conference for the first time, welcoming High Tech's delegation to the inaugural HUD MUN in February. Having started small with this mini-conference, the team plans to continue growing the event next year. ✕



ABOVE: Negotiations in progress at the inaugural HUD MUN mini-conference in Prep's O'Keefe Commons. **BELOW:** Six Prep delegates earned individual awards at the South Jersey conference in October. Left to right: Gabriel Santos, Andrew Norris, Michael Sapp, Felix Puig-Seppalainen, Nicolai Mendoza, and Nicholas Skabich.



Sleeping Out for Covenant House

A record-setting 236 Prep students raised over \$60,000 (easily surpassing a \$35,000 goal) as part of an overnight student "Sleep Out" for Covenant House New Jersey.

The annual event raises key funds to help Covenant House provide 24/7 shelter, sanctuary, and support to youth overcoming homelessness. In addition to spending the night outdoors in solidarity with the millions of young people who experience homelessness each year, the experience invites students to learn from experts, to hear inspiring stories, and to advocate for a future where everyone has a safe place to sleep.

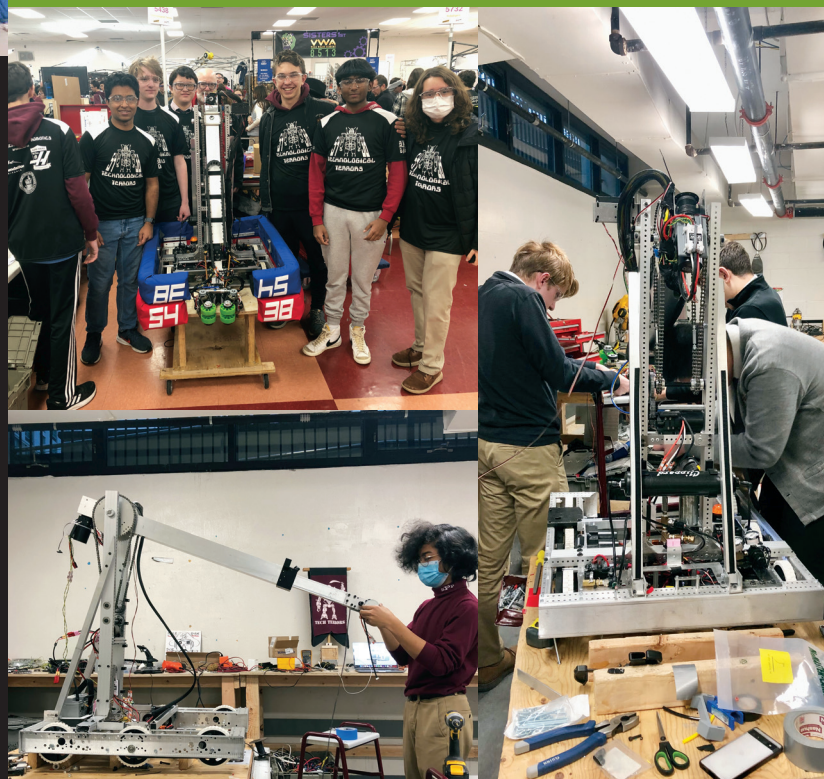
Prep's Office of Campus Ministry has worked with students to organize Sleep Outs for several years.

Prep's Covenant House Junior Board Representative Aidan Maione '24, who has been involved in this year's student Sleep Out since October 2022, was the team's top earner, raising a total of \$10,820.

"The Sleep Out is an incredible event to be involved in," he said, reflecting on this year's project. "From the cold and rigid courtyard to a band of rain causing all to flee to the gym, we learned the unpredictability of homelessness and became quite grateful to have a roof over our heads consistently. ✕

Tech Terrors Build Excitement

Prep's Robotics team, established as the Technological Terrors in 2015, made its presence strongly felt in 2022-23. At a competition at Mt. Olive High School in March, the team scored an upset round victory against the top-ranked team in the event. The team and moderator Bob O'Hare, S.J. will set their sights even higher in the year ahead. ✕



The Grand Street façade has spent the summer shrouded in scaffolding as the full restoration of the English Building begins.

Restoration Begins for Prep's Iconic English Building

In late May, Prep began the initial phase of its long-awaited floor-to-ceiling renovation of the 1889 English Building (former Science, Freshman, and Humanities Building), with the installation of a new slate roof and the restoration of the beautiful Grand Street façade—the true “front” of the building, as it was the main entrance for its first 106 years. A key part of the work on that façade is the installation of new wooden windows overlooking Grand Street, which fulfills a requirement of Jersey City's Historic Preservation Commission by restoring an original feature to the building. This initial phase of work will be completed by Labor Day, in time for the beginning of classes in September.

The broader renovation of the campus's singularly iconic structure will continue in earnest over the next two summers with the conclusion of the exterior work (including the installation of new aluminum windows on the remaining three façades and the restoration of those façades), as well as the extensive interior renovations on each floor, highlighted by a new state-of-the-art library and a rejuvenated suite of facilities for the studio art program. Funding for this comprehensive \$12 million project is being provided by Prep's Forever Forward capital campaign. ✂



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: Restoration work at the roof level has included copper flashing, slate shingles, and fresh paint for the cross at the building's peak. Inspecting the progress high above Grand & Warren. Long boarded up, these window openings at the attic level will be receiving new glass. The lunette-shaped transoms atop each arch-headed window opening were covered in the 1980s, but are now being restored. These 1980s-era aluminum windows await their fate in the courtyard. Detail of the lunette framing prior to installation. Windows in place in E401. Original or reproduction stained glass transoms will be installed throughout the building, protected from the elements by these clear lunettes. An assortment of windows awaiting installation is a reminder of the number and diversity of the windows facing Grand Street. In E201, this summer's exterior work provides a glimpse of the original ceiling height. Future interior work will restore more of this height to the building's classrooms.

Golden Keys: Honoring Community Builders

At the close of the school year, Prep recognized nine members of the Class of 2025 as the inaugural recipients of the Golden Keys Award. The award recognizes sophomores who foster a sense of community among their brothers at Saint Peter's, just as Saint Peter himself fostered the Church as its first pope. At the crucial midpoint of their Prep careers, ready to take on the higher-profile roles of upperclassmen, students completing sophomore year are in a unique position to be community builders, and the new award seeks to recognize those who do so with distinction. The recently graduated Teddy McCarthy, '23, who returned to speak at the ceremony, explained: "When you carry a positive disposition, you unknowingly uplift the attitudes of those around you, creating a positive environment conducive to achieving great things." The recipients are pictured above (l-r):

Zackari Kaspar, Noah Mendoza, Maxwell Middleton, Daniel Nemeth, Jaycen Peterson, Jack St. Ledger, Finn Getz, Dylan Colavitti, and Aneel Ward. ✕



Behind the Scenes: Prep's Women's Fitness Center



For the past two years, a little-seen corner of Shalloe Hall has been home to a hidden gem of Prep's campus: a well-equipped fitness center, reserved especially for the use of the women of the Prep faculty and staff. Like the cardio area added to the gym balcony in 2021, this room was outfitted with donated equipment from a commercial health club in downtown Jersey City that closed permanently during the pandemic. The facility offers treadmills, rowers, ellipticals, a stair climber, free weights, and more, in a space converted from two empty rooms (once Jesuit housing) by Prep's Operations Staff. While employees have long had access to the athletic department's fitness facilities—and many take advantage, mainly before or after school hours—the goal here was to provide another option for the women of Prep.

Prep's Director of Engagement, Kate Lillis Magnus, helped to coordinate the equipment donation with the club's management and its former landlord, Mack-Cali. Now she is a regular "customer" of this useful amenity for Prep employees. "Creating a women's gym from some of the donated equipment has been a great bonus to the women who work at Prep," she said. "The operations staff did a great job converting those former Jesuit bedrooms into a conducive space for those of us who want to take advantage of an early-morning or late-afternoon workout." ✕

A Book Launch 150 Years in the Making

On April 25, the Prep Campus Shop received its shipment of *Then. Now. Always. Celebrating 150 Years of Saint Peter's Prep*. The delivery marked the moment when author Jim Horan, '70 came face-to-face with the fruit of two years' intensive labor for the first time.

A few weeks later, about 100 guests gathered in the Prep Library for a launch party and book signing. Horan took to the podium to share some anecdotes from the process of the book's development—a process that actually stretches all the way back to 2017! Horan also reflected on some of the conversations that yielded the book's year-by-year Witness Profiles, as well as some favorite tidbits from the archival materials that provided a

window into Prep's early history.

Like the book itself, the evening was a celebration of the unique experiences and characters that make up the tapestry of Prep history. It's no surprise, then, that author and guests stayed for several hours, sharing Prep stories and filling the library with hearty laughter! ✕



Order your copy of *Then. Now. Always.* from the Prep Campus Shop at spprep.org/150book





PHOTO FILE: A Face in the Crowd

Fr. Tony Azzarto, S.J. often reminded us of Jesus' pledge to be present wherever two or three are gathered together. And when it came to supporting Prep athletics, you could always count on him to do his part to boost the attendance. Whether there were ten spectators cheering for Prep at a rainy cross country meet or 10,000 at the Meadowlands for a state football championship, if you scanned the faces in the crowd it was virtually guaranteed that you'd find his.



This photo by Mark Wyville, '76, P'11, '18 (a staple of Prep sidelines even today) captures a bright, chilly day in the fall of 1974. Mid-1970s Prep Football had its highlights, but the championship era of the late 1950s was a distant memory, and in a time when Prep students living outside Hudson County were true outliers, Montvale might as well have been the moon. But none of that stopped these intrepid souls from venturing into the wilds of upper Bergen County to support the Marauders as they battled Saint Joe's. And there, at the back, toward the middle of the frame, was Fr. Azzarto. Of course he was there.

Although the game was a loss for Prep, the moment—and the camaraderie of this small gathering—are immortalized here. Mark points out his fellow staffers Ed Hartnett, '78, P'08 and Bernie Chester, '78, P'13, '16, '17 are also present, standing one and two steps below Fr. Azzarto, respectively. ✕

Mark Wyville (right) reviewed negatives with 1975 Petrean editor Jay Tavormina, '75.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

JAMES 1:2-3

"Our time here on earth is about learning to be human." Tony Azzarto, S.J. began his homily reflecting on the writings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.—a name countless Prep men likely first heard in that inimitable voice. Specifically, he was referring to Teilhard's assertion that "We are spiritual beings having a human experience." **It was a bright September morning, the Mass of the Holy Spirit.** Fr. Azzarto had just blessed the new Saint Peter statue on Warren Street, and he was preparing to explain how Peter and his story challenge us to embrace our humanity with all its imperfections and limitations, but also all its joys and possibilities.

