

# Ramview

A PUBLICATION FOR THE ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF FORDHAM PREP  
SPRING 2017



*Celebrating 175 Years of Faith, Scholarships & Service*



# Ramview

SPRING 2017

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*Letters to the editor and all correspondence  
should be sent to [ramview@fordhamprep.org](mailto:ramview@fordhamprep.org).*

**The Dramatic Society put on Hairspray in the Fall.**

YMDWDS



# President's Message



One of my favorite aspects of my work is the opportunity to interact with alumni from many generations during our regional events and receptions. I am able to share how the core mission of the Prep, rooted in Ignatius Loyola's vision to "serve everyone—the rich and poor alike," still unfolds on the Rose Hill campus for new generations of bright young men from diverse backgrounds and communities.

I was hosted recently with a group of alumni and their spouses by Jim Melican '58 in his beautiful Naples, FL home. Like many of our alumni, Jim hails from the Bronx. He has established an endowed scholarship in the name of his parents. Dr. James Melican, Jim's father, is known to many of our alumni as one of the Prep's legendary teachers of mathematics.

During his remarks, Jim recounted receiving a letter from one of this year's Melican Scholars, a young man from the Bronx. Though separated from Jim by many years, the student described an educational experience close to his own: academically rigorous, critically reflective, and committed to faith and service.

Jim added this detail: "The young man's name had a different language and sound to it than the Bronx Prep students of my day." Jim was pleased that the Prep continues to reach out to immigrant families from the Bronx to make the opportunity of Jesuit secondary education accessible to those whose sons have the potential to succeed in an academic program defined by excellence.

While I was grateful that Jim recognized our success, I know it does not happen apart from careful strategic planning.

Without this planning, Fordham Prep could become primarily a college prep school for young men from affluent zip codes whose families can afford a much higher tuition than our current \$18,960. While these students account for an important segment in our enrollment mix, Jesuit education occupies a unique niche which aims to serve students from a variety of backgrounds and communities.

In fact, we work hard to avoid what enrollment experts call a "barbell"—an increasingly common phenomenon in which a vast majority of students who attend a private, independent school come from families who occupy either the very top or very bottom of the economic strata with few if any students from middle income and working class families.

Ensuring that Fordham Prep remains true to its mission is no easy task, especially as middle income families are squeezed and many relocate away from the New York City area. Identifying bright young men from the Bronx—a borough in which Catholic grammar schools are closing at an alarming rate—does not happen automatically, not without a high degree of teamwork from our admissions, development and business office staff. The effort it took to recruit and enroll the Class of 2021 and support them with financial aid is no exception. Nearly 40% of next year's freshmen are students of color. 45% will receive over \$4 million in tuition assistance over four years, as their families have limited financial resources. 25% of these students are residents of the Bronx.

I am pleased with two significant developments that allow the Prep to pursue enrollment goals which reflect our mission.

First, we have begun to partner with Regis High School to expand the enrollment of REACH (Recruiting Excellence in Academics for Catholic High Schools). Founded by Regis, REACH identifies, recruits and prepares middle school boys from families of limited financial resources so they earn admission and merit scholarships to the Jesuit high schools in New York City.

Over the years, dozens of REACH students have successfully matriculated to Regis and Fordham Prep. Beginning in the summer following their fifth grade, REACH students

take advanced coursework at the University of Scranton each summer and during 20 Saturdays over the school year, culminating three years later in taking the TACHS and Regis admissions exams.

Praised for its impressive outcomes by the Wall Street Journal and the New York Post, REACH represents an opportunity for largely immigrant and working class families to gain access to top Jesuit high schools. These REACH students show a marked improvement in academic performance over their three years in the program—so much so that their TACHS scores beat the average of Fordham Prep's accepted students.

Five REACH students will matriculate to Fordham Prep in the Class of 2021, bringing the total number to twelve students from the program who study here currently. I am thrilled to share that through a series of strategic investments, Fordham Prep and Regis will expand REACH enrollment from 100 to nearly 200 over the next few years. This will mean more applicants who are ready for the Prep's academic challenge.

Moreover, thanks to a gift from Diane and Jim Rowen '82—part of their record-breaking \$6 million campaign commitment to capital, endowment and strategic initiatives—this coming summer Fordham Prep and the University will host the REACH Candidate Camp. The camp is a 3-week residential experience of accelerated courses, leadership activities and religious formation.

More REACH students knocking on Fordham Prep's door each admissions season means the need for additional tuition assistance, which brings us to the second development: the continued growth of our endowment, which is an increasingly important source of revenue for our financial aid program. In fact, since 2013, our endowment has grown from \$21 to \$35 million.

Endowment growth is one of the key strategic initiatives of the 175th Anniversary Campaign. This growth happens one donor at a time, as generous alumni and Prep benefactors make gifts to the endowment. All of this, of course, brings us back to the Melican Scholarship and its donor, Jim.

As we continue to celebrate our 175th

# Principal's Message

Anniversary, may we give thanks that the Prep's mission lives on through students from over 110 zip codes who travel each day to Rose Hill. May we give thanks for the power of creative collaboration, especially in our new partnership with Regis to expand REACH. May we give thanks for those generous souls like Jim Melican '58 and Jim Rowen '82 who help make our mission possible. Finally, may more souls be inspired to generosity so that our mission continues to transform the lives of young men for generations to come, *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*.

**Christopher J. Devron, SJ**  
President



The Gospel of Mark begins with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" The messenger, of course, is John the Baptist. His entire life and mission was to prepare the way for one greater than he, to prophetically witness for the coming of Jesus Christ. As our patron saint, John represents our own commitment to live and learn in readiness for what leads to God's greater glory.

We once again find ourselves in the liturgical season of Lent, a time of preparation, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For forty days, we are all called—as students, faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends—to renew our faith, to pause to consider where we have lived up to God's calling in our lives and where we have fallen short. It is a time to begin anew as we allow Christ to make straight our own paths so that we can walk as his disciples in the light of faith, hope and love. We confidently journey together in the desert toward the paschal mystery in the joyful celebration of the Risen Christ at Easter.

Preparation through prayerful examination is a practice deeply Catholic and Ignatian. It is one that is not only reserved for the holy season of Lent. Every Friday throughout the school year, our students begin the day by praying the *Examen*, an ancient practice in the Church that allows us to discern where God is present in our daily experiences. They quiet themselves at the start of the day, and in the silence of their prayer look back on the past school week. It is a life-giving prayer with five simple steps: ask God for light; give thanks; review your day; face your shortcomings; look toward the day to come. St. Ignatius Loyola believed that the *Examen* was a gift from God. As with all gifts, it is meant to be shared with others. Amid the busyness of life in a Jesuit high school, with all the energy and enthusiasm of adolescent boys, it is fitting to stop and listen to God's voice in the quiet of our hearts.

Now more than halfway through the school year, our 175th on the Rose Hill Campus, our days are filled with many preparations as we earnestly look ahead. Department chairs have reviewed course offerings and students are selecting their classes for next year. Administration, faculty and staff



continue to prepare the many details surrounding the end of the academic year, with AP exams and graduation right around the corner. Many seniors who applied to colleges and universities through the regular decision process will soon receive their decisions, and discern in the coming weeks where they will continue their educational path. As they depart, we are thrilled to welcome a new class of freshmen, the Class of 2021. We always seem to be preparing for something new, forward looking in our efforts, with anticipation for new opportunities and challenges along the way.

Our 175th Anniversary has been a graced moment in our history to reflect with gratitude on our tradition of excellence and to prepare for the next chapter at Fordham Prep. In many ways, we can consider this year an opportunity for a communal Examen on our institution of Catholic, Jesuit education. Over the past several months, the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and staff have been working on our Strategic Plan, which looks ahead to the next five years. The effort brought many voices together to discuss academic excellence, how teaching and learning at the Prep ought to be held in highest regard within the context of human excellence, a core value of Jesuit education since the time of St. Ignatius and his first companions.

This is an exciting time for the Prep, a time of preparation. May God continue to strengthen our efforts for current and future generations of Rams who will be formed as men for and with others, called to transform the world as leaders in service.

**Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98**  
Principal

## REACH



Education has become “too selective and elitist,” Pope Francis said at a question-and-answer session marking the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education. Taking questions from administrators and faculty members of Catholic schools, the Pope spoke about Catholic identity in education and warned about the dangers of exclusion and educating within “the walls” of a selective and safe culture. These are challenging words from a popular Pope! We do not have to agree with these words, but these observations about Catholic education cannot be ignored.

For many New York City families the promise of a Jesuit education can seem like an unscalable wall. The insurmountable tuition, an unfamiliar culture, a social scene far removed from the poor and an educational system in which the correlation between financial means and academic success lends itself to a homogeneous student body at many elite schools. REACH (Recruiting Excellence in Academics for Catholic High Schools) is uniquely built to address this exclusion. REACH is an entirely free educational, leadership and religious enrichment program that prepares Catholic, middle-school aged boys for high school and beyond. Designed as an access program, REACH serves students whose families demonstrate significant financial need.

With an understanding of how critical the middle-school age years are in determining the trajectory of secondary as well as post-secondary education, REACH is devoted to

making substantial gains in academics, leadership potential, spiritual growth and a commitment to service. At its beginning, Father Chris Devron, SJ, the founder of REACH and now President of Fordham Prep, established the foundation for REACH to be a program and network of educators accompanying young men during their 6th, 7th and 8th grade years. Today this three-year program recruits about a third of its students from the Bronx. All together, the REACH staff has accompanied hundreds of young men who have matriculated to fine Jesuit high schools in New York and great colleges and universities throughout the country.

Today, our current REACH students, alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends form a community that continues to accompany young men throughout their middle and high school years. Over the last 15 years about 44% of REACH 8th graders have matriculated to Regis High School, 16% have gone to Fordham Prep. 99% of REACH students have gone on to college. 11 REACH students are currently attending or have graduated from Ivy League institutions, 17 are currently enrolled at Jesuit universities.

Thanks to the financial and institutional support of Fordham Preparatory School, REACH is in the midst of its second founding. Regis and Fordham Prep have partnered to increase the number of students served in low income communities throughout New York City with a special focus on the Bronx. The REACH Program will grow by 50% by the fall of 2018, and for the first time in its history, REACH will run two concurrent camps: 6th grade candidates will attend a camp at Fordham Prep, while our 7th and 8th graders will be at the University of Scranton. In addition, REACH will welcome as part of its summer faculty and staff, Fordham Prep faculty, staff and students during its six week summer program. Financially, Fordham Prep has increased its scholarship commitment to REACH students ensuring their high school education will be affordable.

