

Notre Dame High School
St. Mary's Grade School
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Clarksburg, WV 26301

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Notre Dame & St. Mary's



Education in Faith, Knowledge, & Service

March, 2021

Schools Adjust Well to Coronavirus

In the middle of March, 2020, Governor Jim Justice announced that all schools in West Virginia were to close their buildings due to a virus spreading rapidly across the world. That announcement came on Friday, March 12. By Monday, March 15, Notre Dame & St. Mary's were already in full remote learning mode.

Remote learning took place for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year with students, teachers, administrators, and parents adapting quickly to the technology needed in order for teaching and learning to take place within the confines of everyone's homes.



St. Mary's 5th Grade Class During Morning Prayer

During the Summer of 2020, many hours were spent discussing how best to reopen the schools. Different protocols would have to be implemented where physical distancing and improved sanitation could take place.

Notre Dame & St. Mary's reopened on September 8, 2020. However, the routine for students and employees are completely different. Temperature checks are taken upon arrival, mask wearing is mandatory, and prayer is done over intercom

systems or screened via Zoom. Students now sit at least six feet apart while facing the same direction. If class sizes are too large to accommodate distancing protocols, classes are held in the cafeteria or students are separated with plastic screens. Lunch now has to be prepackaged and delivered to classrooms or, in pleasant weather, students eat outside.

Students at Notre Dame & St. Mary's have been in school five days a week when allowed to do so. They have also spent time being taught remotely when coronavirus cases spike in the area. Although there are many challenges to the situation, the students and teachers have been able to transition smoothly between remote and in-person learning.

As 2021 begins, there is hope on the horizon that school operations can eventually get back to something like normality. Many of our employees have received their first dose of the COVID vaccine and

the younger employees are high on the waiting list to be vaccinated.

While the short term plans are to keep the students at school for five days a week on a consistent basis, the school administrations are also in the process of developing long term strategic plans for Notre Dame High School and St. Mary's Grade School. These plans are being developed and will be released later in 2021.



St. Mary's 1st Grade Teacher, Mary Beth Martino, Receives Vaccine



ND Religion Teacher, Melissa McAra, Teaching Her Class Remotely

Britton Named WV Goalkeeper of the Year



Notre Dame High School Junior Student, Wade Britton, has been named the West Virginia High School Goalkeeper of the year in the A/AA classification by the WV High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Britton was also named to the first team All-State, first team All-Region, and first team All County teams. "It felt really

great to receive the award." said Britton who plays for FC Alliance North outside of the high school season. "I had goals coming into high school soccer and I felt this award was too high to achieve when I was coming into my freshman year. I didn't even think I could be an all state player until my senior year."

Britton plans to play at the college level and hopefully in the USL. After he finishes playing he would like to coach soccer at the college level.

Soccer coach Ian McAra said, "Wade has all the tools needed to become an outstanding goalkeeper. If he continues to improve, he can accomplish any goal he sets his mind to."

Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund Hits \$105,000

2020-2021
NOTRE DAME & ST. MARY'S
FUND



NEW BEGINNINGS,
STABLE FOUNDATIONS

The 2020-2021 Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund Campaign has just hit the \$105,000 mark. The goal is \$200,000 and the campaign ends on June 30, 2021.

The Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund is an annual campaign that benefits academic/extracurricular programs, building maintenance, and provides a limited amount of academic tuition assistance.

Gifts can be made by sending checks using the enclosed envelopes or donating online at notredamewv.org.

All gifts are appreciated and make a difference. Thank you to those who have contributed.

St. Mary's Receives Generous Grant

The Sacred Heart Children's Center recently awarded \$26,250 to St. Mary's Grade School to purchase I pads for grades 3 through 6.

"Access to devices has become crucial for remote learning during the uncertainty of COVID-19," said Principal Nicole Folio, "They will also be used for classroom instruction, live streaming of morning prayer, core subjects, enrichment courses and our newly implemented Mental Health Awareness Program."

The Sacred Heart Children's Center began as a Catholic orphanage in the early 20th century before evolving into a public day care center in the 1970s. In the 1980s the organization became a volunteer directed private foundation accepting funds and granting requests to benefit the children of Harrison County.

