

CM

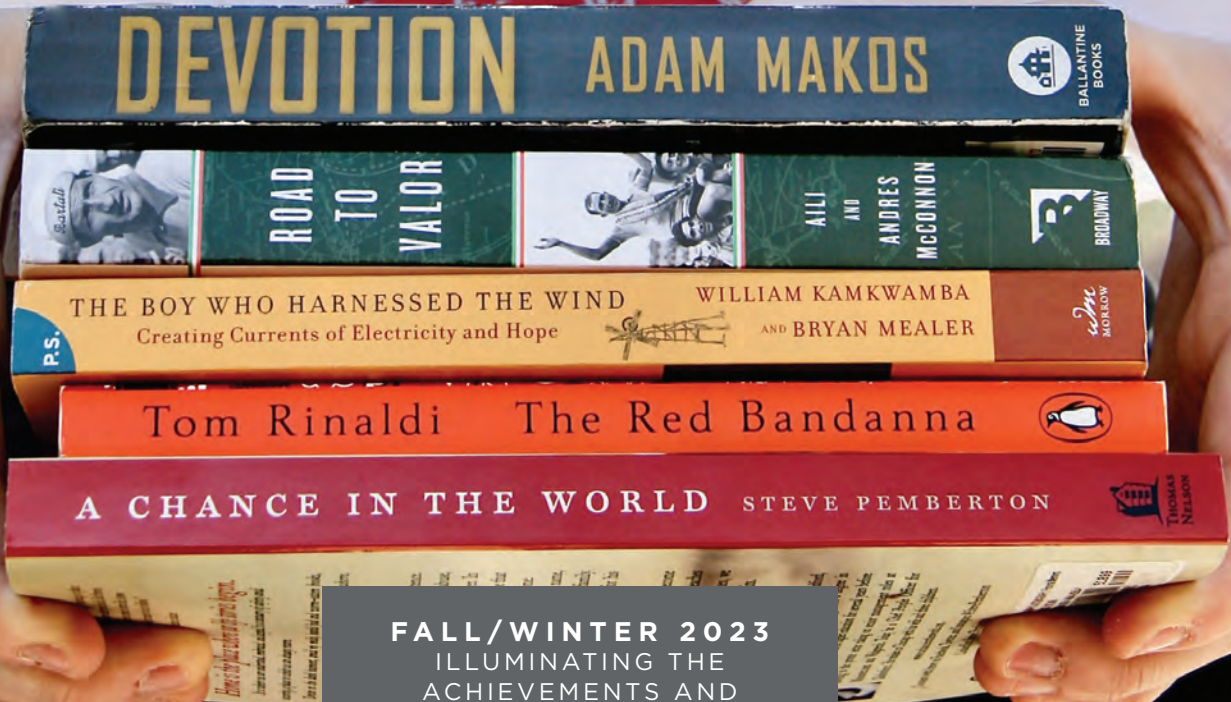
M A G A Z I N E

**THE
SUMMER READ**
MORE THAN A BOOK

BUILT FOR BOYS
A NEW SCHEDULE MEANS THAT
FUN AND GAMES ARE IN PLAY

CHARACTER MATTERS:
A CM ALUM WHO
GIVES BACK TO
BOSTON'S PRIESTS

BEYOND CM:
EXPERIENCING COLLEGE
IN 3 UNIQUE WAYS



FALL/WINTER 2023
ILLUMINATING THE
ACHIEVEMENTS AND
MISSION OF
CATHOLIC MEMORIAL

CONTENTS

FALL/WINTER 2023

Through engaged students, devoted faculty, and forward-thinking alumni, friends, and partner organizations, *CM Magazine* proudly affirms the advancement of education and community through intelligence, character, and the mission of Blessed Edmund Rice.

14

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Seniors Brandon Sullivan and Guerby Lambert will graduate as part of CM's most dominant offensive line in its history. Along the way, they formed a friendship this is built to last.



REFLECTION TO PERSPECTIVE

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

As published in the *Boston Herald* on new year's day.



16

BUILT FOR BOYS

A schedule that allows students to better relate to one another, see their teachers in a different light, and learn about non-curricular subjects? Yeah, we've got one of those.



Everyone needs role models and to be inspired and aspire towards something greater. Before the Army-Navy game at a leadership symposium hosted by the National Medal of Honor Leadership and Education Center, a group of Catholic Memorial seniors and I found all three.

The event showcased esteemed New England Medal of Honor recipients, Thomas Kelley and Ryan Pitts, as well as Rear Admiral Tom Lynch. The distinguished panelists shared the values and virtues they relied upon in the most challenging of moments. They highlighted the importance of being authentic, having integrity, embracing hard work, and the importance of devoting oneself to others. Their humility, courage, patriotism, and selflessness inspired all in attendance.

Meeting a Medal of Honor recipient is an honor of a lifetime. In 2021, our school hosted Lt. Brian Thacker, one of the 67 living Medal of Honor recipients, to share his courageous story. In 2023, Adam Makos's *Devotion* was our all-school summer read. The book chronicles the lives of the Distinguished Flying Cross recipient and the first African American carrier pilot Jesse Brown and Fall River's Medal of Honor recipient Captain Thomas Hudner Jr. Hudner's selfless decision to force-land his Corsair to try and save his wingman's life is the ultimate story of courage and sacrifice; one that cannot be retold enough.

Brown, Hudner, Thacker, Kelley, Pitts, and veterans of many wars have sacrificed for causes greater than themselves. Meeting heroes, like these men, and hearing their stories has inspired our entire school community and provided us with incredible role models, who personify service over self. Role models like these inspire us to be more and to do more. They remind us that nothing worthwhile comes easily, and that anything of value requires sacrifice: *the greater the sacrifice, the greater the reward.*

For most of us, the sacrifices we make in our lives will not come in moments of great fanfare or with any recognition. Instead, the sacrifices we make are most often small acts of giving that build upon themselves, making us better human beings. If we give away a little of ourselves each day, the habit will become part of us and change us and our communities for the better.

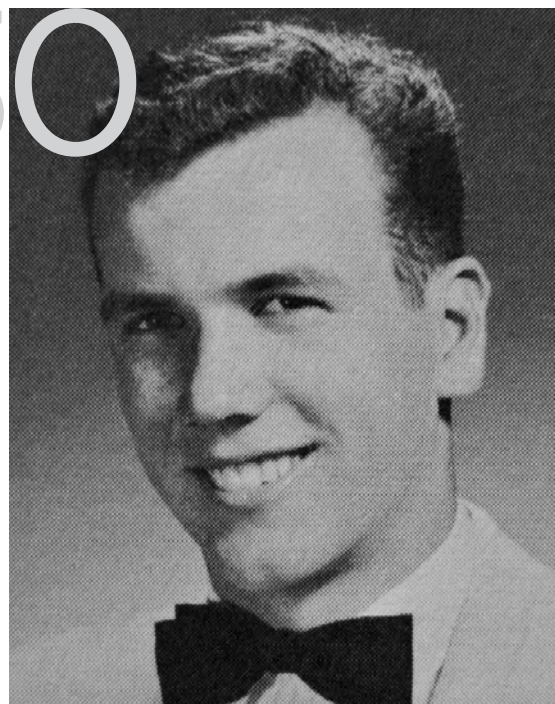
During this new year, intentionally seek out stories of valor and selflessness. Search for role models who face their fears and achieve something greater through personal sacrifice. By learning from these heroes and their stories, we can embrace the inherent values within them and recognize our responsibilities and our potential. These are resolutions that we should all aspire towards in 2024.

- Dr. Peter Folan, President

FULL CIRCLE

Jack Cleary '64 was a local boy from West Roxbury who was lucky enough to attend CM. By the time he returned in 1986, he was leading CM's first Board of Directors in making some bold decisions for the future.

