

Crusaders

SPRING 2019

the CHS CONNECTION





Continuing to *Build on Faith, Family & Tradition*

As many of you are aware, Catholic High is beginning the planning for a series of wonderful additions and renovations that will make a very significant difference for the Catholic High family. It is very exciting to look forward to the new additions we have planned and to realize what doors will be opened and opportunities made possible for our current and future students by the projects we envision!

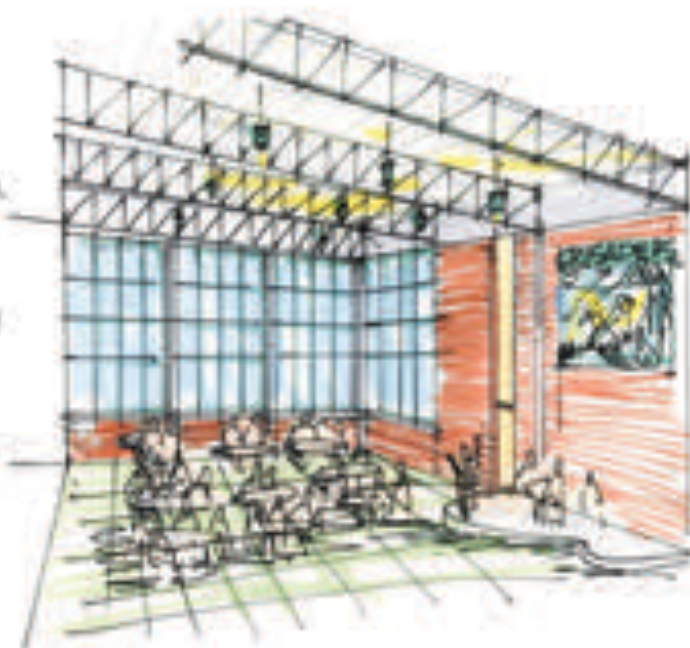
We are working very hard on the details of planning the new buildings for which we hope to break ground in the coming months. The new Student Life Center will allow our students, faculty, and parents to utilize a very attractive and functional space for our before, during and after school social, spiritual and academic activities. Our new Fitness Center and locker spaces will provide our students, faculty, and athletes with facilities to match their dedication and determination in achieving enhanced physical strength, conditioning and optimal health. In 2020, we expect to open the doors to these two new facilities. Then, we will continue the work on our other new projects, including a Robotics/STEM lab for our award winning Robotics program and for all of our students whose growth in STEM will open career and employment opportunities from the day they leave the doors of CHS. Our new Art space and Music Building will help our Fine Arts programs to open wonderful opportunities so that our students may grow and thrive in the arts.



It is important to remember that our *Building on Faith, Family, and Tradition* Campaign isn't just about new facilities. It is about what will happen inside our walls. With our improved campus, we will have greater opportunities to build our faith and family and to ensure the tradition of excellence for which Catholic High is known!

We are certainly aware of the challenges we face in making these dreams a reality. Yet, the consequences of failing to realize these dreams would be far too limiting for our thriving CHS family. Others had the dream before us and we are the beneficiaries of their vision and achievement. Our hope is to ensure the dreams we hold for students now and for generations to come.

We are perched on the edge of a dream. And that dream is about to come true!



Fr. John Licari '72 Goes from 'Pinball Wizard' to the Priesthood

In the Fall of 1997, the CHS Alumni Committee launched a new initiative, the Catholic High Alumni Hall of Fame to honor Crusader alumni who stand out among the more than 8,900 graduates of Catholic High. To date, 32 exemplary alumni have been inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. These graduates, ranging in graduation years from 1941 to 1993, have been selected for their embodiment of the CHS Core Values of Commitment to Excellence, Commitment to Service, Personal Integrity, and Selfless Love and for their generosity, commitment, and loyalty to Catholic High. On Friday, March 15, yet another outstanding CHS alumni was inducted into the Catholic High Alumni Hall of Fame—Fr. John Licari, a member of the Class of 1972.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y. in 1954, our honoree moved to Pensacola in 1967, the year of Sgt. Pepper! He began playing the guitar in the mid '60s—mostly music by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Fr. Licari began performing professionally while in high school with a five member band called Lyman Slack. By 1973 the band broke up and our honoree followed the solo path, spending more time writing songs. This led to a move to Atlanta in 1978 to try his talents in a new town. About that time, Bob Dylan, already a rock-n-roll legend, released 'Slow Train Coming' a spiritual album that mirrored Dylan's recent conversion to Christianity. In this album, Fr. Licari had a blueprint. He could rock. He could roll. And do it all in Jesus' name. 'Peach of Soul' by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen struck our inductee as it talked about the Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation, which our honoree had avoided for years. Suddenly a lot of things about the Catholic faith began to make sense. Fr. Licari began volunteering his musical talents at the Transfiguration Catholic Church where he worked with shut-ins and also in Atlanta's soup kitchens. It was here that his faith began to grow.



