



Irish Times

FALL 2020

A Newsletter for the Knoxville Catholic High School Community

TEACHING and
LEARNING
in a Pandemic.



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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If you'd like to receive updates from our Alumni Office, contact megan.erpenbach@knoxvillecatholic.com with your name and graduation year.

The Irish Times is published for alumni, parents, supporters and friends of Knoxville Catholic. Share Irish Times story ideas and comments at info@knoxvillecatholic.com.





Dear Alumni, Families and Friends of KCHS:



Greetings from Catholic High! As we begin the last quarter of 2020, I think we would all agree that this year has been unlike any other in our lifetime. Certainly, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented all of us with new challenges, perhaps a few struggles, and many opportunities for growth. This year has raised more questions than answers like, when will there be a vaccine, and will we ever get back to normal? I can't help but think – how will we look back on this unprecedented year?

For KCHS, I believe the answer is simple. The year 2020 will be remembered as a year of blessings. When many Catholic schools across the nation are dealing with declining enrollment and financial hardship, we are happy to report that our enrollment is strong and steady. Our blessings during 2020 have come in many forms and have been too numerous to count, but I would like to highlight a few for our community:

- **The Class of 2020** – for the first three quarters of the 2019-20 school year, this class exemplified all that is good at KCHS. Their commitment to academics, to each other, and to Catholic High were amazing. This class got to shine on national TV with our ESPN football game back in October, and Spirit Week was exceptional due in large part to our seniors. Just when their magical senior year came crashing to a halt in March with the onset of Covid-19, this class showed incredible poise and resilience even while losing their prom, senior retreat, and so many more rites of passage.
- **The Faculty and Staff of KCHS** – Words cannot adequately express how grateful I am to work with such an outstanding group of educators and professionals. Whether it is learning to teach live-streamed classes or adjusting to a completely different academic schedule, our faculty and staff have performed with grace and unbelievable determination. They are the heart and soul of our school and I am blessed to work with them!
- **Parents and Students of KCHS** – Much has changed this year as we began our school year with the hybrid learning model, but our students and parents have embraced our new requirements. Wearing face masks, practicing social distancing, and daily temperature checks have created a new normal for all students, and the support from parents and students has not gone unnoticed.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the alumni and families of KCHS for your continued prayers and support. Last year, the Irish Annual Fund, the 9th annual Green & Gold Gala, and the 33rd annual Shamrock Open golf tournament brought in over \$360,000. Additionally, we will be announcing exciting news later this year as it relates to our plans for a new performing arts auditorium expansion, so stay tuned!

In short, life is good at Knoxville Catholic, and we are grateful for your support. Our students, faculty, staff and community could not enjoy the richness of blessings without you. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families during these upcoming months.

See you soon and God bless,



Dickie Sompayrac
Dickie Sompayrac
President



Dear Friends of Knoxville Catholic:

Publishing the Annual Report is one of the school's most rewarding projects, because it gives us the opportunity to thank those that help make KCCHS one of our nation's top Catholic high schools. The Annual Fund is our largest source of unrestricted support, allowing us to continue the KCCHS tradition of excellence for more than 85 years. This Honor Roll recognizes Annual Fund donations received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Thank you to the many Knoxville Catholic High School alumni, parents, grandparents, family, and friends who have supported the school this year through the Annual Fund giving drive.

KCHS would also like to extend our most sincere gratitude to our network of supporters—boosters, event sponsors, advertisers, and others. Our dedicated school community is Knoxville Catholic's greatest asset.

Joni Punch
Director of Institutional Advancement
joni.punch@knoxvillecatholic.com
865-560-0502