30



32

BEYOND CM

How goes it at Yale? What's happening at Macalester College? Is life good at Holy Cross? Three CM alumni shed a little light on their new lives at college.

To see the 2022-23 CM Annual Report, please go to www.catholicmemorial.org/give/annual-reports

HARD FACTS AND GOSPEL TRUTHS



TOTAL WEIGHT OF CANDY RAISED BY THE CLASS OF 2027 FOR THE TREATS FOR TROOPS CANDY DRIVE

\$280,000 IN **23 YEARS**

CM PLACED FIRST IN THE BOSTON MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER 2022 HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE



NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE WINS CM FOOTBALL HAS AGAINST BC HIGH IN THE THANKSGIVING "PUMPKIN TROPHY" GAME

THE PREVIOUS STREAK OF 5 WAS FROM 1971 TO 1975

6

500

STUDENTS WHO HAVE GONE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY RETREATS SINCE THE START OF SCHOOL



846

NUMBER OF SCHOOL CAFETERIA CHEESEBURGERS STUDENTS HAVE CONSUMED SINCE SEPTEMBER

BAKER STREET NEWS

SEPTEMBER

As is tradition, we started the year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit with **Auxillary Bishop Robert Reed**, where our seniors received their Christian Brothers necklaces. The jewelry serves as a reminder of their obligation to leadership and service.

A select group of members of the **Speech & Debate team** participated in the highly competitive *Yale Invitational*. The team finished in eighth place, its best ever showing at the event.

OCTOBER

New England Patriots legend, **Devin McCourty** visited football practice and delivered a message about the importance of great character, good leadership, and hard work.

The 61st annual *Catholic Memorial Invitational* hosted more than 1,000 cross country runners across seven races at Franklin Park. It was the largest CMI of all time.

Thomas Grady '25, Brendan Mukherjee '25, and **Ansen Smith '25** attended the 2023 *Edmund Rice Christian Brothers ACTION Leadership and Advocacy Workshop* in New Jersey. At the conference, they learned skills designed to help them grow as advocacy leaders.

We hosted **Thomas Hudner III**, the son of **Thomas Hudner, Jr.** one of the subjects of our summer read, *Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice*. Along with Hudner was **Commander Cameron A. Ingram**, the Captain of the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116), and CM alum and veteran of the United States Navy, **Mr. Tom Hennessey '66**.

We held a funeral Mass for **US Army Veteran, Roberto Enrique Espejo**, who passed away with no living friends or family.

The Class of 2027 held a post-Halloween candy drive and collected nearly a dozen grocery bags of candy that were donated to VA hospitals, U.S. military bases, and guard and reserve units.

NOVEMBER

The fall drama was Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, starring **Paul Mahoney '25** as Macbeth, **Chris Boensel '24** as Macduff, **Michael Clinton '24** as Banquo, and **Thomas Mahoney '27** as Malcolm.

At our fall blood drive for the American Red Cross, we donated enough blood to save 65 people's lives.

We hosted our annual *Model UN* Conference with **Ursuline Academy**. The event included 15 schools and over 200 participants.

CM's annual Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the parishioners of *Saint Patrick's Church* in Roxbury, donated enough food to make Thanksgiving dinners for 75 families.

During the annual Movember speaker series, students and faculty heard from **Associate Director of Admissions, Christian Pagan** and **math teacher, Keith Kennedy** who spoke about their personal challenges and the importance of men's mental health awareness. **Matthew Tobin '24** became the first student to ever speak at the event.

DECEMBER

Agape Latte returned with social studies teacher **Neal Noonan**, a former Marine and State Police Trooper, speaking about his life of service and vocation.

This year's Christmas concert also marked the first appearance since COVID of the entire middle school class performing a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* and a rendition of *All I Want For Christmas is You*.

The annual Christmas toy drive brought holiday joy to the boys and girls of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy.

CM hosted hockey teams Delbarton of New Jersey, Notre Dame of Connecticut, and Bishop Feehan as part of the William Hanson Invitational Tournament of Champions.



Not By The Book

SUMMER READING AT CATHOLIC MEMORIAL MEANS MORE THAN JUST SAND BETWEEN THE PAGES. IT BRINGS LIFE TO THE SCHOOL'S MISSION BEFORE THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND BEYOND.

“The theme of the all-school read is a theme for the entire year, not just a theme for September first,” says Al Murphy, associate director of admissions. Sat beyond a desk arrayed with novels, each with their own dog-eared corners and colored page markers sticking out, is Murphy, fresh out of an interview with a family curious about joining CM. “The way our program builds out actions and activities from the book tells families who we are,” he says. The books read each summer by students, faculty, and parents alike are not simply

picked up, put down, and forgotten. Instead, they are the beginning of an exploration into themes across curriculums, conversations with authors and characters, and a call to action for each of their readers.

“We all remember summer reading experiences that felt like checking a box,” says another member of the Admissions office and Assistant Head of School, Brian Palm. “You read the book, maybe you answered a question or two on the first day of school, and then it was done. That makes a student

feel like, even though they just invested a fair amount of time over the course of the summer, the school didn’t place the same amount of value on the book as the time they just put in,” he adds.

Conversely, readers at CM receive a considerable return on investment. No book ends with a single assignment, rather each lays a foundation to build upon throughout an academic year. Each book is selected intentionally based upon how its themes can be reinforced across CM’s diverse range of experiences.

Devotion by Adam Makos

“I’m often asked the question, ‘Why doesn’t every school do this?’”

—Assistant Head of School & Head of the Middle School, Brian Palm.



(Left) The captain of the USS Hudner, Commander Cam Ingram delivers a speech to students. Thomas Hudner Jr. displays his father's Medal of Honor.

tells the true story of Navy Wingman Thomas Hudner Jr. and his heroic, attempted rescue of squadron mate Jesse Brown. Brown, a hero in his own right, overcame racial injustice to become the US Navy's first black pilot. Hudner risked his life in an attempt to save Brown after being shot down in the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. "The ideals of sacrifice and camaraderie in *Devotion* are already part of our mission; the book allows us a real example to teach from," says Palm.

During the 2023-24 school year, *Devotion* has been expanded upon in a number of ways. Theology classes use Hudner's example of sacrifice to talk about service to others

in the Catholic tradition. History classes use Brown's story to facilitate Socratic seminars about race relations. Middle school engineering classes explore the mechanics of airplanes while math classes solve equations about gravitational force and wingspans.

"Teaching character requires one to link the head and the heart," says the President of the school, Dr. Peter Folan. "I believe the best way to do that is by having students read something that then becomes fully integrated into their lives."

Perhaps the most impactful integration comes when a person affiliated with the book

pays a visit. In the case of *Devotion*, Thomas Hudner III, the protagonist's son, arrived with his father's Medal of Honor in-hand, accompanied by Commanding Officer Cam Ingram of the USS Thomas Hudner, a Navy destroyer ship currently deployed off the coast of Israel.

Hudner told tales of his father both as a hero and as a man. He reminded students that anyone can be extraordinary and that everyone in the auditorium was capable of taking part in similar stories in their own lives. After which, Cmdr. Ingram described the formidable firepower of the USS Thomas Hudner and the pinpoint accuracy of its missile systems. To describe the

student applause as thunderous would be an understatement. "Hearing these stories reinforced by the people who experienced them allows our boys to see that real people can do amazing things," says Folan.

When the CM community read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* in the summer of 2021, author William Kamkwamba brought his story of ingenuity and adaptability to life when he visited the school in November of that year. Kamkwamba's speech spotlighted the realities of poverty in third-world countries, a new perspective for many on Baker Street, while universally resonating with the creative ambitions of teenage boys. He recounted his childhood in Malawi where, with the hopes of saving his family from

starvation, he designed and built a windmill out of bicycle parts. "An example like Kamkwamba's," says Murphy, "shows the necessity of interdisciplinary learning. In building a windmill for his village, William combined creativity and art with engineering. Like a basketball player using their weak hand; we want analytical students to work on creativity and vice versa."