Near the homily's end, he entered a classic Azzarto discourse, one that would be familiar to anyone who participated in an Emmaus retreat homecoming during his time as chaplain. It was an acknowledgement that the moment will pass, mixed with the hope that its lessons might live on, if we let them, forever. **"You know, things fade. Snow and pigeons and the first hurricane will batter [the statue], and maybe will batter our memory. But the statue can be a reminder. It can be a sacrament. A sacrament of God's presence. When we go for a slice of pizza or walk to the light rail after a good—or bad—day, we look at the statue, a reminder of Peter, a genuine human being like you and me. He took a risk, with all his faults. He had his ups and downs. Not a lot of words, but he walked the walk...Peter, a genuine human being, help us to follow your way as a man for others."**

No one knew it then, but it would be the last time Fr. Azzarto addressed Prep's full student body.

In All Things, All People, All Places by Mike Jiran, '03

There would be no risk of overstatement in saying the passing of Fr. Azzarto on April 15 at age 84 marked the end of an era at Saint Peter's Prep. As Prep President Michael Gomez, Ed.D., '91 wrote in a message to the Prep community at the time, "Over a span of 60 years, Tony served Saint Peter's Prep as teacher, counselor, chaplain, and retreat director. This is only scratching the surface of this extraordinary life, and does not include countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, handwritten notes, pictures, and so much more." And yet there would also be no risk of overstatement in suggesting that while his daily presence in Prep life has ended, Fr. Azzarto's legacy in every facet of Prep life will undoubtedly live on. And so, yes, the era of spotting Tony in the crowd at Prep events large and small, or being greeted with a hearty "All right, okay, here he is!" when rounding a corner on campus has ended. But in a broader sense Prep's "Azzarto era"—one that began in 1963 when a young Jesuit scholastic found himself assigned not to Xavier as he had once hoped, but to a very fortunate school across the river—will continue as long as the lessons he taught to students and colleagues alike remain a part of Prep's identity.



Last September, as Prep dedicated the Saint Peter statue on Warren Street, Fr. Azzarto celebrated what would become his last all-school Mass. In an echo of years-ago exhortations not to let returning to the rigors of daily life wash away the lessons of an Emmaus retreat experience, he issued a challenge to remember the excitement of dedicating the statue, and the call to “take a risk” and “walk the walk,” long after the moment had passed. “You know, things fade,” he said.

Fr. Azzarto’s ministry was undoubtedly a ministry of presence, a life lived in service of reminding everyone that God speaks to us in our daily encounters with the people around us. The joy he brought to that ministry never shone brighter than in so many unofficial roles, the hats he wore so proudly beyond the classroom and beyond the altar. From one moment to the next you might find him serving as a friendly ear to those in turmoil; a stalwart supporter of Prep athletics; hot dog chef extraordinaire; chronicler of Prep life through his omnipresent camera and his impromptu photo galleries; signatory to untold thousands of birthday and sympathy and get well cards; purveyor of ties and belts to the tie- or belt-less and of peanut butter sandwiches to students in need of a simple lunch.

Those peanut butter sandwiches, incidentally, would become familiar to football fans far beyond Prep, part of the story of Minkah Fitzpatrick, ‘15 as he went from state champion at Prep to national champion at Alabama to multi-time Pro Bowl selection with the Pittsburgh Steelers. But all of it—every quick hallway greeting, every class discussion, every homily, every Emmaus homecoming, every vocal disagreement with an umpire at a Prep Baseball game, every Mass in the home of an alumnus during Prep on the Road, all of it—would also become part of one message, not always explicated but constantly demonstrated.

THAT MESSAGE threaded its way through freshman retreats and the puzzlement of Packy Rowe (Jack Klugman), the recently-deceased talent agent who discovers God is as unassuming as Bob Newhart, and proud of it—“An ordinary-looking person is the most special thing I ever created. I created people in my image. You must have read that!” Over the years, thousands of young Prepsters watching this short film learned along with Packy that even if he has considered himself a harsh and unremarkable man leading a harsh and unremarkable life, the people around him have felt his kindness and compassion—have felt the presence of God—and that God has taken note as well.

That message rang through the Prep gym with homilies built from epic catalogues of the stuff of daily life—movies, holidays, family dinners, the long ride home after a big win, the longer ride home after a big loss, homework, tests, quizzes, song lyrics, and of course sports...especially baseball, especially the Dodgers. Those ordinary things mingled with reminders from scripture that being a disciple means saying yes, being there, taking a chance. The words still linger among the rafters, and echo in the cinderblock walls and murmur in the creaking of the hardwood floors: *It’s no big deal. Just show up. That’s 90% of everything in life: just showing up.*

BELOW LEFT: Prep celebrated Fr. Azzarto’s 80th birthday with a massive outdoor celebration in 2018. At the time, he quoted Lou Gehrig, proclaiming himself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. **BELOW RIGHT:** The 1980 *Petrean* offered best wishes to Fr. Azzarto as he began what would be the first of two periods of service in Nigeria: 1980-85 in Benin City, and later 2005-07 in Lagos.



It is only fitting that the bridge between activities and sports should be given to Fr. Tony Azzarto. He is the drive and inspiration for the Student Council; he is present at dances, and class nights; he presides over ping-pong tournaments and somehow finds time to attend any athletic competition, whether it be varsity, junior varsity, or freshman. For eight years, Fr. “A” has been teacher, advisor, support, inspiration and friend. Fr. “A” has helped to make Prep “home” for so many of us.

Next year Fr. “A” responds to new challenges and moves as part of a pastoral team to Nigeria in Africa, to help establish a spiritual center. We cannot say goodbye, for he always has a home of his own here and in our hearts. We send him with our heartfelt thanks, our best wishes and our prayers that God will continue to bless Fr. “A” and the work He has for him to do.

The Editors





Fr. Azzarto's camera, a sight as ubiquitous as the man himself. Left, at a Prep Band concert in 2010, and right, on stage at his own Legends induction in 2022.

That message settled in the crevices of anxious young minds, breaking through the noise and pressure of junior year amid SATs and Hamlet papers and looming uncertainty about applying to college, saying goodbye to Prep, and negotiating the hazy future. In the quiet space of an Emmaus retreat, tasked with completing a “dial-a-Samaritan” list, it turned out those juniors weren’t facing life’s challenges alone after all. They already knew where to turn for help, already had friends and family who would walk the road with them, already had firm ground to stand on. It just might take the occasional “hearts on fire” moment to let them see it.

That message was there in the community-building work of the Alumni Spirituality Committee. It spoke itself in the xeroxed “In Good Company” or “Taken, Blessed, Given,” flyers hanging all over campus, precursors to today’s glossy Campus Ministry theme posters. It was on display in bulletin boards (and walls and even ceilings) covered in photos from Tony’s ubiquitous camera. It shone in the webs of Christmas lights taped to the walls of the Mulry Hall lobby—or “the foyer,” as he was apt to call it—some steady, some blinking, some white, some multicolored, but all bringing a moment of festive joy to all who gathered around the Advent wreath or simply passed through on the way to class.

That message took on more forms than one Prep alumnus could hope to list in the space of a few pages. But perhaps it is captured most succinctly in one of Fr. Azzarto’s favorite quotes, one he frequently worked into homilies and reflections. It is the closing lines of “As Kingfishers Catch Fire,” by the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins: “...for Christ plays in ten thousand places/Lovely in limbs and lovely in eyes not his/To the Father through the features of men’s faces.” He would cite those lines once more as he accepted his induction as a Legend of Prep in the fall of 2022. And here, in perhaps the last instance of his sharing those words with a large audience, he went on to ground the sentiment firmly in the moment: “Look around. I ask you to take 20 seconds and look at the people here. Go ahead. Look around.”

He continued, after a suitable pause, “Each of you, a sacrament of God’s presence. A gift from God.” He then produced his trusty camera from his jacket pocket, and amid thunderous applause, collected a snapshot of the gathered Prep family before leaving the stage with a vibrant smile and a generous wave.

It had been a moment nearly 30 years in the making. Virtually as long as Legends of Prep had existed, every call for nominations had rightfully yielded numerous cases being made for Fr. Azzarto’s induction...and when it came time to vote on the final slate, the votes were there to induct him. But time and again he had declined the award, and so the name Tony Azzarto, S.J. remained absent from the ranks of Legends. Only now, amid Prep’s 150th anniversary celebration, did he finally relent. And in retrospect, it was a moment of true Prep magic. If there was going to be a final high-profile public appearance by this Prep Legend among Prep Legends, there could be no more fitting time and place, no more fitting farewell gesture, and no more fitting closing thought. Near the end of sixty years of service to Prep, Tony reminded us that God is in all things, that we are called to be the presence of God for one another, and that even when all eyes were on him, the best view of all was his own, because he could see the many joy-filled faces of the Prep community.

SIX MONTHS LATER, as the Prep community came together to celebrate Fr. Azzarto’s legacy, the camera, the memories it captured, and the story woven through those thousands and thousands of still frames became a recurring theme. After more than 2,000 people passed through Prep’s O’Keefe Commons for a wake on April 20, Dr. Gomez opened a vigil service with a reflection.

“He was so joyful, so proud to know you and be your friend, your Jesuit...it was almost as if he were bragging about us through the tens of thousands of pictures that he would take,” he recalled. “Those pictures made you feel like you were a part of the Prep family, something greater than yourself. They also reminded you that you could, and did, add to it.”

John T.M. Chester, ’74, P’03, ’05 offered a eulogy during the service. “When not physically present, he made himself present in our lives with his pictures, his calls, his pictures, his cards, his pictures, his notes, and, finally, his pictures,” he said. “Did I mention his pictures? All



Fr. Azzarto's tireless support for Prep Athletics was repaid, in some small measure, as Prep Baseball players paid their respects in uniform.

taken with his small \$49 camera. Never has a \$49 investment brought so much joy to so many. And what a joy when mail came in from Fr. Azzarto!"

The following evening, Saint Aedan's Church on Bergen Avenue was filled to capacity for the funeral Mass. Former Prep President Jim Keenan, S.J., who entered the Society alongside Fr. Azzarto over 60 years ago, was the celebrant. The Gospel reading, naturally, came from Luke chapter 24, and invited us to walk once more on the road to Emmaus.

Jack Raslowsky, '79—former Prep Principal, current Xavier President, but perhaps most importantly in this context, former student and longtime friend, offered a reflection. Recalling the senior prayer elective in the fall of 1978, he explained: "It was the book of Deuteronomy that provided the text for our first prayer period: 'Remember the things your eyes have seen, do not let them pass from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your children's children.' (4:9) Moses was telling God's people that they must remember and keep remembering. Tony was telling us the same." And in this time of remembering, Raslowsky remembered an enthusiast of great stories, a lover of poems, "For the poets—T.S. Eliot, Gerard Manley Hopkins, John Keats, e.e. cummings and so many others—have a particular lens on truth, goodness and beauty; particular insight into the wonder of God and God's spirit at work in the world."

He continued: "'Yes is a world & in this world of yes lives (skilfully curled) all worlds,' cummings writes. Tony was a man who understood the power of yes." Yes to the people and places that needed him. Yes to the plays and games and weddings and funerals. Yes to the students and friends and colleagues and strangers. Yes to the obvious yeses, and yes to the ones that might have felt uncertain—like his first reassignment to Nigeria in the 1980s where he would serve as pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Benin City.