In 1979 Bob Dylan came out with an album that was sort of 'Gospel-flavored.' It showed Fr. Licari he could write music about how the Lord had affected his life. As a result two prayerful songs were written—'Man on the Cross' and 'I want to give my life to You' that were played everywhere Fr. Licari performed. Through the early 1980's our inductee's spirituality and faith deepened to the extent he even questioned whether he was being called to the priesthood. Although he recognized this call, he was afraid to take a step away from the musical career that he loved.

In 1985 Fr. Licari moved back to Pensacola. He began performing in Pensacola clubs again but this time around he mixed his own spiritually-based songs into the act. He'd go from 'Pinball Wizard' to 'Man on the Cross.' He was active in mission activities through St. Anne Parish in Gulf Breeze. It was on a mission trip in Chimbote, Peru that Fr. Licari met Rev. Jack Davis, a man who would influence him in his decision to become a priest. Ever since his spiritual awakening in Atlanta, he realized he was being called to the priesthood but he just wasn't ready. So in 1993 Fr. Licari decided to get a degree in special education. It was that year that he called his sister Aida and said he had some news for her. Her question was, "What, are you going to get married?" to which he responded "sorta."

In 1997 Fr. Licari entered Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans where he graduated with a Master's Degree in Divinity in May 2002. While holding on to his love of music, he soon traded the harmonica, acoustic guitar, keyboards, and vocals to studying theology at the seminary. However, his spiritual advisor thought he was distancing himself too much from music and encouraged Fr. Licari to use his gift of music for God's glory.

Fr. Licari's devotion to God and the Catholic Church was celebrated May 18, 2001, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart when he was ordained as a deacon, the final step before priesthood. His 27-year career as a singer/songwriter had led him to the priesthood and it was on June 28, 2002, that Fr. John Licari was ordained a priest by Bishop John Ricard.

Since being ordained, Fr. Licari's positions in the Diocese have included serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Catholic Church, Ft. Walton Beach; Parochial Vicar at Nativity of Our Lord; Administrator at St. Anne Bellview; St. Mary Parish, FWB; St. John the Evangelist Church in Pensacola and from January 1, 2018, to present, Fr. Licari serves as Pastor of St. John Parish in Pensacola. Although he's still a fan of rock and roll, Father Licari's current 'gigs' more include ecumenical gatherings along with ongoing performances at the Saufley Field Prison, the Rangers at Hurlburt Field, Blessing of the Ships, and concerts for miscellaneous local fundraisers and, of course, joining other Catholic High alumni priests every year at the Spring Mass and Fish Fry at Catholic High.

It is with a great deal of pride that we honor our newest member of the Catholic High Alumni Hall of Fame, a member of the Class of 1972, the curly-haired explosion of energy and a true friend of Catholic High, Fr. John Licari.

Catholic High's Hall of Fame Inductees Exemplify CHS's Finest



Attending Pensacola Catholic High School has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I have learned to grow in my relationship with God and have learned what being a part of the Catholic High family truly means. Throughout high school, I have discovered that I have the ability to achieve anything that I long to achieve by knowing how to apply myself and continue to work hard. My favorite part of my high school experience was having the opportunity to serve my school on Student Council. Being a representative of my school further encouraged me to become involved in more things, such as being an National Honor Society officer, participating in Spanish Club activities, being selected as a member of Senior Retreat Team, and much more. I believe that being involved and my consistency to continue to work hard at everything I do has helped me achieve what I have achieved during my four years here at Catholic High. I cannot thank the administration and teachers of PCHS enough for everything they have done for me and for helping me get to the place where I am today, for without them, I know that I would not be what I have become today. With that being said, I am very honored to be selected as a member for the 2019 Hall of Fame, and am more than proud to say that I am a Catholic High Crusader.