Fr. Devron's original idea for REACH has had phenomenal success. In 2014, The Wall Street Journal published an article highlighting the success of the program. With Fordham Prep's commitment, REACH can dream a little bigger and serve more low income students. The hope and expectation is that the 150 students whose families have immigrated from Ghana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, South Korea, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Poland and beyond will join the student bodies of Jesuit high schools in New York as young men of competence, compassion and conscience.

**Fr. Mario Powell, SJ**  
Director of REACH & Fordham Prep Trustee

## Chris Cuomo Visits FP



CNN anchor Chris Cuomo spoke to Fordham Prep juniors about his experience working in the media. Mr. Cuomo currently covers international events and breaking news for CNN and anchors the network's morning show "New Day." Mr. Cuomo is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law, and received his undergraduate degree from Yale University.

In December, Mr. Cuomo paid a visit to Fordham Prep to deliver a speech and answer questions from the junior class. Mr. Cuomo, the son of former Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, and brother of current Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, spent forty minutes speaking to and answering questions from the junior class.

It did not take much time for Mr. Cuomo to dive into the topic of the 2016 election, specifically the astonishing victory of Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, stating "No

one saw Trump winning this election including his own team." When reflecting on potential reasons Secretary Clinton lost an election so many believed she would win with ease, Mr. Cuomo cited the idea that "Democrats lost touch with their base."

After speaking about his career and his take on bipartisan politics, Mr. Cuomo opened up the floor to questions. He provided some very professional advice to a student who asked about a journalist's role in debating opposing political views. Mr. Cuomo advised against *ad hominem* arguments, adding "There should be a decency to what [one is] saying." When questioned about the rising nationwide distrust of the mainstream media, Mr. Cuomo responded by noting "The trust level [of the media] is so low it has nowhere to go but up." Following this question, the discussion shifted after a student asked Mr. Cuomo about CNN's bias against Donald Trump. "Did bias play a role? Yes. Why? Because humans played a role, [and] humans are flawed," responded Mr. Cuomo, also adding that "People gave Trump too much time early on because he was driving ratings, and because there was not enough testing [of Trump's candidacy] early on, they had to try to balance it out later on."

At the conclusion of the assembly, Father Devron spoke briefly to the juniors. He thanked Mr. Cuomo for his time and presented him with a Fordham Prep tie, among other items, from the Prep Shoppe. We were happy to see Mr. Cuomo sporting the tie on "New Day" the following morning.

—Joseph Reda '17

## Students, faculty and staff donate the gift of life



60 students, faculty and staff donated an amazing 90 units of blood at the Blood Drive in November. Thank you to Dr. Gelpi for organizing this important opportunity to give the gift of life.

## Homeless awareness



55 students and 5 teachers slept on the back field in November to raise awareness of homelessness through Cardboard City Night. Thank you to Mr. Viele for organizing the event.

## Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice



More than 1,600 people from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico and El Salvador gathered in Washington, DC recently. We traveled 242 miles from Rose Hill to the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Dozens of speakers and workshops; nine Fordham Prep students; three Fordham Prep teachers; two congressional staffers; one Ignatian family.

The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice is an annual gathering of people from Jesuit schools, parishes and social ministry centers, as well as other schools and parishes that draw inspiration from St. Ignatius Loyola and subsequent generations of Jesuits. Initially started in response to the 1989 assassination of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter in San Salvador during the U.S.-funded Salvadoran Civil War, the Teach-In has grown

and changed in the subsequent 27 years. Originally set in Fort Benning, Georgia, this gathering moved to Washington, DC in 2009. The Teach-In now consists of prayer, keynote speakers, workshops, panel discussions, time to socialize with other members of the Ignatian family, a concluding Mass and advocacy meetings with members of Congress and their staffers.

This year's theme, "Mercy in Action," led the Fordham Prep delegation to discuss and reflect on racial justice, environmentalism, immigration reform, being agents of mercy and how to share what we learned in Washington, DC with the rest of the Prep community.

Our weekend concluded with joining the delegations from Regis High School, Manhattan College, Sacred Heart Academy and the Loyola School to meet two of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's staffers. During this meeting, students from each school shared their views on the importance of environmental protection and the pressing need for comprehensive reform of our nation's immigration policies.

Upon our return to New York, many people asked me, "So how was the Teach-In?" My answer was and is, "We'll see." If all of us who were there use the time, ideas and conversations we shared to commit ourselves more deeply to a faith that does justice, it will have been a great success indeed.

Mr. Daniel Gustafson, SJ

## Diversity Summit



27 students participated in the Diversity Summit at the Marist Brothers Retreat House in Esopus, NY in November. They were joined by 22 students from Sacred Heart Academy in Greenwich and 10 students from The Ursuline School. The students engaged in a variety of learning and leadership experiences to better understand stereotyping, racial profiling, gender roles, LGBTQ+ concerns, social action and more. Thank you to Mrs. Piñeiro for organizing and all of the teachers who participated.

## Urban Hunger



Paul Brusco '18, Owen Lombardi '17 and Emiliano O'Connor '17 recently participated in a weeklong program on urban hunger sponsored by The Centro Altagracia de Fe y Justicia, a not-for-profit organization formed by the Jesuits to respond to the social justice and spiritual needs of the Northern Manhattan community.

# Jack Foley and Stanley O'Konsky, SJ

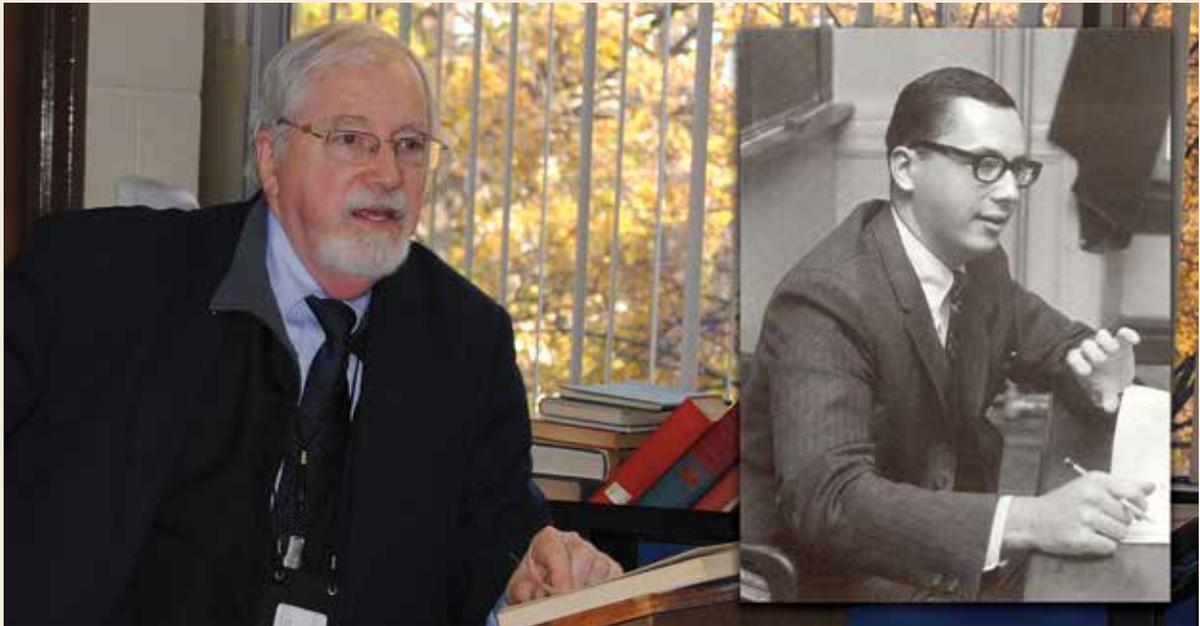


In the 1991 publication, *When September Comes*, former Prep teacher Frank Holbrook '45 and former Prep librarian and historian Gus Stellwag '49 describe the era of Pat Shea, Jim Melican, Edward Dunne, Harry McDonough, Al Kirchner '26, John Lyttle '26 and Rudy Hanish as the "golden age" of Fordham Prep teachers. Others feel the golden age of Fordham Prep teachers was in the 1940s and 50s with the additions of Holbrook, Chuck DaParma, Jack Leonard, SJ and Edmund McHugh '39. Still others feel the golden age was during the 1970s.

But, when it comes to defining a golden age or determining which teachers belong, there are two teachers who certainly belong in the discussion: John "Jack" Foley '63 and Fr. Stanley O' Konsky, SJ.

Both men have taught at Fordham Prep for over fifty years, joining a select club. Fr. O'Konsky arrived as a Jesuit scholastic in 1966 in the English Department, and Jack Foley joined the Classical Languages Department following his graduation from Fordham University in 1967.

## Jack Foley



"I have said it many times: Jack Foley is the memory and the conscience of the faculty," says the Prep's Assistant Principal for Professional Development & Supervision and classmate Dennis Ahern '63.

After graduating from the University in 1967 as a classics major, Jack found himself that September sitting in the faculty lounge. Looking back, he recalls how the experience left him awestruck and often tongue-tied, but also how welcomed everyone made him feel as a rookie teacher.

Since that September over 50 years ago, "Captain Jack" Foley has been a beloved member of the faculty, teaching Latin and Greek. He also served as assistant headmaster from 1982 to 1985, held the office of the dean of students from 1975 to 1978, coached baseball and football, moderated a spectrum of clubs and served as faculty representative on the Board of Trustees. Today, with a double *Bene Merenti* medal, a Maroon Key and the University's President's Award, Jack Foley is widely credited with maintaining the credibility and prestige of the Prep's Classical Languages Department in the 21st century.

Mr Foley was my mentor Freshman year, also my Latin 1 teacher. I'd never studied a language other than English before, and Mr Foley kept it from becoming an intimidating experience; I've been an (informal) student of languages ever since.

—Chris Blake '84

Classic Foley was seeing him in disguise (he looked like Inspector Gadget, trench coat and all) trying to catch students coming to the Prep not in full dress (i.e., shirt, tie, dress pants & jacket) getting off a bus or train on Fordham Rd!

