



NOTRE DAME

FALL 2025

# The Juggler Chronicles





## Our Mission

Notre Dame Catholic Schools provide a faith-based educational experience for children in grades Pre-K through 12, in a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment, that prepares our students to successfully pursue lives committed to community with integrity, compassion, and service.

## About the New Look

We are happy to unveil the first issue of the Juggler Chronicles, our rebranded and renamed alumni magazine. Thank you to all of you who voted to choose the new name, and we're excited to feature so many achievements over the last year.

### **Have News? Got a Story Idea? Send it to us!**

We want to hear what you're up to! Keep the Notre Dame community posted about your achievements and family news by sending us your good news and life events. Have a story idea or an alum you would like to see featured here? We would love to hear about it! Reach us at [development@notredameutica.org](mailto:development@notredameutica.org) with any magazine-related questions, information, or ideas.



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Selected photos by GSS Photography



## Letter from Principal of Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



To the members of our Notre Dame family:

**W**elcome to the first edition of the Juggler Chronicles! We are excited to launch this new endeavor as we share with you the many successes of our schools and our students. It has been over a year since the launch of our strategic plan, VISION 2029, which is a bold roadmap for the future of our schools. From its inception—five pillar teams composed of our stakeholders, school and diocesan leadership, staff, parents, and even students—have taken up the torch and are carrying it to an even brighter future.

Much progress has been made in this short amount of time. Our dedicated readers are evidence of that. Thanks to your input and continued support, we were able to bring you this new magazine in an effort to reach a wider audience and reconnect with old friends.

You are here because Notre Dame had an impact on your life—I know it did in mine. It is an exciting time, and as an alumnus, I am excited that you are here to give witness to this new chapter for Catholic education in the Mohawk Valley.

The rich traditions of discipleship, scholarship, leadership, and citizenship that have long characterized the work of our Catholic schools in the greater Utica area continues to light the way for the future of our community. I hope as you read these pages you are able to find a piece of yourself in the students and alumni that you encounter and feel that same sense of pride you did when you walked these halls.

May God Bless You,

*Richard Hensel*

Rick Hensel, ND '13  
Principal, Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School



## Letter from **Principal of Notre Dame Elementary School**

Dear Alumni and Supporters of Notre Dame Schools,

**W**arm greetings from Notre Dame School's Elementary campus! We are thrilled to be able to connect with you through the Juggler Chronicles. So many of our high school alumni spent the early years of their academic journey here at 11 Barton Avenue. We were blessed to have been a part of your grade school/junior high years and can assure you that our high standards are still in place as we continue to teach and guide our junior Jugglers in faith, academics, and community service. Allow me to extend an invitation to come and visit us here at NDE. Step back into your elementary classrooms, have lunch in the cafeteria, peer into the trophy cases, and shoot a few hoops in the Gym! You may even run into a few of your former teachers or reconnect with classmates that are now, themselves, part of our wonderful faculty and staff. We will welcome you back, and I think you will be proud to see who we continue to be—WE ARE NOTRE DAME!

Hope to see you soon,

*Mrs. Mary Rossi*

Mrs. Mary Rossi  
Principal, Notre Dame Elementary



# Know a Future Juggler?

**A** caring environment. Small class sizes. High academic standards. Spiritual fulfillment. Quality education. As a close-knit community, we know the many benefits of attending Notre Dame and investing in a Catholic education. Maybe you have friends, family, or neighbors interested in Notre Dame. Or maybe you are considering exploring Notre Dame for your own kids. Anyone even thinking about what it would be like to be Juggler should schedule a visit today. Tours are offered by appointment only, Monday-Friday, throughout the entire calendar year.

Students in grades sixth through twelfth are encouraged to become a “Juggler for a Day” and “shadow” a current Notre Dame student for the school day to experience first-hand the excitement, challenge, and growth that Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School offers. Students will be paired with one of our student ambassadors and attend classes, enjoy lunch, and participate in the day’s activities with Notre Dame students.

For Pre-K through fifth-grade tours and information, please email Mary Rossi at [rossi@syrdiocese.org](mailto:rossi@syrdiocese.org) or call 315-732-4374.

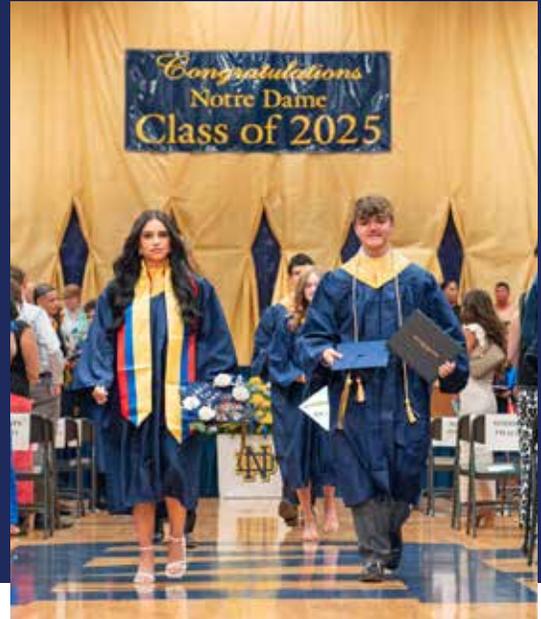
For grades sixth through twelfth tours and information, please email Donna Williams at [dwilliams@syrdiocese.org](mailto:dwilliams@syrdiocese.org) or call 315-724-5118 Ext. 35 or Laurie Cardone at [lcardone@syrdiocese.org](mailto:lcardone@syrdiocese.org) or call 315-724-5118 Ext. 26.

General admission questions should be directed to Laurie Cardone.

CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS  
**SPOTLIGHT ON  
GRADUATION**

# Fast Facts about the Class of 2025

Notre Dame's Class of 2025 was the smallest in the school's history, coming in at 26 graduates, but that didn't hold them back from big success.