EVERY *Family.* EVERY *Year*

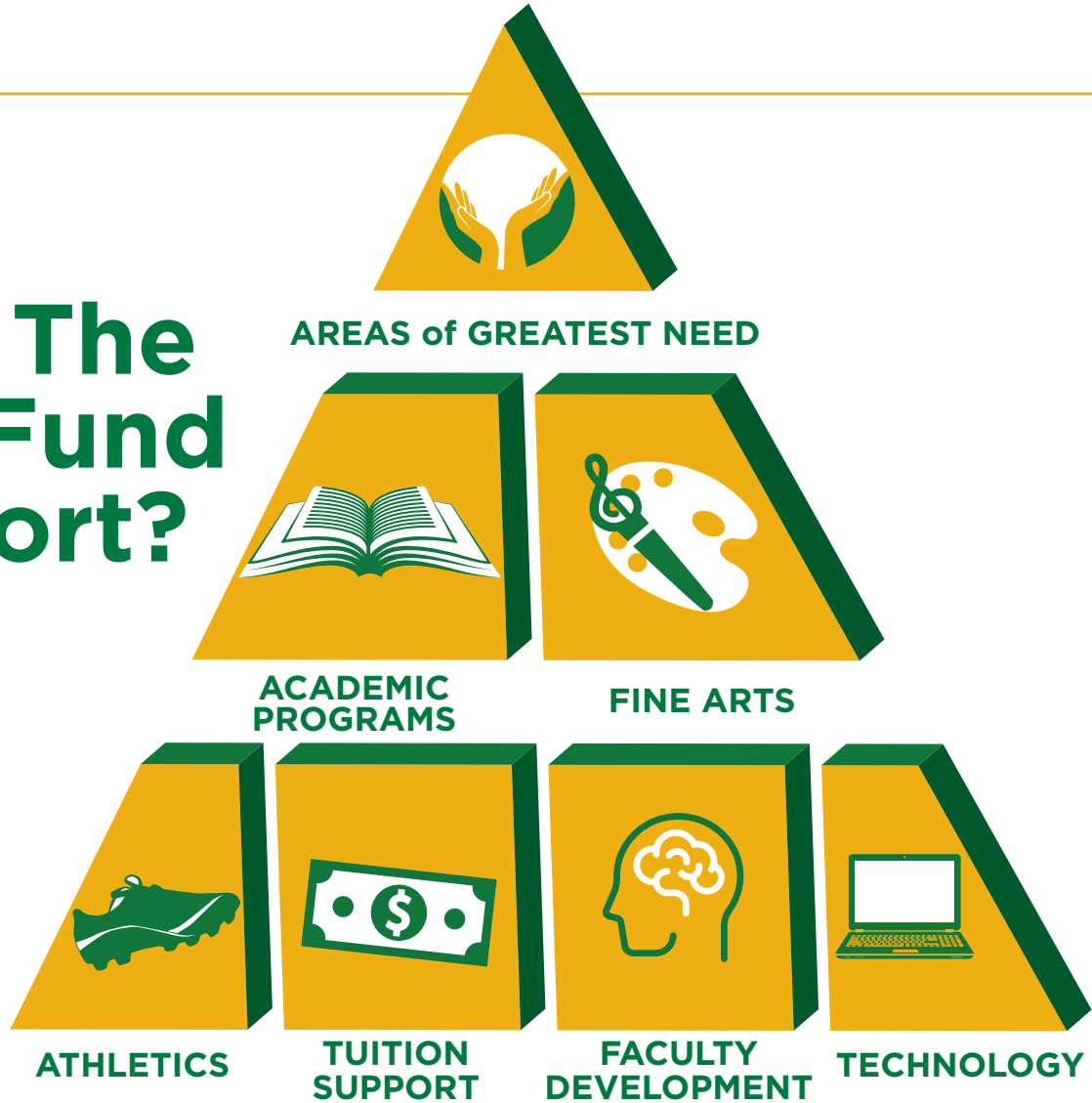
2020-2021 IRISH ANNUAL FUND

The Irish Fund is Catholic's most critical yearly fundraising effort because it covers the difference between tuition and the cost of each student's education. Our motto, "Every Family, Every Year" means just that — the support of every Catholic family is critical, and we ask that every family consider a gift to the Irish Fund! Every gift matters and makes a lasting impact on our students.

Please visit: knoxvillecatholic.com/support/



What Does The Irish Fund Support?



HONOR ROLL

GIFT INCOME

We are once again humbled by the generosity of our community during the 2019-2020 school year, giving \$1,997,710.29 to enrich the lives of our students, enhance our programs and campus, and advance the mission of Knoxville Catholic. Your support is a testament to the spirit of Knoxville Catholic, where parents, alumni, students, faculty, and friends share an ongoing commitment to Catholic education and the pursuit of excellence.

TOTAL GIFT INCOME

- Designated Gifts 82%
- Irish Annual Fund 10%
- Green & Gold Gala 6%
- Shamrock Open 2%

Thank You

TO OUR DONORS

Bishop's Council (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Mike and Carol Gray Connor '69 & '72,
in honor of Mandy Connor Welch '98,
Ryan Connor '02, Brett Connor '05,
and Patrick Connor '06

Thomas J. King, Jr.

Irish Legacy Fund (\$10,000+)

Anonymous

Brett and Jennifer Patterson

Robert '67 and Margaret Petrone

Julia Driscoll Schriver '46, in memory of

Robert H. Schriver, Jr.

St. Patrick's Guild (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Class of 2020

Alexander Ashe Bonnyman, in memory of
Isabel Ashe Bonnyman

Stephen and April Harris; Sommerville Harris '04; and
Bo and Anya Venn Harris '06 & '08

Dr. Jerry and Joni Punch

Monsignor Francis D. Grady Founder's Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Amy E. Bentley, MD, '84,
in memory of Thomas J. and
Kathryn D. Bentley

Peter and Jacque Clem, in honor of
the amazing KCHS faculty
and staff

Alvin and Mary Nelle Hicks
Connelly '60 & '61

Tom and Mindy Coulter

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Crook

James and Melinda Ethier

Randall Fisher

Dr. Angelo J. Garbarino, Jr.

William M. Gordon '53, in memory
of Lillian W. Gordon

Perry and Dawn Harbin

Ken and Tracey Harrigan

Mrs. Alison Huynh

John W. Langley, in memory of the
deceased members of the
Class of 1961

Darrell Lott

Gilbert J. Malach '53, in memory
of Rosemary Wright Malach '56

Steve and Carol Matthews

Rob and Jennie McCabe '68

Matthew and Barbara McCarty, in
honor of Laura '07, Michael '09,
and Kathryn '12

Virginia '18 and Maggie '22 Miller,
in memory of Tim W. Miller

James and Stephanie
Neuenschwander

Drs. Ed and Maria Newman, in honor
of Julia '17 and Jack '20

Jim '65 and Dorothy Petrone

Suzanne Schriver and
David Rechter

Steve and Lori Robinson, in honor
of Matt '21

Dickie and Jeni Sompayrac

Honorable Charles D. and
Carolyn K. Susano, Jr.

Jane Walker

Williams/Hazelwood Family

Craig and Katie Witsoe

Monsignor Christopher P. Murray Society (\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous

Dr. Carol Akerman, in honor of the
Cortese children: Anne '05, James
'08, John '12 and Mary '14

The Arnone Family

Charles R. Bollinger '61

Drs. Mike and Karyn Casey

Mr. and Mrs. Art '47 Clancy, Jr.