—John McBride '80

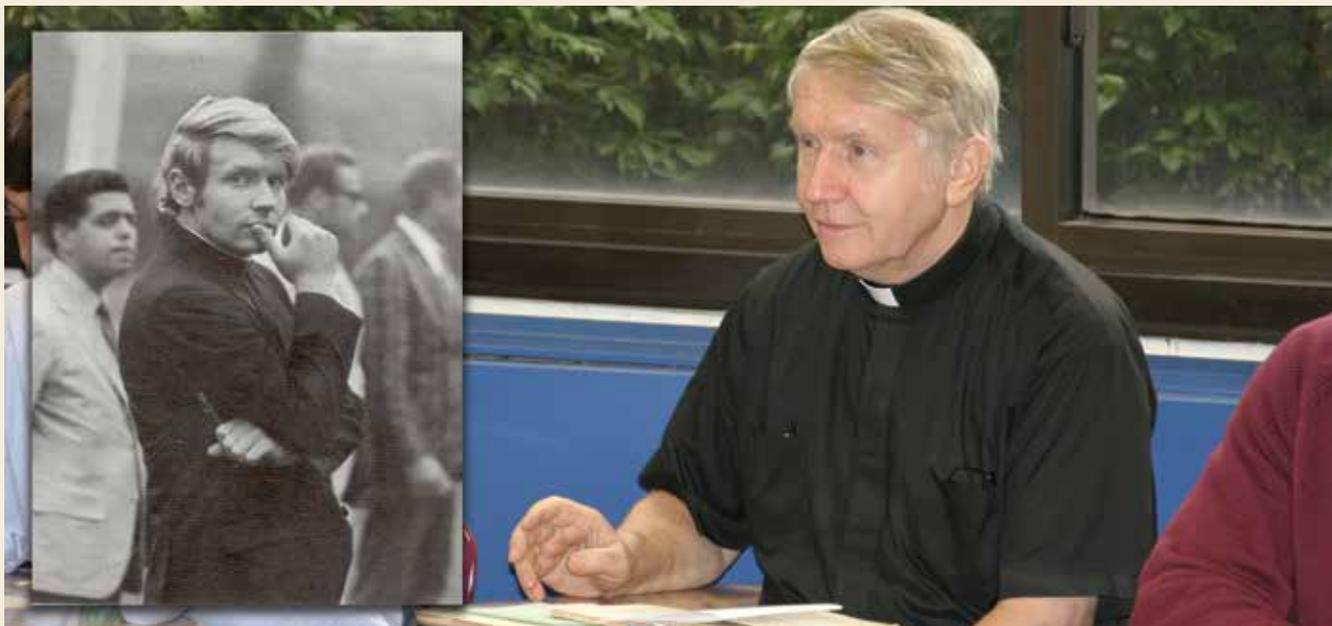
Mr. Foley was my sophomore year Latin teacher back in the fall of 1967. It was his first year teaching. He was always upbeat, easy-going and positive. He managed to take a difficult language that many students found intimidating and make it humane. Anytime you asked Mr. Foley for something - academic help, supervising an activity - he always said yes. When I became a teacher, I tried to remember how Mr. Foley treated his students. I saw him a few months ago, and almost 50 years later, he still remembered my name and knew what I was doing. Thank you, Mr. Foley, for your kindness, dedication and service!

—Vinny Castellano '70

I was a classmate of Jack Foley. I remember studying AP Latin with Jack from Charles DaParma, a great teacher, and, I came to realize years later, perhaps someone who motivated Jack to become a teacher of the classics, just as I became motivated to teach as well at the university level. Jack was not only a terrific student but a wonderful colleague, a friend in and outside the classroom, the sort of person whom to ask if in doubt and to trust always with certainty.

—Jorge Domínguez '63

## Stanley O’Konsky, SJ



Fr. O’Konsky graduated from St. Peter’s Prep in 1960 and entered the Jesuit novitiate in Plattsburg, NY immediately afterwards. He started his tenure at Fordham Prep during his regency period from 1966 to 1968, teaching English and Religious Studies. He was ordained in the University Church in June 1972.

“He’s always there when you need help.” That has been a common sentiment people have used to describe Stan O’Konsky. Whether you are a student, a teacher or an alumnus, he is always there to lend an ear or a hand. He has been there for weddings, baptisms and funerals. His English classes are a “must take” at Fordham Prep, and his help with college essays is sought after every year. A fixture in the retreat programs and long-time swimming and diving team moderator, Stan has been involved in all aspects of a student’s life at Fordham Prep.

I had Fr. O for junior year English. We had an assignment for which we had a day to prepare. It was a table read of some scene from a play. My part was the most line-heavy so Fr. O asked me to put in some effort at home and rehearse a bit so it would sound more natural in class. That was the first time I have ever rehearsed something in my life, but it wasn’t the last. After reading in class, Fr. O said he was impressed and asked if I had ever considered acting. I hadn’t until then. Despite going to college for mechanical engineering, I’m now pursuing stand-up comedy and acting in New York City. I have a really long way to go, but I don’t think I would have ever let myself believe I could do it if someone I respect hadn’t told me so first. Thanks Fr. O,  
—Dave Jenkins ’11

I had then Mr. O’Konsky SJ as my teacher in a course on literary classics in 1970. I think this course was meant to make up for the fact that 3-3 students didn’t ordinarily take Latin. I still remember some of the things that we read: Dante’s *Inferno*, Chekov’s *The Cherry Orchard*, James’s *The Turn of the Screw*. I went on to get a PhD in Comparative Literature, and now I am a professor at Cal-Berkeley, so I can truly say that the course changed my life! Thank you Fr. O’Konsky!

—Ignacio Navarrete ’71

I had to wait until Senior year to qualify for AP English, which gave me my only chance to study with Fr O’Konsky. Fr O’Konsky presented the class as an undergraduate seminar, and encouraged us all to strive for deeper understanding of how authors employ technique to contribute meaning to their writing. Fr O’Konsky probably did more than anyone to foster my interest in Modern American fiction; when I returned to Fordham in the 90s, it was to study for an MA in Modern British and American Fiction.

—Chris Blake ’84

Fr. Stan O’Konsky, SJ was one of the most impactful teachers I ever had the pleasure of learning from. He taught me to think outside the box, and to analyze my surroundings and develop my own thoughts, rather than just following the public consensus. I have thought of him often over the years since graduation, and reflect on his teaching and leadership as part of the foundation from whence my own confidence developed. I wish him well and hope his current crop of students realize how lucky they are to have him as a teacher.

—Jonharold Cicero ’98

## Coach Febles inducted into the NYC Armory Hall of Fame



Track and Cross Country Coach George Febles getting inducted into the NYC Armory Hall of Fame

## Swimming & Diving



The Fordham Prep Swimming and Diving team reclaimed the title of New York State Federation Champions at Eisenhower Park's Nassau County Aquatic Center. The team placed all three relays in the top five, and the team of Steven Amato, Nick Torres, Spencer LaFata and Aristides Speres were crowned champions in the 400 yard Freestyle Relay - the Aquaram's 7th consecutive title in the event with an automatic All-American time. Outstanding performances by Ryan Maierle, Nick Torres, Aristides Speres and Spencer LaFata contributed to the team's 6th overall state championship in the past 7 years. Congratulations to all swimmers and divers on a great 2016-2017 season!

**The freshmen** finished runner-up during the regular season and at the NYCHSAA Freshman Championship. The team competed in the Viking Invitational held at Cleveland State University. For the season, the team is 6-0 in dual meets and have some exciting competitions in the schedule ahead.

## Indoor Track & Field



Junior Colin Duignan opened his season with a victory in the Pole Vault at the Armory Hall of Fame Meet. He followed it up with a 2nd place finish and FP junior record of 14' 6" at the Armory Marine Corps Meet. His jump is currently #2 in NY State. Senior Conor Hughes ran 4:26 for the mile at the Armory HOF meet. His time is currently top 10 in NY State. The team concluded its regular season with a second place finish at the State Catholic Championship. Fordham Prep and Saint Anthony's were tied going into the final event before the Friars collected the last four points of the meet. Conor Hughes won the state title in the 1000 meter run, Colin Duignan is NYS Catholic pole vault champion, Art Gooden took the silver medal in the 600m run and is bound for the overall state championship in March. Hughes also took 2nd in the mile. Other medalists included Jack Bennett in the pole vault, Adetoni Aboyade-Cole in the high jump, Duignan in the hurdles, and relay runners Charles Gstalder, Hunter Wiles, Will Maghak, Chris Gjelaj, Ali Burch, Manny Cruz, Mariano Parubi and Brandon Castillo.

## Squash



In its 2nd full season, the team more than tripled its number of competitions from last year. The boys competed against talented players from schools such as Rye, Bronxville, Horace Mann, Master's, Fieldston and City Squash. The highlight of the season came on a weekend in February when the team traveled to Simsbury, CT to compete in the U.S. High School Squash Nationals. In the final match of the tournament, Fordham Prep defeated Rye 4-3 with victories going to Chris Eagan, Will Hyer, Michael Anderson and George Anderson.

## Basketball



**The Varsity** ended their season with a hard-fought loss to Monsignor Farrell in the CHSAA "A" City Championship game on March 3. They finished the season with a 19-8 record, second place in league and the city, winning the Cactus Jam tournament in Phoenix, AZ over Christmas Break. In addition, Jordan Gaitley reached a huge Prep and personal milestone, scoring his 1,000th point - his total for his varsity career was 1,004! For his efforts, Gaitley was named the CHSAA "A" Division MVP; senior Patrick Mahoney was named to the All-League team. On behalf of the Basketball program, a huge thank you to all the student body, faculty, administrators and fans who supported the team!

**The JV** finished the regular season with a 15-7 record and qualified for the CHSAA JV "A" division playoffs as the #2 seed. The team opened their 1/4-final playoffs game with a convincing 62-40 victory over St. Joseph by the Sea. In the semi-final game, they went up against their Jesuit rival Xavier High School in a hard fought contest that saw both teams go back and forth with the lead. It was Xavier that prevailed 46-57 and finished the JV Rams season.