**96%**  
ARE COLLEGE-BOUND

**100%**  
RECEIVED REGENTS DIPLOMAS

**1**  
IS ENTERING THE ARMED SERVICES

**100%**  
RECEIVED COLLEGE CREDIT

**3**  
RECEIVED THE NYS ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE AWARD

**\$2,084,700**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

### Class of 2025 Colleges

Albany College of Pharmacy  
Buffalo State  
Herkimer College  
Mohawk Valley Community College  
Penn State University  
St. John Fisher University  
Siena College  
SUNY Cobleskill  
SUNY Morrisville  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute  
Syracuse University  
University of Albany  
University of Buffalo  
Utica University

CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

# Spotlight on Graduation

Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony was held Friday, June 13th at 6 p.m. in the Michael Walsh Gymnasium.



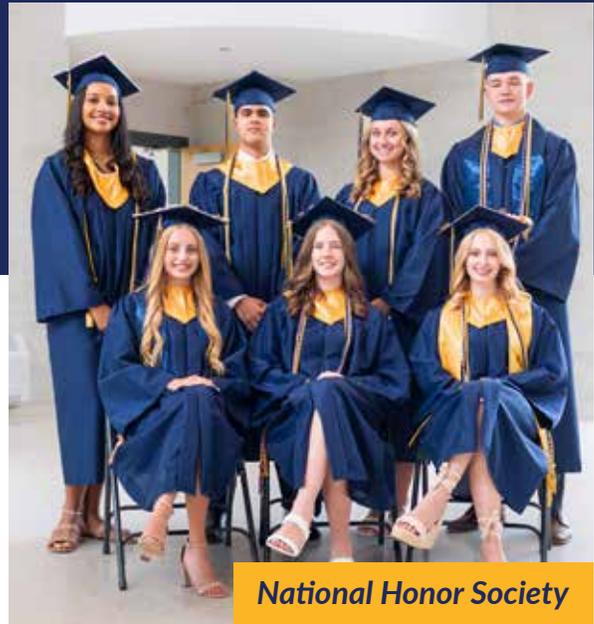
**Top Ten**

**Front Row**

Teaghan Barker  
Sean Noon  
Christian Babiartz  
Jonathan Versace  
Amanda Capuana

**Back Row**

Karissa LaBella  
Allyson Checola  
Briana Fields  
Amelia Fields  
Paul Kearney



**National Honor Society**

**Front Row**

Briana Fields  
Teaghan Barker  
Amelia Fields

**Back Row**

Karissa LaBella  
Sean Noon  
Allyson Checola  
Paul Kearney



**Valedictorian: Briana Fields**  
**Salutatorian: Amelia Fields**

**Class of 2025 Graduates**

Sean Arscott  
Sara Aung  
Christian Babiartz  
Teaghan Barker  
Salvatore Borruso  
Amanda Capuana  
Allyson Checola  
Giada Fargas  
Amelia Fields  
Briana Fields  
Joseph Godlewski  
Arianna Guzman-Gerstner  
Victoria Helmer  
Joseph Horn  
Paul Kearney  
Michael Knopic  
Karissa LaBella  
Mark Mironov  
Valeria Nieto-Aguirre  
Sean Noon  
Fatih NurAlem  
Louis Robertelli  
Colin Scanlon  
Noah Sexton  
Ashley Spellman  
Jonathan Versace

## CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

# The St. Carlo Acutis Chapel Renovation and Dedication

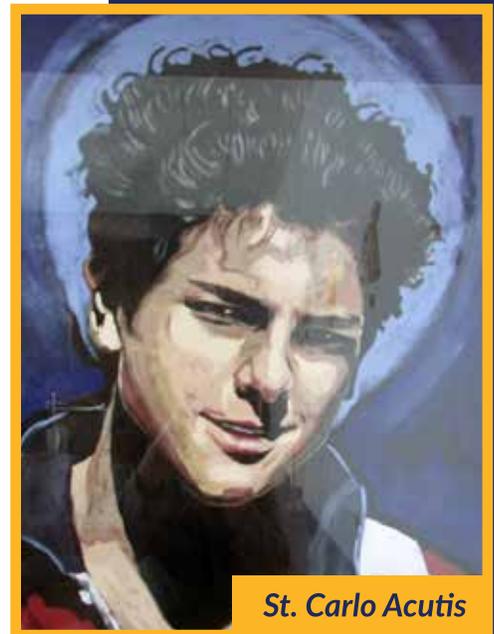
**T**he Most Reverend Bishop Lucia celebrated the blessing and dedication of our beautifully renovated chapel in February, the St. Carlo Acutis Chapel, named after the first millennial saint and a special place for our students to gather for religion class or take a moment for a quiet prayer.

The Bishop processed through the halls of the school with a first-class relic of St. Carlo, which was then displayed on the altar for students to venerate. It is the first of any chapel or church to be dedicated to the new saint.

Renovations included a new drop ceiling, new flooring, and the removal and replacement of the old pews with cushioned chairs with attached kneelers to help diversify the space for retreats and spiritual programming. The chairs, as well as the new altar and ambo (pulpit), came from Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse upon its closing. The life-size, wood-carved statue of the Risen Christ at the center came from St. Anthony's Church in Utica after its renovation. The chapel was painted in shades of blue in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The chapel was last renovated in 1983 by the graduating class.

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan," was Carlo Acutis' mantra while he lived his brief life on Earth. It's our hope that our young people will heed his example in following Jesus, sharing his teachings with others, and finding the fullness of life in joy and holiness.

A special thank you to Campus Minister Bob McQueen, ND '70, for his dedication to Notre Dame Schools, along with our students and all those who donated to the Chapel Renovation Project.



**St. Carlo Acutis**

# NJROTC Highlights

## Legion of Valor Bronze Cross Awarded to Paul Kearney



**T**he Legion of Valor has awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement to Cadet LTJG Paul Kearney for Outstanding Achievement of Scholastic Excellence in both military and academic subjects while serving as a member of the Notre Dame NJROTC Unit for the school year of 2023-2024.

The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement is considered the highest honor a Navy Junior ROTC cadet can earn. Only 22 Navy JROTC cadets from the school year 2023-2024 were selected worldwide from all four branches.