"St. Mary's is looking to the future and we want to be part of that," said Sacred Heart Board Member Dolores Yoke, "They are teaching the whole child."



Principal Nicole Folio Receives a Check from Board Member Dolores Yoke

Being A Senior During a Pandemic



By Gianna Martino

lot before the last first day of school began and where we would share the excitement of being seniors and talk about our expectations. I envisioned getting together and decorating the hallways with my fellow seniors during homecoming week. I pictured me and my friends taking photos in our pretty dresses and dancing together at our last homecoming dance and prom. Most of all, I imagined gathering with my class in the church, receiving our diplomas, and throwing up our graduation caps in celebration, saying goodbye to high school and getting ready for the next chapter in our lives. However, things haven't gone exactly the way I anticipated.

In March of 2020, our Governor issued a Stay-at-Home Order because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since the highly contagious disease is still present, this of course raised questions as to how big of an impact it would have on our school. When I returned to Notre Dame this year, things were a lot different. Our school took the all the necessary precautions with

2021. The year that I've been looking forward to for as long as I can remember. I imagined starting my senior year with the senior breakfast, a tradition where we would meet in the parking

everyone wearing masks, desks spaced apart, a new water fountain system, daily temperature checks and other safety measures. While I felt comforted that I was safe, I quickly realized it was much different than years before. We were unable to attend sporting events, special senior activities were cancelled, and there was no homecoming week. This change of pace flipped my world upside down. For years I had dreamt of my perfect senior year, and this is it? I started to believe that there was nothing anyone could do to make this year any better. But being the loving family we are at Notre Dame, we found ways. On Halloween, teachers and faculty put together a fun, socially distanced day full of activities where everyone dressed in costumes, received candy, and danced to music while six feet apart in the school hallways. A few days later, my fellow classmates and I went to the drive-in. Although we sat in separate cars, we communicated over Snapchat and FaceTime so we could feel like we were together.

Notre Dame has handled this crisis well, not only with fun activities, but with our educational needs. These past few months we've alternated from online to in person. This seemingly uneasy process, actually went quite smoothly. Teachers make sure we understand the lessons and how to do our assignments, and they have also been checking in on each of us to make sure we are doing okay at home. Whether we are remote learning via zoom or six feet apart while wearing masks in our classroom, our teachers are always there for us. I'm

also grateful that they are thinking of new ways to involve seniors more by allowing us to lead prayer over the intercom while at school or via Facebook and Instagram when at home.

I can't help but look at this as an important life lesson in that things don't always go according to the plan. I have no idea what the remainder of my senior year has in store, but I do understand that we have all suffered in many different ways during this COVID-19 pandemic. From losing loved ones to not being able to spend time with family and friends. At Notre Dame we are a family, and it has helped us all to share these trying times together. The bonds we form during our senior year used to be enjoyed even more with the senior activities. I personally witnessed my older sister Sophia miss out on many of her senior milestones last year when this terrible pandemic began. Now as I go through my own senior year with my graduating Class of 2021, we also face the same lost experiences. But I realize that we must also not lose sight of some things that we have gained. Our outlook on life has changed our focus. We have been given the opportunity to grow up and see things around us in a whole new way.

At Notre Dame and St Mary's we're taught and we know that God is in control. We live this reality and gain strength in knowing him through all the adversities we will face in life and even through a worldwide pandemic. We at Notre Dame can take this truth out into the world and share this strength with others around us.

Light Reflects on her Brief Time as Principal

Kelly Light started as the Notre Dame High School Principal on August 15, 2020. There were two big things going on in her life at the time - A worldwide pandemic and she was seven months pregnant with her third child.

Due to the timing, Light, a 2006 graduate of Notre Dame, had mixed emotions about applying for the position. However, she was reassured by the outpouring of support from her family and current employees. She was delighted when she was asked to be the Principal and appreciative of the faith Fr. Joe Konikattil (Designated Pastor of Notre Dame & St. Mary's) had shown in her. Light said, "I was excited and humbled to be offered the position and Fr. Joe was looking forward to mentoring me as he has a significant amount of experience in Catholic education."