**The Frosh** team finished the regular season with an 11-7 record giving them the #4 seed heading into the CHSAA Freshman "A" division playoffs. The Frosh traveled to Staten Island to take on Bronx neighbor Cardinal Spellman in the 1/4-finals of the playoffs. The freshman played a hard-fought game and held the lead, but a Spellman three-pointer at the buzzer gave them a 55-54 victory over the young Rams.

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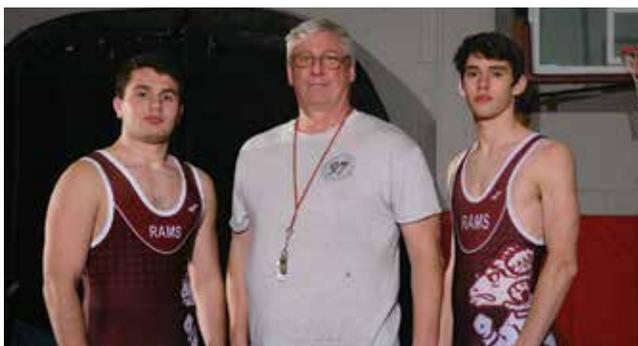
## Ice Hockey



**The Varsity** finished the season with a 6-10 record, a 4th place in the CHSAA "A" Division. The team qualified for the "A" playoffs for the second year in row. The team finished its season with a 6-2 loss in the CHSAA "A" semi-finals to eventual league champion St. Anthony's.

**The JV** started the season on fire winning their first three games and defeating CHSAA hockey power St. Anthony's twice by scores of 7-2 and 3-1. The Rams finished the season with a record of 6-7 and qualified for the CHSAA JV hockey playoffs as the #3 seed. In the semi-final playoff game they played the #2 seed rival Iona Prep. Both teams battled through regulations and the first OT tied 1-1. With a few seconds left in the 2nd OT Iona Prep found the back of the net bringing the season to a close.

## Wrestling



**The Varsity** finished 2nd at the NYS Section Qualifying tournament in December. During the Christmas break the team competed at the St. Anthony's invitational: Blaise Narcisco 1st, Spencer Carter 2nd, Brendan Sowerby 3rd, Derek Certo 4th, Henry Driscoll 4th, Kobe Simpson 5th, Tom Golden 5th and Alexis Gonzales 6th. On the JV level, GianCarlo Toarmino 1st, George Speres 3rd, Nick Emer 3rd, Matt Romano 4th and Dennis Driscoll 4th. The team made program history qualifying 17 wrestlers to the CHSAA State tournament in Buffalo. Overall, five wrestlers were winners at the tournament each earning All-Catholic honors: Dan Alexander, Kobe Simpson and Blaise Narcisco each finished 3rd in their respective weight classes, Spencer Carter and Henry Driscoll each finished 6th in their weight classes.

## The Fordham Prep Endowment – A Legacy of Trust



When St. Ignatius Loyola agreed to found Jesuit high schools in 16th century Europe, he prohibited them from charging tuition so that they could serve the rich and poor alike. Today, the complex demands of our economy require our families to pay tuition. Even as tuition increases, it still cannot cover our costs.

Generations of metropolitan families have made substantial sacrifices in order to give their sons an education grounded in the Ignatian tradition. One of the ways tuition increases can be limited and a Jesuit education made more accessible is through the Fordham Prep endowment.

An endowment held by a non-profit organization such as Fordham Prep consists of funds that have been donated usually with a specific objective or purpose and then invested to generate income in perpetuity. Thus, the donation provides a long-lasting benefit to the organization, rather than if it were spent all at one time. An increased endowment is essential in order to keep our tuition within the financial reach of families.

Endowment gifts are not meant to be spent—nor are all of the earnings from the invested principal. A portion of the earnings is usually added to the principal; this is done to augment the endowment and to compensate for future inflation and possible economic downturns. The spendable income of the earnings is used for the purpose that the benefactor originally specified. A benefactor may choose to support student scholarships. Another might fund a special program (e.g., a monthly guest speaker’s forum, faculty development, athletics, a specific need identified by the President) or a student prize (e.g., to recognize outstanding extracurricular leadership or exceptional sportsmanship). Most endowment funds given to the Prep have been earmarked for financial aid to students.

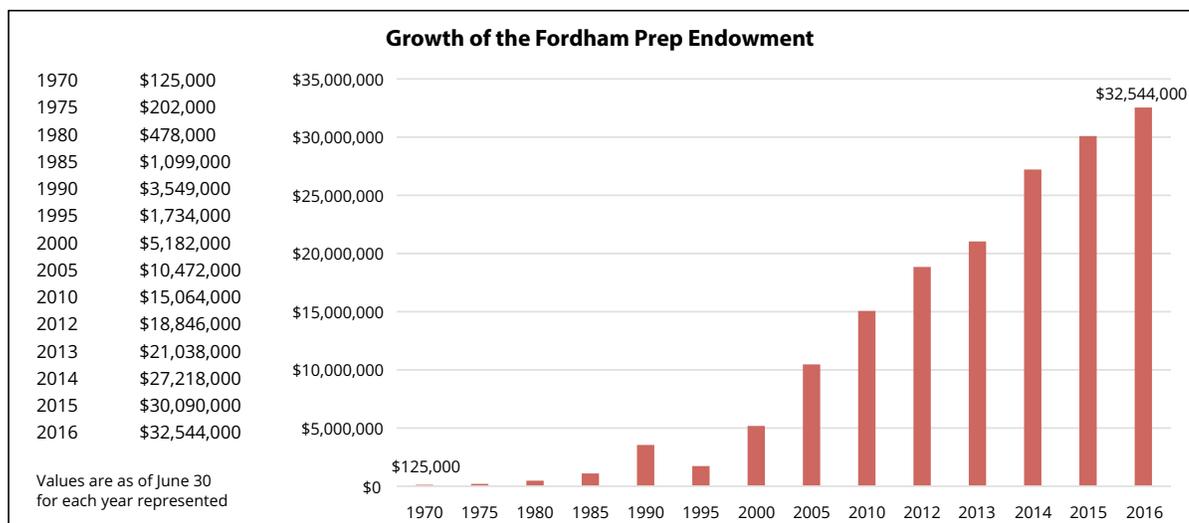
### How It Helps Prep Students

The Board of Trustees and the school’s administration consider the Prep’s endowment its financial bedrock. It is actually a composite of many individual endowed funds that have been donated to the school over the years by families, individual benefactors and a number of foundations. These funds provide overall security to the school’s existence and operation by underwriting the costs of each student’s education either directly or indirectly.

The primary objective of our endowment is to enable Fordham Prep to enroll and sustain capable, motivated students who might otherwise not be able to afford a Fordham Prep education. The Prep’s success and continued strong academic and overall ranking rely on your extraordinary and ongoing support.

### A Legacy of Trust

In 1970, Fordham Prep separated from its parent University and became independent in terms of



governance and finances. The Prep's first Board of Trustees was assembled under the leadership of Walter J. Higgins '31. This group charted a course for a newly-formed and self-sustaining Prep. Shea Hall, the new Prep, opened in 1972.

Significant pressure through 1979 from debt resulting from the newly constructed Prep threatened the school's survival. The estimated cost of constructing the facility had been \$3.5 million; the actual cost turned out to be more than double that amount--\$7.5 million. Over the next four years, the intervention and largesse of several alumni, two extraordinary fundraising events (involving Bing Crosby and Bob Hope) and a most fortuitous and irregular set of financial conditions combined to prevent financial disaster.

Prudent management of limited resources navigated the new school through tempestuous times. Making ends meet, paying salaries and supporting its academic, sports and co-curricular programs were foremost in the minds of the Prep's administration.

Gradually, leaders emerged in the persons of dedicated and generous trustees, alumni, faculty, parents and friends who managed to plan, work and donate critical dollars in order to fashion a savings account for the Prep. A small endowment was finally created.

In the nearly 40 years that have followed, another generation of leaders has continued this tradition of long-range support for the Prep. Gifts, both large and small, serve as the school's financial cornerstone. Each donation has played an important role in the school's financial stability and security. The current value of Fordham Prep's endowment is approximately \$33 million.

### **How You Can Help**

Our mission is to inspire young men to reflect, question, learn, pray, love, serve, and lead, and this requires opportunities for meaningful, enriching and rewarding student experiences. More than ever, alumni, parents and friends are the lifeblood of that mission. Endowment gifts, the most enduring of investments in our community, guarantee income to provide scholarships and other resources to generation after generation of young Prep students.

Now, more than ever, the need for our entire community of alumni, parents, faculty, benefactors and friends to help build the Prep's endowment is great. The generosity of our donors represents a major part of the Prep fulfilling its academic and spiritual mission.

### **Named Endowed Scholarships**

This is the center of Fordham Prep's endowment target: the creation of additional named endowed scholarship funds. The availability of additional tuition scholarships will make the

difference between a student's attending Fordham Prep—or even applying—and never having the opportunity to live the Prep experience.

Endowing a scholarship at Fordham Prep is the single most significant and effective gift you can make to our endowment. It has long been a practice of the school to have each scholarship recipient write a personal letter of thanks to his benefactor each year. We want each award holder to understand and appreciate what is being done on his behalf. A named Endowed Scholarship Fund—providing a permanent tuition scholarship—can be titled for an individual, family or organization. A portion of the earnings from a scholarship endowment fund provides revenue for tuition scholarship support.

In order to endow a full or partial tuition scholarship fund, these are the requirements.

- Full Tuition Scholarship: \$500,000
- Three-Quarter Tuition Scholarship: \$375,000
- Half Tuition Scholarship: \$250,000
- One-Quarter Tuition Scholarship: \$125,000

We are aware that most donors are not able to underwrite such a large amount, but there are other important ways of helping to fund student aid.

- An individual, family or organization can create a named endowed fund with a donation of \$25,000 or more. Additional contributions to the principal may be made in ensuing years.
- We welcome contributions and pledges of any amount to an existing scholarship endowment fund. A donor who adds to an established fund can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that his or her gift will help students well into the future.
- Gifts to the endowment may be pledged and paid over a period of up to five years.

To make a gift to the endowment or if you have questions or comments about the endowment, please contact:

Jose R. Gonzalez  
Vice President  
Fordham Preparatory School  
441 E. Fordham Road  
Bronx, NY 10458-5175  
718-367-7500 x210  
gonzalezjr@fordhamprep.org

We are grateful for your generosity to Fordham Prep. The Board of Trustees, school administrators, faculty and staff take our role as caretakers of your generosity very seriously as we employ the resources at our disposal for the benefit of our students.