—Mary Wolff

What I think really factored into my selection onto the Hall of Fame is my commitment and involvement at Catholic High. I am in a variety of different extra-curriculars, including Student Council, Sader Surfer Club, National Honor Society, and a lot more! I love being active in my school, and always enjoy staying after to practice sports, or participate in clubs, or even just to help out. I will miss Catholic High so much next year but I look forward to what the future holds for me! I will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall of 2019! —Madeleine Leidner



Before my Freshmen year at Catholic, I was very nervous about what was to come over the next four years. I had no idea what high school had in store for me, and even questioned whether or not I would be attending CHS by the time I graduated. However, once I began taking classes and meeting new people, I knew that I would always be a Crusader. Through Student Council, I have been able to exponentially increase my public speaking and leadership skills, as well as being able to build lasting relationships with many of my peers. In the classroom, Catholic has prepared me for undergraduate studies, and has allowed for me to be accepted into the Honors College at the University of Alabama. Catholic High School has allowed me to become a better Christian, a better student, and a better person. I will be forever thankful for the opportunities that this institution has gifted me, and will always treasure the experiences I have had here. —Christian Dukes



Four years ago, I was just a scared, shy little freshman not knowing where my place was in high school. With my high school experience being in such a family-filled and comfortable environment, I was opened to many doors of opportunity, including Student Council, Student Ambassadors, National Honor Society, cheerleading, tennis, and many more. This not only helped me meet new people but matured me into the person I am today. All of these things and more that Catholic has given me has more than prepared me for college and future life experiences that are in store for me.

—Makenna Thorsen



I have so loved my time at Catholic High, and was so honored that my peers and teachers selected me for the Hall of Fame! Over the past four years, I have participated in a variety of activities at CHS including Make a Difference Day, interclass games, Student Ambassadors, tennis, and Math Team among several others. I have always been committed to academics despite a busy schedule. I think that my induction into the Hall of Fame is an acknowledgment of my dedication to both the academic and social aspects of high school.

—Eleanor Provosty



Being chosen to not just be a part of the Hall of Fame but being chosen alongside such amazing young people is a tremendously huge honor. Catholic High is home away from home—a place where you can truly be yourself. I feel that, being comfortable around the people that walk the halls, the administration we don't see every day, the teachers we interact with on a day-to-day basis, and even the lunch ladies, played a major role in my selection to the Hall of Fame. Catholic High has really allowed me to really be 'me' outside of the comfort of my own home. It created my 'home away from home' that will always be a part of who I am. #Green&Gold



—Tyree Dunn

I am incredibly honored to have been chosen to be in the Hall of Fame. For a bit about myself, I come from large family with a lot of love. I enjoy swing dancing, playing piano/clarinet/bass clarinet when I can especially in musical theater productions, and I am always ready to hang out with friends and family. I enjoy doing service for the community, CHS, and my church. I have always received so much more than I could ever hope to give, and my favorite part is meeting some amazing people and getting to know them. I'm very grateful for all the great memories and relationships I've made at Catholic. Looking forward, I will be attending the University of Florida in the fall.



—Maria Baroco



I was honored to be inducted into the Catholic High School Hall of Fame this 2018-2019 school year. Over the course of my four years at CHS, I have been a member of the Student Council, Student Ambassadors, and four Varsity sports teams. I believe that my dedication to extracurricular activities and service, along with my honest love for Catholic High, played a large role in my selection into the Hall of Fame. I am humbled to know that the hard work I have put in has truly made a difference in this school community that I consider my second home.

—Caroline Buer



I have seven siblings, which has given me plenty of opportunity to practice getting along with others. I love math, horses, singing, and playing my guitar. I try my best to use my passions and talents to bring glory to God, whether it is tutoring after school, singing at school Masses, or just being a good friend. I have developed awesome relationships with so many of the students and teachers at CHS, and I treasure every single one of them. I think practicing Catholic High's Core Values the last four years has really shaped me into a good, trustworthy person, and I am proud of this.

—Carmen Dosev

Starting high school, I was unaware of the impact these four years would have on my character. My passionate involvement in the community, clubs, and sports has allowed me to truly grow as an individual. By participating in Cheerleading, Cross Country, and Track and Field, I was able to be a dependable teammate and learn the resilience it takes to be an athlete. As a Student Ambassador and Senior Retreat Team Member, I got the opportunity to welcome new people into my life and comfort those going through difficult times. Volunteering at the Alpha Center, Loaves and Fishes, and Ronald McDonald House allowed me to benevolently serve others. I believe that I was inducted into the Hall of Fame because my behavior in and out of school exemplifies my selfless love, commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and commitment to service.