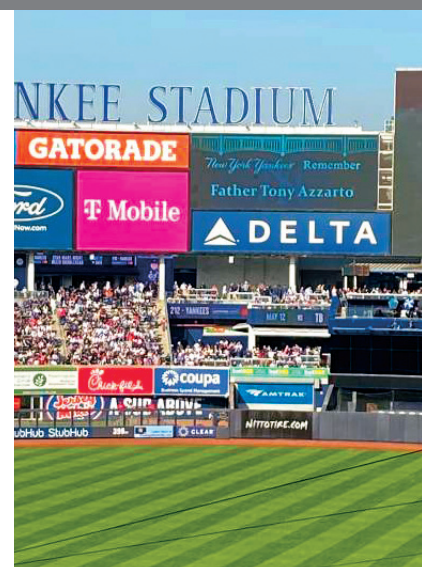
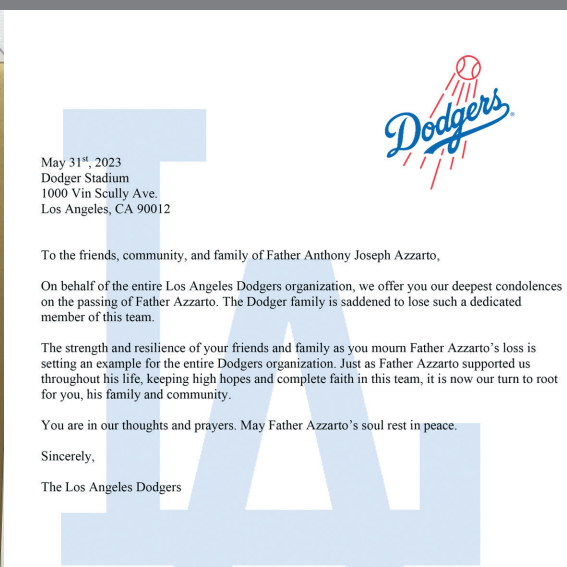
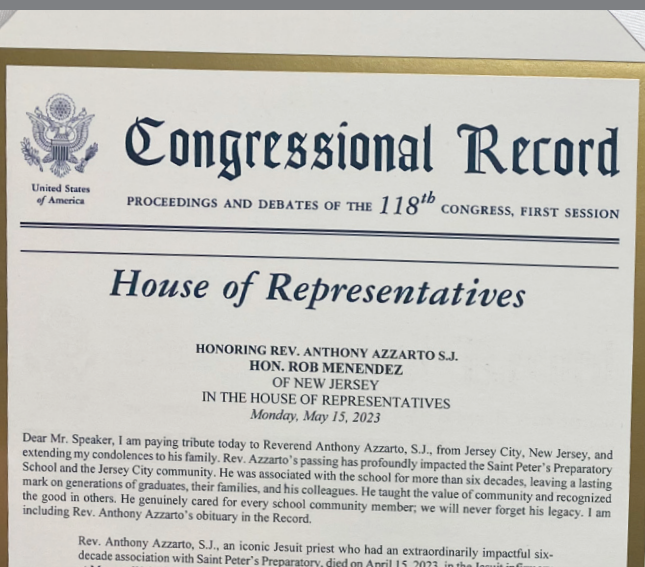
"Through the years, across the miles, yes, yes, yes. Yeses made possible by the invitations and welcome, by the love and support, of everyone gathered here and watching. In every yes, grace. Graces all. **Tony always realized that before he was there, God was there. It was never a question of finding God in all things, but always an opportunity to encounter God in all things, all people, all places.**"

If the life's work of Tony Azzarto, S.J. had been to teach us that God is present in our encounters with one another, there could hardly have been a better illustration of the lesson than the final blessing, given by Chukwuyenum Afiawari S.J., the Provincial of the Jesuits' Northwest Africa Province. Fr. Afiawari explained that Fr. Azzarto had been his childhood pastor in Benin City. "I looked at this man and I said to myself, 'If ever one day I wanted to be a priest, I want to be like this guy,'" he recalled. "Today, I am a Jesuit thanks to Fr. Tony, and to the other Jesuits there."

He concluded: "We pray for you, Tony. You are a part of our lives. Our hearts are mixed with your heart. Goodbye, and thank you." Across the decades, and across half the globe, a simple, personal note of thanks from a brother Jesuit. An understated testament to the lasting impact of his presence.

NO ONE TRIBUTE, no series of tributes, could ever hope to do full justice to the life and work of Tony Azzarto. Not in the otherworldly hush of a normally bustling O'Keefe Commons, not in the grandeur of Saint Aedan's, not in the stories shared over coffee and cookies (a classic Azzarto gathering, "a chance to be together") after the funeral, and certainly not here in these pages. But in every corner of the Prep community (and far beyond) so many tributes have come in so many forms.

Some have shared photos or stories on an online tribute board (see page 14). Virtually all have talked with friends and loved ones, swapping reminiscences of lessons and quirks and words of wisdom, or maybe digging through a drawer or a shoebox to revisit a birthday card or a note of thanks or condolence or congratulations (and some might even have managed to read them). On the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Rob Menendez read an obituary into the record, in recognition of Fr. Azzarto's service to the Hudson County community. Chris Culhane, '88 reached out to the L.A. Dodgers, and the organization shared a letter of condolence celebrating a lifelong fan: "Just as Father Azzarto supported



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Tributes to Fr. Azzarto in the halls of Congress, from his beloved Los Angeles Dodgers, and (of all places!) in Yankee Stadium.
BOTTOM: A vigil service for Fr. Azzarto filled O'Keefe Commons to capacity.

us throughout his life, keeping high hopes and complete faith in this team," the letter reads, "it is now our turn to root for you, his family and community." When the Yankees played a day game concurrent with Fr. Azzarto's wake, snapshots circulated from alumni at the game showing a scoreboard greeting: "New York Yankees Remember Father Tony Azzarto." As that last gesture's origins remain anonymous, it is unclear whether this was an intentional nod to his pledge, upon moving to the Bronx in 2018, to "take the Evil Empire down from the inside," or perhaps just an attempt to smooth things over between Fr. Azzarto and a ballclub that was, to put it generously, never his favorite!

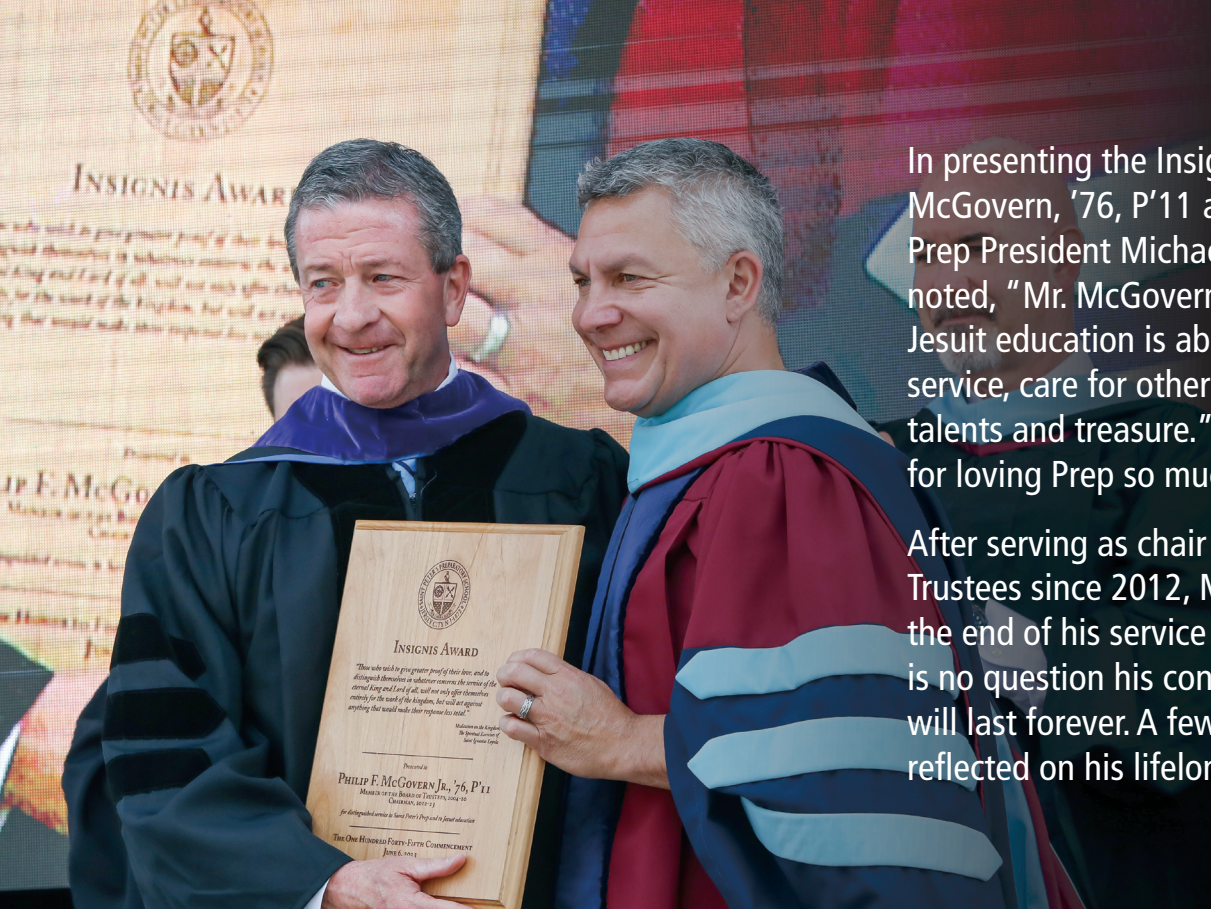
But as diverse as the tributes have been, all reflect the legacy of a Jesuit who walked with us always, who reminded us of the sacred in us and around us, who showed us what it means to be a Man for Others, who taught us the very best of what it means to be Saint Peter's Prep. All have brought the Prep community together to remember, give thanks, and celebrate. Crucially—because this is central to his message—we have not only been remembering, celebrating, and giving thanks for Fr. Azzarto himself. The moments and interactions his passing has brought about have been moments of encounter with one another and with God, moments to be mindful of—and grateful for—the many gifts that come with life in a close-knit community.

THERE WAS ONE MORE MESSAGE—or perhaps one particularly direct version of the same message the rest of his ministry contained—woven into virtually every Mass Tony Azzarto celebrated, whether in the gym or the courtyard, or in the backyard of an alumnus, or even on Zoom during 2020 and 2021. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, he would often recall both Jesus' humanity and the core of Jesus' teaching: "He has come to the table and eaten our bread. He has walked in the cool of the evening with the people he called his friends. His tears were real, his joy intense, his prayer that we love one another." The many tributes to Fr. Azzarto thus far have been signs of that same love. But ultimately, the truest tributes will be those lived out in the work that continues at Grand & Warren and beyond, in the many thousands of lives he shaped: answering the prayer to love one another, encountering God along the way, taking every opportunity to continue the ministry of presence. ✕



Share a memory of Fr. Azzarto, or view memories shared by others, at spprep.org/AzzartoMemories





In presenting the Insignis Award to Phil McGovern, '76, P'11 at graduation this June, Prep President Michael Gomez, Ed.D., '91 noted, "Mr. McGovern epitomizes all that Jesuit education is about—integrity, selfless service, care for others, and sharing of his talents and treasure." He added "Thank you for loving Prep so much."