## James Murphy '03 – From the Leonard Theatre Stage to Emmy Winner



*Murphy '03 in the MLB Studios*

Growing up, baseball was James Murphy's passion. While he may have dreamed about catching for the Yankees, he probably did not envision working for Major League Baseball, let alone winning four Emmy® awards. His path to *The Show* all started at Fordham Prep.

**Q: How did you find your way to Fordham Prep?**

I went to St. Gregory the Great in Harrison, NY where I grew up. My mother had actually heard of Fordham Prep and how great of a school it was. She worked for the New York City Board of Education, and I guess it was a friend of hers who referred me to the school and said it would be the best place for me to go to high school. My mom said, "Ok, let's get him into Fordham Prep." So she's the one who pushed me to go to Fordham. I went and visited the school, and I absolutely loved it. The atmosphere was fantastic. Coming out of 8th grade from a private school looking at other schools, you have a number of options. I looked at two other Catholic high schools, but I was never serious about them. For me, the first choice was Fordham Prep, and I was thrilled I was accepted into the school.

**Q: What activities were you involved in while at Fordham Prep?**

I was a shy kid, but I summoned enough courage to try out for the baseball team my freshman year. I didn't make it. (Laughter). I ended up gravitating towards theater – several of my friends were in it, so I went out my sophomore year and loved it!

**Q: Where there any teachers who influenced you during your time as a student?**

Two stand out in my mind. Mr. Pettus taught me Global and I think he had a bit of a soft spot for me. I got into a

little bit of trouble during my time at Fordham Prep, so I spent time in his office from time to time! Also, my parents were going through a divorce while I was in high school, and Mr. Pettus looked out for me and supported me. The fact that he was a baseball guy didn't hurt either!

The other teacher would be Fr. (William) O'Malley, SJ. I was in the theater program and had the great pleasure of having him as a teacher senior year. I know he was popular because of his role in *The Exorcist*, but he was an incredibly smart and wise man. I didn't realize how well respected he was among the "outside world" until he received an honorary doctorate from LeMoyne during my college graduation ceremony.

**Q: You mention you attended LeMoyne – how did you end up there?**

My two college choices in high school were NYU and Ithaca, but I realized I probably would not be able to get into either school. Shawn Ahern was my college counselor in at the Prep, and he suggested I take a look at LeMoyne. It's small, liberal arts school with a television production studio, and being a Jesuit school was a plus. I visited the school and had an unbelievable time. I was taken around by a senior who made sure he introduced me to everyone and made me feel very comfortable and have a great feel for the school. LeMoyne wasn't my first choice, but it was the choice after my visit.

**Q: What did you major in while at LeMoyne?**

I majored in communications with a concentration in TV and radio production. One of the professors that I had who really influenced me was Jason Roche, who taught both me and my wife.

**Q: You met your wife in college?**

Yes, I met my wife while in a production of Marisol – she was homeless person number #1 and I was homeless person #2. She’s an associate producer with Yahoo News.

**Q: So, the big question – how did you end up working for the MLB Network?**

So after college, the goal is to just get a job. A friend was heading to Syracuse University for a job fair and he asked me for a ride. So I figured, why not tag along and pass along my resume? While at the job fair, I ended up at the National Hockey League table and spoke to the person there. I ended up applying for the job and borderline stalked my future boss by constantly emailing him. I think I wore him down because I ended up getting a job with the NHL and eventually become a production assistant.

I got laid off two years later during the financial crisis while I was at Brooklyn College getting my MS in media studies. I ended up getting a job with Cablevision working for MSG Varsity as a content producer and media trainer, teaching schools to produce content for the MSG Varsity website.

During that time, my wife was going to Syracuse for her master’s degree and she received an email for a job opening at MLB Network in the media management department, which interested me at the time due to what I was studying at Brooklyn College. I applied for the job and was lucky enough to get it. Being a baseball fan, it was almost too good to be true.

**Q: What is your current position with the MLB Network?**

I am the post production supervisor. I am in charge of the schedules for our craft editors and post production audio engineers. During the baseball season we can be live from 10 am through 2 am, and it’s my job to make sure we have enough craft editors to cover all the needs for live programming.

**Q: So how did it feel to win an Emmy® award?**

It was...surreal. Surreal to be nominated, let alone win. I didn’t realize we could win an Emmy! The year before I got to the MLB Network, our team had just won its first Emmy for Outstanding Studio Show – Daily for MLB Tonight. We’re going against more established networks, like ESPN and TBS, and for the MLB Network, which only started in 2009, not only to get nominated, but to win was a tremendous achievement. As I said earlier, when I joined the MLB network, I didn’t realize we could win an Emmy. But, in my first year, we were nominated and won the Emmy. Then we won the following year and the next. We’ve now won the Sports Emmy for Outstanding Studio Show – Daily for MLB Tonight 5 out of the last 6 years.

**Q: Did you get an Emmy?**

Yes! The MLB Network was kind enough to purchase a statue for everyone involved with MLB Tonight, and I am fortunate enough to have four at home. They make a great conversation piece in the house – friends want to hold them and take photos with them. A lot of people work on the shows to make them successful, and it’s a fantastic feeling to see people win their first Emmy and their reaction to having and holding the award.

**Q: Are there any former players you are excited to work with?**

(Laughter) Yes! Unfortunately, due to the nature of my position, I don’t get to work directly with any former players but you do see quite a few walking around. Two off the top of my head are Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz. I have mixed feelings when it comes to Pedro – he does a great job as an analyst, but I still think of him as a Boston Red Sox and all those times he shut down the Yankees. I still remember the one-hitter he threw when we went to a Yankees game for Metropolitan Day. It ruined my day! At least the one hit was a Chili Davis home run!

The second would be John Smoltz. He’s an imposing figure, and when you think of his accomplishments – 200 wins, 300 saves, Hall of Famer – it’s a surreal experience. In fact, I see him every time he’s in studio because his office is right by my desk.

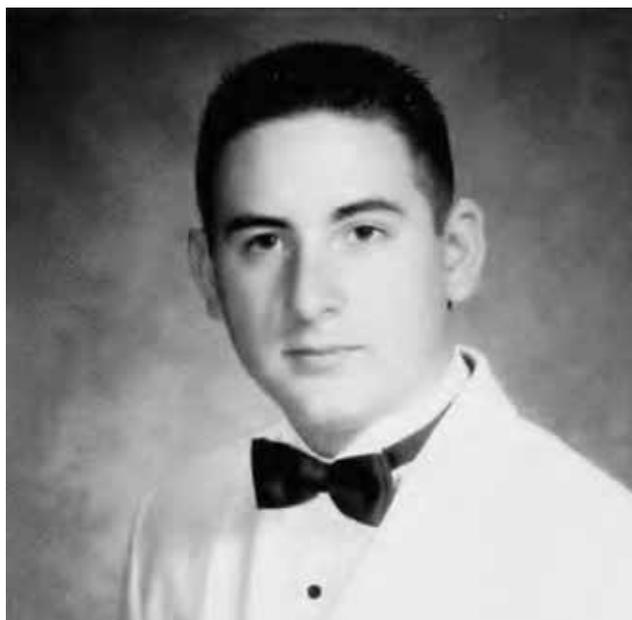
**Q: What advice do you have for current high school or college students who want to get into television?**

If you want to get into television, you have to learn to take constructive criticism well. You have to learn to improve. No one gets it right the first time, especially on a project. If you can take it, you will be in good shape.

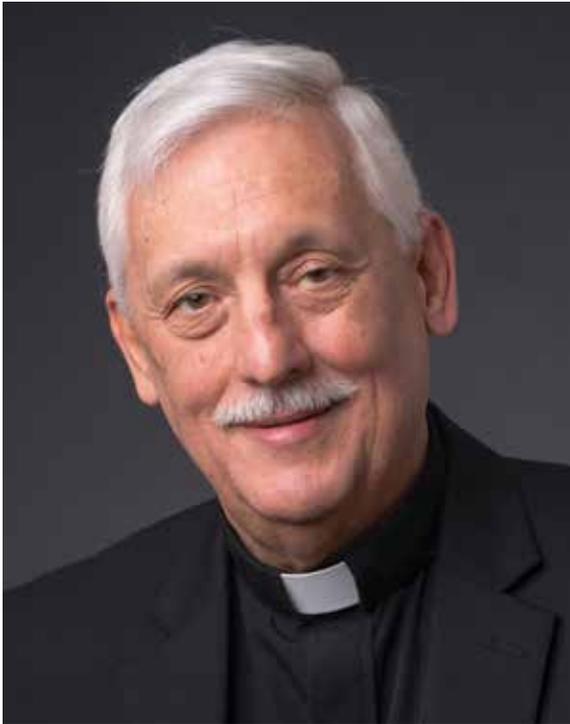
**Q: And finally, what can you say about your Fordham Prep experience?**

It comes down to taking “Men for Others” to heart, especially in my job, and being considerate of time and time constraints. During the baseball season, you’re asking people to spend time away from their families and working late nights or odd shifts. The editors understand it is part of the nature of television, but because I’m responsible for schedules, I try to make it a bit of give and take. Television is a cut throat business, but I don’t want it to be like that. The editors trust me, and I want to create the best schedule that works for everyone. It’s about looking out for each other and taking into account each person’s welfare.

Thanks for your time, James!



## Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Elected 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus



Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ

October 14, 2016 — Father Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ, of Venezuela was elected the 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus at the Jesuits' General Congregation 36 (GC 36) today in Rome. Fr. Sosa is the first Latin American Superior General of the Society of Jesus, the largest religious order of priests and brothers in the Catholic Church.

Fr. Sosa, Delegate of the General for the International Houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome, was elected by 212 Jesuit electors at the General Congregation, the supreme governing body of the Society, which is currently being held at the Jesuit Curia, the Society's headquarters in Rome. He succeeds Father Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, 80, who resigned last week after serving as Superior General since 2008.

"I am delighted to share the good news that the Congregation has elected Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, as our new Father General," said Fr. John Cecero, SJ, provincial of the USA Northeast Province. "It has been a truly inspirational experience to take part in this election, and on behalf of our USA Northeast Province, I have already extended our prayerful best wishes to Father Sosa. Let us continue to pray in thanksgiving for Father General and his leadership for years to come."