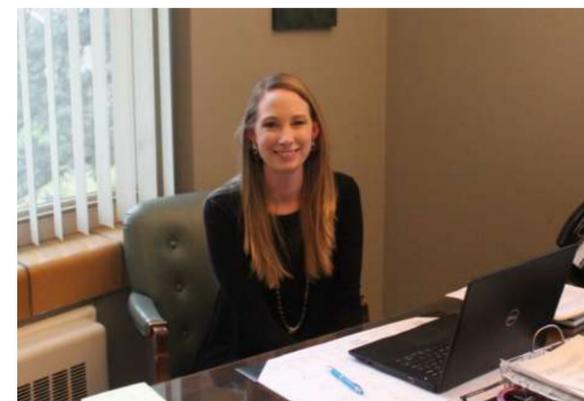
After a tremendous amount of planning, Notre Dame opened on September 8 for the 2020-21 school year. Many changes and new protocols had to be implemented immediately to keep students and employees safe. Light said, "Managing safety guidelines and providing students with a quality high school experience has been the biggest challenge so far. I'm grateful to the parents and students for their continued support of Notre Dame and for their understanding with decisions that have had to be made. I'm also very appre-

ciative of the faculty and staff for making the best of a difficult situation."

Light gave birth to a son, Jamison, in mid-October and took six weeks of maternity leave. During that time, she felt a little frustrated about not being at school but was very confident in the ability of the people she had left in charge. Light said, "We didn't miss a beat and I was kept well informed about how things were going."

Two Notre Dame Graduates, Patty DuPont '77 and Becky Korn '89, took charge of the school during Light's absence. DuPont is the director of religious education and has taught at Notre Dame for twenty years. Korn has been the school counselor for seven years. Both commented on how this time gave them a much greater appreciation of what a Principal does and the challenges that come with it. Korn said, "When you see something through someone else's eyes, it gives you a greater understanding of their role." DuPont echoed those sentiments and added, "We were very appreciative of the help and support Fr. Joe gave us."

Upon Light's return, the Notre Dame stu-



dents have had a mixture of remote and in-person learning which is dependent on the number of coronavirus cases in Harrison County. A rewarding aspect for Light is seeing the students and employees continue to succeed despite the difficult circumstances. She said, "Events and activities have had to be cancelled, but everyone is doing a great job in challenging times."

At the time of writing, Notre Dame Students have only just returned to the building after the Christmas break. Looking forward, Light is positive saying, "The biggest goal, having got the students safely back into the building, is to build them back up emotionally and spiritually. I want to focus on making the school a positive place to be and continue to grow and improve."

A Non-Catholic Student at a Catholic School



By Fiona Smith

When I began kindergarten at St. Mary's, I was too young to realize the differences in faith between my home and Catholic school. My teachers treated me exactly the same as their other students: I learned the same Bible stories, enjoyed being an angel in our Christmas play, and loved to learn.

As a non-Catholic student that has gone through the St. Mary's and Notre Dame High School system, I have received a unique and wonderful education and experience. They bring Catholic values into

the classroom, and educate us in what it means to be a member of a world-wide Church. Even though I do not follow the Catholic faith myself, I have gained that wondrous sense of belonging to something greater than oneself as a member of this amazing, and very welcoming community.

Another perk of attending these excellent schools is that, through religious education, I have learned many valuable moral lessons as well. For example, my own personal mantra: "Do unto others as you would have done unto you," is reinforced not just in religion class, but in every class and activity throughout the years. Notre Dame and St. Mary's has taught me that

we all have a responsibility to lift each other up, through community service and just choosing to be kinder in how we interact with each other, especially since we are all so close that it is like one big, amazing family.

Growing up in this wonderful Catholic school system has given me a well-rounded education with challenging academics, as well as a spiritual and moral education, both of which I hold in a very high regard. I may not be Catholic, but I am very proud to say that I will be a graduate of Notre Dame in 2021, and I look forward to using all that I have learned as a student of faith throughout the rest of my life.