After serving as chair of Prep's Board of Trustees since 2012, McGovern was nearing the end of his service in that role, but there is no question his contagious love of Prep will last forever. A few weeks later, he reflected on his lifelong Prep story.

To Ask Not for Reward by Matthew Holowienka, '11

Phil McGovern, '76, P'11 completed his 11-year tenure as Prep's longest-serving Board Chair this July, punctuating a nearly 20-year history of Board membership that began in 2004 and cementing his status as a true "Legend of Prep," a title he was awarded in 2018.

And while so much has changed at Saint Peter's, which has grown and evolved along with the cityscape around it over the decades, so much has also stayed the same. **"The thing I always liked about the Prep kids, there was a certain moxie about the kid who came to Jersey City every day. Whether it was on a bus, the PATH, whatnot, they learned a little bit about city life...."** McGovern said.

Growing up in Jersey City himself—a hometown he says he wears like "a badge of honor"—McGovern would attend basketball practice and then walk to Montgomery Street or to the PATH station to catch a bus or "tube" home. This journey mirrors the one so many students at Prep's urban campus still take today.

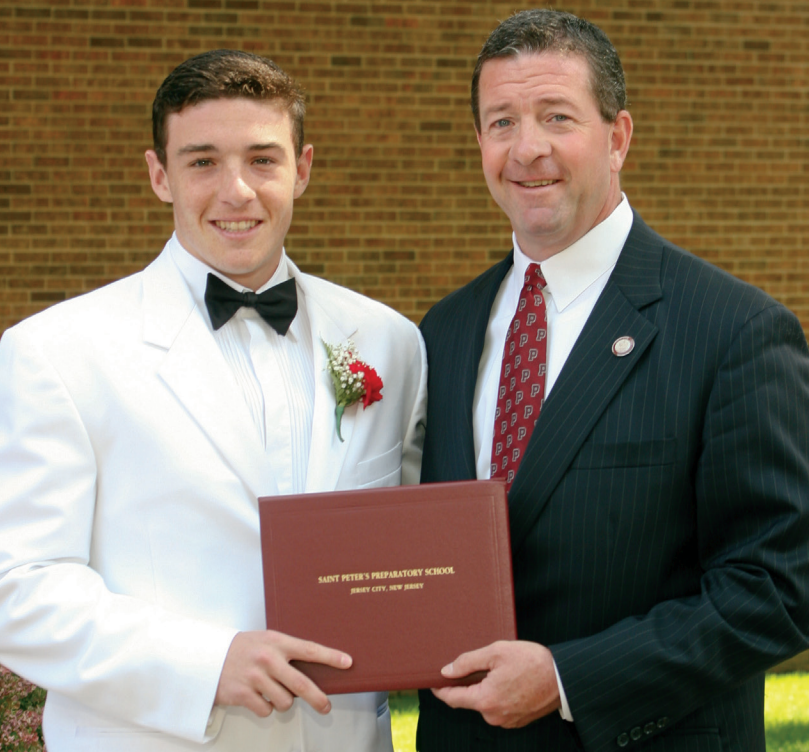
"I started in 1972 through '76, played basketball for four years, and did a lot of other things at Prep," he said. "And that's when the love affair started."

But by then, McGovern already enjoyed a deeply personal connection through his family, beginning with his father, Philip McGovern, '43, and his uncles Jack McGovern, '44 and Joseph McGovern, '50. Those family ties would eventually include his brother, the late John McGovern, '80, and son, Philip McGovern, '11.

"The Phil you see now is just a slightly refined version of the Phil who was here as a freshman in 1972," Vice President for Planning & Principal Giving Jim Horan, '70, remarked, having taught McGovern in a senior elective. "He was one of those students that would just walk into class with a smile: 'Hi, Mr. H! How you doing?'"

That same confidence—or perhaps Prep "moxie," as McGovern himself has dubbed it—is what would later kick off his alumni involvement at Prep.

"One of the great twists of fate: I met Ken Kunzman [a 2001 Legends of Prep inductee], who was class of '54, at the very first Saint Peter's Prep reunion for former basketball players," he explained. In 1983, McGovern attended Prep's reunion game against St. Rose High School of Belmar with his brother, and Kunzman's name was announced at halftime. By that point, Kunzman, who served as a Trustee and a legal advisor, was already an "absolute giant of modern Prep history," according to Horan.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: McGovern with his son, Phil McGovern, '11, at Prep's 2011 commencement. The elder McGovern refers to his years as a Prep dad as "the greatest four years" in his Prep journey. After accepting the Legends of Prep award in 2018, Phil McGovern received the congratulations of Seton Ahearn, P'01 (widow of his predecessor as chair, Bill Ahearn, '75, P'01) and her brother, Jack Caulfield, '71, P'01, '03, who served as board chair from 2004-2009. The re-dedication of the renovated Mulry Hall in 2018 marked a major milestone in McGovern's tenure as board chair.

And having submitted a letter of interest to him and called his law offices "a couple of times" to follow up, McGovern took the opportunity to introduce himself at the reception following the game. "A week later, I was in his office interviewing."

Since then, Phil McGovern has served in various capacities at the major New Jersey law firm Connell Foley, where he is currently Managing Partner of the Jersey City Office and Prep's legal counsel. But even with his demanding schedule, he has always found time for Saint Peter's, first attending events with Kunzman and then beginning on the Alumni Board in the 1990s. Starting as a Trustee in 2004, he served on committees helping to shape both the content of Prep's mission and the means to pursue it.

"The greatest four years are the four years my son was there," he said in regard to Philip McGovern, '11, reflecting on the family history that has tied him to Prep for so long.

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, President Fr. Bob Reiser, S.J. and former president Fr. James Keenan, S.J. approached McGovern about stepping into the role of Board Chair, following the passing (just prior to the storm) of his predecessor, fellow Prep Legend, Bill Ahearn, '75, P'01. The word McGovern used to describe his feelings at that time was "committed."

"The commitment to the school...made saying 'yes' very easy," he said. **"Not that I'd ever thought about being Board Chair or thought that I had any special unique qualities or talents that would allow me to fulfill the role. But I never shied away from anything in my life."**

And thus began a tenure marked by monumental institutional change and growth at Saint Peter's Prep, much of which was quite tangible—beginning with the reconstruction following the storm. "The restoration project was funded [substantially] by alumni donors, which I found truly significant and unique, that so many people stepped up in such generous ways to help the school at a time where we had a lot of expense to cover."

The successful conclusion of the Imagine Fund then brought other monumental changes to the façade and footprint of Prep, including the creation of the Perkins Athletic Center, and the renovation of Hogan and Mulry halls. Aside from the physical plant, those years saw the expansion of the Sheehan Scholars Program, and the growth of Prep's endowment.

The current Forever Forward Campaign will yield even more physical development, including the restoration of the interior and exterior of the English Building as Prep works to lay the groundwork for the next 150 years.

“The thing that doesn’t change is the overriding commitment of the faculty, the administration, and the staff to the ideals of the school and to the kids. That has always uniquely amazed me,” McGovern said.

McGovern himself has had the opportunity to work with four presidents: Fr. James Keenan, S.J.; Fr. Bob Reiser, S.J.; Fr. Ken Boller, S.J.; and Dr. Michael Gomez, ’91—each with their own “leadership styles...but with a common understanding as to what makes Prep Prep.”

In addition to them and to the staff that have built up Prep’s athletic and academic programs, McGovern gives great credit to his predecessors on the board, such as Jack Caulfield, ’71, whose strategic planning he says has laid the foundation for Prep’s growth.

“I don’t sit here and say, well, that all happened because of me,” he said. “It didn’t [all] happen because of me. It happened because a lot of people thought about it....It’s that collective love affair that so many have for Saint Peter’s Prep that have allowed these things to happen.”

But despite his humility, McGovern remains well-known for his frequent presence at Board meetings, often walking to Grand & Warren from his nearby office to attend in-person. “You could feel the commitment, the bond, the love. [I have] such great memories of those trips over to the school,” he said. **In his words, Prep is a “holy place.”**

McGovern encapsulated that special Prep “feeling” in an anecdote about the opening game of Prep Football’s 2014 state championship season.

Following a late-night victory against Bergen Catholic—a rare Thursday night game because it was broadcast on ESPN—the team must have arrived home in the early hours of the morning, he said. But the following day, at the Mass of the Holy Spirit in Prep’s courtyard, he was stunned to see then-seniors Minkah Fitzpatrick, ’15 and Brandon Wimbush, ’15 among first in line to receive the Eucharist.

“How many schools in this country would have played a football game on national television, won the game, kids got home after midnight, and the two star players of the team are on line for Communion at 8:30 the next morning? **All of that just said so much to me about the kids’ commitment to the school. I’ll never, ever forget that.”**

And McGovern’s own commitment to Prep is plain to anyone who visits his office at Connell Foley today, where Prep yearbooks and a portrait of Saint Ignatius are on-display.

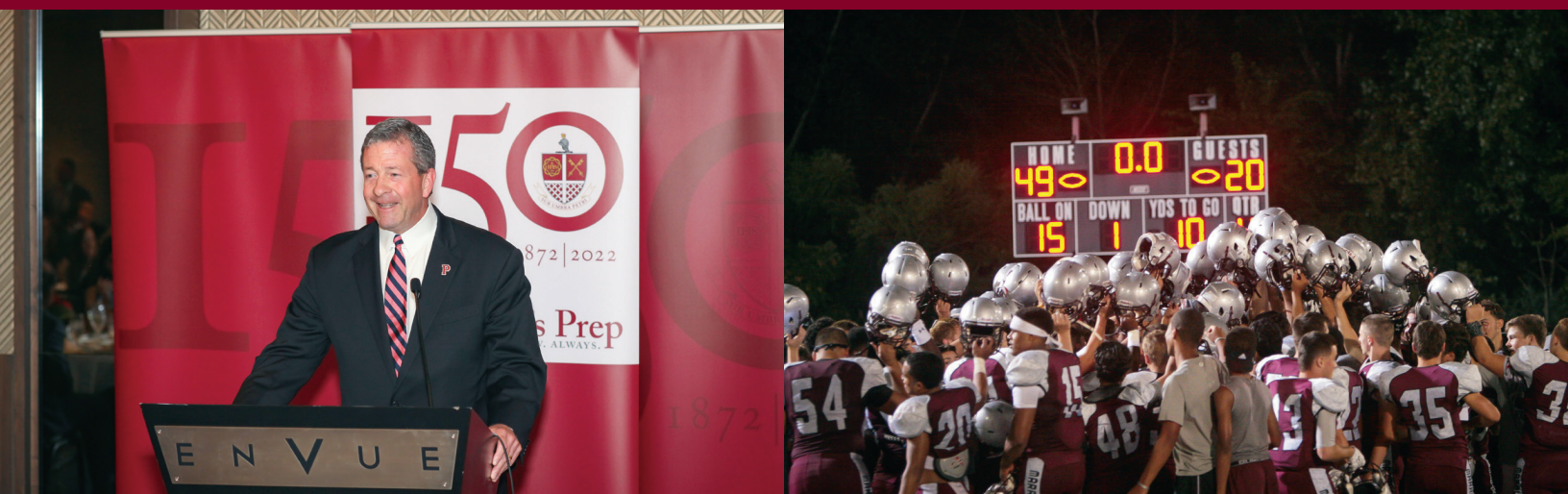
“I’ve got a maroon and white gym bag over there that I take everywhere,” he joked. “It’s my plane travel bag. If I get on a plane, I’ve got my Prep duffle bag with me.”