Joan Petrone Coode '68

John Croes

Jimmy and Lois Dalton

Kevin and Margie Duffy

Rudolph Escher

Dr. E. M. Fitzgerald

Msgr. G. Patrick Garrity

Roy and Virginia Gaylor

Tim and Carmen Holt

Russell and Elizabeth Huntsinger,
in honor of Harrison and
Hudson Huntsinger

Van and Ashley Jones

Matt and Suzi Judd

Fr. Albert Kirk

Joe and Melinda Kirk

James and Bonnie Larson, in memory
of Louise Larison King

Philip G. Malach '63

Greg and Melissa Mancini

Matt and Alice Mancini

Maureen McGovern, in memory
of the deceased members of the
class of 1961

Dr. William and Mary Frances Merwin

Anthony and Kimberly Orłowski

Deacon Walt and Angela Otey, in
honor of Laura Otey '12

Bryan and Ann Pabst

James and Doris Painter

Chris and Liberty Phillips

Ore and Dana Pumariega, in honor
of Cecilia '22

Beverly Roth

Terry and Susie Rowland

Diana Seaver

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Sheridan '68, in
honor of Amy (Suttles) '97, Patrick
'99, Austin '04, and Daniel '04

Frank and Tricia Southall, in honor of
Hannah '19 and Caroline '21

Douglas and Linda Spangler in honor
of Christina '10
and Jodie '23

Drs. Mihail and Marielisa Subtirelu
in memory of Miki and
Patti Subtirelu

The Honor Roll recognizes Annual Fund donations received between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.



L to R: Mrs. Melinda Kirk, Mrs. Jennifer LaMattina, Mrs. Kat Coy

Class of 2020 Honorary Giving

Never has a graduating class been called to step into the future with more purpose, vision, passion, and hope. KCHS School Counselors wanted to make an Annual Fund gift in honor of every member of the Class of 2020. We hope our newest graduates understand that this gift serves as a symbol of what it means to be a Catholic alum. *“Go out into the world and do well. But more importantly, go out into the world and do good.”* ~ Minor Meyers, Jr.

Preston Warren
Dr. Thomas G. Zarger, Jr. '66 and
Josephine Murphy Zarger '66

President's Council (\$250 to \$499)

Justin and Stacy Anderson
Gary and Wendi Arnold
Pam Beaver
Stephen '81 and Patricia Brink
Peggy Settlemeyer Brock
Jay and Catherine Bunch
Mickey and Luchy Burrell, in honor
of Carly '20 and Parker '21 Slough
Markus and Erin Chady
Tom and Michelle Clark
Karen Clements
Brandon '91 and Lisa Clevenger
Paul and Lisa Collins, in honor of
Sean '21 and Sophia '24
Steve and Kat Coy
Greg & Ann Curtain
Steve Deaton '62, in memory of
Anne McGivney Deaton
Brian and Gerry Donaldson
David '05 and Megan Locke
Erpenbach '03
Rod and Lea Ann Fields, in memory
of Mary Fields
Dr. and Mrs. Elias Haddad
Barron Hobbs, in memory of
George McCrary '61
Will Hobbs '63
Steve '72 and Debbie Howerton, in

honor of Ben '99 and Matt '01
Dr. James Kalshoven '65 and Dr.
Laura Kalshoven
Frank and Karen Kot
Steve and Karen Lorino
Joseph D. McDonald
Caleb and Miranda Moore
Debra Murray
Paul and Deborah Noe, in honor of
Matt and Sarah Noe
Dr. Chris O'Brien, DDS '67
Alan and Lisa Padgett, in honor of
Mack '14 and Maggie '20
Dr. and Mrs. Nick Pappas '68
Douglas and Jennifer Parris
Dave and Patti Pitts, in memory
of Chas, Eleanor, Judy and
Church Southern
Mary Virginia Milazzo Raviotta '70,
in memory of Virginia Milazzo
Alec and Angie Riedl '88
Amy Roberts
Lydia and Geoff Robson
Mitch and Alfie Rowan
Mike and Lynne Rucinski
The Vincent Salomone Family
Gregory and Corina Shipe
William C. Skaggs III '72, in honor of
William C. Skaggs, '40
Steve and Colette Souder, in honor
of Kathleen '03, John '04,
Mary '07, Anne '10, Dominic '15,
and Clare '18
St. Jude's Church
Maggie Fecher Stadtlander '65
Jason and Lindsey Surlas

Pat and Tammy Walden, in honor
of Ryan '08
Steve and Kathy Walker
Mr. and Mrs. William Waltman,
in honor of Henry '20 and
Elizabeth '20
Drs. Matt and Nancy Welborn
Anne Zuber

Century Club (\$100 to \$249)

Anonymous
The Albertson Family, in memory
of J. Enrique Segueda
Bob and Anne Allison, in honor of
Sister Mary Loyola Fox and
Sister Mary deLellis Allison
Katherine Andrus, in memory of
Ann Decker Greer
Bradford and Debra Asplund
Martin and Marilyn Bartling '57
Joseph Patrick Belk, in memory of
Sister Mary deLellis
Jericho and Anna Pauline Borja, in
honor of Joshua Borja '20
David A. Brink '79
Jim Brink '76
Carole Ann McGovern Busch '63, in
memory of Jim Wright '63
Daniel and Teja Cain
David and Lisa Campbell, in honor
of Courtney '11, Kerry '13,
Chrissy '16
J. Michael and Karen Carlson
John D. Carney III '77

Class of 2012, in memory of
 Kyle Moroney '12
 Paul and Jennifer Clay
 Mrs. Beth Coode, in memory of David
 A. Coode '80
 Jessica Counts
 Rick and Susan Davis '83
 John and Bobbi Despard
 Ronald DeWine, in memory of
 Harry Shehan '63
 Margaret Ann Ericson '66 in memory
 of Margaret Leahy Ericson
 John and Belinda Ford '64
 Bryan and Jeanette Fuller
 Henry and Martha Gordon
 Ward and Becky Gossett, in honor
 of the Sompayrac Boys
 Robert and Jeanne Gotcher '49
 Claus and Claudia Grill
 Kathye Smith Grizzle '67
 Kurt and Deborah Gulbrand
 Terrance Harrigan
 Terry and Janet Harrigan
 Tony and Marianne Hartman
 Dr. Carter and Kristi Haws '64
 Carol Kirk Holden '64
 Sandra Howard, in honor of
 Mrs. Margaret Meehan Vance '36
 Steve and Debbie Howerton, in honor
 of Ben '99 and Matt '02
 John and Donna Hummel, in honor
 of Rachel, Sarah and Ashley
 Watermeier
 Ryan and Leslie Hunse
 Patrick and Margaret Hurley
 Mike Hutchens
 Christopher and Hiske Jones
 Alex and Heather Kaparos
 Dr. Kelly and Kathy Kears
 John and Deborah Kelly
 Brigitte Knoll
 Jennifer LaMattina
 Jack Lambertz '64
 Michael Ledford
 Dr. Teresa Lively
 Jessica Magers-Rankin
 Dr. Michael and Regina Maggart
 Pierrette Mathes
 Joseph and Lynda McConnell
 Margaret McCulla, in memory of
 Janie Hartman
 Rob and Vickie McLean
 Herb McMillan '76
 Elizabeth McNulty
 Cathy Meckes
 Reverend Chris Michelson
 Jean Van Eynde Mitchell '52 in
 memory of Mary and
 Frank Van Eynde
 Paul and Francesca Montgomery