Q & A With Jarrod West '17



As you get close to the end of your senior season, was playing college basketball all you had hoped it would be?

Yes, it has. My college basketball experience has been great. I have played with great teammates and played for great coaches. I have had a lot of great experiences through college basketball, and have done a lot of traveling throughout the United States. Playing in big arenas with great atmospheres is one the best feelings ever. We also took a team trip to the Bahamas before my sophomore year and that was a really fun trip. Playing in the NCAA tournament on national TV puts the icing on the cake with those experiences. I have enjoyed college basketball these past 4 years and it was all I hoped it would be and more.

You hit the 1,000 point mark and became Marshall's all-time leader for steals. How has reaching these personal milestones improved your confidence within the framework of the team?

Those are both great accomplishments that I am honored to be a part of. These milestones have helped with my confidence because both of these milestones show the experience that I have. Being an older guy now who has played for 4 years gives me a lot of experience and comfort while I'm out there on the floor. Adding these milestones just gives me that much more confidence to want to go out there and produce as much as I can for my team.

How did your time at Notre Dame prepare you for college basketball and college in general?

Notre Dame High School prepared me for college both in the classroom and on the court. That came as a result of great teachers, guidance counselors, other support staff, and a great principal. That's also a result of a great coach. In the classroom I was prepared by my teachers on the academic side but they also held my accountable and to a high standard. They always expected good things out of me and held me to that standard and held me accountable when I didn't meet that standard.

They taught me all the necessary curriculum, as well as the time management and study skills that I needed to be successful in college. As far as basketball goes, playing for a coach that played college basketball and wanted to win a state championship more than anything. He held us to the highest standard and also held us accountable in every way. Not to mention, that coach was my dad so he wanted the best for me, so that's how he prepared me. Also playing with many good players in high school helped me out a lot because they pushed me every day. One of the most important things to mention is the amount of support that I had in the Notre Dame community. I had a lot of support and a lot of people who believed in me and that means a lot to me. That is something that I will always be grateful for. Notre Dame is a great school and I give them a great amount credit for my collegiate success.

What has been your biggest challenge at Marshall?

I would say the biggest challenge at Marshall I have had is being away from my family for months at a time. The one con about basketball season is that it takes up almost the entire school year and covers all the breaks so it's hard to get home and see my friends and family as much as I would like to.

What have been the highlights of your time at Marshall?

Being with my teammates every day are some of the highlights that I'll never forget.

The biggest highlight I've had at Marshall was playing in the NCAA tournament in San Diego on national TV. It was a dream come true for me because that is something I watched and enjoyed every year. A lot of times I had to find ways to watch some games during school while I was at Notre Dame actually. Not to mention we won a game in the tournament and pulled off a big upset, that made that highlight so much better.

What degree will you get when you graduate?

I actually graduated in December and got my undergrad in Business Management. I will be starting my Masters in Business Administration in the spring.



What are your plans for the future?

After college I would like to play basketball professionally as long as I can depending on the situation. After my playing career, I would like to get into college coaching with the goal of becoming a head college basketball coach someday.

Photos courtesy of Jarrod West



Run for the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund-Camino de Santiago

In March 2020, shortly after Governor Jim Justice had closed school buildings due to coronavirus, Ian McAra committed to train for and run a half-marathon to benefit the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund. He completed the distance on April 25, 2020 at Watters Smith State Park in the southern part of Harrison County.

In 2021, McAra, the advancement director for Notre Dame & St. Mary's, is planning another event. He said, "The 2020 Run for the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund was a successful venture in terms of fundraising for the schools. I'm hoping to improve on it this year."