Fr. Sosa was born in Caracas, Venezuela, on November 12, 1948. He entered the Society of Jesus in September

1966 and was ordained a priest in 1977. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the Catholic University Andrés Bello in Caracas, a bachelor's degree in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in political science from the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He was provincial superior of the Society of Jesus in Venezuela from 1996 to 2004. Fr. Sosa speaks Spanish, Italian and English and understands French.

Prior to his appointment as provincial, he was in charge of the social apostolate of the Jesuits in Venezuela, which includes the Jesuit network of schools for the poor, *Fe y Alegría*. He was also head of the Centro Gumilla, the Jesuit-run social and action research center.

Among his distinguished academic posts, he has served as a member of the founding board of the Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas and rector of the Catholic University of Táchira. He has taught and researched political science in many different institutes and colleges, and in 2004 was a visiting professor at the Latin-American Studies Center of Georgetown University.

Fr. Sosa, only the 31st Superior General in the Society's 476-year history, now leads the 16,740 Jesuits worldwide. This includes about 12,000 priests; 1,300 brothers; 2,700 scholastics; and 753 novices, according to Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, General Counsellor and Assistant ad Providentiam.

In an interview at GC 36 before the election, Fr. Sosa said delegates gathered come from different countries, but they share a common culture linked to their experience of the Ignatian spiritual exercises and practices of discernment. "We have a long tradition and a strong desire to listen to the same voice, that is the voice of the Holy Spirit."

The election was held after four days of *murmuratio*, a centuries-old practice of one-on-one conversation and information gathering, designed to prepare the delegation for the selection of a new Superior General.

The day of the election began with a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit at Santo Spirito Church, the 12th-century church across the street from the Curia. Father James Grummer, SJ, Vicar General of the Congregation, delivered the homily.

Fr. Grummer reflected on their task to choose a new leader: "Our mission this morning is to elect a General. We will be locked into an upper room, not for fear but for concentrated listening to the Spirit's whisper. We are not afraid because we believe so strongly that the Spirit

guides the balloting that according to Formula 84 'The man elected cannot refuse the election.'

The Jesuit electors' mission was not just to listen carefully, said Fr. Grummer, "but also to trust that even if I need batteries in my spiritual hearing aid, I can trust that through this band of brothers the Spirit will identify the man he has chosen. We can trust that Jesus will give us his Spirit, no matter how locked we may feel."

Fr. Grummer noted that St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, did not talk about the Holy Spirit often in his writings. "I believe Ignatius said so little about the Holy Spirit because he did not want words to distract doubters and Inquisitors from the deeds of the Spirit, from experiencing joy, gifts and mission of the Holy Spirit."

"Ignatius' silence about the Spirit leaves more room to contemplate the deeds of that Spirit. As we celebrate the Eucharist at this altar this morning, may the Spirit fill our silence with the joy and all the gifts we need to embrace the special mission this day of choosing the one the Lord has chosen."

After Mass, the Jesuits assembled in silence in the Aula (Latin for hall) back at the Jesuit Curia. The delegates then prayed silently

for one hour, before voting began. In order to be named as the Jesuits' new superior general, Fr. Sosa would have had to have received 107 votes (50 percent plus one of the 212 electors). All aspects of the election are strictly confidential, although the congregation confirmed that the first person to be notified of Fr. Sosa's election was Pope Francis.

While Fr. Sosa's election as Superior General completes one of the main tasks of GC 36, the group's work is not over. Now the delegates will tackle matters of mission, governance and the state of the Society. Topics may range from the Society's changing demographics to challenges in worldwide ministries, to the Jesuit response to a rapidly changing world, environmental concerns, poverty and violence. [Sources: GC36.org, Crux]

**Do you want to learn more about vocations to the Society of Jesus? Visit [jesuitvocations.org](http://jesuitvocations.org) for more information.**

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# FAITH on tap



Over 60 members of the Prep community (alumni, parents, faculty, staff, family and friends) gathered at J.C. Fogarty's in Bronxville in, January for our second Faith on Tap session, a new program sponsored by the Office for Ministry & Ignatian Formation. The theme of the evening was "Nurturing Faith in the Family" and featured four speakers: Paul Homer (Religious Studies teacher and Christian Service Program Director), Maurice Timothy Reidy '93 (Executive Editor of *America Magazine*) and Prep parents, Rob and Wendy Gittings P '14, '15, '18). The speakers addressed Church teaching on the family's role in fostering faith in all its members, modern challenges to parents trying to raise their children in the faith, and resources and practices that help parents cope. The evening concluded with a lively question-and-answer period when attendees shared their experiences in a way that imparted wisdom, inspiration and a healthy dose of humor.

Be sure to check the Prep website for information about the next Faith on Tap event.

## Prep Viewing of *Silence*



On January 6, a group of over 300 Jesuits, alumni, parents, students and friends gathered at the AMC Loews Theatre on 68th and Broadway to view the movie *Silence*. Directed by Martin Scorsese, it tells the story of two Christian missionaries (played by Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver) who face the ultimate test of faith when they travel to Japan in search of their missing mentor (played by Liam Neeson P '15) at a time when Christianity was outlawed

and their presence forbidden. The movie is based on the 1966 acclaimed novel by Shusaku Endo. Following the movie, guests were treated to a Talkback with two of the film's stars, Liam Neeson and Adam Driver. Prep President Fr. Christopher Devron, SJ was the moderator. Guests were invited to make a donation to support the Fordham Prep Global Education Program.

## The Prep at Prayer

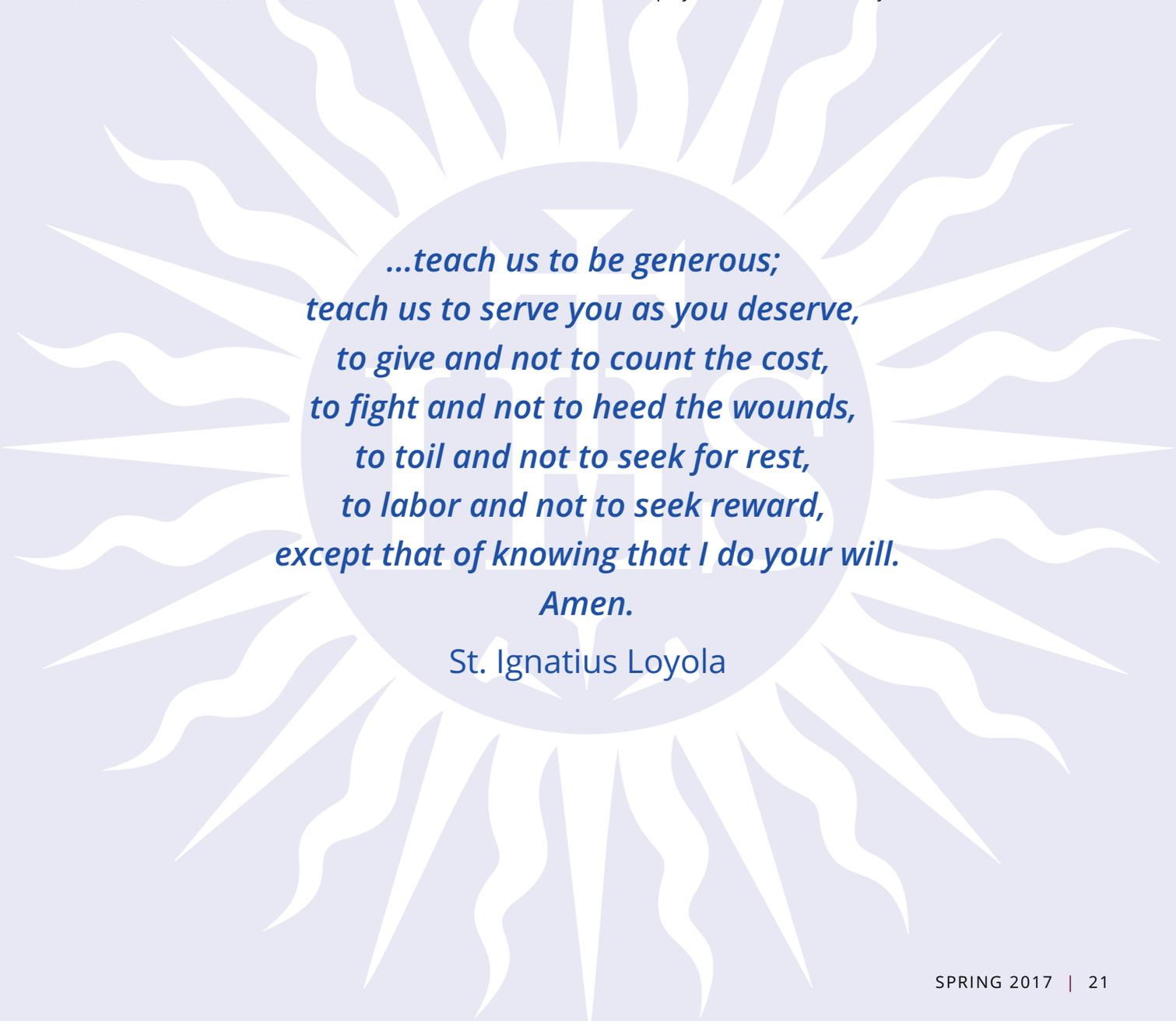
*As a Catholic, all-male, Jesuit, college preparatory school, Fordham Prep's mission is to inspire young men to reflect, to question, to learn, to pray, to love, to serve and to lead.*

So reads the first sentence of Fordham Prep's Mission statement, and the element of prayer is the focus of this article. Prayer, the turning of one's mind, heart and soul in communication with God, is a constitutive part of the Fordham Prep experience. Every day begins in prayer as we seek the wisdom and grace of God, becoming aware of our liturgical season, the inspiration of the Saints and the events of the world in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. Each morning, we ask for the intercession of St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, and St. John the Baptist, the patron of Fordham Prep.

Our prayer is inspired and informed by the great gift of Ignatian Spirituality. Classic Ignatian prayers are woven into each weekly

grade-level assembly, and the critical aspect of reflection is fostered as the community pauses to pray the *Examen*. Thus at the end of each week, we prayerfully review the week's events, both positive and negative, seeking God's light so that we may learn and grow, hopeful for what lies ahead.