Cadet Kearney was a member of the nationally-ranked armed execution team, finishing in the Top 10 at the Navy National Academic Physical Fitness and Drill Championship. He's also a valuable member of our armed and unarmed regulation teams, as well as our color guard.

Academically, he is in the top three of NS3 students—and ranked 5th in his junior class—while taking a rigorous AP and Honors course schedule.

He has performed well over 300 hours of community service for the school year of 2023 and 2024.

**Established in 1960 by the Legion of Valor as the Bronze Cross for Achievement, the annual award is given to outstanding Junior ROTC and National Defense Cadet Corps students to encourage achievement of scholastic excellence in both military and academic subjects and stimulate development of leadership.**

# NJROTC Highlights

## Recent Honors and Achievements

**Distinguished United with Academic Honors:** Notre Dame received this prestigious designation for the ninth straight year. The recognition honors an NJROTC program for sustained superior performance throughout the school year, highlighting strong academic achievement alongside military proficiency, community service, and administration. The high-level honor is given to units that rank in the top 10 percent of programs nationwide.

**2024-2025 Most Outstanding Unit for Area 1:** This is Notre Dame's first time earning the prestigious award, which is based on a comprehensive evaluation that includes academic performance, community service, competition results, and overall unit management within their area. This placed the unit in the top 23 out of more than 620 units.

### **Area 1 Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship, 1st Place:**

This placement earned Notre Dame's NJROTC unit a spot as one of the 23 schools to compete at the 2025 NJROTC Nationals Academic, Athletic, & Drill Championship. The unit placed 14th nationally.

**Area 1 Brain Brawl Championship, 1st Place:** This achievement earned the unit a spot at the National Brain Brawl Championship. The unit placed 6th nationally.

**Area 1 Orienteering, 2nd Place:** Notre Dame's placement earned them a spot at the NJROTC national Orienteering Championship. They finished 16th nationally.

### **Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Penn State Scholarship:**

Notre Dame cadets Paul Kearney and Briana Fields both received this special four-year scholarship for full tuition to Penn State in exchange for a commitment to serve as an officer in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps after graduation. Benefits include full tuition, book stipends, computer and lab fees, etc.

## New Leadership

**In May 2025, the unit held its annual awards and change of command ceremony. New leadership for the 2025-2026 year includes:**

Commanding Officer C/LCDR  
Alyssa Capuana

Command Master Chief C/Master  
Chief Erin Trinkaus

Command Executive Officer C/LT  
Thomas Carville

Command Adjutant C/LTjg  
Shea Williams

Command Special Project Officer C/  
LTjg Gracie Guiliano

Command Operations Officer C/LTjg  
Scott Yourdon

Command Supply Officer C/LTjg  
Tessa Arcuri

Command Weapons Officer C/LTjg  
Joshua Caruso

Command Public Affairs Officer C/  
LTjg Camron

Command Administration Officer and  
Safety Officer C/LTjg Ella Trinkaus

Command First LT C/LTjg  
Christopher Brittingham

Command Media Officer C/Ensign  
Jenna Herron

Command Disbursing Officer C/Senior  
Chief Alexah Redmond

Command Communication Officer C/  
Chief Christanna Jadwick

Command Boatswain Mate (Boats) C/  
Chief Lexi Manno

## CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

# Catholic Schools Week 2025



**N**otre Dame celebrated Catholic Schools Week, held from January 26 - February 1, 2025, in various ways. Both campuses celebrated Mass to kick off the week, and we honored our local pastors by visiting the parishes our students belong to and delivering care packages to the priests.

Notre Dame student life was also highlighted at the 2nd annual Notre Dame Expo during that week. Community members were invited to come see what we are all about. The evening featured presentations by our nationally ranked armed and unarmed NJROTC drill and trick teams, cheerleaders, Blue and Gold Players cabaret, and our elementary school choir. Anthony Picente, county executive, was our distinguished guest. Mr. Picente issued a proclamation for Catholic Schools Week and underscored the importance of Catholic education in Oneida County. Student clubs and organizations were on full display for those seeking information. Tours were also offered to prospective students.



## CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS

# Notre Dame Blue & Gold Players

## Join Utica University for “Wizard of Oz”



Last November, our Notre Dame Blue and Gold Players provided a spectacular performance of *The Wizard of Oz* in collaboration with Utica University Theatre.

Our Notre Dame performers included Caleb Hemming, Lily Elinskas, Dahlia Aung, Noah Calandra, Gianna Colangelo, Grace Fenton, Hailey Kane, Evelyn Karpe, Ella Manno, Elianna Thibault, and Thomas DeStefano, ND '24.

A special thank you to Mrs. Elacqua and Mrs. Evans for all their time and devotion, as well as the show's directors, Dennis Clark and Jared McFarlin.



### Adorino Fitness Center

Thank you to the following companies:  
Adorino Construction Inc.  
84 Lumber  
Erie Material  
McQuade & Bannigan  
Dennis Padula & Sons Roofing & Sheetmetal Co.  
Roof Metals Supply  
Cavo Builders' Supply  
The Rob Esche Save of the Day Foundation  
CNY Insulation Plus Inc.  
Cobblestone Disposal Services LLC  
J&M Construction Services Inc.  
Matt Christ  
Horsepower Contracting  
Kenneth C. Miller, Mason Contractor, Inc.  
Stephan Excavating LLC  
Utica Valley Electric Supply  
JM Door  
Notre Dame Jugglers 2025 Varsity Football Team



### Adorino Fitness Center Opens

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of Notre Dame's Adorino Fitness Center took place on Friday, October 3, 2025. The generosity and leadership of Bernie and Adrienne Adorino made this fitness center a reality, along with the many local businesses that donated to the project. Thank you to the officials from the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce, as well as faculty, staff, and students who attended the event to celebrate this space!



### Hearts to Wynn Hospital

This spring, several Notre Dame students made and delivered heart pillows to the Wynn Hospital Cardiac Unit. The pillows will be used to comfort patients who have undergone heart surgery. Special thank you to Campus Minister Bob McQueen, ND '70, Mrs. Julianne Newton-Pauley, Jenna Herron, Kaytee Grabinski, Logan Shedd, and Head of Volunteer Services at Wynn Hospital, Nancy Sepulveda.