On March 1, 2021, McAra will begin the Camino de Santiago Virtual Chal-

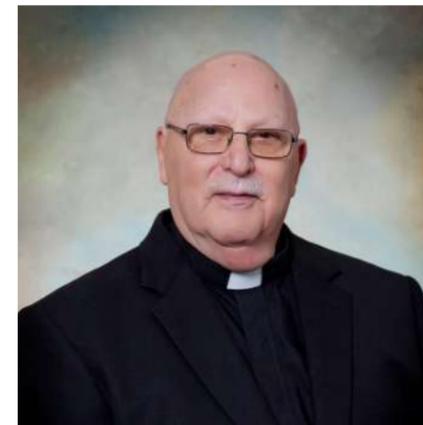
lenge, a 480 mile journey on foot with a sixteen week completion deadline. The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the Way of St. James, is a network of Christian pilgrimages across Europe leading to the Shrine of the Apostle St. James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. McAra said, "There are a number of routes that can be taken to the final destination. Although I will not be physically there, the route I will virtually follow will run across the Northern part of Spain."

For more information about how to donate visit notredamewv.org or search Run for the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund—Camino de Santiago on facebook fundraisers.



McAra is planning a 480 mile virtual journey on foot with a 16 week deadline

Fr. Pat Wash Leaves Significant Gift to Notre Dame



Fr. Pat Wash has left just over \$111,000 in his estate plans to Notre Dame High School.

Wash, a former Notre Dame student, was ordained to the Priesthood on May 18, 1968 at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Wheeling, West Virginia.

He attended West Virginia University and gained his Masters in Counseling from Marshall. He was a Licensed Professional Counselor and worked at United Summit Center as an addiction therapist.

Wash retired from the Priesthood at the age of 73 and continued as a supply Pastor when needed.

Advancement Director, Ian McAra said, "We are very appreciative of Fr. Pat. These kind of gifts can alter the course of an institution in terms of finances."

Fr. Pat passed away on October 29, 2020 at his home in the North View section of Clarksburg after an extended illness. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church.

Monsignor John J. O'Brien Planned Giving Society

Membership to the Monsignor John J. O'Brien Planned Giving Society goes to those who have made Notre Dame & St. Mary's a beneficiary in their estate plans.

Annual giving campaigns have improved consistently over the past ten years. These campaigns are helping the schools make improvements and meet their budgetary needs. Planned gifts have the potential to

secure the financial future of Notre Dame & St. Mary's.

Monsignor O'Brien was instrumental in the planning and building of Notre Dame High School.

To discuss leaving your legacy with a planned gift contact Ian McAra at 304-623-1026 or imcara@notredamewv.org.



Alumni Spotlight:

Marcel Malfregeot '66



Marcel C. Malfregeot, Jr. has been married to his wife Betsy for 50 years and has been greatly blessed with 3 children; Marcel III, Michael, & Susan. Further blessings bestowed him with grandchildren; Alex, Ava, Andrew, Silas, Clark, and Brooks. Marcel graduated from Fairmont State in Education and from WVU with a Master's degree +60 hours in Administration and Management. He retired from the Harrison Co. Board of Education after 40 years of service. Marcel also taught for WVU School of Medicine in its Community Medicine Program. He believes in community service and has served on boards in the county and state for the past 51 years. Marcel is currently involved with Immaculate Conception Church, and is a Civil Service Commissioner for the Deputy Sheriffs, a member of the Clarksburg Harrison Regional Housing Authority and the Governor's One Shot. Marcel says, "God has blessed me!"

Joseph DuPont '05



Paul (Joe) DuPont is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame High School. He obtained his Bachelors degree in Political Science from West Virginia University in 2010, and a Masters degree in Criminal Justice in 2016. He is the son of Notre Dame High School Religion teacher Patty DuPont, and longtime Notre Dame High School Golf Coach Paul DuPont. He comes from a family of Notre Dame Alumni, including Patty, Paul, his sister Stasia, his sister Maria, and Brother in law Victor Shaffer. Joe is currently living in Stuttgart, Germany working for the Department of Defense. Joe loves to travel with his son Solomon and wife Krista, golfing, playing soccer and watching West Virginia University Basketball/Football.