Also on display is his Insignis Award, presented to him at this year’s Commencement by Prep President Michael Gomez, Ed.D., ’91. The Insignis Award is the highest honor presented to Prep faculty, staff, and trustees, reserved for the type of individual Saint Ignatius himself might have sought out for the Society of Jesus. McGovern called the experience “humbling.”

“I was really touched by it....St. Ignatius de Loyola’s prayer: to give and not to count the cost, to labor and not seek reward! I can’t tell you how many addresses I’ve given and used the entirety of it. And I’ve said to people, **if you want to know about me, read that prayer, because that tells you who I am.”**

There is no question Prep has reaped the rewards of Phil McGovern’s generosity for many years, and that will certainly continue, as he will continue to serve as a board member going forward. ✂

BELOW LEFT: During his tenure as board chair, McGovern’s enthusiasm for Prep and its mission has always been apparent during his remarks at the annual President’s Reception. **BELOW RIGHT:** McGovern recalled seeing then-Prep Football standouts Brandon Wimbush, ’15 and Minkah Fitzpatrick, ’15 at the Mass of the Holy Spirit mere hours after this Thursday night season opener in 2014, citing it as evidence of Prep students’ commitment to school life.



INDOOR TRACK Prep's continued its dominating run through the local competition. The team successfully defended its Jersey City, Hudson County Relay and Hudson County Individual titles. For the first time, the Marauders also captured the CTC Indoor Championship.

Corey Greenfield finished third in the 55m hurdles at the Non-Public A State Championship while Zion Fowler and Chad Trammell finished first in the high jump and 55m hurdles, respectively. The team was well-represented at the New Balance Nationals Rising Stars with the 4x200m relay taking first, the distance medley taking the bronze and Chad Trammell taking silver in the 60m hurdles. ✕

An explosive anchor leg by Del Lindsay (with baton) secured the win for Prep's 4x200 unit of Lindsay, Isaiah Polanco (handing off), Andres Perez, and Jamei Schenck at the New Balance Nationals.

SWIMMING The 2023 team was able to improve on the successful season it had in 2022. The swimmers once again finished with an undefeated regular season, securing a twelfth straight Hudson County Championship. The Marauders advanced to the NJ State Semifinals where a narrow loss to CBA ended the postseason.

Seven Prep men qualified for the Individual Meet of Champions: Will Heinze, Thomas Gaughan, Francis Prekop, Evan Briggs, Davis Slowinski, Chase Thomas, and Isaac Rivers.

The relay team of Francis Prekop, Isaac Rivers, Chase Thomas and Davis Slowinski set a new school record in the 200 medley. ✕

Francis Prekop broke the Prep record in the 100 backstroke and was named to the Third Team All State.

BASKETBALL Coach Alex Mirabel turned youth and tenacious defense into a formula that helped fill the void left by the graduation of Prep's all-time scorer, Mark Armstrong. The team's 27-5 record included an undefeated run through Hudson County, culminating in a 61-46 victory over Hudson Catholic for the County Championship.

Prep captured the Parochial A North Championship by beating Bergen Catholic 56-55, but lost a tight battle with Union Catholic (38-35) in the State Finals at Rutgers.

Senior Jackson Tindall and junior Nico Peña were First Team All-County Selections. Tindall was also named Conference Player of the Year and earned Third Team All-Parochial honors. Prep finished as the #4 ranked team in New Jersey. Coach Mirabel and his staff were named Hudson County Staff of the Year. ✕

Jackson Tindall was named Conference Player of the Year, while Coach Alex Mirabel (inset) and his staff earned Staff of the Year honors for Hudson County.





Caedyn Ricciardi (far left) and Anthony Harris each placed second in the State Individual Tournament, capping off an outstanding season.

WRESTLING / The team started the winter season with its highest finish ever (4th) at the prestigious Beast of the East Tournament in Newark, Delaware. That was an omen of a great things ahead. Finishing with a 14-2 dual meet record, the Marauders successfully defended their District 16 and Hudson County titles.

A program record 12 wrestlers qualified for the NJSIAA State Individual Tournament in Atlantic City. Seven of those qualifiers (listed below) earned medals at the event—another school record—including two state finalists. The season ended with Prep ranked #4 in New Jersey and as high as #20 in a national poll. ✕

Sal Borrometi, '26 (106 lbs., 3rd)
Jake Talarico, '24 (113, 8th)

Gino Schinina, '26 (120, 7th)
Caedyn Ricciardi, '25 (126, 2nd)
Donovan Chavis, '23 (132, 5th)

Jonathan Fuller, '24 (144, 5th)
Anthony Harris, '25 (190, 2nd)



HOCKEY / Prep skated to a final record of 5-13-2 while competing in the state's toughest conference. Highlights of the season included a 6-1 win over Paramus Catholic at the Prudential Center for the First Annual Homecoming Game. The team also defeated Gordon Conference rival, Seton Hall 5-2. Sophomores led the way in scoring with Filip Hidas notching 10 points and a team-high six goals from Brandon Larraga. Senior goaltender Mike Lemanowicz and senior captain Matt January earned Gordon Conference honorable mention. ✕

Mike Lemanowicz was a steady presence in net for the Marauders.

FENCING / For the first time in program history, the Marauders hosted home matches in the Prep Gym. The new era began with a win over Governor Livingston in December. Additional highlights included home wins over West Essex and perennial powerhouse Columbia, and road wins over Montclair Kimberley, Oratory, and CBA. The team earned the #9 seed in the NJSIAA tournament before falling to West Windsor-Plainsboro South and finishing 9-5 overall. Eli Anderson, Tai Flot, and Sebastian Bonomo all qualified for the State Individual Tournament and finished in the top 20. ✕



The team rushed to congratulate senior Eli Anderson after his victory sealed a 14-13 win over MKA.

BOWLING / Prep's bowlers finished their season in second place in league play with a final record of 12-3. The keglers rolled their highest score of the spring (1012) in a rematch win over Bayonne. The varsity followed that up with a victory over first-place Kearny, with a season-high series score of 2732. ✕

Matt Corwin, '23 was named Co-Player of the Year in the HCIAL.



BASEBALL Prep's final record of 17-11 included a 12-2 league record, a share of the regular season league championship and a successful defense of the Hudson County title. The team's daunting schedule matched them up against top teams in the area and even out-of-state, as Prep played two early-season games in Nashville, notching a win over highly ranked Ensworth High School.

Matthew Corwin, Joseph Haines, Jr., and Lorenzo Camilleri earned First-Team All HCIAL.

TENNIS The tennis team managed to improve on their outstanding season of one year ago. Including tournament play, the squad amassed a record of 11-0 in the HCIAL and 12-3 overall. They were undefeated in Hudson County in both team and individual play and successfully defended their Division and County titles.

Impressively, all five positions won the HCIAL Individual Tournament: 1st singles – Yash Khanna; 2nd singles – Agustya Harsh; 3rd singles – Lucas Mira-McKenzie; 1st doubles – Jean Oh and Kyle Oh; 2nd doubles – Jeremy Kamber and Eric Saunders. All of these players received First-Team League honors.

Lucas Mira-McKenzie, Yash Khanna and Agustya Harsh dominated singles play in Hudson County. Khanna was selected as the HCIAL Player of the Year.



CREW Some would say the 2022 spring crew season was the best in the program's history. With multiple first-place finishes, a collection of trophies and medals, and with wins over Fairfield Prep, St. Augustine, Egg Harbor, Montclair, and Ocean City, this year's squad certainly made a compelling case.

At the St. Augustine Invitational, Prep's 1V, 3V and lightweight 8 all secured trophies. At the Garden State Championships Saint Peter's had its first win ever in the Varsity 8. The 2V boat matched its second place finish of a year ago while the Novice 8 earned its first win at the event. Overall, Prep achieved its highest finish in team points, taking the second place trophy. The team won an impressive 36 medals, the most in the program's history.

With three graduating seniors and forty returning rowers, hope for even greater success next year is high.

At the Garden State Championships, three of Prep's boats won their respective state titles, while a fourth placed second. From left: Varsity 8 (Gold), Novice 8 (Gold), Freshman 8 (Gold) and 2nd Varsity 8 (Silver).





Chad Trammell, Jamei Schenck, Andres Perez, and Del Lindsay won the 4x100 at the Non-Public State Championships. Trammell (far left) also won the 110m hurdles.

OUTDOOR TRACK/ This spring saw Prep Track further solidify its spot as one of the school's most consistently successful programs. As a team, the Marauders won the SDA invitational, defended their Hudson County, South Hudson and Jersey City championships, and won the Hudson County Relays. Second place finishes at the Summit relays and the Glenn D. Loucks Games (best finish in school history) gave Coach Russell Jenkins and his staff ample reason to be proud.

The individual accomplishments are just as impressive. At the Non-Public A State Championships Chad Trammell won the 110m hurdles while Andres Perez, Del Lindsay, Jamei Schenck, and Trammell won the 4x100m relay. Trammell went on to finish 7th at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions.

The 800m sprint medley of Schenck, Trammell, Perez and Lindsay finished 5th at the New Balance National Championship, earning All-American status. Coach Jenkins was named Hudson County Coach of the Year. ✂

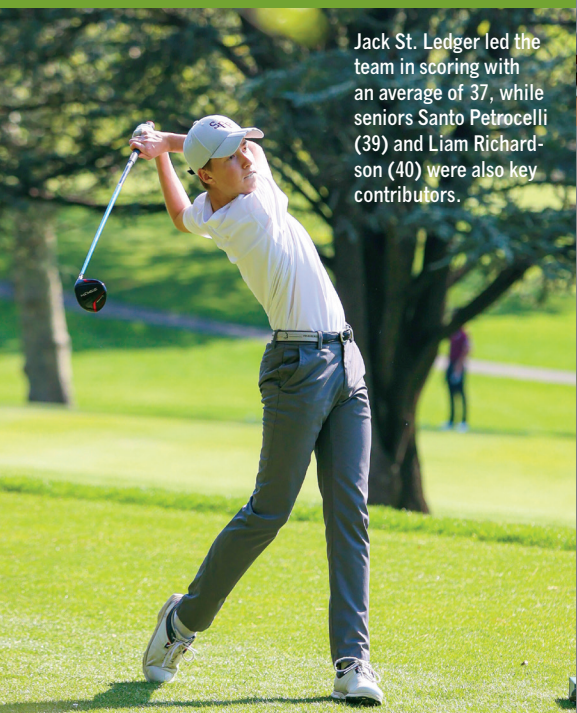
LACROSSE/ With a record of 8-6, the Marauders enjoyed big wins over Montclair (8-5), Livingston (8-7) and Millburn (9-6). Goalie Henry Walker recorded 199 saves while defenseman Aneel Ward caused 22 turnovers and collected 37 ground balls. Midfielder Jude Sargent led the team in scoring with 35 goals, 10 assists and 19 ground balls. Sargent was named an Academic All-American while five of his teammates received All-Bianchi Conference recognition.