Prayer connects us in a real and meaningful way to how God calls us individually and as a community, so that what we do, we do for the greater glory of God. Prayer begins our classes and it inspires our many drives for those in need. It is a daily part of the lives of our students who lead in Ministry- whether praying a daily *Examen* as a sophomore, praying with scripture as a junior or praying with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a senior. It reminds all of us at the Prep that we are called to live lives not just for ourselves. For just as our day begins in prayer, so does it end in prayer where as a community we ask the Lord to:



*...teach us to be generous;  
teach us to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to seek reward,  
except that of knowing that I do your will.  
Amen.  
St. Ignatius Loyola*

## The Fordham Prep Aviation Club

The Aviation Club exposes young men to the numerous wonders associated with controlled flight, and can trace its lineage to three distinct periods. A deep thanks goes to Lou Digiorno, Prep Archivist, for this background information. In 1908, The NY Aeronautical Society took control of the Morris Park Race Track. Many historians consider this location to be the first public airport in the United States. Fordham Prep students walked the 2.5 miles to view the balloon and early plane exhibits on this urban airfield in the Bronx.

In 1942, the Aviation Club was born as a subdivision of the Industrial Arts Club. During World War II, a group of students interested in flight lent their talents to the war effort. These students created model aircraft used by the military for training purposes. In 1966, Mr. Arthur McCormack Sr. joined the Fordham Prep faculty after a career at Eastern Airlines. He taught history and shared anecdotal stories of the wild blue yonder with many Prep students.

In 2004, Mr. McCormack shared a copy of MS Flight Simulator 2004 with a novice science teacher, Raymond Gonzalez. This sparked an interest in Mr. Gonzalez to learn more about flight in general and the simulator in particular. As a result, the club has grown from hobby status to almost an aviation science course. In 2015, with the help of a talented pool of students the club built its first basic function flight simulator. In 2016, Fordham Prep received another flight simulator (also called an Edustation) on loan from Fordham University.



## Hardware & Software

The club currently has two fully functional flight simulators: the Edustation and our school-built simulator. The school-built simulator while functional, requires funding to complete the project to full capability. The FP Aviation Club utilizes the Prepar3d academic software package made by Lockheed Martin. The same software is used to train real-world pilots and is geographically accurate to any location on the planet. Future software integration may include the use of flight planning software available on the I-pad to display airport data necessary for flights into and out of domestic airports.

## Curriculum

Technology has vastly improved our resources. Currently, a YouTube playlist teaches important lessons such as the Aerodynamics of Flight and Aircraft Control Surfaces. In addition, we utilize the Stem-Pilot curriculum created by engineer Jay LeBuff of Stempilot.com. The stem pilot coursework aligns the aviation curriculum with all nationwide science standards. Lastly, the Aviation Club possesses the DVD private pilot curriculum authored by the Sporty's Pilot Shop. Utilizing these resources allows for dynamic lessons that involve research and the virtual control of an aircraft.

## Past Excursions

The Aviation Club has been to some great places within New York City, including the JetBlue operations center at Kennedy Airport. They have been able to see how this airline serves customers and earns its numerous JD Power customer service awards. In the past, Jet Blue has held an empty aircraft for the students to view and learn from. Students have also interviewed company pilots and watched the performance of pre-flight checklist procedures. Members of the club have also visited the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum to learn about the rich naval history of the United States. Their next round of trips will include a local flight school and the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover Delaware.

## Future Initiatives

- Adopt a pilot program with either Jet Blue, Southwest or Delta.
- Fund the completion of the FP student-built simulator.
- Attend the OshKosh Air Show.
- Create an Aviation elective course for seniors.

*This letter was sent to the Fordham Prep Engagement, Development & Communications Office by the Franchi family, thanking Assistant to the Vice-President Larry Curran '77 for his time at the Prep and relating a story about the late Nunzio Franchi '45.*

Dear Mr. Curran,

Please find enclosed a donation to the Prep that I would like to make in memory of my grandfather, Nunzio "Popa" Franchi. I am sending the donation directly to you along with this letter because I want to also share with you the ways that you have strengthened his connection to the Prep and made him proud throughout the years.

As we laid Popa down to rest in early November, he wore a white suit jacket and a maroon Fordham Prep insignia bowtie, which you so graciously provided for him. Anyhow, as I looked at this man I admired so much throughout his life, I couldn't help but realize that his attire was reminiscent of the Prep graduation attire. It got me to thinking about how much the Prep meant to him, how proud he was to call himself a Ram and what an influential part you played in truly making him feel a part of the Fordham Family.



As you are aware, Popa attended Fordham Prep in the old Hughes Hall back in the 1940's and would have been part of the graduating class of 1945. However, he left school early in his junior year to join the Marines and defend our country in World War II. That sacrifice truly amazes me. Popa was the youngest of 5 siblings and the first to be born in the United States after his parents emigrated from Italy to escape the rule of Mussolini. I mention this to you because, while Fordham Prep certainly signifies a top quality education and a growth in faith, scholarship and service to all of us who have been lucky enough to walk those halls, to my grandfather back in the 1940's it also meant opportunity. It was the opportunity to be the first in his family to get such a quality education and to achieve the American dream that his parents wanted when they came here. And yet, despite all the opportunity this presented for him as a young man, he decided that, for him, service to his country was a higher calling than scholarship or his own well-being.

Upon Popa's honorable discharge from the Marines, he did not finish his education at the Prep, but instead got a job as a carpenter, a trade he learned while in the Marines.

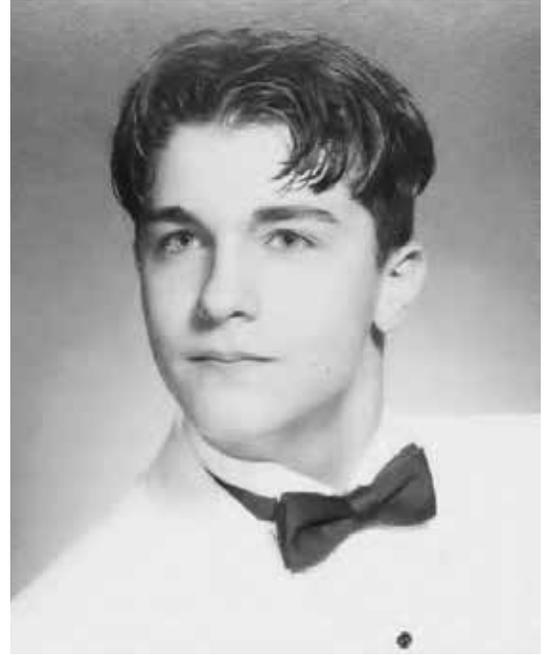
Popa went on to be a custodial engineer for the NYC Board of Education for 40 years and raised a family of 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Even with all of these prideful life experiences, it was a special night in 1996 that Nunzio "Popa" Franchi got to be honored and truly feel the pride of being a Fordham Prep graduate. That night, his continued love for Fordham Prep was made possible because of YOU!!! When my brother Christopher and I graduated from the Prep in 1996, you were influential in getting Popa an honorary degree based on his time at the Prep in the 1940s. This allowed him to sit on stage and give my brother and me our Fordham Prep diplomas. The smile on Popa's face that day as he walked through the crowd in his cap and gown and sat on that stage is an image that has stuck in my mind and heart. However, as memorable as that night was, it was a picture that I found while going through his things recently that I think sums up my Popa's journey and his pride in Fordham Prep. Unbeknownst to me, Popa snuck out after the graduation ceremony without returning his cap and gown. Instead he jumped in the car and drove to see his 98 year old mother at a nursing home in New Rochelle in full graduation garb. He wanted to show his Mom, my great-grandmother, that he had done it. HE GRADUATED FROM FORDHAM PREP!!! I guess even as a 70 year old man, making Mom proud still rates high on your list. Shortly after the three of us graduated together that May night in 1996, my Dad bought Popa a 1945 class ring. When he opened the gift and realized what it was, it was the first time I ever saw my grandfather cry. From then on, he would show off that ring and talk about the Prep and his five grandsons who would end up following in his footsteps as Men for Others.

Mr. Curran, I share this all with you, along with this humble gift, because you were a big reason he was able to experience all of these proud moments.

Our most sincere thanks,  
The Franchi Family

# Class Notes

**Chris Page '99** is thankful for the opportunity he had to attend Fordham Prep. Growing up in the South Bronx, one of his biggest influences at a young age was Thomas Beck P '87, '89, who encouraged Chris to attend the Prep. While in school, several faculty members proved to be huge inspirations. "I had a close relationship with Mr. (Bruce) Bott '59. And Dr. Morris, Fr. Sullivan and Mrs. Bulis were my mentors. The education and the people were awesome. It is one of the times of my life that I look back on with great fondness – and an experience that has stuck with me for my life."



After high school, Chris went to LeMoyne College and into real estate after graduation. All was well for six years, before the market burst during the financial crisis of 2008-09. After the crash, Chris went to work for an energy company he had encountered during his time in real estate.

With his career now settled, Chris had a desire to assist students at Fordham Prep and give back to his alma mater – the school which had given him so much. He wanted to find a significant way to give back to the school and its students that involved more than just a donation. Page's experience at Fordham Prep was life-changing, and since he was a tuition assistance recipient, one of the ways he felt he could repay the school was giving other aid recipients an opportunity.

As coincidence would have it, one day Chris sat down on Metro-North and struck up a conversation with a person sitting by him. That person was none other than Fordham Prep's president, Fr. Christopher Devron, SJ. The two connected and later went to lunch. During the lunch, Page talked about an organization he was involved with, The Five Borough Realty Managers' Social Club, which assists people with finding work in the New York real estate industry. Intrigued by the idea, Fr. Devron asked if Fordham Prep students could be a part of the program.

This turned out to be a unique opportunity that allows students to work at apartment buildings as summer relief for vacationing full-time employees. Students can earn close to \$20 an hour working as doormen, porters, elevators operators, or doing manual labor. The students selected must be at least 17 years old, have done well in school and be in need of assistance as they move on to college. It was a win-win for both the students and the building owners: the students earned money for college and the building owners had reliable vacation replacements.

The call went out last spring for eligible seniors – eleven students submitted resumes and cover letters, and of those eleven, five were placed at apartment buildings in Riverdale and Manhattan properties. Chris and Larry Curran '77, Assistant to the Vice President, met with the eleven students to ensure that they were comfortable with taking on the responsibilities and were up to the challenge. Page checked in with the students periodically to see how the jobs were going.