For Folan, it's all about preparing students for their lives beyond CM. "The world that our boys are graduating into is filled with ambiguity," he says. "We need to equip them with the mindset that we can make a difference, we can solve real-world problems." Murphy seconds this notion, saying, "the days of teaching content are

behind us now that boys have access to so much fingertip information. Now we're trying to teach them something that they can't find just by a quick Google search. The question becomes how do you teach creativity, or loyalty, or drive?"

The answer to that question came with the program's first book, Tom Rinaldi's *The Red Bandana*, in 2019. The story of equity trader and volunteer firefighter Welles Crowther is well known. Thanks in part to the annual Red Bandana football game hosted by his alma mater, Boston College, Crowther is remembered for his heroic sacrifice while saving 18 lives in the attacks on 9/11. The familiar story was expanded upon when students made a tactile connection in honor of Welles, as recounted by Folan. "When the community writes the names



Author William Kamkwamba brings another perspective to CM as he addresses the school on how ingenuity, persistence, and resourcefulness helped him save his family. His auto-biographical novel, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* brought his home of Malawi to Baker Street.



of heroes in their lives on red bandanas that they tie to the gates of our school, that has an impact,” Folan says. Furthering the book’s significance was a visit by Welles’s mother, Allison Crowther. She gave an intimate and impactful talk that raised strong emotions even in the stoic dispositions of President Folan and Principal Andrew O’Brien.

“Everything we do in our education begins with answering the famous question, ‘Why am I learning this?’”

says Murphy, reflecting on the intention in selecting a book suitable for grades seven through 12. Each fall, it’s the faculty who get the ball rolling for the next summer read. “It’s collaborative,” says Murphy.

“Suggestions come not just from the English faculty, but the math department, engineering, admissions, and so on.” As the decision narrows, faculty from across disciplines brainstorm how they would reinforce themes and pitch lesson plans for the following school year. “Our interdisciplinary approach,” notes Folan, “allows faculty members to take their gifts and talents and infuse them into a theme of a book. Because we link this process to the greater community, the unique value systems and imaginative views of our faculty allow their giftedness to connect in. And that’s, I think, the secret sauce.”

From there comes the

reading of many books and ideating on the programming that can be built from them. Before making the final decision, Dr. Folan insists that “the speaker and the programming are as important as the book itself. It’s the continual reinforcement of it that connects it to the boys. You can have a Pulitzer Prize winning book,” he continues, “but if we can’t bring it to life, I don’t think it will have the same positive effect.”

It is this infusion of life that prospective families notice when touring CM. “We make a point to stop on the tour and talk about the all-school read. The program immediately establishes to families the sense of community,” notes



The summer read is community building on a school-wide level. (Opposite) Speaker Josh Kraft and CM President, Dr. Folan enjoy a moment after Kraft’s speech on anti-semitism that echoed the message of the 2022-23 summer read, *Road to Valor*

Palm. “Parents often take note of the books we read and the value we place on our boys,” he continues. “I’m often asked the question, ‘Why doesn’t every school do this?’”

The summer reads are often historical stories that relate to present-day issues. *Road to Valor* by Aili and Andres McConnon exemplifies courage and ingenuity in the story of Italian cyclist Gino Bartali who, during World War II, sheltered a family of Jews and smuggled identity documents in the frame of his bicycle. Among the diverse range of topics covered through programming in the classroom, history classes discussed the theme of antisemitism. Dovetailing on the theme was program speaker Josh Kraft, who called the community to action on behalf of Kraft Family

Philanthropies and their Foundation to Combat Antisemitism alongside the Patriots Foundation.

Al Murphy recalls a tour he gave with a Jewish family that year. “They were surprised,” says Murphy, “that a Catholic school was doing more about antisemitism than their local public school in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood. That conversation,” he adds, “reinforced to us that our job is to take care of each other.”

As senior Alex Pappas prepares to graduate into the twenty-first century world described by Dr. Folan, he looks back, saying “these books are so vital and integral to our curriculum that every project I remember doing in seventh grade somehow tied back to *The Red Bandana*. Having that inside view of



events like 9/11 and historic wars, especially for a bunch of teenage boys who weren’t even alive for the severity of them really inspires us to follow the call to service exemplified in the stories.” Reflecting, Pappas says, “I’m not going to forget when Welles Crowther’s mom spoke to us before a football game. I’m not going to forget William Kamkwamba teaching us to finish what we started, no matter the obstacle. I’m not going to forget when Tom Hudner III showed us his dad’s Medal of Honor. Five years later,” he adds, “I absolutely remember walking to school in the early autumn and, in the breeze, all the red bandanas were flying from the fence. Seeing that symbol on the literal front door of CM speaks volumes about what we were taking away from the experience.”



(L-R) Principal Andrew O’Brien, Mrs. Allison Crowther, mother of Welles Crowther, and CM President Dr. Peter Folan pose for a picture after Mrs. Crowther’s visit to CM in 2019. Her son was the real-life hero of the book, *The Red Bandanna*



TRENCHMATES

Seniors Brandon Sullivan and Guerby Lambert spent four years on a dominant O-Line. By the end of their CM careers “54” and “78” are practically brothers.

When freshmen Brandon Sullivan and Guerby Lambert first met in their biology class, they barely talked beyond the occasional group assignment or classroom acknowledgement. Four years later, the two have built a bond on the football field that has transcended the game and will most certainly extend beyond their CM years.

The first real conversation between the two took place towards the end of winter 2020 when the football team wanted Lambert, who played soccer, to join them for the 2021 season. After defensive coach Mike Milo saw Lambert walking in the hallway (he’s 6’7” and weighs 290lbs), Sullivan who was already on the team was given the assignment to recruit Lambert for the offensive line.

“I sat in the back row and Guerby sat in the front. He was always quiet and doing his work. My first impression of him was his size, and he seemed like he could be a great fit for football. Because he was quiet and loved soccer, it took some convincing for him to play,” recalls Sullivan.

Lambert accepted, seeing it as a chance for himself, who didn’t know many people at his new school, to make some friends.

As teammates, Lambert and Sullivan quickly built a bond. While difficult for the two to see one another outside of school (Lambert’s hometown is Medway and Sullivan’s is Norwood...an hour apart) they have found other ways to socialize. While online, they often play the video game *Rainbow Six* together. During the summer, they use a strength and conditioning facility in Foxboro as a halfway meeting point to workout together. And when school is in session, it’s common to find the two at practice, in the same AP classes, at lunch, and doing their homework together.

With the growth of their friendship, Sullivan learned that Lambert may not have a lot to say when he’s in a group. Still, once he’s comfortable in an environment and with people he trusts, that’s when he opens up and allows his friends’ humorous observations to turn his often-stoic facial expression into a smile. Likewise, Lambert realized that while Sullivan may be loud and intimidating on the field when the game ends, he is kind and wants to be there for his friends. “Brandon is always checking on us to

see how we are doing,” says Lambert. “Whenever I’ve gotten an injury, he’s texted me right away. I know he’s always been there for his teammates. There was one person who struggled with some personal challenges, this year, and Brandon was there to help him.”

As football team captains, both men pushed each other to not settle for what they have and strive to be better. Sullivan became known for keeping people in check, letting his teammates know through fierce communication when he thinks they are not giving a hundred percent. Lambert, on the other hand, speaks with his actions, preferring to lead by example and work as more of a behind-the-scenes leader.

“We both have leadership roles on that line,” notes Lambert. “We see it more as fun than pressure. It’s more about developing the offensive line because when everyone is on the same page, that is when the offense works.”