William and Sue Moroney, in
 memory of Kyle Moroney '12
 Wm. Roger and Debra Moroney, in
 memory of Kyle Moroney '12
 Bradley and Michelle Morrow
 Christopher and Rebecca Muth
 Knick and Stephanie Myers in honor of
 Sara '17 and Ella '22
 Dennis and Irma Mynatt
 Nikki Mynatt
 Victor Nasser and Maria Ebio
 Greg and Ann O'Connor '59
 John '84 and Jennifer O'Connor
 Tim and Ellen Vance O'Shea '77
 John and Diana Patterson
 Eric and Amanda Perry
 Jay Cee Pigg, Jr. '62
 John and Maureen Plotnicki
 Dr. and Mrs. Wilson L. Powers,
 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice
 Findley
 James and Stephanie Przygocki, in
 memory of Julius V. Przygocki
 Antonio and Lourdes Ramos
 Buddy and Becky Ray
 Robert P. Rentenbach
 Brian and Pam Rhoades, in honor of
 Austen '15 and Aerin '18
 Amy Roberts
 Alice Williamson Rotar '74
 Elizabeth Salsbery
 James Scholtz
 Bryan and Katie Cook Schreiber '99
 Rosalind Schroeder
 The Schukman Family
 Deacon and Mrs. Gary Sega, in
 memory of Drew Sega '98
 Frank and Kathleen Shields '69
 LTC Thomas A. Simcox '56

M. Karen Tranter and Gregory R.
 Sommers, in honor of Joshua T.
 Sommers '15
 Paula De La Torre Ugarte Stand '05
 Wayne and Eunice Jardt Stearns '63
 Art and Kelly Stephenson, in honor of
 H. Macklin Stephenson '18
 Paula Legendre Stop '88
 Tim and Hona Stovall '03
 Tommy Susano, in memory of
 Liz Susano, '60
 Germaine Maeyens Tackett '56
 Lee and Meg Tramel, in honor of
 Casey '20
 Dr. Mallory Trevino '03
 David and Anne Valone, in honor of
 Marianne "Kit" Valone '10
 Philip Vance '81
 Mario and Katya Vela
 Kris and Holly White
 George and Andrea Wignall
 Broderick and Heather Young

Cornerstone Club (up to \$100)

Anonymous
 Bettye S. Allen in memory of Patricia
 Ann Henle '51
 Jorge and Diane Amet
 Mr. and Mrs. John R. D'Araujo, Jr. in
 honor of Melinda Taylor '16
 Leslie Bazzoon
 John and Tanya Belanger
 Robert and Lisa Beldyk
 Parker Bohn
 Anthony and Kristi Burkhardt
 Doug and Tina Caiazza
 Andrew and Mariola Cieslik

Class of '53 establishes Mgr. Thoni Scholarship



Ordained in 1949, Monsignor Thoni had assignments in parishes and schools across Tennessee for more than six decades. From 1952-56, he was a teacher, basketball coach, and athletic director at KCHS. In 1967, Fr. Thoni began his military career as a chaplain in the United States Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1989, having won the Bronze Star and a Commendation Medal. KCHS has greatly benefited from his many financial contributions. Already a generous donor to the school's annual fund and expansion efforts, in 1999 he began donating his entire pay as a priest to the school. The Mgr. Thoni Scholarship will provide tuition support to many future Catholic families in need.

James and Lori Clark
 Mrs. Helen Mabry Connor '45
 Charles M. Craig '65
 Bill and Julie Crenshaw
 Gerald and Donna Cress
 Colin and Virginia Daley
 Christopher and Kristi Davis
 Michael Drake
 Dr. and Mrs. Michael de Boer
 Chantel Deichert
 Bill and Marilyn Derbyshire
 Paul T. Dunn III '80
 Sandra Estridge
 James and Lynne Farmer
 Michael and Amy Fitzgerald, in honor
 of Michael Fitzgerald Jr. '15
 Elizabeth Ford, in honor of
 Megan Erpenbach
 Przemek and Kasia Golec
 George and Angela Goodwyn
 Pam Gray
 Daniel and Susan Griffey
 Robert and Linda Hancock
 Deborah Hand
 Long Hoang and Hoe Pham
 John and Kelly Jancek
 Robert and Cleo Joseph
 Thomas and Kelly Kollie
 Luiz and Ingrid Lima
 Kim Buchanan Litton '73
 Barbara McCarthy McCooe '49, in
 memory of Bill McCarthy

Karen and Tim McCulla, in memory
 of Martha Jane Hartman
 Matthew and Krista McGrath
 Rob McLean
 John and Kathleen Mesmer
 Tory Milazzo, '67
 Joseph and Ciarla Molino
 Joseph and Rebecca Moyer
 James Narramore
 Frank and Kelly Nystrom
 Tom and Brandi Oliver
 Michael and Jennifer Orillion
 Sister Albertine (Mary) Paulus, RSM
 '47 in memory of Jim Paulus '50
 Brant Parkhill and Felicia Slattery
 John Presley '55, in memory of
 Xavier Mankel '53
 John and Cheryl Priano
 Bob and Carol Rhinehart
 Aerin Rhoades '18
 Austen Rhoades '15
 Mark and Maria Rivera
 Ian Salsbery
 Lisa Shipley
 Mr. and Mrs. David Skov
 Anthony and Jennifer Spezia
 Holly Stobb
 Randel and Patricia Summers
 Garrett and Kathy Swartwood
 Angela Thomas
 Tony Thompson
 David Thorton