For their part, the students did an excellent job and had the opportunity to be invited back for next summer. For Chris, the fact he is able to give back to the next generation of Fordham Prep alumni makes it worthwhile.

"As a younger alumnus, it's a great feeling to give back to the Prep in some sort of way. I would like to see this type of program expand where alumni are actively engaged to give recent graduates opportunities and see the networking side the alumni community. We all went through the school and are all connected."

## Young Alumni Heroes of the Turkey Bowl Challenge

From October 26 through November 23, 2016, Fordham Prep alumni from the classes of 2002 to 2016 were involved in the Turkey Bowl Challenge, a young alumni giving challenge versus Xavier. Through the duration of the challenge, several young alumni stood out in their efforts to get their fellow classmates and Rams to participate. We asked these alumni to say in their own words what it meant to them to be involved in the Challenge and why they feel it is important for young alumni to get involved. Fordham Prep salutes these young alumni heroes of the Turkey Bowl Challenge.

*I was involved in the Turkey Bowl Challenge through contacting fellow young alumni through various forms of communication and encouraging them to donate. I felt compelled to be involved in the Challenge because I was fortunate enough to graduate from Fordham Prep, have fond memories of my Alma Mater, and great friendships stemmed from and develop during my time at FP. Additionally, I want the next generation students to have the same experience. I encourage my Fordham Prep brothers to participate for the same reasons I did and reminded them of memories we have together as well as the friendships that developed because of the Fordham Prep community.*

— **Adrian Mansylla '09**

*There are few things as constant as my gratitude and fondness for my time at Fordham Prep. As a young alumni and class agent, I thought the Turkey Bowl Challenge was a fun and important way to*

*support the Prep's needs and ensure young men today are able to experience the quality education and values instilled in me almost a decade ago. In this age of social media, letting my classmates know that we are doing something to support our alma mater has never been easier. It just takes a few minutes and a reminder that we are Men for Others!*

— **Jan Michael Llanes '08**

*After my brother became principal at Fordham Prep this school year, I felt the need to take the initiative to revitalize my connection to my alma mater. I simply posted about the Turkey Bowl Challenge on Facebook and then tagged all of my Prep friends from my year. Within no time, we were engaging with each other and started making our donations. Some kept increasing the amount of their donation while others kept urging others to donate. The Prep holds a special place in all of our lives and development as Men for Others, so taking the initiative was all that was needed to get our year donating...that and we all wanted to Beat Xavier!*

— **Glenn S. Petriello '03**

*I was happy to donate to the Challenge. Fordham Prep developed me into the man I am today, and I strongly believe in the school's wholesome education. Supporting the development of future Prep boys into men is a very worthwhile gift. Beating Xavier at the same time makes it all the more worthwhile.*

— **Savino Brusco '15**



**FORDHAM  
PREP**

**TURKEY BOWL CHALLENGE | OCT 26 - NOV 23**

**XAVIER**

Make a donation to the Prep, in any amount, between  
**OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 23.**  
**THE SCHOOL WITH THE MOST YOUNG ALUMNI DONORS WINS!**

## 1963

A profile of **Janik Radon** appears in the spring 2017 issue of *Harriman Magazine* from the Harriman Institute, Columbia University.

## 1986

### Andrew White, MBA

Financial Planner  
Charter Oak Insurance & Financial Services  
501 Merritt 7, 5th Floor  
Norwalk, CT 06581  
Work: 203-359-5331  
Fax: 203-359-5353  
Cell: 914-643-6703  
Email: [awhite@charteroakfinancial.com](mailto:awhite@charteroakfinancial.com)  
Web: <http://www.charteroakfinancial.com>

## 1997

### Mark Jennings

I just started a new job at Forefront Wealth Management as a Senior Vice President, International Client Advisor, Financial Advisor.

## 1999

In January, **Nivardo Lopez** was appointed as Bronx Borough Commissioner for the New York City Department of Transportation.  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/about/bio-lopez.shtml>

## 2003

**James Murphy** received his fourth Emmy at this year's 37th Annual Sports Emmy® Awards for his work on *MLB Tonight*.

## 2004

**David Hennessy** is engaged to marry Christina Buckley.

## 2013

During its Fall Honors Convocation in October, Manhattan College inducted **Lucas Gilbride, John Parker** and 143 other students into Epsilon Sigma Pi, the oldest college-wide honor society on campus. Only students who have earned a scholastic index of 3.5 during their first six semesters at Manhattan College and who have not incurred any academic failure during the same period are inducted at the beginning of their senior year.



## Class of '09 enjoying a LSU football game

Every year for the past three years our group heads down south for an SEC game: South Carolina, Georgia, now Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.



*Top L-R: Mike Welsh '09, Charlie Argast '09, Connor Brown '09, Kenny O'Brien '09, Chris Moffa '09, Mike Spillane '09, Richard Hurley '09, Danny Breen '09 Bottom: Danny Staff '09, John Stine '09, Pat St. Onge '09, Dennis Unrein '09 Not pictured: George Perrott '09 and David Bush '09*

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

Lawrence K. Martin '41  
William J. Lutz Jr. '42, father of William '68  
Owen Black '43  
Nunzio Franchi '45, grandfather of Christopher Franchi '96, Michael Franchi '96, John Franchi '98 and Kenneth Franchi '98  
William P. Dwyer '48  
Dr. John Salimbene '48  
Walter J. Dugan '49  
Robert Reninger '54  
Jerome Tuccille '54  
John Delamer '55  
Joseph Donohue '59  
John V. Kraus '60  
Anthony Marc Orelli '62  
Terence Fleming-Warren '00

### Friends of Fordham Prep

Angela Acampora, mother of John '59 and Matthew '75  
Evelyn Baffuto, mother of Joe Baffuto, formerly of our Finance Office  
James Dixon, father of James '77 and John '80  
Kevin Fitzgerald, father of Owen '19  
Barbara Freehill, wife of George '53  
Ruth Nolan, mother of Dan Nolan, faculty member  
John O'Toole, brother of James O'Toole '89  
Gregorio Rivera, father of Leonardo '90  
Russell Schaller, the father of Joseph Schaller '68 and Thomas Schaller '76 and grandfather of Corley Schaller '95 and the late Conal Schaller '01  
Margaret Toscano, mother of Mella O'Halloran, our Administrative Coordinator, and grandmother of John O'Halloran '09  
Ronald E. Wentzler, father of Gerard '80 and Dennis '95, and longtime FP baseball coach  
Catharine Zates Nelson, mother of Margaret Bratt (English Dept.), mother-in-law of Christopher Bratt '96



## Weddings

Brendan Siebecker '10 married Bridget Schirripa on Sept. 17, 2016

### Ramview Winter 2017 Corrections In Memoriam

We apologize for incorrectly spelling Charles R. Barnett '52

## Reunion 2017

April 29

More than 300 alumni attended last year's reunion in May.

Reunion 2017 includes the following classes.

**1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007  
and the Golden Rams**



Spouses and guests are welcome, so don't forget your date when your register. **We hope to see you there!**

*22nd Annual*

## Fordham Prep Golf & Tennis Outing

June 13

Quaker Ridge Golf Course



*Hole 5, Par 3*

**RSVP:** [fordhamprep.org/events](http://fordhamprep.org/events)

**Questions?** Larry Curran at 718-367-7500 ext. 208  
or [curranL@fordhamprep.org](mailto:curranL@fordhamprep.org)

## 175th Anniversary Dinner Dance

May 10

Celebrate 175 years of Fordham Prep with a special evening of dining and dancing at La Sirena in NYC.



## Founder's Day Mass

June 24



Join Prep President Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ, the Very Rev. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada & the United States, and members of the Fordham Jesuit community for the closing Mass of our 175th Anniversary Year on Founder's Day, June 24, 2017 at the University Church. A reception at the Prep will immediately follow Mass.



## Fordham Preparatory School

441 E. Fordham Road  
Bronx, New York 10458-5175

718-367-7500  
fordhamprep.org

Do you have a seasonal address  
you would like to share with us?  
Please contact [ramview@fordhamprep.org](mailto:ramview@fordhamprep.org).

# Upcoming Events

**April 2, 2017, 3 – 5 pm** in the Leonard Theatre  
American Media & Fordham Prep Present  
Racial Justice: A Gospel Invitation & Challenge

**April 4, 2017** Cocktail Reception at the Napa Valley Grille  
in Westwood, CA, hosted by Brian McCarthy `71

**April 5, 2017** Luncheon in Palo Alto, CA hosted by  
William Meehan `70

**April 5, 2017** Cocktail reception at the Pacific-Union Club  
in San Francisco, CA, hosted by William Meehan `70

**April 8, 2017** Fordham Prep Day of Service

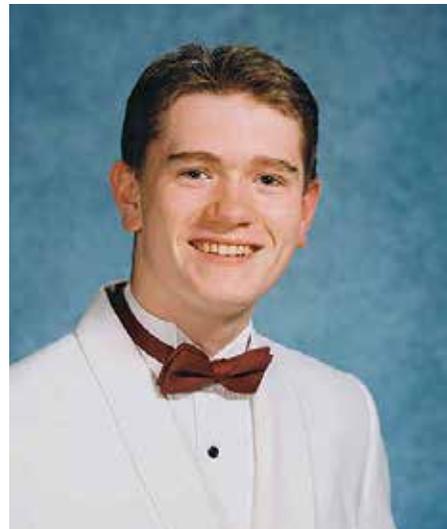
**April 29, 2017** Reunion 2017 for the Golden Rams and the  
Classes of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002,  
2007 & 2012

**May 5, 2017** Reception and student/alumni recognition of  
the culmination of our month-long "Call to Service"  
program reaching beyond the Bronx to involve alumni  
across the country

**May 10, 2017** 175th Anniversary Dinner Dance

**June 13, 2017** Golf & Tennis Outing at Quaker Ridge  
Golf Course

**June 24, 2017** The 175th Anniversary year-end Mass  
followed by a reception at the Prep



John Murtagh '05 is returning to the Prep as our new Alumni Engagement Manager. John graduated from Boston College and served over the past four years as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. He has worked in several financial and relationship management roles at Greenwich Associates and most recently with Morgan Stanley.

Look for an email soon about John.