# Remembering Father Paul

**R**everend Paul J. Drobin, who taught at Utica Catholic Academy from 1967 to 1973 and was a beloved priest and community member known throughout Utica and Central New York, passed away on September 27, 2024, at age 84. He never missed the opening prayer at the Ride for Missing Children, and he famously asked for a brewery truck and a John Deere Tractor in his funeral procession.

Though they didn't honor that request, his longtime friends Kim Rudolph, a graduate of Utica Catholic Academy, and her husband Sam, say how these anecdotes capture Father Drobin's spirit: "It shows how he related to people and experiences in life. He had worked with the John Deere Company in his younger days. He was also close to the family that owned the brewery."

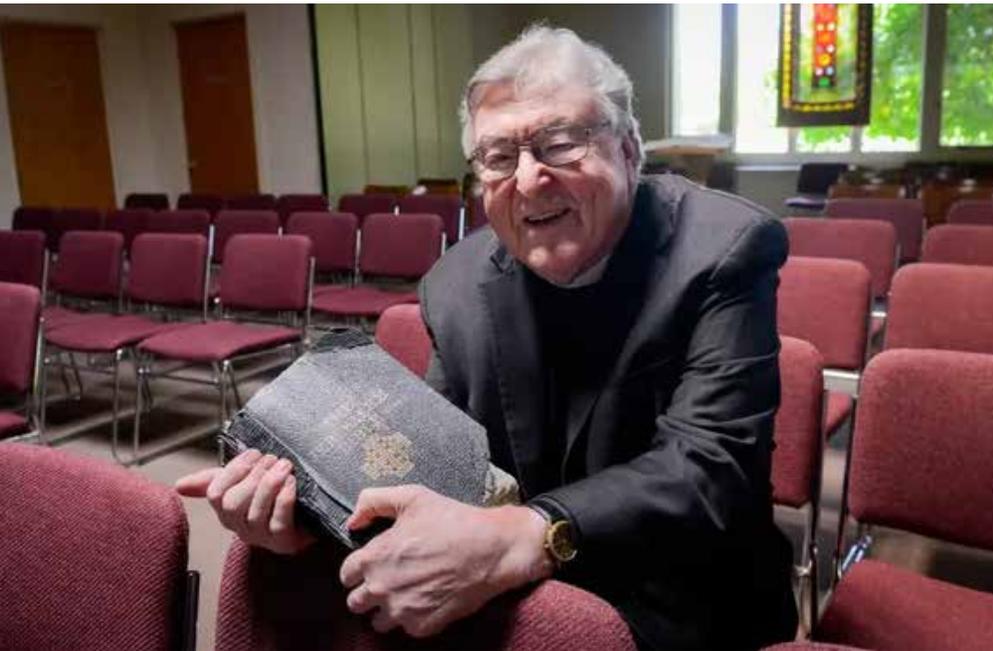
Father Drobin—or Father Paul as he was affectionately known—was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 1966. He earned a master's degree from the University of Detroit in 1970 and Certification in Pastoral Counseling from the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center. In addition to his time at Utica Catholic Academy, he taught religion at Rome Catholic High School from 1966-1967, then served as Newman Chaplain at Hamilton and Kirkland Colleges until assuming the role of Director of Family Life and Parish Services for Catholic Charities in 1980. He was appointed Chaplain of St. Joseph's Nursing Home and later became the Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in New Hartford in 1987. His last assignment was as Newman Chaplain at Utica College and SUNY-POLY from 1999-2018. His part-time assignments took him across Central New York, where he became endeared as Parochial Vicar.

"At Utica Catholic Academy, Father Drobin was the type of teacher you could kid around with," says Rudolph. "He was welcoming and approachable, and his door was always open. He remained in touch with alumni throughout their lives."

“

*He was welcoming and approachable, and his door was always open. He remained in touch with alumni throughout their lives.”*

— Kim Rudolph



Alex Cooper/Observer-Dispatch

In addition to his humor, Father Drobin was known for his love for giving back to the Utica area and the organizations of learning and faith.

“He will be remembered for his commitment to not only the Catholic Church, but to the greater Utica community”, says Rudolph. “He was involved in so many community organizations, including Munson, Williams, Proctor Arts Institute (Munson), the Utica Public Library, Thea Bowman House, The Ride for Missing Children, and Utica Rotary, among others.”

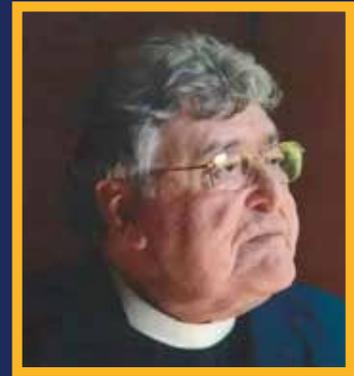
Tributes across the region when Father Drobin passed noted his unique ability to connect with people and make them feel valued, as well as his dedication to the Catholic Church. For some, he was the kindest person they had ever met. For others, they were simply touched by the love he had for others.

“Father Drobin truly had a gift in his ability to recognize people,” says Rudolph. “Not only remembering their names, but also important details of his connection with them and their lives.”



### Utica Public Library Book Collection

Fr. Drobin was known for challenging his students to learn more and welcoming students to challenge him back. Later in his life, the Utica Public Library dedicated a collection of Father Drobin’s books that were meaningful to him in his life. You can view that collection via this QR code.



## Remembering Father Drobin

Remembering Father Drobin means remembering the original three schools that merged to form Notre Dame and created our collective history.

In the beginning, we were three separate Catholic schools: Utica Catholic Academy, an all-girls school founded in 1834 and staffed by the daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; St. Francis de Sales, founded in 1907 and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier; and Notre Dame High School, founded in 1960 and staffed by the Xaverian Brothers as an all boys’ school at its inception.

When we merged in 1976, all three independent high schools became one Catholic high school and adopted the name Notre Dame. Each school brought with it a long and rich tradition of sound principles and a Christian education, and its loyal and passionate alumni communities.



## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

# Notre Dame Students and Staff Honored at Oneida County Government Awards

This past summer, Notre Dame students and staff were honored for their positive impact on the community at the 6th Annual Oneida County Government Youth & Adult Award Recognition Ceremony.

The awards were as follows:

**Paul Kearney: *Commitment to Military Service Award*** for his commitment to serving our great country and working to advance peace.

**Erin Trinkaus: *Distinguished Youth Volunteer Award*** for her exemplary commitment to school, parish, and community service.

**Mr. Robert McQueen, ND '70: *Distinguished Youth Employee Award*** for his commitment to the students of Notre Dame. For more than a decade, Mr. McQueen has served our students in many capacities ranging from coach to Campus Minister, and has had a tremendous impact on the lives of so many young people.

The awards were presented by two Notre Dame alumni, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., ND '78, and Youth Bureau Director Kevin Green, ND '93.

***Our Notre Dame students and alumni are doing great things for our community!***

## Other Awards & Recognition



**Louis Robertelli:** Awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the Firefighters Association of the State of New York for his work as a volunteer firefighter with Frankfort Center Fire Department. The award recognizes exemplary members of the youth fire service who also contribute to their communities.



**Mr. Kagan Crawford:** Awarded The Rotary Clubs of Utica Outstanding Educators Award, nominated by Notre Dame students Jenna Herron and Scott Yourdon, who were asked to select a teacher they believe exemplifies the Rotary values and motto of "Service Above Self." Our new history teacher at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, Mr. Crawford decided to pursue a career in education following his service in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.



**Christopher Brittingham:** Awarded the 2025 Students Inside Albany Conference Winner, a recognition he received from Senator Joseph

Griffo, Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, and a proclamation for "Christopher Brittingham Day" from Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente Jr. A senior at Notre Dame, Chris exemplifies leadership and dedication through his academic excellence and commitment to our NJROTC unit.

## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

# School of Excellence Recognition

This is the third year in a row that Notre Dame has been recognized as a School of Excellence, a school that had 75% of its varsity programs qualify for and receive the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award.

### Scholar athletes:

Christian Babiarz,  
Teaghan Barker

## Fall 2024 Highlights

### Girls' Varsity Tennis

- ▶ Section III Class C Doubles Champions: Alyssa Capuana, Bella Zalocha
- ▶ TVL All-Stars: Grace Giuliano (Singles); Bella Zalocha and Alyssa Capuana (Doubles)

### Cross-Country

- ▶ TVL Championships: Jamarhy Bushey finished 15th out of 126 runners; Annette LaBarbera, 16th out of 120 runners

### Varsity Football

- ▶ TVL Top Defender: Shea Williams (82 tackles)
- ▶ TVL All-Star Team: Sal Burroso, Shea Williams, Nolan Krzemien, Darrius Hawkins, and Nick Adorino



### Mohawk Valley Jugglers Hockey Team Honors Mr. Michael Zasa in "Hockey Fights Cancer" Game

Last December, the Mohawk Valley Jugglers honored Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School theology and Spanish teacher Michael Zasa in their Hockey Fights Cancer game.

Hockey Fights Cancer is a joint initiative by the National Hockey League (NHL) and National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) that unites the hockey community to fundraise and support those affected by cancer.



## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

# Winter 2025 Highlights

### Varsity Girls' Basketball

- ▶ Section III Class A Champions
- ▶ Undefeated in the TVL for the past two years
- ▶ TVL Colonial Division MVP: Ella Trinkaus
- ▶ Colonial Division Coach of the Year: John Snyder
- ▶ TVL All Stars Team: Erin Trinkaus and Lily Johnson

### Varsity Indoor Track (Inaugural Season)

- ▶ Section III Champion in Triple Jump, Long Jump, and 55m Hurdles
- ▶ TVL Champion in Long Jump: Christian Babiarez
- ▶ TVL All-Stars: Christian Babiarez (Long Jump, Triple Jump, 55m and 55 m Hurdles); Darris Hawkins (300m)
- ▶ Girls Track: Finished 2nd in Section III Championships in the 4x200 team of Christianna Jadwick, Fianna Lennon, Karissa Johnson, and Liz Synakowski



TVL Colonial Division MVP: Ella Trinkaus

## Spring 2025 Highlights

### Varsity Softball

- ▶ Made it to Section III Class B Semi-Finals
- ▶ CNY Sports Clutch Hitter Award: Bella Zalocha with 21 Run Batted Ins (RBI)
- ▶ Golden Arm Award: Ella Trinkaus with a 2.66 Earned Run Average (ERA)

### Varsity Baseball

- ▶ Competed in the Section III Class C Championship, beating the #9, #4, and #1 seeds to advance to Finals

### Varsity Golf

- ▶ Sean Noon and John Leogrande qualified for Sectionals

### Outdoor Track

- ▶ Section III Champ in 110 Hurdles, 400 Hurdles, and Long Jump: Christian Babiarez
- ▶ State qualifier in Discus: D'Marco Santiago

# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Fall 2025 Highlights



### Marian Club Honorees

At the Brother More C.F.X. Sports Hall of Fame dinner, the 2025 Marian Club honorees—Notre Dame alumni Renee (Carlson) and John Snyder—were also recognized for their dedication to Notre Dame High School and the values of Catholic education. They both graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1991. Following high school, Renee graduated from Russell Sage and currently works as a physical therapist who specializes in treating young children with developmental delays. John graduated from Utica University and the University of Dayton School of Law. John is a practicing attorney whose focus is on Workers' Compensation and the defense of claims on behalf of insurance carriers and self-insured employers. John and Renee are the proud parents of four children who are all Notre Dame graduates: Sarah '18, Robert & Caitlin '20, and Donald '24. The dinner was held Thursday, October 23, 2025.