Gregg and Christy Connor Watkins '89
 Tiffany Weddle
 Elizabeth Harrell Weissmueller
 Sylvia Whaley
 Mrs. George N. Willard
 Fletcher Williams
 Julie Yager

Scholarships

Thank you to those that contributed to the following Memorial Scholarships, allowing them to grow and provide a lasting legacy:

Dinwiddie McCollum Scholarship
 Monsignor Philip F. Thoni Memorial Scholarship
 George N. Willard '46 Memorial Scholarship

Memorials

Thank you to those that contributed this school year in memory of the following departed members of the KCHS community:

James Blackwell
 Sue Cox
 Mary Fields
 Rachel McCollum
 Carlyle Michelson
 George "Joey" Seaver Jr.
 Keith Slattery

CREATE A LEGACY

When you are ready to think about a gift to Knoxville Catholic that will last beyond your lifetime, we are ready to help you plan it. Catholic's future strength and well-being depends in great measure upon the generosity of families such as yours, through planned gifts. With a planned gift to Knoxville Catholic, you can create a lasting legacy in your name. Give a gift that will Go Beyond your lifetime and help students at Catholic continue to reach new heights. If you would like to make a planned gift to Knoxville Catholic or discuss your options, please contact the Director of Institutional Advancement at 865-560-0502.



THANK YOU!

Your support is a testament to the spirit of Knoxville Catholic, where parents, alumni, grandparents, students, faculty, staff and friends share an ongoing commitment to Catholic education and the pursuit of excellence.

This report honors the individuals who made cash contributions to Knoxville Catholic between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. If your gift was omitted or improperly recognized, please accept our sincere apology. If you do notice such an oversight, please contact the Advancement office at 865-560-0502 so that we may correct our records.

TEACHING and LEARNING in a Pandemic.

by Liberty Phillips, Teacher and Technology Integrator

“Teachers have it so easy; I mean they do get all summer off.” While that statement is never true – insert professional development, lesson planning, working a second job to supplement the salary that a teacher makes because they love teaching– it has been especially false this past summer as our teachers, administrators, and school staff in general have worked diligently to make literally (the actual definition) hundreds of decisions in order to make sure they have given due diligence to deciding what is best for our students, school and community.

“This is hard, there is no perfect solution, schedule, block rotation, regulation. Teaching and learning is different.”

As the spring school closures started, teachers and students (I have two of them at my house) were kind of excited at the idea of an elongated spring break. That first week, it was awesome to get up and drink my coffee leisurely at my dining room table, while I recorded lessons for my students. My kids relished the extra sleep, and the family time was amazing. Fast forward two weeks, and we all felt the absence of our school community. Longing for our missed routines, friends, and random smiles in the hallway, it was hard, but we had summer to look forward to.

Then came summer, but not the summer I am used to. It too was filled with missed moments; however, it created space to reflect and relax. With constant looking forward, I spent time with my colleagues preparing for the worst case scenario with research on the best delivery methods, and planning optional summer sessions to help prepare teachers for live streaming, and alternative assessments that would be more practical for a hybrid or online learning environment. We prayed that it wouldn't be necessary; by August things will “be back to normal.” Sadly, August has come and gone, and it is anything but normal.

Only seeing half of my students at a time, and not being able to hug them hello, or share sweets on Fridays with them has



Mrs. Phillips teaches at-home and in-person learners simultaneously.

dramatically changed my world; not to mention how it is changing the way students feel and connect. I teach because I love kids, because I want to care for them, because I want to help them grow and develop; I'm still teaching because of that, but it is so much harder without spending time with them every day, without being able to see their facial expressions, so I can offer help when I can tell they need it, but they are too nervous to ask.

My own children who are high achieving students, struggle with keeping track of assignments. What is due when and how? Is tomorrow an A-K day, what blocks meet? Was I supposed to turn that in online? Or does my class meet, so I should turn it in in person? It has changed the way they organize, strategize, and most importantly connect with their teachers and classmates. There are new students, that they have never met because their last name is in a different part of the alphabet. This is hard for them because they love the KCHS school community. They love knowing almost everyone's name; without a face, they are just a name. They will survive, but they long to return to normal.

The bottom line is grace! We need to show each other the grace that God shows us. This is hard, there is no perfect solution, schedule, block rotation, regulation. Teaching and learning is different, and it is hard; but I wouldn't want to do it anywhere else—for myself, or my children.



Communications Director Pam Rhoades trains history teacher Phil Petree on using SWIVL technology to live-stream classes.



Congratulations, Class of 2020, you made history!

The Knoxville Catholic Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony was unlike any other in the school's 88-year history. When the Covid-19 pandemic pushed graduation from the morning of May 16 to the evening of June 19, graduates, for the first time, received their diplomas 'under the lights' at Blaine Stadium.

Socially-distanced attendees listened as KCHS President Dickie Sompayrac spoke of the historical significance of the ceremony. "Eighteen years ago, you entered this world as beautiful miracles at a time when our country was dealing with the devastation of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Now as you prepare to enter adulthood, you are dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. You are also going into a world and nation that is bitterly divided with a climate of racial distrust and injustice. You will be connected by history, and how fitting it is that you will be the ones to determine the next few chapters." He added, "How appropriate today, June 19, we celebrate the 155th anniversary of the effective end of slavery in our country. Yes, black lives matter. If you leave Knoxville Catholic having learned only

one thing, it would be that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. God does not favor one man over another, and our Catechism of the Catholic Church spells this out: 'The equality of men rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it. Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design' [n. 1935]. That is our challenge and our calling, and that is the challenge of the Class of 2020."