At times that friendship can be brutally honest, if one of them misses a block, the other will let them hear it in between plays or during in-game conversations with their position coach, Patrick Carney. They also keep each

other out of trouble, as there have been a few times Lambert has walked Sullivan away from a scrum with a reminder to do his talking with his pads, not his mouth.

As their senior year approached, both men began to receive offers to play Division 1 football. Lambert committed to Notre Dame and Sullivan chose Harvard. For a moment, they thought about playing for the same university, but after conversations with their families, decided it was best to go their separate ways.

From a young age, Sullivan could be found on a football field each fall, yet, growing up, it was the furthest thing from the mind of Lambert. Despite their uniquely different paths, when they graduate, they will have completed one of the best runs in CM football history, which saw them win two MIAA Division 2 Super Bowls, claim the number 1 ranking during a COVID-shortened season, earn places on several all-conference, all-state, and all-scholastic teams, create a friendship that has gone beyond football and changed the course of Lambert’s life.

“This was an experience that brought us closer not just as teammates but as friends,” says Sullivan. “This is something I won’t forget, and I think Guerby and I will be friends for a long time to come.”



Lambert and Sullivan with the D2 Super Bowl Trophy after a dominant victory over King Philip, 42-18 in the 2021 championship game. It was CM’s first state title in 43 years.



SPRING/FALL SPORTS

ALL-STARS

Knights flood the podium

BASEBALL

Brett Mulligan '24 named a Catholic Conference All-Star

LACROSSE

Colton Manorek '24 and **Drew McCarthy '25** named Catholic Conference All-Stars.

OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

John Garvey '23 named a Catholic Conference All-Star and competed at New Balance Nationals in the 2,000-meter steeplechase. **Datrell Jones '23** named the conference MVP. **CJ Sullivan '23** earned All-American honors in the 5,000-meter run.

RUGBY

Duncan Beard '23, Daniel Keefe '24, Conor Lawler '24, and **Jack O'Connor '24** named Commonwealth Rugby Conference All-Stars.

TENNIS

Andrew Spagnuolo '26 named a Catholic Conference All-Star.

VOLLEYBALL

Sam Cahill-Farella '23 named a Catholic Conference All-Star.

CROSS COUNTRY

Michael Upton '26 qualified for the MIAA Division 1 Championship and named a Catholic Conference All-Star.

FOOTBALL

Will Claude '24, Thomas Kuefler '25, Brandon Sullivan '24, James Mullin '24, Colin Murphy '24, and **Lasean Sharpe '25** named Catholic Conference All-Stars.

Guerby Lambert '24 named the Catholic Conference Lineman of the Year and an All-American. **Lambert** also became the 15th All-American in CM history.

GOLF

Aidan Kelly '24 and **Charlie Novak '26** named Catholic Conference All-Stars. **Novak** finished 19th at the MIAA Division 2 Championship.

SOCCER

Jason Cardoso '25 and **Tatum Walker '25** named Catholic Conference All-Stars.



ON THURSDAYS, CM STUDENTS LEARN LESSONS THAT MAY NOT FIT THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULES BUT ENGAGES THEIR OTHER TALENTS.

It's Thursday, and every student in the building knows what that means. For 40 minutes, traditional classes have come to a halt. Instead, some students will head to the Yawkey Center for Integrated and Applied Learning for a round of chess or meet in English teacher PJ Rufo's room for a rousing game

"IT'S ALMOST LIKE HAVING A CUP OF COFFEE WITH A FRIEND. YOU CAN LAY OFF THE LESSON PLANNING AND HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH A STUDENT YOU MAY NOT KNOW WELL."

-Vice Principal of Teaching and Learning, Megan Leahy

of team trivia.

On a different Thursday, the performing artists of CM are showcasing their talents to the amazement of the entire school. And on another week, students compete in a game of whiffle ball or a fast-paced handball match to see which homerooms can bring home the vaunted Class Cup.

These dedicated once-a-week sessions are part of the community period, a dedicated stretch that rotates between an activity period for elective-like classes; the field day environment of the Class Cup; and all-school assemblies for speakers and presentations.

The idea of a dedicated community period was born out of what was lost during the COVID-impacted 2020-21 school year. With the school in a hybrid schedule and with only essential activities taking place, much of the school was forced into the "2:30 Club," the nickname given by students to those who go home at the end of the last class rather than participate in athletics or co-curriculars.

Over the course of that year, socializing took place during outdoor mask breaks, which also held the solution to rebuilding the community bonds that keep the school together.

"When we were in the hybrid

model, we explored community days where we were intentional about relationship building. What we learned through COVID is when we did things like school-wide outdoor mask breaks, we were successful with breaking up the day to be together," says Vice Principal, Kevin Durazo. "What we found was the importance of having space within the school day for community building."

According to Durazo, the breaks helped increase in-class engagement during the day. Combined with student feedback, indicating more time to interact in a non-classroom setting, efforts began to find a way to create an environment for informal interactions.

"Activity period allows students and faculty to bond over interests outside of class. Class Cup leverages the excitement we get on Olympic Day at a grade level, and all-school assemblies have always been a part of our



From three-on-three basketball scrimmages (left) to discovering new interests through the eyes of a faculty member, community periods provide outlets of self exploration and good old fashion competition.



Students get into position during a yoga session with Vice Principal of Teaching and Learning, Megan Leahy.

programming,” says Principal Andrew O’Brien.

It is during activity periods that students and teachers learn of their shared passions. Megan Leahy, the vice principal of teaching and learning and a yoga enthusiast, always has a gym full of students ready to learn the bow pose. Star Wars fan and English teacher Doug Atkins once hosted a session on what we can learn from the politics of the popular sci-fi series.

There are also moments for students to learn from their teachers’ interests. Legendary English teacher Vin Catano took a class on a virtual tour of one of his favorite vacation spots: the Outer Banks of North Carolina,

while social studies teacher Brian Powers taught a class full of young rap fans about the genre’s golden age of the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s.

“I have been surprised and impressed by the teachers’ willingness to do this. They have to prepare for this outside of their regular grading and planning, and they have been very engaging and creative,” says Leahy. “It’s almost like having a cup of coffee with a friend. You can lay off the lesson planning and have a conversation with a student you may not know well.”

Students also have a chance to organize their own activity period sessions. Avid gamer Michael Clinton ’24, under the guidance

of theology department co-chair Dr. Mickey Corso, organizes *Super Smash Bros.* tournaments by connecting a Nintendo Switch to the massive screen in the performance studio. During these tournaments, students can be heard bantering, cheering, and making new connections as their fighters throw each other across the screen in battle.

“A lot of us play video games, so we thought why not make it an activity period?” says Clinton. “Even if someone doesn’t know a player’s name, they’re still cheering that person on. It creates an environment where it’s competitive but fun. It’s not a serious tournament, so you have a room full of people yelling

and cheering, and you end up supporting people you don’t know because you are in a game together and doing something you enjoy.”

Once a month, the community period turns into an arena of fierce competition when the Class Cup takes to CM’s on-campus athletic venues. Homerooms are pitted against each other by grade in athletic contests with points distributed based on performance. At the end of the year, the top homerooms in each grade are named the Class Cup Champions.

Each grade spends a Class Cup round at a specific station located at a particular athletic site. In round one, a grade might be inside for a free throw contest or a putting challenge in the “Perry.” In the next round, it’s time for spike ball and Kan Jam on Todesca Field. By the third round, a group of boys may be on the turf at O’Connor Stadium, trying their best to boot a 35-yard field goal or show their united strength in a tug-of-war. The mix of games guarantees that you don’t have to be a Catholic Conference All-Star to contribute and score points for your homeroom.