## Brother More C.F.X. Sports Hall of Fame Inductees Honored at Dinner

The Notre Dame Sports Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the following 2025 inductees to the Brother More C.F.X. Sports Hall of Fame:



### ▶ 2005 NYS Class C Championship Baseball Team



### ▶ Bob Devins, ND '70 (posthumously)

- One of the most successful basketball players in Juggler history
- Named one of the top 75 all-time high school basketball players in CNY in 2018
- Served as Boys Varsity Basketball Coach from 1980-1984



### ▶ Mike Guca, ND '73

- Member of the undefeated boys basketball team, which won a Section III Championship and was ranked 3rd in New York State
- Honored as MVP in football during his senior year



### ▶ Pat Moore, ND '10

- 5-year varsity basketball letterman
- 2010 McDonald's All-American nominee
- Went on to a stellar career at Colgate University
- Currently serves as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Colgate



### ▶ Claire Sehring, ND '18

- 5-year girls varsity basketball letter recipient
- Finished with 1,761 career points and 690 rebounds
- A major contributor on the 2014 NYS Class A Girls Championship Team as an 8th grader



### ▶ Varsity Baseball Coach Joe Milazzo (1981-1989)

- Built a highly regarded baseball program
- Under his tutelage, the program won three C.O.L. championships and 4 Section III championships, along with making three NYS final four appearances
- Instrumental in the 2005 NYS Class C Championship after returning in 2005 as Assistant Baseball Coach

## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

### Fall 2025 Highlights

#### Football

The '25 football season welcomes new coach, Coach Connor Cough, ND '12, joining Nick Santiago as Associate Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator. The 11-man team is back in action on Coach Ben Rizzo Field.

#### Girls' Volleyball (Modified)

This year marks the first time we've had our own team at Notre Dame. We're so excited to see what the season brings!

#### Varsity Basketball

Varsity basketball is back for the 2025-2026 season! Taking a season off from varsity competition helped our JV team gain the confidence and experience they needed to go into the 2025-2026 season to compete at the varsity level.

The program thrived at the JV level, with the boys finishing 12-4 last season under the helm of returning Coach Dan Curri.

As for the future of the program, the modified team carried 12 athletes and had one of their best and most competitive seasons in the past four years under the guidance of Coach Steve Ruffrage. The break from varsity play last year has brought renewed energy and interest into our boys program, and we're confident we will continue carrying a varsity program.



#### Newly-Launched Notre Dame Hockey Academy Partners with Notre Dame Schools for Elite Program

Notre Dame Schools is proud to be the educational partner for the newly launched Notre Dame Hockey Academy, a traveling team of 21 players that will participate in games up and down the East Coast.

The new team features elite boys' and girls' youth hockey players from across North America—including Canada—who will have the opportunity to harness their athletic and academic potential through the program, thanks to NHL and NCAA coaching expertise and a rigorous Notre Dame education.

When they're away from their home base at Utica University Nexus Center, players will take on a condensed class schedule here at Notre Dame—an experience tailored to the unique needs that elite athletic training demands. Although athletic performance is the focal point of the academy, educational excellence remains a key element of its philosophy.

For many parents, the decision to enroll their children in the hockey academy was made easier thanks to the program's dedication to offering a well-rounded experience—including academics.

"The development model and everything they have to offer as far as the weight training and nutrition stuff just seems like a total package," one parent told WKTV.

The Academy's first season has had an incredibly impressive start so far with a record of 9-0, beating rivals like Syracuse Nationals and highly-ranked teams like the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Knights.

We can't wait to see all they'll accomplish this year—both on the ice and inside the classroom.

# Alumni Highlights



Stephen D. Cannerelli

**Mike Durr, '77**, and his daughter, **Emily Durr, '14**, were both inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame on April 13, 2025. Mike coached the ND boy's basketball team for 21 years (1994-2015) before retiring with a career record of 335-141. His Jugglers won six Section III championships and won or shared 12 Tri-Valley League titles. He coached Notre Dame to the Class C and Class B finals of the New York State Championships in 1999 and 2000. Emily is Section III's second-leading career scorer with 2,445 points, and she helped lead the Jugglers to a 24-3 record during her senior year. We were Section III and state champions that year as well.



Rome Sentinel

Former Whitesboro Fire Chief **Brian McQueen, '73**, received the E. James Monihan Director Award National Volunteer Fire Council as part of its annual recognitions in May 2025. McQueen helped get the Firefighter Cancer

Registry Act introduced and passed in Congress, he worked to create the Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer, and he co-authored the guide Training Volunteer Firefighters to Be Combat Ready, released by the NVFC in partnership with VCOS and the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, among many other accomplishments.

ND basketball stars **Leroy Witherspoon, '80**, and **Michele Davis, '93**, were both inducted into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame in October 2024. Leroy earned a multitude of honors after ND at Potsdam State, including two-time All American, a two-time Division III player of the year, a SUNYAC Player of the Year, a three-time first team SUNYAC all-star, and a key member of the Bears' 1981 national championship team. Michele, Utica University's women's basketball coach since 2000, went on to Herkimer County Community College after ND, where she was a two-time National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III Player of the Year. At SUNY Albany, she established several records and remains among the school's all-time leaders in several categories.



Rome Sentinel

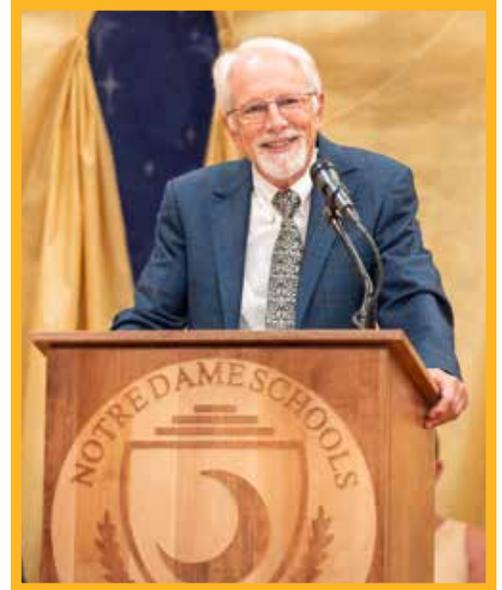
Coach Jim Klein and **Lou Parrotta, '92** were both highlighted in Greater Utica Magazine in 2025. Lou was a loyal Notre Dame Juggler and proud member of NJROTC who passed away on June 3, 2025, after a brief and unexpected illness. As the magazine highlights, "he was one of the most recognizable figures in local area history. [Lou] was an educator, historian, writer, and board member for numerous community organizations."