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Jane Quinn King '82



Jane Quinn King is a member of the Notre Dame High School Class of 1982. She was also a student at St. Mary's Grade School. Jane attended Fairmont State College where she graduated with a BA in Art Education. She taught in Prince Frederick, MD and then in Hagerstown, MD. She was named teacher of the year at her elementary school in Washington County, MD. She was then a stay at home mother for 10 years while raising her three children; Anthony, Katie and Grace. She is currently in her 17th year as the art teacher at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, WV. In 2018, Jane was awarded the Silver Apple Award by her school and honored by the Diocese. Her mother, Josephine Colombo Quinn is a graduate of St. Mary's High School and was named an Irish Legend. Her sisters Mary Beth Martino and Pat Ellis teach at St. Mary's Grade School. Jane and her sisters have all sent their children to Catholic schools. Jane currently lives in Falling Waters, WV with her husband Brad King who is a North Marion Graduate and former Kennedy Award winner. They have been married for 32 years.

Irish Legends Gala Postponed Again

After significant planning and promotion, the 2020 Irish Legends Gala, set for March 28, was originally postponed until October 9.

As Coronavirus cases continued to increase throughout the year, the October 9 date was pushed back until March 27, 2021. It will now be postponed again.

Event organizer Ian McAra said, "We are going to postpone the Irish Legends Gala again due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid. Significant time goes into planning the event and people travel from all around the country for it. We don't feel comfortable promoting the gala in the current climate. A rescheduled date will be announced later in 2021."

The Irish Legends Gala is Notre Dame & St. Mary's version of a "Hall of Fame." Honorees are chosen based on outstanding achievement and/or significant contribution to the schools and/or community.

The first Irish Legends Gala was held in 2004 and inductees have been honored annually until Coronavirus hit last year.

Where Are They Now?

Leanna Jordan Lewis '94



Leanna Jordan Lewis is a 1994 graduate of Notre Dame. After a 20-year career as an X-ray Technologist, she is currently employed by the federal government. Leanna resides in Flemington, WV with her husband Chris, and 3 children: Hayden (ND 8th grade), Caroline (ND 7th grade), and Annagrace (SM 5th Grade). The family attends Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where Leanna teaches 3rd and 4th grade CCD. She is the daughter of the late John (Butch) Jordan ('59), and Rosalee Jordan of Clarksburg. Her brother, J.J. ('91), is also an alumnus.

Theresa Midlege Gain '71

Theresa Gain retired from the VA hospital after 44 years. She thoroughly enjoyed working with Veterans and colleagues in many critical care departments. Theresa obtained her first nursing degree from Salem College, then attended WVU for a Master in Nursing. Intermittently, she was employed as nursing faculty at Alderson Broaddus, Mountain State, and WVU. The dazzling light of her life is her family, husband Don, daughters Joselyn Mann DO (Bridgeport); Jennifer (Environmental Engineer), Jaclyn (Levi Jeans Corporate (both living in San Francisco, CA). She is a Communion Minister, attending All Saint's in Bridgeport. Activities include parties on the patio, service volunteering, gardening, traveling, and reading.

Elijah Moreno '09



Elijah Moreno is a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame High School where he was the Vice-President of the senior class. Elijah attended Fairmont State University where he graduated with a degree in business administration. Elijah then joined the management training program with Kroger Co. where he spent three years as the Human Resources Assistant Store Manager in the Clarksburg and Morgantown area. Elijah is currently employed as a supervisor at the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division where he has spent the last three years. Elijah resides in Pleasant Valley, WV with his wife Jessica Moreno and their two cats. Elijah enjoys traveling with his wife, spending time at their Big Bear camp site and doing pub trivia with his trivia team.



Victoria Simon '12



Victoria Simon is a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame High School. She continued her education at Fairmont State University where she was a part of the Acrobatics and Tumbling team. She received a degree in business management. Since then, she has managed her parents coffee shop, Almost Heaven Desserts on Main Street in Bridgeport, and has helped it to grow significantly. Victoria enjoys taking photos, which happens to be a huge part of the success of the business. She has managed to grow the business so much that they will officially be opening a second location in Morgantown in the coming months. In addition to taking delicious looking photos of desserts and coffee, Victoria enjoys traveling around the country to visit friends and other coffee shops for inspiration.

50 Year Reunion!

**Notre Dame Class of 1971
50th year reunion will be held
Mid-August 2021.
For more information contact
Frank Ferrari by email at
fferrari93@ma.rr.com
or call 304-669-1650.**