Katie Holt



Davis Clem

CLASS OF 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



100%
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

3.59 | **25**
AVG. GPA | AVG. ACT

\$14.2M
total amount of scholarships
and grants

13 Academic Merit
Scholarships covering
all tuition/fees



Hoops Kings

On March 7, 2020 the Fighting Irish took down favored Memphis Briarcrest, 50-47 to win the TSSAA Division II AA championship title game, earning Knoxville Catholic's first state basketball championship in school history. And, it almost didn't happen... as it turned out, the title came just under the wire with the other division championships canceled the following day over COVID-19 concerns. Then in May, Chairman Martin Daniel (State of TN House Representative) presented Knoxville Catholic High School Head Basketball Coach Michael Hutchens with House Resolution 268 to honor and congratulate the team upon winning the 2020 TSSAA Division II Class AA State Championship.



Pictured L to R: Representative Martin Daniel, Allaynah Scott (Team Manager), Associate Head Coach Tony Scott, B.J. Edwards (Tournament MVP), Head Coach Michael Hutchens, Athletic Director Jason Surlas, Assistant Coach Geraud Hall.



Opening Day

On March 10, 2020, Knoxville Catholic baseball opened the season against Lakeview Christian Academy, in one of only two games the team played before the Covid-19 quarantine began. Bishop Richard F. Stika, a life

long baseball fan, attended the game and blessed the athletes and new season prior to the first pitch. KCHS President Dickie Sompayrac, Head Coach Caleb Moore and the entire team also presented Bishop with a custom Catholic baseball jersey.

Senior Send-Off

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 seniors paraded through campus on what would have been their last day at KCHS. At 6 p.m. on May 6, students lined up their cars, decked out in streamers and balloons, to drive through campus one final time. They were congratulated by students, teachers, parents and families who lined the route in what turned out to be an emotional event and perhaps a new tradition!



Little Women - The Musical



Originally slated for March 27-29, KCHS Theatre Co. Director, Ms. Jessica Magers-Rankin, came up with a creative way for the canceled shows to still go on. In an abbreviated, masked and socially-distanced KCHS production, the cast, crew and musicians pulled off an outdoor musical, live on the front porch of the historic Mabry-Hazen House just outside downtown Knoxville. The two sold-out performances (only 50 patrons per show) were held on July 17 and 18.

CATHOLIC BY THE NUMBERS

19-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Total Enrollment: 644

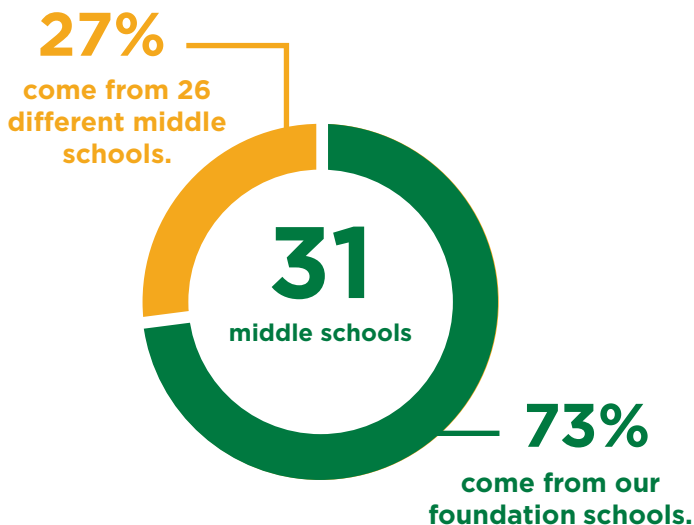
FRESHMEN	SOPHOMORES	JUNIORS	SENIORS
179	160	153	152

20-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Total Enrollment: 646

FRESHMEN	SOPHOMORES	JUNIORS	SENIORS
177	165	155	149

CLASS OF 2024



76% Catholic



24% Non-Catholic



RELIGION

HEAVEN PREP SCHOOL



The one thing that sets Knoxville Catholic High School apart from other secondary schools in the area is our Catholic Faith. Everything in our school life is focused on helping our students have eternal life. While many of our students are College Bound, more importantly, we help them become Heaven Bound!

In 2020, Catholic High welcomed new school chaplain Fr. Christopher Floersh, KCHS

Class of 2002. Every first Friday of the month, Fr. Floersh exposes the Blessed Sacrament in the Holy Trinity Chapel so all may have the opportunity to pray before our Lord throughout the school day. He also hears confessions in the chapel sacristy on these days. He is excited for the “grace-filled opportunity he has been given by God to support students in their path of self-discovery and to help raise them to be living Saints.”

Religion Department Chair, Mr. Jared Kimutis, is in his tenth year of teaching and is excited to welcome four new religion teachers. Sister Madeline Rose Kraemer, O.P. is a Dominican sister and comes to us from Nashville and Memphis Catholic schools. Mr. Jeff Baker is a recent convert to the faith and is a former Anglican Priest with a wealth of experience in ministry. Mr. Casey O’Neal is also a convert to Catholicism and is a former FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary. Finally, Mr. Dominic Price is a cradle Catholic from Georgia and has spent the past six years as a FOCUS missionary.

Please pray for each of our teachers and know of their continued prayers for students, families and the extended KCHS community every day!



L to R: Sr. Madeline Kraemer, Jeff Baker, Casey O’Neal, Dominic Price, and Jared Kimutis

LETTERS OF HOPE

by An Doan, Marisa McMichael, Fatima Arias-Santiago



Communication is essential, and humans are built on the basis of social interaction, but the pandemic has separated us. Elders in nursing homes are normally lonely, but they are especially in need of a friend during these trying times. So, we created Letters of Hope in March of 2020 to reach out and talk to them by being pen pals. Letters of Hope is a student-led initiative aimed at spreading positivity during this pandemic. We, An Doan, Fatima Arias-Santiago, and Marisa McMichael at Knoxville Catholic High School, wanted to help the elderly in the Knoxville community who are being deeply affected by the pandemic.