“The point of the Class Cup is not competition or victory; it is camaraderie and brotherhood. We have an amazing sports program, but we also have kids who like to play and compete. Every station has games that are accessible and there is

a combination of individual activities like taking a free throw or trying to make a golf putt or a relay race of some sort. There’s something that individuals can walk up and do, but there are team events in kickball and three-on-three basketball that can move quickly and engage our students,” says Durazo.

The remaining Thursdays are often all-school assemblies where students listen to a message from a speaker or experience a showcase of student talents. Speakers at the assembly include Steve Pemberton, author of the auto-biographic novel, and all school read, *A Chance In The World* as well as Matthew Tobin ’24, who spoke of the importance of men’s mental health as part of the annual Movember Speaker Series.

During the most recent showcase, dedicated to the performing arts, students were treated to a scene from the fall drama, *Macbeth*; the honors band’s rendition of *Hit the Road Jack* by Ray Charles; and the Baker Street Boys’ performance of *Only You* from ’80s synth-pop act Yazoo.

“The all-school meeting is a place to provide a platform for students who otherwise are not always recognized and seen with their gifts and talents. Whether it’s acknowledging an achievement, giving a platform for the arts, or providing an opportunity for faculty to share their experiences, I think all

those things are impactful,” says O’Brien.

During the community period, there may not be much traditional learning occurring in classrooms, but the block still possesses important value. It’s a break in the week that allows our students to reset, interact, show off their talents, and discover a new interest.

“Watching the community period assemblies, I saw my friend act in a play for the first time, and I didn’t know he had performed before.” says Aaron Nelson ’26. “Activity period has allowed me to have new experiences and learn new skills. I’m not a huge outdoors person, but when the Outdoors Club had a meeting during one of the periods, I figured I’d join them and learned that it’s actually cool. I probably would not have experienced that if they’d met after school.”

Principal Andrew O’Brien explains the criteria for another interesting community period on how students should go about analyzing what makes Boston’s best burrito.



A Path of Principal Leads to Character

HISTORY TEACHER, NEAL NOONAN ARRIVED AT CM UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT MEANT TO SERVE. AS A SERGEANT IN THE MARINE CORPS AND A MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE OFFICER, NOONAN SEES THE WAY THE SCHOOL HONORS OUR NATION'S VETERANS, AND IT SHOWS HIM THAT HE'S COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

Neal Noonan has always wanted to teach history. And when his moment came, he sent his resume to a number of different high schools, and as he says, "They looked at me, a veteran, a retired police officer, and thought, 'Nah, he's not for us.' Which I was okay with. CM on the other hand, called me in and it clicked."

The idea of service was something that Noonan has always carried with him. In truth, seeing as none of his family served, it seems to be an innate instinct. Acceptance to Tulane University put him on a course to civilian life, that is until a moment of reckoning struck. "I realized that I didn't want to be here and what I really wanted to do was to march down into the Marine recruitment offices and enlist."

And that's what happened. But Noonan had to wait many long months until a spot opened-up and he could head to boot camp, which coincidentally was a stone's throw from Tulane on Parris Island, LA. "In my four years of service, I did a lot of deployments and was very fortunate to be stationed on a US Navy naval vessel as part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. I never served in combat. I was wedged in between the Gulf War, which was in 1990 and the War On Terror, which of course started after 9/11."

With his discharge in 2000, Noonan's thirst for service wasn't diminished. The now 23-year-old went straight into the Massachusetts State Police Academy or as he likes to say about that time in the services, "I went from one 'butt-chew' to another."

Arriving at CM, after receiving his master's degree, and starting as a substitute teacher, Noonan wasn't sure what to expect. "I was pleasantly surprised how welcoming Catholic Memorial was

to me, a veteran, and how much of an emphasis that they put on military service as a positive thing," he notes. "Let's face it, a vast majority of students will go on to a four-year college after this. I'm very proud that CM puts an emphasis on military service as a possible path to serving one's community." Annually, each graduating CM class has a number of students enroll into one of the branches of the military or join the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in college mixing academic studies with military training and leadership skills.

Noonan thinks that the drive to serve either one's community or country has in great part to do with the school's summer read and the accompanying programming that hits home the subjects covered in the books. "I try to look at it through the perspective of a teenage boy. And I'd like to think that students appreciate the sacrifice that other Americans have made. Take for example this year's summer read, *Devotion*. The young men in that book were no different than our young men. Something like that could happen to anyone of them. I hope the idea of sacrifice and brotherhood and friendship is something they see and say, 'Hey, that could be me someday.'"

Now, a history teacher, teaching Western civilization to sophomores, and US history to juniors, Noonan, it's fair to say, is an insider experiencing all of what CM places importance on. Take for example, a veteran funeral held last fall. "I thought that was a great moment for the boys to have that time to reflect," says Noonan referring to the funeral service of US Army Veteran, Roberto Espejo. "I told my students, that could be any one of us, guys. So don't ever take for granted what you have here." And that is exactly how Neal Noonan, veteran, retired trooper and history teacher sees his experience in the place he wants to be.

"The common denominator that I always see around the halls of Catholic Memorial is that service to your community is everything."

- Neal Noonan



Support a school where integrity and faith and brotherhood are the lived experience."

-Neal Noonan, History Teacher



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Please consider joining Neal in making a gift to the CM Fund. Your gift will support great young men and change the course of their lives.

ALUMNI AND FACULTY NEWS

Alumni News

Tyler Storm '19

Recently accepted a position as a Behavioral Health Technician at Boston's Children's Hospital.

Tommy Fisher '19

Ran a Spartan Race at Fenway Park with his colleagues from the Bulfinch Group.

Johnny Esposito '18

Took another step in his acting quest, playing the role Jaxton in the one-act satirical comedy "The Thanksgiving Play" at the Studio Theater in Worcester.



Ulyen Coleman '17

Signed his first professional basketball contract to play in Finland in Karkkila.

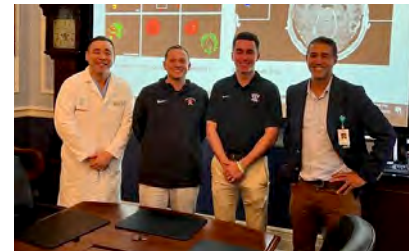
Isaiah Mathieu '16 and **Guilien Smith '15**

Completed a marathon on November 18 that started and finished in the Seaport district. They completed the marathon in 4 hours and 37 minutes.



Mike Slonina '11

CEO of A Shot for Life, Mike Slonina '11 donated \$1,000,000 to the MGH Cancer Center.



(L-R) Dr. William Curry, Patrick Manning '19, Dr. Bryan Choi, Mike Slonina '11.

Christos Alexopoulos '08

Was re-elected for Randolph's Town Council.

Mike McCarthy '90

Started a new position Senior Vice President of Wealth Management at Pallas Capital Advisors. Mike will bring his over 20 years of experience working with families planning for their financial goals. In Mike's free time, he coaches both assistant varsity hockey and freshman hockey at CM this winter season.



Mike Daley '74

Daley and Associates LLC was voted the #1 Temp Agency by Banker & Tradesman "Best of 2023".

Jack Pierce '66 and **Bernard Monbouquette '66**

Vacationed in Berkeley, CA sporting some CM swag.



Faculty News

History Chair, Mr. Vincent Bradley graduated with a Doctorate in Education from the Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership Program at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. His dissertation focused on the experience of Catholic schools during the pandemic.

Michael Dermody '07

and his wife welcomed their son William "Liam" Shawn Dermody. He was born on July 14, 2023, and was 8 pounds at birth.



Rachel Schneider

and her husband Nick welcomed their daughter Summer Elizabeth Schneider into the world on Friday September 8.