Jude Sargent (Scranton), Conor Kagel (Drew) and Brian Kelly (Elizabethtown) will continue playing lacrosse at the collegiate level. ✂

GOLF/ The golfers finished the spring with a record of 6-3, including wins over Don Bosco, DePaul and Glen Rock HS. The team participated in the FDU Invitational at River Vale CC and the Blue Devil Invitational at Echo Lake CC. Sophomore Jack St. Ledger led the Marauders at both events, placing 4th and 13th respectively.

The team also qualified for the NJSIAA Sectional Tournament where they finished 6th out of 13 schools. ✂

Jack St. Ledger led the team in scoring with an average of 37, while seniors Santo Petrocelli (39) and Liam Richardson (40) were also key contributors.



Prep finished the season ranked #10 among Parochial A schools.

VOLLEYBALL/ The squad finished its challenging schedule with a final record of 6-13. Big wins over Kearny (21-25, 25-21, 29-27), North Bergen (17-25, 25-13, 25-23) and Bayonne in the Hudson County playoffs (23-25, 25-19, 25-20) epitomized the team's roller coaster season. Michael Shipman earned First-Team All County honors, while Gian Cases and Conleth Gorham earned Second Team. ✂

In addition to his All County recognition, Michael Shipman, '23 (#17) made All State Honorable mention.





Summer Tees Off at Prep Golf Tournament

One of the longest-running staples of the Prep calendar celebrated its 45th iteration on June 12, as generations of Prep men and their guests took to the fairways of Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Despite the chance of rain, the weather held out for an unforgettable day of friendly competition, all in support of the students and families who have made Grand & Warren their second home. The event, which welcomed more than 170 attendees, once again offered morning and afternoon shotgun tee-offs, for 18 holes on a challenging par 71 Tillinghast-designed course.

In addition to the golf tournament itself, participants also enjoyed exclusive amenities like meals at the clubhouse and outdoor patio; a driving range and practice area; and access to an Olympic-sized swimming pool. As the sun set, everyone gathered for a buffet dinner, awards ceremony, and the drawing of the annual Super 50/50, the winner of which took home more than \$3,000.

Tom Burton, '22 posted the lowest overall gross, earning the Wagner Cup as the 2023 tournament champion. The award is presented in memory of longtime tournament participant Marcel E. Wagner, '56. Additional awards were presented as follows: **Team Champions (Lowest Team Gross):** Patrick Matts, P'20; Dave Guardino; John Alexander; Scotty Russell • **Ladies' Cup: (Lowest Gross by a Female Golfer):** Lia Kunnapas • **Lowest Overall Callaway:** Tom Burton, '22 • **Closest to the Pin:** Anthony Addas, '07 • **Longest Drive:** Gavin Cummings, '84, P'13 ✕

REUNITE AND RECONNECT!

APRIL 12-14



EAT. DRINK. DANCE. BID. WIN. CELEBRATE.
SUPPORT FINANCIAL AID!

APRIL 27



SUMMER STARTS HERE...
TEE OFF FOR PREP!

JUNE 10



SAVE THE DATES!

Make a note of these events for Prep Alumni, coming in 2024!

Class of '73



Class of '98



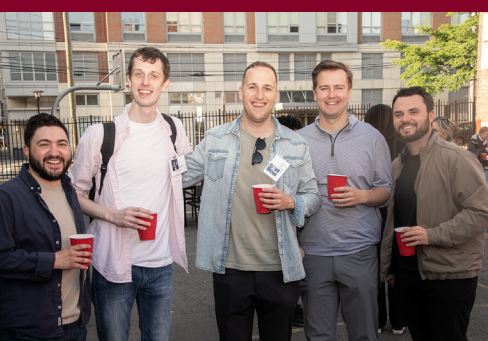
Class of '08



Class of '63



Class of '03



An Alumni Jubilee!

This spring, the annual Milestone Reunion grew from a standalone evening into the inaugural Marauder Jubilee Weekend, marking the start of a new Prep tradition. A casual BBQ and open bar in the courtyard kicked off the festivities on Friday evening, offering milestone-year alumni an extra chance to catch up with friends and explore the campus.

The new format also embraced the 50th reunion weekend—for many years, a separate event in the fall. So while the Class of '73 members gathered Friday for a private dinner at The View (the all-new successor to Casino in the Park), Saturday saw the 50th reunion class join the party at Prep, where their fellow Prep men were celebrating milestones of their own...from five years for the Class of '18 to 60 for the Class of '63.

The result was a packed gym filled with laughter, stories, and Prep Pride spanning the decades. The hallways rang with voices rediscovering the new looks of familiar spaces, and yes, a glass or two was raised in a toast to Prep.

"It was amazing having hundreds of alumni back on campus, sharing what brings us all together: our love for this place," said Prep Alumni Director (and 15th reunion class member) Mike Murcia, '08. "The different eras we had represented really reminded everybody what makes Prep such a special place. And from here, Alumni Jubilee Weekend is only going to get bigger!"

Save the date...Next year's Jubilee Weekend is set for April 12-14, 2024!✂



Class of '88



Class of '78



Class of '18



Class of '93



Class of '83





Share your photos, class notes and other news with us...Email info@spprep.org!

The '50s

John Kip, '56 recently celebrated the first birthday of his second great-grandchild.

Lou Cappadona, '57 opened HR Wurks LLC, which provides HR consulting services in Arizona.

The '60s

Jim Bald, '60 has, in his words, "retired, retired" after his careers as an Army officer and a support contractor for an Army laboratory. Jim now enjoys serving as a volunteer at the new Army Museum near Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He invites the Prep community to "Come see it!"

James Romano, '62 is "still around" and living at the Delaware shore. He recently worked with fellow Jesuit high school alum Dr. Anthony Fauci as a contributor to *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 21st edition.

Stephen Weigert, '66 retired following 43 years of federal government service in the Defense Department (Defense Intelligence Agency, 1978-91) and the State Department (Bureau of Intelligence and Research, 1991-2021). In 2022, he and wife Susan welcomed their sixth grandchild, Luke Stephen Mazzarella.

The '70s

Rev. Alex Santora, '70 celebrated 40 years as a priest last October.

Anthony Romano, '73 has been selected as the grand marshal for the 2023 Jersey City Columbus Day Parade.

Joseph Nestor, '76 and his wife Janice welcomed two grandsons this year: Daniel Joseph in February, and Arthur James in April.

In March, **Len De Pinto, '76** was sworn in as president of the 2023 Hoboken Italian Festival. Len was joined at the swearing-in ceremony by his three children: **Maj. Kevin De Pinto, USMC, '08**; **Maj. Vincent De Pinto, USMC, '05**; and Dr. Austen-Leigh LaRocca, Ph.D. The festival will take place September 7-10.

John Johnson, '78 writes, "As Dr. Gomez always says, 'Prep for Life.'" After 33 years away from New Jersey—twenty of them in Asia—John has finally made it back to Grand & Warren, with the family residing in Jersey City and his two sons Jay, '26 and Ryan, '27 following in dad's Prep footsteps. "My wife Carina and I are so excited for the boys and feel blessed we get to be part of their amazing journey at 144 Grand," he added.

The '80s

Kevin Goines, '80 has completed his first year at Jersey Mortgage Company.

Christopher Kern, '80 retired from federal civil service in June 2021, having served, by his count, 39 years, 11 months, 14 days.

Luke Phillips, '84 is the registrar of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Americus Abesamis, '89 will be co-starring as the lead villain for the upcoming web series *Dok Sauvage: Man of Copper*.

Dupuy Fatal, '89 won the merit award at the 2022 International New York Film Festival for his short documentary, "The 4th of 2020." The film follows photojournalist Terrence Jennings on his journey to cover the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest amid the pandemic and social upheaval of the summer of 2020.

The '90s

Ken Ferrante, '90 is now the public safety director for the City of Hoboken, overseeing the city's fire department, police department, office of emergency management, and emergency medical services.

Pat Fitzpatrick, '96 has been promoted to the position of Senior Director – Ethics & Compliance, Global Privacy at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis.

Jonathan Cuaycong, '98 has transferred to the United States Space Force with the rank of Technical Sergeant. TSgt Cuaycong is now stationed at Buckley Space Force Base in Colorado, with the 2nd Space Warning Squadron. He had previously served in the U.S. Navy since 1999.



In February, **Michael Sunga, '98** caught up with former Prep music teacher Roland Jones in Delray Beach, Florida. Highlights of Mr. Jones' time directing the Prep Band included a performance at the second (1997) inauguration of President Bill Clinton.



The '00s

David Suarez, '00 is, as of July 1, the new dean of community life at the Tilton School, a boarding school in Tilton, New Hampshire. He had previously served as associate director of college counseling at Tilton, after serving as director of college and career counseling at High Mowing School, another New Hampshire boarding school.

Daniel Condo, '02 recently completed his 16th year of service with the NYPD, and he serves as a lieutenant at Police Headquarters. He and his wife Erica have two children, and he sends his best wishes to the Prep community: "God bless all, and stay safe."

Marco Ambrosio, '03 is working to launch Magicbook, "a storymaking no-code platform parents use to instantly create short custom stories for their little kids using AI." The platform will allow parents to quickly create visual stories to read with their kids, incorporating kids' interests as well as values parents hope to teach. Learn more at magicbook.kids.

Ron Cardoso, '03 started a new job in March, as a technical program manager for Comcast Cybersecurity in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

Martin Gurczeski, '03 was appointed Assistant Superintendent of South Amboy Public Schools. Dr. Gurczeski had previously served as the Director of Early Childhood Education.

Charlie Hood, '06 is a global IT infrastructure engineer by day, and a member of the New Jersey Devils' Ice Crew by night.

The '10s

Michael Rizzo, '10 has published his first book, *Tales of Asterra*, a collection of short stories set in a richly developed mystical land. Michael has credited his Prep teachers, including Jack Campion, Mary Anne McElroy, and Ken Dandorff with inspiring his writing.

Conor McCarthy, '11 graduated from Seton Hall University Graduate School of Business with an MBA in management.

Ryan Stickno, '13 was named John P. Dowie Police Officer of the Year by the Kearny Police Department's Valor Committee. His citation for the award noted his outstanding performance in an armed barricade situation, his arrest of a car thief following a foot pursuit, and lifesaving actions in preventing two potential suicides.

Shane Shell, '18 is working this summer with **Bob Zito, '71** at IPZ USA, a sports and media talent and marketing agency where Bob is managing partner. Shane says he's "having a blast, great to be in company with Prep Family."