Being a pen pal has so many benefits – you will hear interesting stories, learn life lessons, and become connected. You will have a new friend!

“During these times, positivity is really important because it helps people navigate through stress and helps them overcome challenges.”

Anyone can participate by writing letters from home! The recipients are filled with so much joy when they are contacted. Each student or volunteer is assigned to a resident and becomes a pen pal to them during this difficult time. We are aware that residents are getting limited visitors, so we write letters to remind them that they are in our thoughts. With the intention of making them feel more self-assured, we send multiple letters back and forth. We have assigned a pen pal to every resident at both Morning Pointe of Knoxville and Island Home Park Health and Rehab. We’ve also sent letters to additional elderly homes in our community. Currently, we have had more than 70 volunteers signed up to be pen pals, both locally and internationally, ranging from Australia, Canada, Ho Chi Minh City, Philippines, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, South Dakota, Michigan, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

While maintaining social distancing, volunteers gather to decorate poster boards with drawings of inspirational quotes and hang them at senior living communities. Island Home Park Health and Rehab, Morning Pointe of Knoxville, Deane Hill Place, and Sherrill Hills Retirement Resort are a few of our destinations so far.

Stay in Touch or Get Involved

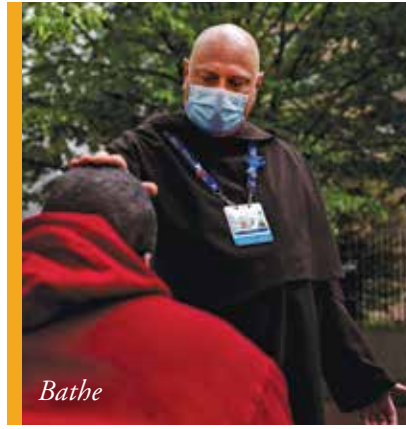
Follow us on Twitter – @LettersofHope2 and on Instagram – @knox.lettersofhope. Anyone can sign up to be a pen pal, or volunteer to make signs by contacting us at knox.lettersofhope@gmail.com. Thank you!



ALUMNI NEWS

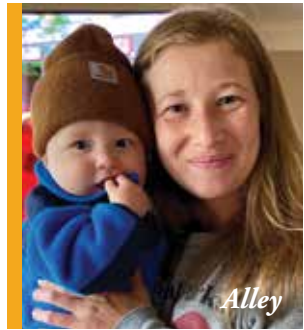


SAMANTHA WHITNEY TEIXEIRA '07 daughter Alice celebrated her first birthday on April 18, 2020. Samantha and her family live in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA where she is a librarian for Gloucester Public Schools.



BROTHER ROBERT BATHE '86, is a Roman Catholic chaplain and bereavement coordinator at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan. He was on the COVID-19 frontlines and was featured in an article in the Washington Post on May 14, 2020. Photo credit: Demetrius Freeman.

BO HARRIS '06 was named the 2019 recipient of the Harvey Penick Trophy for Excellence in Golf Teaching. This award recognizes his service to the golf community, accomplishments as a teacher, and his support of the USGTF. Bo resides in Knoxville with his wife **ANYA '08** and son George.

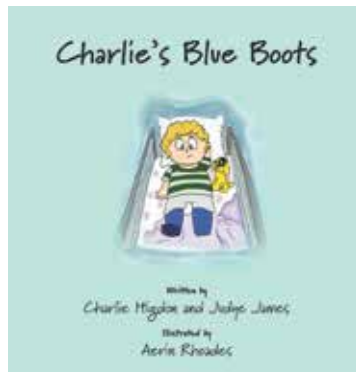


ANNE CORTESE ALLEY '05 welcomed John Augustus Alley on Oct. 6, 2019. Anne and her husband reside in Knoxville, TN.



CHARLIE HIGDON '15 and **AERIN RHOADES '18** recently wrote and illustrated the children's book, "Charlie's Blue Boots." Being a Little Person has many challenges, but "Charlie's Blue Boots" helps children understand that Little People can overcome difficulties and find happiness just by being themselves. The book is available at Amazon.com.

SONIA JACSON SUMMERS '03 is a chalk artist who celebrated the Class of 2020 with a congratulatory design during the quarantine.



WILL HUNSE '16, graduated from Virginia Military Institute on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020. He was commissioned into the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant by Colonel Brett Turner. Parents – Ryan and Leslie Hunse and sister Caroline.



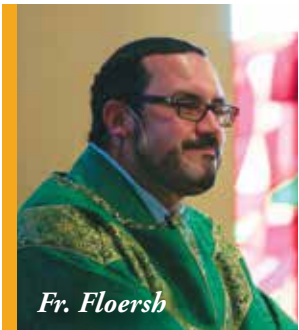
Abby Bower with Dolly Parton

ABBY BOWER '15, second from the left, interviewed Dolly Parton at Library of Congress in DC for the Land Grant Films production of *“The House that Dolly Built.”* She graduated from UTK in May 2019 and is now a science writer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.



Heffernen

DR. ANNE HEFFERNEN '03 has published the non-fiction book, *Limpopo's Legacy: Students & Democracy in South Africa* (Boydell & Brewer, 2019). She is an Assistant Professor (Southern African History) in the Department of History at Durham University in the United Kingdom.