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

### 2025 Distinguished Alumnus: Dr. Brian Chanatry, ND '72

**Dr. Brian Chanatry, ND '72**, was honored as this year's Distinguished Alumnus at the Class of 2025 Commencement ceremony. He received his BA in Biology from Hamilton College and his MD from State University of New York Upstate Medical University. Dr. Chanatry holds certifications from the National Board of Medical Examiners, American Board of Anesthesiology, Certificate of Special Qualification in Critical Care, Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography, and the National Board of Echocardiography. He is currently an attending anesthesiologist and intensivist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, where he serves on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Grievance Committees, in addition to numerous other previous committee memberships.

Dr. Chanatry is a member of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, the International Anesthesia Research Society, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Medical Society of the State of New York. He has authored numerous publications in health and medicine.



### Cornelius Deep, ND '16, Ordained Deacon

**Cornelius Deep, ND '16** was ordained a deacon on May 17 at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Church in Utica. "Cornelius is prayerful, disciplined and a self-starter who has a good moral compass, and is thoughtful and compassionate," said parents Peter and Lucy Deep. "He will enthusiastically share these gifts with the people he serves. He loves God, his Catholic faith, is devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and will serve God's people with joy."

During his homily, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia instructed Deacon Deep concerning the Office of the Deacon and its duties. "As a deacon, one ministers in the name of Jesus who came along His disciples, to lay down his life for God's bread. You will serve the people with love and joy as you would in the Lord," said Bishop. "You will exercise your ministry committed to the celibate state. Know that celibacy is both a sign of passion and charity, as well as a source of spiritual truthfulness in the world compelled by the sincere love of Christ. Living in this state with total dedication, you will claim to praise more easily with an undivided heart. You will free yourself more completely for the service of God and the human family and minister more effectively the work of a spiritual leader."

Cornelius is in his final year of seminary, pursuing master's degrees in divinity and theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. He will be ordained to the priesthood in 2026.



# In Memoriam

James Newlove ND '74  
 Merrill Constantine ND '82  
 William T. Lewek, M.D. ND '69  
 Stephen J. Powers ND '75  
 Marjorie Rose Collis Ruhm Cahill DS '42  
 Carol Lee Perreault Kelly DS '51  
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 James Harper, Jr ND '64  
 Stephen Smith ND '77  
 Mary Carol Boden Fehlner UCA '64  
 Thomas Decker ND '80  
 Roberta M Moore DS '54  
 Robert Brooks DS '58

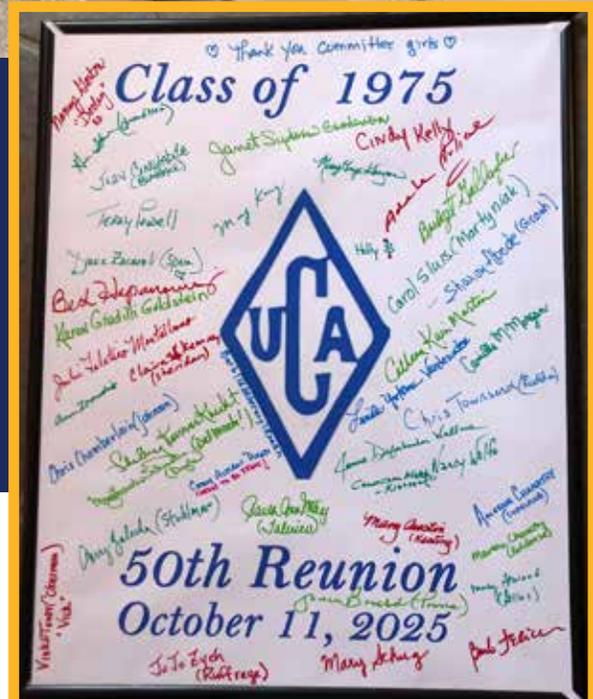
Debra Flihan ND '79  
 Renee Werner Laws ND '95  
 James Roddy ND '61  
 Joseph Stephen Deery, Jr ND Family  
 Mitchell Komnick ND '77  
 Joseph Polito ND '87  
 Michael Lennon ND '71  
 Carleen Gaffney Morbidini ND '87  
 Gary Acey ND '89  
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 Gene Lawrence ND '67  
 Alan Ross ND '63  
 Stephen Koscinski ND '76  
 Brian Roller ND '67  
 Richard Hobaica ND '75  
 Lou Parrotta ND '92  
 Matthew Miotla ND '68  
 Michael J. Bosak ND '73



# Reunion Recap and Upcoming Reunions and Events

The Utica Catholic Academy Class of 1975 celebrated its 50th reunion on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at the New Hartford American Legion. The ladies enjoyed the evening with a tour of the former UCA building, a trivia contest, UCA memorabilia, and catching up with classmates.

Please contact Cindy Kelly at [ckelly140@roadrunner.com](mailto:ckelly140@roadrunner.com) for more information about upcoming events.



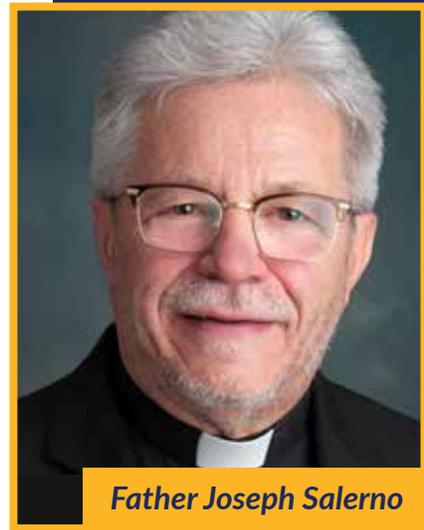
# GIVING SPOTLIGHT: The Salerno Fund

There are many ways to support students and the future of Notre Dame, but one of the most impactful initiatives is through the Salerno Catholic Education Fund. Named in honor of Father Joseph Salerno and his commitment to Catholic Education, the Salerno Catholic Education Fund provides donors with a direct way to fund Notre Dame Schools' educational endeavors, including operations, scholarships, and financial aid.