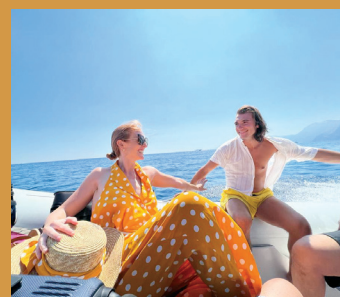
The '20s

Chris Anderson, '20 is a finance major at Villanova. He is working in New York City this summer.



Gianni McLaughlin, '10, and his wife, Milly-May, recently concluded the production of their award-winning film, *Bless Me, Father*, a drama/thriller filmed entirely in Hudson County (including scenes shot inside Saint Aedan's Church in Jersey City). The production of the film was heavily influenced by Gianni's time as a Prep student. The cast includes seven Prep Alumni: Gianni, **Angelo Caprio, '99**, **Joseph Vesey, '11**, **Lawrence Alexander, '99**, **John Caprio, '02**, **Joe Territola, '05**, and the late **Paul Martino, '09**. Former Prep guidance counselor **Jim Dondero, '66** was also involved in the production of the film. He and Gianni met weekly for six months, in 2018, and worked on refining the script to make a film. The film has earned numerous accolades, including Best Feature Film, Best Ensemble Cast, Best Sound Design, and Best First-Time Director in the New Jersey Film Awards; and Best Feature Film and Best Actor in the New York Neorealism Film Awards.

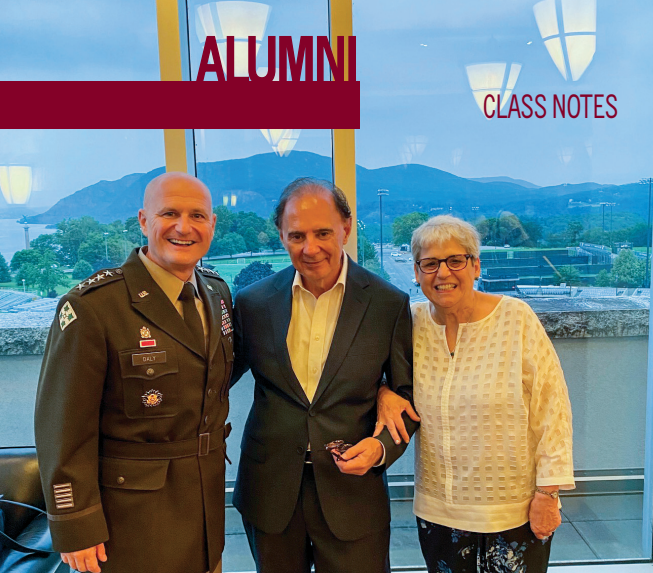
Bless Me, Father is available on Amazon Prime Video to rent or buy.



Christian Della Rocco, '19 was selected as an outstanding player in the 2022 U21 World Lacrosse Championships held at Limerick University in Ireland last August, with 23 countries participating. He showed off his award alongside proud grandfather **Greg Scheuermann, '50**. Christian, an attackman at Bellarmine University, qualified to play for the Dutch team because of his ancestry (via his maternal grandmother). His play at the World Championship earned him spots both on the President Team and in Inside Lacrosse's "15 College Players We're Watching." The article noted his "absolute nose for the goal, leading the tournament in points (25 G, 13 A)," and added "Della Rocco took over in crunch time, like two goals and an assist in the final quarter of a comeback win over China."

This spring, Della Rocco's exceptional performance continued with a school record 50 goals. Christian also led the Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN) in goals, and was named the conference breakout player of the year, and nationally ranked 11th in NCAA Division 1 Lacrosse.





Gen. Ed Daly, '83 retired from the U.S. Army in a ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on July 7. In his 36-year career, the 2021 Prep Hall of Fame inductee served in numerous leadership roles—most recently, as commanding general of the Army Materiel Command. Among the honored guests on hand were General Daly's former teacher and fellow Prep alumnus **Carl DeLorenzo, '67**. The photos are courtesy of Carl's wife Annette DeLorenzo, pictured at left with Carl and the general. Annette noted "it was quite an honor" to be seated with the Daly family and to hear Gen. Daly speak of Carl's influence in his Prep days.

Although it was a somber occasion, the funeral of **Bill Donan, '71**, brought together many of Bill's 1971 classmates, along with celebrant and former Prep President **Jim Joyce, S.J.**

From left: **Robert McMahon, Mark Diverio, Paul Schaetzle, Michael Venditti, Fr. Joyce, Peter Begans, Richard Reid, Michael Blaney,** and **Phil Connelly.**

Prior to his time as president, Fr. Joyce taught history at Prep as a scholastic, described by Schaetzle as "Our favorite U.S. history teacher."



Rev. Alex Santora, '70 met with members of the *Petroc* staff in March. In addition to serving as pastor of Hoboken's Our Lady of Grace and Saint Joseph parish, Fr. Santora has written a weekly religion column, "Faith Matters," for the *Jersey Journal* for the past 25 years. He shared insights from writing well over 1,000 columns, as well as from his experiences in the field of journalism before and during his ministry as a priest.



The notion of Prep running Hudson County is well-established, both when it comes to athletic championships and when it comes to public service. This spring, it became just a bit more literal.

With the appointment of **Bob Baselice, '81** to fill an open seat on the Hudson County Board of Commissioners in April, three of the Board's nine members are now Prep alumni. Bob joined Chairperson **Anthony Romano, '73** and **Bill O'Dea, '77**, who were sworn in as members of the board in 2012 and 1997, respectively. While not an alumnus himself, a fourth member, **Albert Cifelli**, is a Prep parent—his son is **James Cifelli, '04**.



This crew of Prep alumni gathered in Weehawken last Christmas. LEFT TO RIGHT: Tommy Riley, '17, Jack Riley, '20, Thomas Riley, '86, Joe Raslowsky, '86, Tyler Schiavo, '13, Mark Schiavo, '18, and Jack Schiavo, '14.



After nine years in Prep's English Department, **Greg Morrissey, '08** left in 2022 to found Mountain Goat Movement. The organization provides transformative adventure trips to high school students while connecting them to inspiring explorers, scientists, and storytellers. In July 2023, Greg led a group of 8 students on a human-powered adventure of the entire Hudson River which also included a published paper detailing the health of the Hudson River as well as a feature documentary. He is a nominee for Top 50 Explorer of 2023 as sponsored by the Explorers Club, Rolex, and Discovery Channel.



Greg returned to Prep for an assembly last September.

Ken Kunzman, '54: The Epitome

Of the seemingly endless accolades associated with Ken Kunzman, who passed away in March, one word was likely used more than any other: *epitome*. He was the epitome of a Saint Peter's Prep graduate; of the product of a Jesuit education; of the highest standards of the legal profession; of service to his fellow man; of a gentleman. And besides those qualities, he was simply a genuine pleasure to have as a friend, colleague or mentor. In short, the real deal.

As a most loyal alumnus who effortlessly combined legal expertise and strategic acumen with genuine "people skills," Ken was a key advisor to



ten Prep presidents, serving as a two-term member of the Board of Trustees, chairing its Advancement Committee, and helping to guide the school's fundraising efforts to a series of record-breaking performances. And these efforts were complemented by his personal philanthropic support of virtually every Prep endeavor, including its capital campaigns.

Ken's extraordinary service to Prep was only part of the story, just one chapter in his selfless and highly effective involvement with, and support of, numerous causes, almost all of which had the direct and

profound effect of improving the lives of others. As a result, he regularly received major awards from those entities, always using it as an opportunity to encourage others to step up their own support and, thus, their service to others.

Appropriately, in 2001 Ken was inducted as a Legend of Prep, and his profile in the event's program began as follows: "Abraham Lincoln once stated that he liked to see a man proud of his place and his place proud of him. Lincoln would have liked Ken Kunzman." ✕

T.J. Sullivan, '93: Tireless Prep Ambassador

In the fall of 1988, eighth grader T.J. Sullivan traveled from his home in North Caldwell to Grand & Warren to shadow a Prep student as a "freshman for a day." That afternoon, when his dad asked about his campus experience, T.J. exclaimed, "It was the best day of my life!"



Right up to his sudden passing in May, T.J. loved sharing this anecdote, and an endless string of classmates, friends, and colleagues had no reason to doubt its authenticity. After all, throughout his life he wore his Prep Pride on his sleeve, serving as one of the school's most enthusiastic ambassadors in roles both subtle and visible.

This incredibly deep connection to Prep was a family affair for T.J. His dad in that freshman for a day story happened to be none other than Tom Sullivan, '53—whose own profound loyalty to Prep included serving as chairman of Prep's Board of Trustees and eventually earning a place among the Legends of Prep. There were also his uncles, Tom Meloro, '54 and the late Fr. Jim Sullivan, '50. During his pre-teen years, T.J. occasionally served as a water boy for Prep's varsity football games, and as a student he was a ubiquitous presence on campus, involved in an array of activities, from wrestling and cross-country (he was captain of both teams) to student council. For his leadership, he was awarded both an Outstanding Freshman Award and a Prep Spirit Award.

In 2006, T.J. was the recipient of the Young Alumnus Award (service to the alma mater) at Prep's inaugural Hall of Fame ceremony. Over his career, he served as a very effective member of both the Advancement Committee of the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board, as well as class chairman for the Class of '93. ✕

Jim Hague, '79: Chronicler of Hudson County Sports



Legendary Hudson County sportswriter Jim Hague, '79, passed away in June at age 62. Jim was an unforgettable character and a great friend of Prep Athletics—and high school athletics in North Jersey in general. His writing appeared in numerous publications, including the Associated Press, the recently defunct *Hudson Reporter*, and for the past 20 years, *The Observer*, based in Kearny. In Jim's travels, he earned the respect and love of his peers in the tri-state sports media community, of athletes and coaches, and of his many friends. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

Prep's VP for Planning and Principal Giving, Jim Horan, '70, was Jim Hague's journalism teacher at Prep. He offered the following tribute to his former student:

Very few graduates of Saint Peter's have been as passionately proud of their Prep diploma as Jim was, and through both his infectious personality and his prolific sports writing career he was both well known and admired by fellow alumni of many generations. As we all

know, Jim 'lived' in the world of sports, and he was as enthusiastic about a local freshman team's winning season as he was about a stunning state championship game at MetLife Stadium. That said, especially in Hudson County, he was both a pundit and an everyman, seemingly always on the scene and quickly churning out compelling copy. His passing is not only a loss for Saint Peter's Prep, but also for Hudson County's many athletes who have lost their most reliable chronicler. ✕