Laura Cooper won the Bronze Award at the Guild of Boston Artists New England Regional



Juried Exhibition on Newbury Street in September for her painting "Measure of Beauty, J Class." The study for 'Measure of Beauty' was juried into the American Artists Professional League 95th Grand National Exhibition in New York City in November.

Dr. Mickey Corso has fulfilled a lifelong dream of being published in a journal of Tolkien scholarship. The Winter 2023 issue of *Mallorn: the Journal of the Tolkien Society*, will carry his article "Eruanno in Tolkien's Aia Maria." The article examines Tolkien's translation of the Hail Mary into the invented language of Elvish, with a particular focus on Tolkien's use of the word "Eruanno" for "grace".

In September, **Katherine Kistner** was appointed to represent New England in a national leadership program, NEXT, launched by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) during the annual conference in Baltimore, MD.



Caitlin Corsano welcomed her second child, Samantha Jo, who was born in August weighing 7lbs. 6 ounces.



IN MEMORIAM

William B. Ahearn, Sr. '71

8/10/23

Edward H. Barry '73

10/13/23

Richard Broderick '11

11/14/23

Austin Cannon '63, P'90, '98, '02

6/27/23

John J. Cogan '64

8/15/22

John F. Corcoran '71

7/11/23

Robert J. Eaton '65

10/10/23

James J. Flanagan '63

7/27/23

Romeo Gravel III '79

5/23/22

Michael A. Henderson '96

3/18/23

William A. Mueller '64

1/23/23

James Nagle '78

7/31/23

Paul E. O'Connor '73

4/17/23

Gerald O'Neill '61

10/7/23

Nicholas P. Rosato '73

9/21/23

Troy C. Santarlaschi '90

8/13/23

Ryan Sullivan '05

10/1/23

Joseph Walsh, '61

10/27/23

Paul A. Waters III '77

7/5/23

Richard White '68

8/27/23



What is Greatness?

This year, CM launched its “Great Won’t Wait” video to show prospective students that whatever greatness they have, an obligation exists for them to realize it and uncork it.

But this begs the question: what is greatness?

An extraordinary existence based on extraordinary acts? Or the quiet deeds done every day that to most go unnoticed.



When Alexander III of Macedon died at 32, he ruled a territory that spanned three continents and covered nearly 2 million square miles. Not only was he king of his native Macedonia, but he was also ruler of the Greeks, the king of Persia and even an Egyptian pharaoh. Was he “great”? Absolutely. But what about everyone else? Very few can attain the reputations of Alexander the Great or Muhammad Ali or George Washington. But does caring for a family or giving one’s time to help communities or serving one’s country make people any less great? We asked Associate Director of Student Success and School Counseling, Katherine Kistner who is also a coach on the varsity soccer team; Associate Director of Admissions and Head Varsity Hockey Coach, Larry Rooney; graduating senior, Cole Bulger '24; and Assistant Head of School and Head of the Middle School, Brian Palm to find the distinctions to this premise and say where greatness fits in to life, our school, and the larger perspective.

The question is set. All the panel need do is demonstrate its truth, hence **Quod Erat Demonstrandum**.

What is it about this word “greatness” and the value associated with it that makes it so powerfully true and yet at the same time so cliched?

Brian Palm: I was thinking about who I consider to be great and taking the example in the introduction of Muhammad Ali. Ali’s career was a great one and then there were moments that you might pick out that were great as well. It’s this interesting sort of battle between the little things and then the one big thing.

Cole Bulger: I think in some ways, it can be both. I see it as a maximization of potential. When you look at Muhammad Ali’s career, there were moments in which he did everything he could and took everything out of it. And that became a body of work

that many would argue made him “The Greatest.” But the term is still overused. Your everyday life applications, which you really don’t mean are “great,” exist somewhere on that spectrum of “okay” to “very well done.” And I think that’s an interesting dichotomy between those two definitions.

Katherine Kistner: When we’re looking at our students, whether they’re entering at grades seven, eight or nine, we are hoping to develop great men of character. And regardless of where they’re starting from, when they come into CM, we’re trying to maximize their strengths. How can we help them understand what those talents are and build them up as little pieces over time, so that when they graduate, they themselves have championed and molded their own version of greatness.

Larry Rooney: I see greatness in the ordinary, everyday acts.



I see greatness in people that are here at CM. I admire Dr. Mickey Corso (theater director and theology teacher). I think he's great because of how he is with people...all the words that he uses...the way he treats people. He inspires me. And that's just a very simple example of somebody in my life who I think is great.

At CM, what is our definition of greatness?

Palm: I would suggest that there are 1,000 different opportunities to be great on a daily basis. And to your point, Larry, I think it's how we apply the term greatness, not just to that catch in the end zone in the fourth quarter with time running out, but how it applies to concepts like empathy, leadership, humility, compassion, and I think that's something that we endeavor to do here as a community.

Bulger: It's recognizing opportunities in your life in which you can be great. It's the idea that you're working towards being your best.

Kistner: If we're looking on the flip side, yes, every little moment we have is an opportunity to put our best foot forward and still there are moments when we fall short because we are imperfect humans. As a community, we have adults who are holding high standards of our students. And we have students who are holding high standards of their peers. But it's holding that level for students and raising that

bar for them to say, I need to step forward into that moment. And when I don't, it is okay, but now how do I reflect and recognize that so I can still move forward in my own growth?

There is also the idea of greatness applying to a collective rather than an individual. Take for example the "Greatest Generation." They made sacrifices that ranged from the tiny things like going without due to rationing to making the ultimate sacrifice by going to war and fighting.

Rooney: I think about all those banners hanging in the Perry Gymnasium. The championship teams, the individual numbers that are retired like Ted Donato, or Ronnie Perry Jr., or King Gaskins and they did great things as individuals. But there was so much more. They were part of the teams that made them great. I think more recently about current senior Patrick Blomberg: a national champion in declamation as part of our speech and debate team. He could not have done that on his own. It was his teammates, it was Brother Cavet, it was other teachers and moderators that put him in that situation. There is so much more to it than just the individual.

Bulger: Yeah, it really shows how individual greatness can come from group greatness.

You can say that greatness is about the team behind the individual but there are people who work their tails off, have a great team behind and still never attain that state of greatness. Is it just something you are born with or is it God-given?

Kistner: I don't know if this is answering the question. It's like having one of our students who is commuting from over an hour away in a single parent home, who helps take care of their siblings, they are putting up a tremendous fight even before arriving to our doorstep every day. And I think that's the cyclical effect of self-belief and the external support that helps someone fuel that self-belief in order to continue to show up. That to me is like Ali's battle in the ring because that student I'm describing understands that this school and our community is going to set them up for greater success.

Rooney: You know, I thought about what was said about Muhammad Ali giving everything he had and the student who comes from a challenging background and these two examples describe not just giving everything they have, but giving something that they didn't know that they had. And I think that's what our coaches and teachers do best is getting things out of our boys that they don't even know they have.

Cole, is there a difference between the way you understand what greatness is being a generation, or two, younger than the rest of the panel? Does your definition differ?



Bulger: I certainly think that there is a generational difference. I think part of that is when you look at famous figures from the past and famous figures now. A lot of young people aren't considering whether someone is great based on one great thing or one great action. You don't have to have this great moment in your life, this "epitome." You don't have to have a game winning touchdown; you don't have to have a perfect academic record. You can be great by just maximizing what you can do in any moment. It doesn't just have to be school. It's not just academics. It's being a friend, it's being a good person, it's caring. And I think that's the well-roundedness that a great character should possess.

Palm: And I think that's probably a healthier way to look at greatness, rather than it being of a monumental or epic quality that one must achieve, which for most people might never come.

Rooney: One of the concerns I have as an educator or coach is



(L-R) Mr. Brian Palm; Mr. Larry Rooney; Ms. Katherine Kistner; and Cole Bulger '24.

students or athletes, comparing themselves to others, and not feeling as though they are living up to somebody else's goals or levels of greatness. And I would want them to be able to look in the mirror and say, "I don't need to be that person. I need to be the best that I can be."