Making a charitable contribution to the Salerno Catholic Education Fund means directly providing opportunities for students to experience a Catholic education, which they would not have been able to afford otherwise. The fund also allows Notre Dame to use contributions where the need is greatest. If you are looking for the most meaningful way to support Notre Dame with a financial gift, it is through a contribution to the Salerno Fund.

Ordained May 3, 1980, Father Joe's 43 years of service included stints in Endicott, Binghamton, Lee Center, and New Hartford. His last appointment, spanning over two decades, was as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Utica, now the parish of Mary, Mother of Our Savior. He formerly served as a police and fire chaplain.

An avid supporter of Catholic Education, Father Joe is a former board member of Notre Dame Schools, and he currently sits as board chair of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The Salerno Fund evokes Father Joe's commitment to education by helping Notre Dame get meaningful support to its students and its future. To contribute, visit [foundationhoc.org/give/funds/salerno-catholic-education-fund](https://foundationhoc.org/give/funds/salerno-catholic-education-fund).



Father Joseph Salerno



**\$142,810 Raised**  
**114 Donors**

**Thank You for Your  
Generous Support!**



## Notre Dame's 2025-2026 Funding Priorities

- ▶ **Annual Operating Support**
- ▶ **Current-use & Endowment for Financial Aid and Scholarships**
- ▶ **Facilities Projects, including:**
  - Jr./Sr. Front Entrance Walkway
  - Jr./Sr. Technology infrastructure
  - Elementary Instructional Computers
  - Elementary Outside Stair Railings & Stadium Railings

NOTRE DAME  
SCHOOLS'

# 15th Annual \$100,000 Raffle Tickets Now on Sale!

**T**hank you to our sponsors and to all who volunteered their time to make the Notre Dame Schools Raffle of 2025 a huge success! We raised over \$110,000 which will help with the operating expenses for Notre Dame Schools.

The Notre Dame Schools 15th Annual Raffle tickets are on sale now! The drawing and Raffle Party will take place Sunday, April 26, 2026. There will be a grand prize of \$100,000, along with additional cash prizes, door prizes, basket raffles, and more. Tickets will be available for purchase at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School and other local locations.



# Donors

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### In honor of George & Rose Shields

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### In Memory of Alan Ross, ND '63; Joseph Ross Henri, UCA '51

Marilyn Ross Bradford  
Janet Ross Hern

### In memory of Cpt. George Wood

Gene Jarosz  
Thomas & Jeanne Bannigan Sebastian

### In memory of Debra Flihan, ND '79

Kimberly Wheatley

### In memory of deceased members of the Gacek & Zalocha Families

Paul Zalocha

### In memory of Gilbert & Katherine Dodge

Kevin Dodge

### In memory of Lynda Padula

Peter Padula  
Joseph Padula  
Renata Padula  
Dennis Padula

### In memory of Margaret Durr

Elizabeth Trinkaus

### In memory of Thomas Tanney

Sara Pinder  
American Legion Mohawk Post #1450

### In Memory of Bernie Mucitelli, ND '74

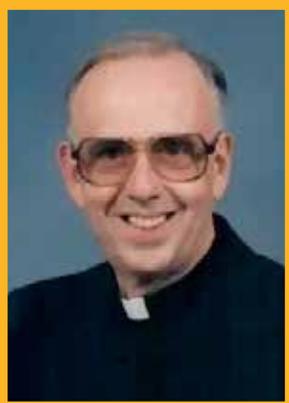
Karen Schuler Mucitelli

### In honor of Liz Kearns

Community at Sunset Wood

# Donor Spotlight

## Remembering Rev. Vincent J. Kelly



In May 2025, Notre Dame received notice of a gift from the estate of Rev. Vincent J. Kelly, who left \$330,000 to the school to endow scholarships for deserving students. A former pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Oriskany Falls, Rev. Kelly passed away on April 26, 2021, at the age of 90. The gift was in memory of his parents, Francis and Theresa Kelly and family. Remembered for his calm demeanor and his scholarly nature, Rev. Kelly was beloved by parishioners. His memory will live on in the students' lives affected by his generous gift.

### In Gratitude

► The Notre Dame community thanks our very generous anonymous alumni donor who made our very needed roof repairs happen.

**Thank you!**

### DONOR DEDICATION:

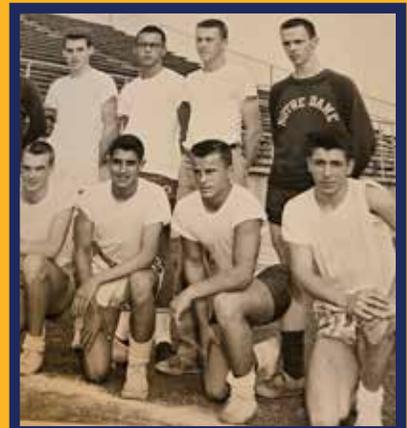
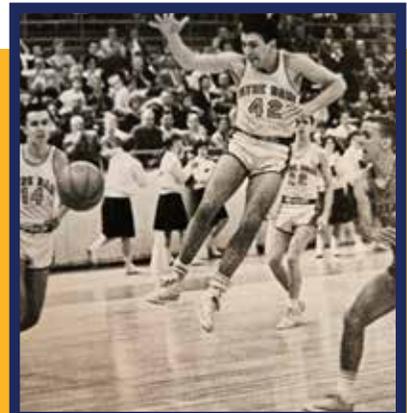
## David S. Morris, ND '63

A gift of \$250,000 from Anita A. Vitullo



### In memory of David S. Morris Notre Dame High School Class of 1963

David was known for his athletic ability. He relayed stories of his Notre Dame days and had many friends from his class. He and Anita A. Vitullo met in their 20s and were together until he died in 2014.





## Give Today to the Future of Catholic Education and Notre Dame Schools!

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