Alumni

Edward J. Fischer, '45
Michael A. Prokop, '46
Father of Michael Prokop, '76;
Grandfather of Thomas Prokop, '17
and Steven Prokop, '19
Richard S. Salkowski, '51
George R. Pabst, '52
Chester J. "Chet" Zegler, '53
Father of Christopher Zegler, '78 and
Craig Zegler, '80
Kenneth Kunzman, '54
Former trustee; 2001 Legends of Prep
inductee
Carmine Basile Jr., '55
Alan G. Fitzpatrick, '55
William R. Lund, '55
Gerard "Jerry" Guterl, '56
Carl R. Lepis, '56
Cousin of James Lepis, '55[†], Philip
Campana, '58, Joseph Lepis, '67,
Brendan Lepis, '89, and Gerald Lepis,
'92
William J. Morrissey, '58
Father of William Morrissey, '83
James L. Kropke, '59
Brother of John Kropke, '57 and Robert
Kropke, '66
Kenneth R. Hampton, '59
Father of Brian Hampton, '90; Cousin
of Edward Waterbury, '48[†], James
Waterbury, '54[†], James Mack '58[†],
and Joel Hampton '89
Rt. Rev. Richard Russo, '59
Brother-in-law of John Grecco, '57;
Cousin of Joseph Frank, '75
John C. Spadora, '59
Father of Peter Spadora, '88 and
Brian Spadora, '94

Anthony J. Novella, '60
Joseph T. O'Donnell Jr., '65
Ronald Zawacki, '66
Wayne LoPresti, '67
James F. Polisin, '68
Patrick J. Ryan, '68
Joseph M. Brandehoft, '69
William C. Donan, '71
Joseph P. Ilvento, M.D., '72
Son of Peter Ilvento, '43[†]; Cousin of
Peter DeMatteo, M.D., '71; Brother-in-
law of Alexander Zolli, M.D., '67
Kevin A. Mulrain, '73
Stephen T. Diverio, '75
Son of Ralph Diverio, '46[†]; Brother of
Mark Diverio, '71 and Paul Diverio, '73
Marc Mruz, '75
Brother of Thomas Mruz, '69[†]
Robert J. Hoff, '76
James F. Hague, '79
John J. Regan Jr., '80
Cousin of John Crowe, '62[†]
John "Jay" Strebb, '82
Thomas "T.J." Sullivan, '93
Prep Alumni Board member; 2006
Prep Hall of Fame inductee; son of
Prep Legend and former Board Chair
Thomas Sullivan, '53; Nephew of
James Sullivan, '50[†] and Thomas
Moloro, '54; Uncle of John King, '14
Brendan M. Burke, '94
Jon Carlo Dominguez, '15

Family of Alumni

Joan Armelino
Mother of Mark Armelino, '77
Remedios Arcilla
Mother of Adrian Arcilla, '90

John Curran
Father of Colin P. Curran, '81 and
Terrence Curran, '88
Eleanor Conroy
Mother of John Conroy, '94
Mary Ann Daly
Wife of Martin Daly, '57
Eileen F. Diverio
Wife of Ralph Diverio, '46[†]; Mother
of Mark Diverio, '71, Paul Diverio, '73,
and Stephen Diverio, '75[†]
Kathleen Dwyer
Wife of Thomas Dwyer, '67
Bernard J. Hanson
Father of Tyler Hanson, '12
H. Mickey McCabe
Father of Michael McCabe, '95
Barbara Ann McNally
Mother of Sean McNally, '97;
Daughter-in-law of Joseph McNally,
'50[†]
Kelsey O'Donnell
Sister of Jake O'Donnell, '04[†] and
Liam O'Donnell, '16; daughter of John
O'Donnell, former assistant football
coach
Horace "Ford" Livengood II
Father of James Livengood, '05;
Brother-in-law of John O'Halloran, '62
Gerald M. Madden
Father of Gerald Madden, '81 and
James Madden, '82

Agnes Gallagher Mangelli
Wife of Nicholas Mangelli Sr., '54;
Mother of Nicholas Mangelli, '91
Paul F. Pawlowski
Father of Paul Pawlowski, '87, Brian
Pawlowski, '90, and John Pawlowski,
'95
John T. Saunders
Father of Aaron Saunders, '21
Robert V. Shovlin
Father of James Shovlin, '10
Joseph F. Watters
Brother of William Watters, S.J., '52
(2021 Prep Hall of Fame inductee)

Former Faculty & Staff

Rev. Anthony Azzarto, S.J.
English and Theology teacher, Retreat
Director, Chaplain, Alumni Chaplain,
and Guidance Counselor, 1964-65,
1972-80, 1985-2005, 2007-18; 2022
Legends of Prep inductee
Rev. James F. Joyce, S.J.
History teacher, 1969-72; Assistant
football & track coach; President,
1990-94

Family of Faculty & Staff

Richard Tunney
Father of Michael Tunney, S.J. (English
teacher 1982-85)

A correction: The *Vita Mutatur, Non Tollitur* listing in the Winter 2022-23 issue listed James McKeever as a member of the Class of 1959. He should have been listed as a member of the Class of 1956. We regret the error.

Vita mutatur, non tollitur. Life is changed, not ended.



Jack Machcinski, born June 8, 2023



Matthew Fonti '13 married Angela Bocchino on November 12, 2022.



Jack Ruzek, born April 22, 2023



Stryker and Haylie Rohrman welcomed little brother Raidyn on February 20.

Weddings

Mike Murcia, '08 (Director of Alumni Relations) and Liliana Huerta
August 5, 2022

Matthew Fonti, '13 and Angelo Bocchino
November 12, 2022

Michael Hudacko, '04 and Kate Sweeney
June 3, 2023

Carl Kraus, '05 and Tara Lang
June 24, 2023

Robin and Gerard Bernales, '02
son Sebastian Benjamin Jun, born
October 12, 2022

Allyson and James Blauvelt, '09
daughter Alaia James, born
December 14, 2022

Melissa and Bryan Rohrman, '07
son Raidyn Hawk, born February 20, 2023

Nicole and Joseph Feinstein, '10
daughter Ella Michelle, born February 21, 2023

Marisa Krohn and Keith Suthammanont, '03
daughter Olive Rose, born March 12, 2023

Kathryn and Joshua Tosi, '07
daughter Eva Jean, born March 2023

Megan and Sean Barowski (Phys. Ed. teacher)
son Crew Michael, born April 12, 2023

Jeannie and Mike Ruzek, '08
son Jack Pellegrino, born April 22, 2023

Sarah and Anthony Machcinski, '07
son Jack Alexander, born June 8, 2023

Kelly and Dylan Jansen, '13
daughter Everleigh Ann, born July 8, 2023

Births

Danielle and Joe Maini, '09
son Michael Joseph, born September 16, 2022

Sebastian Bernales, born
February 20, 2023

The Blauvelt family welcomed new member Alaia James on
December 14. She shares her birthday with her dad, James.



Carl Kraus, M.D., '05 married Tara Lang on June 24 at Immaculate Conception in Montclair. Former Prep President Jim Keenan, S.J. presided. Many Prep brethren shared in the weekend's festivities.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: James Cifelli, '04; Kevin Smith, '05; Andrew Dougherty, '05; Fr. Keenan, S.J.; Carl Kraus, '05; Thomas Barone, '05; Bradley Keating, '05; James Livengood, '05.



On hand for the wedding of Kate Sweeney and Michael Hudacko in June were, left to right: Christian Traba, '04, Kevin Guarini, '06, Aaron Juskowitz, '12, William Dwyer, '04, Zac Juskowitz, '17, Dan Sweeney, '01, Kate Sweeney, Michael Hudacko, '04, Mark Ellerson, '76, James Gallagher, '83, Jonathan Pappalardo, '02, Jarrod Pappalardo, '04, Justin Hudacko, '06, and James Caposello, '03.

Guests at the wedding of Liliana Huerta and Prep Alumni Director Mike Murcia, '08 on August 5, 2022 included **FRONT ROW:** Daniel Gonzalez, '09, Peter Drummond, '08, Roger Guerra, '07, Jon Mucciolo, '08, Jake Blicharz, '08, Eddie Rose, '08, Will Fong, '09, Tony Ongeri, '08, Jared Bowers, '08, Armando Roman, '08, and Jim Horan, '70. **BACK ROW:** Pat McGrath, '08, Erich Sekel, '98, Greg Leto, '91, Victor Lopez, '18, Paul Schaeztle, '71, Michael Gomez, '91, Rich Lugo, '21, and Jacob Taubman, '21.



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MEMBERS OF THE PREP CLASS OF 2023 EARNED ACCEPTANCES TO APPROXIMATELY 250 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE U.S. AND BEYOND. Our newest alumni have chosen to continue their journeys at institutions as diverse as their personalities, their interests, and the paths that led them to Grand & Warren in 2019. These young men are Our Pride and Our Glory, not only because of where they are going next, but because of who they will be when they get there, and who they will be for life: **Prep men**. The people they encountered, the experiences they shared, and the lessons they learned in these halls will be the banners that guide them, wherever they go.

University of Memphis • Merrimack College • University of Miami • Miami University, Oxford • Michigan State University • University of Michigan, Ann Arbor • University of Minnesota, Twin Cities • Monmouth University • Montclair State University • Moravian University • Morehouse College • Morgan State University • Mount St. Mary's University • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • University of New Hampshire • University of New Haven • The College of New Jersey • New Jersey City University • New Jersey Institute of Technology • New York Institute of Technology • New York University • Norfolk State University • North Carolina A & T State University • University of North Carolina • North Carolina State University • University of North Dakota • Northeastern University • Nova Southeastern University • Oberlin College • Ohio State University • Old Dominion University • University of Oregon • Oregon State University • Pace University, New York City • Pace University, Westchester • University of the Pacific • Palm Beach Atlantic University • University of Pennsylvania • Pennsylvania State University • Pepperdine University • University of Pittsburgh • Plymouth State University • University of Portland • Pratt Institute • Princeton University • Providence College • Purdue University • Quinnipiac University • Ramapo College of New Jersey • Regis University • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • University of Rhode Island • Rhode Island College • University of Richmond • Rider University • Roanoke College • University of Rochester • Rochester Institute of Technology • Roger Williams University • Rollins College • Rowan University • Rutgers University, Camden • Rutgers University, New Brunswick • Rutgers University, Newark • Sacred Heart University • St. Bonaventure University • Saint Edward's University • Saint Elizabeth University • St. John Fisher University • St. John's University • Saint Joseph's University • St. Lawrence University • Saint Louis University • Saint Peter's University • Salisbury University • University of San Diego • University of San Francisco • San Francisco State University • Santa Clara University • University of Scranton • Seton Hall University • Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania • Siena College • Skidmore College • Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania • University of South Florida • Southern Methodist University • Springfield College • Stevens Institute of Technology • Stockton University • Stony Brook University • SUNY Buffalo State • SUNY, New Paltz • SUNY at Purchase College • SUNY College at Potsdam • Susquehanna University • Syracuse University • The University of Tampa • Temple University • Texas A & M University • The University of Texas, Austin • The University of Texas, San Antonio • Thomas Jefferson University • University of Toronto • Towson University • Trinity College • Trinity University • Tulane University of Louisiana • Union College • Ursinus College • University of Vermont • Villanova University • Virginia Commonwealth University • Virginia Tech • University of Virginia • Wagner College • Washington State University • University of Washington, Seattle • University of Waterloo • West Texas A & M University • West Virginia University • Western Connecticut State University • Widener University • Wilkes University • William Paterson University of New Jersey • Wingate University • University of Wisconsin, Madison • Worcester Polytechnic Institute • Xavier University

■ one or more Class of '23 graduates accepted • ■ one or more Class of '23 graduates attending