Mr Rooney and Ms. Kistner with you both being coaches how do you harness a team's determination, effort and belief to win, beating other great teams to become that season's number one?

Rooney: Sometimes it doesn't happen in any one moment. But you see some sort of greatness start to appear. Sometimes, you see it in one player, sometimes you see it in five. But there's certain moments in the season, that you start to see greatness start to add up. And obviously, you might measure yourself to the fact of whether you won a championship. I don't think having a great season necessarily means you won a championship. If every one of your athletes improved and got the most out of themselves, and were really good teammates, sometimes, that's what that season provided you with.

Kistner: I would add to that, because I think it goes back to Brian's comment about the culture and habits and setting high expectations for students. Before you click into that next stratosphere of making something special on the field, you need those healthy building blocks as individuals. And I think we do that a really good job of that here.

Palm: I agree. Sometimes when we we're talking about these great moments or that great team, there's a sprinkling of magic dust that happens to put that team into a realm of greatness. And sometimes that magic dust produces happenstance: the lucky bounce of a puck that is the difference between winning a state championship or not winning. But that shouldn't diminish all of the other ingredients that went into making a great team.

Bulger: That's really the idea that you have your great moments, and you have your great teams. And I think that that's exemplified when you can look at our hockey program, you can look at the game winning shot by Eddie McElhane for the hockey state championship in 1986. That was a great moment in CM history. But then you walk into the Perry Gymnasium and look around, there's a lot of great hockey teams on those banners. It doesn't mean that the '86 team was any greater than the others. It just means that that one moment happened.

Rooney: Since we're on the topic of hockey, I want to talk about a great moment I had recently with my team. I have a lot of new seniors this year. And in my normal distribution of numbers to new players it starts with those first-year seniors who have yet to play varsity. They get first choice in numbers. And this past Friday, we were in the locker room and about to hand out shirts and Colton Manorek, a new senior and varsity lacrosse captain said, "Coach, I'm a one-year senior and I want to start with the youngest kids and give them the option to have a number longer than me." I'm hoping we can look back on the year and we're able to say leadership happened right there in that moment...and we'll see where it takes us.



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John Mullin '79 describes his life's successes to the way a house is built. His time at Catholic Memorial was the laying of solid foundations, college builds the rest of the house, "...and your job," he says, "pays for the whole thing."

As one of four siblings raised by his grandmother in Quincy, Mullin understood early on that if he was going to succeed, he needed to find himself in a place that would challenge him and instill the necessary qualities with which to succeed. It helped that his older cousin, Jerry Connors, who was good friends with then CM faculty member Dan Burke, saw something in John to make him ask the question. "You want to go to college after high school, right? Well, it won't happen with you going to Quincy High."

Throwing himself into hockey and his studies, Mullin embraced the opportunities offered. CM became the arena where he would find out what he was made of. "Brother Sheridan had an awesome way of teaching religion, and I could relate to him because he was from New York City and I'd go there to visit my dad," recalls Mullin. "And I'm also going to put it out there, Coach Hanson. He went out of his way to drive me home after many practices and had a knack for picking guys who wanted it, had drive and determination, and a refusal to fail." Homework was done while dragging his hockey bag on the two buses he took to get home. While attending UMass-Lowell, Mullin maintained this mindset remaining on campus and not returning to his dorm until his engineering assignments for the day were done.

The start of his career saw a dream come true, working as an engineer for two startup companies headquartered in San Jose, CA. Upon the death of his wife in 1998, he made a pivotal career change becoming an educator, teaching middle school engineering at several local public schools and marketing courses online at Southern New Hampshire University and University of Phoenix. In retirement, Mullin is looking to help students like himself with the potential but who need an opportunity. As Mullin puts it, "Being a Bruce Springsteen fan, his new song, *I'll See You in My Dreams* moved me to create an endowment and scholarship for CM. I want to give an inspired student with similar challenges a chance to fulfill his dreams and not be prohibited by financial challenges and who will succeed through their motivation." His adopted father once said to Mullin, "Fine feathers make a fine bird." To which Mullin responded, "A fine bird makes a fine bird doesn't matter about its feathers." Perhaps he was talking about himself?



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Full Circle

GOOD SENSE AND SMART CHOICES

"It just sort of happened," was Jack Cleary's way of describing making it into CM, playing varsity sports and going on to MIT. But everything else? Those were lessons in succeeding at the difficult things.



CM YEARS

The one and only scholarship awarded in 1960 by the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus helped Jack Cleary '64, a West Roxbury native, attend the relatively new school in his neighborhood. "My dad worked in the post office and so obviously we had no money," recalls Cleary. What he knew about Catholic Memorial was only what he'd heard from his peer group. What he experienced upon arriving was "...the brothers were pretty demanding, and in some cases, frightening. That was back in the days when you'd pay a real price if you misbehaved," says Cleary. But what stood out most of all was the athletics. "I did well academically, but that wasn't my primary focus," he says. "My primary focus and source of satisfaction was playing on the basketball and baseball teams and interacting with Mr. Perry (CM's first athletic director), who had significant influence on me as a mentor and role model." Perry, as well as Brother Tom Feerick, who "was Perry's assistant coach—and just a wonderful human being," adds Cleary, were turning CM's basketball program into a powerhouse. And in turn, Cleary found a meaningful role, playing on the varsity team in both his junior and senior years and reaching the Tech Tourney Championship the year he graduated. The oldest of three, (his brother Steve followed him to CM two years later), Cleary would be the first in his family to go to college. "Early on in my life that was a foregone conclusion," he adds. He applied to Notre Dame, Boston College, and a few others, including MIT. "It was my grandmother who said, 'You're good at math, you should apply to MIT.'" Acceptances along with scholarships arrived, but Cleary chose MIT because he could live at home. "At Notre Dame, I would have had to pay for room and board. So, I chose MIT."



LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

As luck would have it, Cleary and a fellow Knight, Harry Anderson, both of whom had been members of what was called the "Brain Room" for the top learners at CM commuted together to MIT each day. They were among the very small percentage of MIT students who were commuters. At CM, Cleary focused on sports and then academics. At MIT, that flipped. "I remember walking down the long corridor that runs from 77 Mass. Ave. with Harry early in our freshman year and saying, 'I think I understand what's going on in humanities so maybe I can get an A. Calculus isn't too bad, so hopefully a B. Chemistry is pretty terrible so maybe a C. And physics is awful so that could be a D.'" That first year was the hardest thing he'd ever done. But it taught him that he could accomplish difficult things. What's more his actual grades far exceeded his initial predictions which he puts down to hard work, and the preparation CM had provided him. "I think the study skills, the discipline and the commitment to do it right and succeed was what motivated me." And while he played intramural basketball and two years of varsity baseball, Cleary had something more important to focus on. "By the time I was a junior, I started dating the woman who I'm married to today. We got married a week before graduation. And at that point, I had applied to graduate schools in economics, and I decided to go to Yale." By his second year at Yale, Cleary realized he needed to change course. His wife suggested he go to law school. That's what he did, attending Harvard Law School and setting a course for his professional future. Upon graduation in 1974, he joined the Boston law firm of Goodwin, Procter.