Fr. Floersh

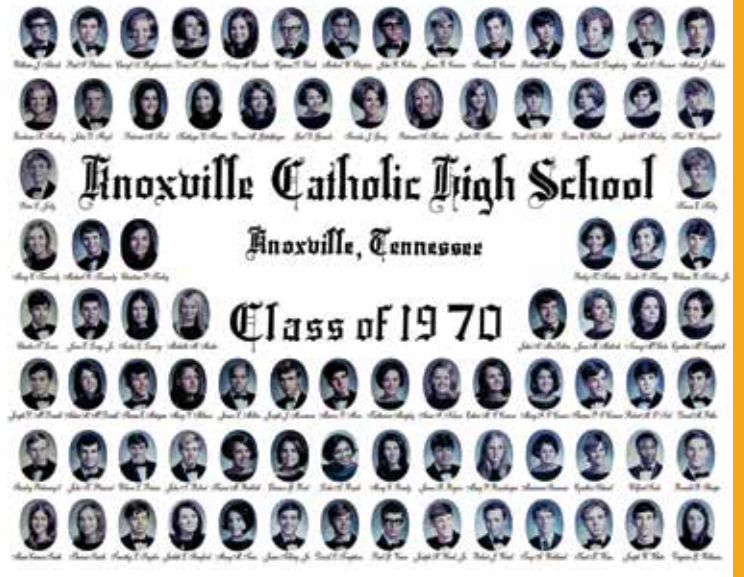


Williamson



Mesmer

FR. CHRISTOPHER FLOERSH '02, CAROLYN WILLIAMSON '12 and HAILEY MESMER '16 have joined the faculty as School Chaplain, Health and Nutrition teacher, and Math teacher respectively. Welcome back to Knoxville Catholic!

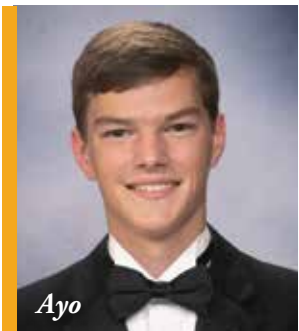


Class of 1970: 30th

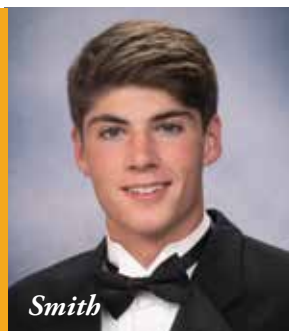
The Class of 1970 has rescheduled their reunion to 2021. Please reach out to Bo Connor for more information: bconnor@connorconcepts.com.

CURRENT NEWS

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS



Ayo



Smith



Knoxville Catholic is proud to announce National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists, Peter Ayo and Riley Smith. Out of the 1.5 million juniors nationwide who took the PSAT test last fall, only 16,000 qualify as semifinalists. Smith and Ayo, both seniors, now have an opportunity to compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

Congratulations, Peter and Riley!



Josh Turbyville '91 accepts the Irish Legend award from Megan Locke Erpenbach '03.


SHAMROCK OPEN

Knoxville Catholic celebrates alumni, friends and community partners each year at the Shamrock Open golf tournament. The 34th annual event was originally scheduled for Friday, June 5, but was pushed to Friday, Sept. 11 due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over 45 teams of golfers and over 55 sponsors jumped on board for the new date and a beautiful fall day on the links of Avalon Country Club.




This year, the Shamrock Open raised over \$50,000, which will go toward supporting Catholic High families impacted financially by Covid-19.

Additionally, in Knoxville Catholic's ongoing effort to recognize those who have made countless contributions of time, talent and treasure to our community, we honor "Irish Legends." This year's Shamrock Open "Irish Legend" is Josh Turbyville, Class of 1991. Josh has been on the Shamrock Open planning committee for twelve years and also supports the Green & Gold Gala as well as athletics. Thanks to Josh for his unwavering support and dedication to Knoxville Catholic!



**DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**



2020 RAFFLE

16 CASH PRIZES!

2 - \$5,000 2 - \$2,500 12 - \$1,000

\$10 PER RAFFLE TICKET

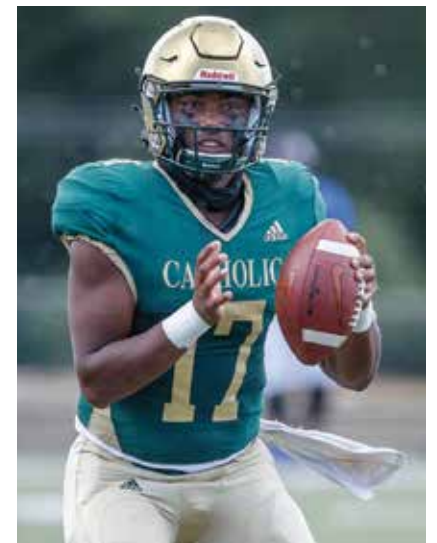
Sales are now open for the 2020 Catholic Schools Raffle with chances to win 16 cash prizes! Two \$5,000 winners, two \$2,500 winners and twelve \$1,000 winners. \$6.50 of each ticket sold goes directly to Knoxville Catholic, with the remaining proceeds (after expenses) going to support the regional Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance Fund to help qualifying families. Raffle tickets will be sold until Dec. 29, 2020. All winners will be notified by phone and in writing immediately following the drawing on Jan. 11, 2021. **Buy tickets online:** knoxvillecatholic.com/raffle/.

All winners will be notified by phone and in-writing immediately following the drawing on Jan. 11, 2021. Thanks for supporting Catholic High!



KCHS ON ESPN

The Fighting Irish hosted Trinity Christian (TX) on Saturday, Aug. 29 and was broadcast live globally on ESPN as part of the Geico ESPN High School Kickoff series. Trinity Christian has won three straight state titles under Offensive Coordinator and Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders and his son, senior QB Shedeur Sanders, who is the No. 40 ranked player in the nation (FAU commit). Knoxville Catholic featured QB Kaden Martin, the No. 297 player in the junior class. He is the son of Tee Martin, former Vols star QB and current University of Tennessee assistant head coach. In a hard fought match-up, the Tigers prevailed 49-14 over the Irish.





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KCHS Theatre Company
Drive-In Theatre

A PLAY FOR ANYONE WHO HAS NEVER BEEN DESTINED TO SAVE THE WORLD

October 9 | 7PM
October 10 | 2PM
October 10 | 7PM
October 11 | 5PM

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