RETURN TO CM

By the time Cleary graduated in 1974, he and his wife had two children, which he says presented a different challenge. "I would say that for the first 12 years after graduating from law school, I had minimal contact with anyone from CM," notes Cleary. It wasn't until 1986 when now a partner at Procter, Goodwin, Cleary received a call from the legendary CM football coach, Jim O'Connor. "He told me that the school had fallen on hard times and the new principal, Brother Sheehan was looking to form a Board of Directors composed of businessmen and alumni." Cleary, along with Kevin Costello '63, Tom Walsh '62 and Skip Lockwood '64 were invited to a dinner with Brother Sheehan which culminated in Cleary becoming the inaugural board chair and then serving a total of three terms from 1986 to 1995. During that time, the board enacted several long-lasting decisions. They opened-up a middle school, which in Cleary's mind probably saved the school, and changed the governance structure from a principal to a president/principal combination structure. These and other actions became the building blocks for the school to grow and bring it to where it sits today. "My sense from afar is that CM has come through those dark days, and reestablished itself as a high-quality institution, both academically and athletically. I think Paul Sheff '62 (first lay president of CM) did a good job of focusing the school on academic performance. And I think that Peter Folan has done a really good job of continuing that push and has managed to focus on athletic achievement as well. I think it all makes for a higher-quality institution and I don't believe that they're accepting 'just anyone' these days," says Cleary who knows that winning at the difficult things is the reward.

"My primary focus and source of satisfaction was playing on the basketball and baseball teams and interacting with Mr. Perry who I would say had a lot of influence on me as a mentor and role model." - Jack Cleary '64

BEYOND CM

Three alumni, three pursuits of rigor, brotherhood, and service. As they write back to Baker Street, their years here aren't the only things they have in common.

In a nod to Knight-Based Learning, Sam Mamicha '21 is hands-on in the research labs of Macalester College, while lending a hand to marginalized youths who wish for the same experience.

“Organic chemistry was the first class in college where I enjoyed working long hours on assignments and labs. You can't experiment in a lab without prior knowledge from a classroom, which is exciting because I get to realistically apply what I'm learning.

As a result, I've become close with my professor. During my first semester, he pointed out that I needed to format my answers to achieve better results. He genuinely cared about getting the best out of me.

Now, I'm part of his research lab; we work trying to make a water-resistant molecule to be used as coating around wiring for public transportation. I've also declared a computer science minor; it's my creative outlet. I get to let loose because there is no one correct way to do it. I like the struggle of finding the most efficient way to improve a code. Also, when I got here I felt like something was missing since service was a must at CM. That's why I'm part of the “Mac Mentors” program helping disadvantaged kids in their college admissions process; writing essays and completing federal student aid forms. I loved the service and the closeness to my teachers at CM, I valued that when making my college decision.”



SAM MAMICHA '21,
QUINCY, MA

Mascot: Mac the Scot

Colors: Blue & Orange

Miles from CM: 1,395

Class of 2022 Salutatorian and prime example of a well-rounded Knight, Aidan Healy continues down the path of academic rigor, competitive success, and philosophical discussion.

“There's an understanding that Yale is an Ivy League school; beautiful architecture, esteemed faculty, and the weight of the name, but it honestly feels like a normal college experience. It's a community of communities, my everyday life is spent between different groups of people: my roommates, classmates, the rugby team and debate team. I enjoy debate, proving things with logic and discussing the ways the world works. Studying philosophy at Yale is really enriching for me. My freshman year I took two classes in philosophy ranging from pre-Socratic thought to modern moral philosophy, then two literature classes spanning from Homer to the 21st century genre epic, then political theory spanning from ancient Greece to Hannah Arendt. It was intense, reading about three books per week. Mr. Clarke was my guy at CM. He's been an amazing mentor for my academic development, for introducing me to the ancient world, and as a model for a teacher who genuinely cares about how students are learning. He and Dr. Corso provided such enriching environments at CM that I've sought out the same at Yale. There are gen-ed lecture classes that are what you imagine, 150 students in stadium seating. But my philosophy classes are small, they're discussions between five to 12 students and our professor. I fill my schedule with those small classes thanks to the environment I fell in love with at CM.”



AIDAN HEALY '22,
DEDHAM, MA

Mascot: Handsome Dan the Bulldog

Colors: Yale Blue

Miles from CM: 132

Chad McDonald '22 finds that the role models in his life influence him to be a man for others in his every pursuit at Holy Cross.

“I lucked out my first year of college because I was randomly assigned to the same dorm floor as the people who've become my closest friends. They all played rugby last year and egged me on to join the team this year. I really love it! I think of Coach Goode from when I wrestled at CM. He was the best! He taught me to stay low, go for the legs. I always remember that because you have to stay low in rugby if you don't want to get run over. The seniors on the team here are amazing role models the way people like Matt Freitas '19 were at CM. He gave me rides home and was honest about overcoming adversity. I have always loved helping people. That's why I'm pursuing a psychology degree; that and I have OCD and want to understand that better. My mom is a big influence, she is a psychiatric nurse at Mass General. When I took my first few psych courses, I was surprised to learn just how many similarities all humans have. Even though we all have our specific and different minds, we're all human. It's humbling to think about.”



CHAD MCDONALD '22,
MILTON, MA

Mascot: Crusader

Colors: Purple & White

Miles from CM: 48

THE HR FOR PRIESTS

Boston's priests give of themselves to their parishioners each and every day. But who is there for them when they're in need? A CM alum. That's who.

West Roxbury native, Mike Scannell '83, P'17, '20 is the executive director of the Boston-based, Clergy Trust: an independently managed trust that provides care and support for all active and senior diocesan priests across the Archdiocese of Boston who are in good standing. The kind of support the trust offers is the kind that most of us have but don't ever think a person of the cloth might also need. "It's an incredibly worthy vocation," says Scannell, speaking about the work priests do. "And priests are always there for their communities during the best of times, as well as the worst of times. It can be a very challenging job, as well as a lonely one. Parishes aren't filled with priests the way they were and the lack of company can hit someone hard." It's why the Clergy Trust handles medical insurance, medical care, retirement funds as well as overseeing Regina Cleri, the clergy retirement home in Boston's West End. As Scannell explains, "Many folks will just assume that priests are being cared for and that,

Jeez, I give my money towards a collection every weekend, or the Cardinal's appeal each year that's supporting the priests,' but it isn't." The trust still has to raise funds and take collections, but it doesn't cover the full cost of care and



(L-R) CM alums Fr. Henry Nichols '62 and Mike Scannell '83 are on opposite sides of the same coin when it comes to helping Boston's priests.

retirement needs. "We have to be much more creative and innovative in terms of how we were going to reach Catholics who may not be in church every weekend, not to mention the new generation," says Scannell. Storytelling is the answer.

Sharing the stories of what priests do day-to-day and how they affect their communities, according to Scannell is the most influential in terms of people's sentiment. "You know, there's really no days off for priests," he says, taking a page out of Belichick's book of quotes. "Because if a call comes in to go perform last rites, whether it's to be with someone that may be dying, they go." There is much to be said for someone helping those who help others. Noble? Altruistic? Big-hearted? Whatever the term, there nothing so warming as to experience the gratitude from those people for whom you serve. "My mum passed away in July (2023)," says Scannell. "We arrived at St. Theresa's, for the funeral mass, and there were 13 priests who came out on the altar. My whole family were blown away, and when I was thanking each priest for being there, they said, 'We know you're there for us. So, we need to be there for you.' It just took my breath away and reinforced that what I do is so worthwhile."

KNIGHT FOR A LIFETIME

SEE WHAT CM OFFERS THE RANKS OF ITS LOYAL ALUMNI



Join us on Friday, May 10 for the **CM Spring Gala** to celebrate and honor the Vince in Bono Malum Award recipient **Bob Maloney Jr., Esq. '77** and the Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice Award recipient **Reverend John J. Unni**, Pastor at Saint Cecilia Parish in Boston. Visit: www.catholicmemorial.org/give/gala.

Save the date of **September 29, 2024**, for the **38th Annual CM Golf Tournament at Charles River**
Email KristenHaggerty@catholicmemorial.org to be added to the invitation list.



CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

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