—Brianna Wyer



First I would like to say how honored I am to be a part of such a profound community of faith-based, hardworking, kind-hearted people. Catholic High has truly been a place of growth and warmth to me and I couldn't be prouder to call myself a Crusader. Throughout my four years at Catholic, I have experienced challenges and obstacles in school and life that I feel I could not have gotten through without my Catholic High family! My education and wellbeing have been forever changed because of my time at Catholic, and I feel that my dreams and standards have been elevated. Striving for the highest possible level of achievement is my goal in everything I do, and because of my Catholic education, I feel that I am well prepared to succeed in achieving anything I put my mind to. Thank you Catholic High for the best four years of my life!

—Ryan Dockery



Crusader Reunions Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Yes, the reunion of the **Class of 1969** was a great tribute to a Fabulous 50!! There were many good comments and attendees were just overwhelmed by all that went on!

Friday night the class gathered for an Evening at Seville Quarter to visit with old classmates. Saturday night at Pensacola Yacht Club was fantastic with one of the highlights being the photo booth. **Class X** provided the music with all the favorite songs from 1969 being played. A moment of silence was observed as the names of deceased classmates were read while the class song--*Sound of Silence*--was played. A coffee mug was given to attending classmates with the CHS logo on one side and **Class of 1969 50th Reunion** on the other side.

The end of a perfect reunion weekend was provided Sunday with breakfast at Hemingway's Grill at Pensacola Beach. The weather was beautiful and everyone had tears in their eyes as they said good bye while vowing to see each other again soon. The **Class of 1969** is already looking forward to their 55th in 5 years!



The first night of their 50th reunion found the **Class of 1959** meeting for the Catholic High Mass and Fish Fry on March 15. This offered the perfect opportunity to visit and recall old times. The remainder of the evening found classmates going their separate ways to check out old haunts.

Saturday everyone was on their own to explore Pensacola before meeting for dinner at Skopelos to share more laughs and tell more stories!

St. Joseph Catholic Church was the destination of the class for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass with everyone especially enjoying the gospel choir. From there the group went to Cypress Restaurant for a delicious brunch before heading their separate ways with lots of wonderful memories of a great reunion.

About 20 Local members of the **Class of 1961** gathered at Franco's Restaurant May 13th to visit with Mimi Bossio Buffington who was in town from Laguna Beach, CA. Also attending were Laura and Vincent Matrone who were visiting from Texas.

Upcoming Reunions

Plans are underway for a **Class of 1960** reunion in April of 2020. Contact: **Woody Soderlund** at soderlundw@aol.com

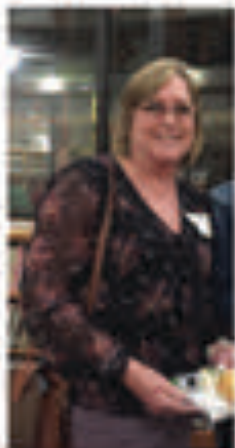
The **Class of 1989** is well on their way to their 30th Reunion the weekend of July 26-28, 2019. Friday afternoon will find them back where it all started for a tour of Catholic High before heading to the District Upstairs Bar downtown. Saturday evening the group will gather at the Pensacola Country Club followed by a Beach/Pool Day at Portofino Island Resort on Sunday. For more info contact **Fred Gunther** at 850.516.7570 or fred@guntherproperties.com

Ongoing Reunions

The **Class of 1962** has a ladies' luncheon just about every month. Contact person: **Dorothy Powell Jacobs** at ddpowell1@aol.com

The **Class of 1972** meets for lunch every 2-3 months--always at a different location! Contact: **Cheryl Early Endres** at grannypete@bellsouth.net

Class Reps Gather for Reception in Their Honor



In Memoriam

Your prayers are requested for these members of the Catholic High family who have died since the publication of the 2019 Winter CHS Connection:

Janet McCluskey Acevedo (2/4/19 Pensacola)

Daughter of Fred McCluskey '59; sister of Fred, Jr. '88

Walter Franklin Biggs, Jr. (4/7/19 Pensacola)

Father of Cary Biggs Kearny '75, Beau '76, Margaret '78, and George '81

Wayne Price Campbell, Jr. (4/21/19 Pensacola)

Father of Will '96

John Edward Cihota (2/27/19 Pensacola)

Father of Natalie Cohota Heitman '99, Diane '01, and Tom '04

Gordon W. Edwards Jr. '81 (May 1, 2019 Pensacola)

Father of Gina Edwards Davis '83, Gordon W '85, and Sean '91

Dorothy Marie Clopton Eichelberger (3/1/19 Pensacola)

Mother of John III '75

Michael Charles Foley, Jr. (2/25/19 Gainesville, FL)

Brother of Fr. Pat '64 and Patti Foley Carroll '64

Sue Sanderson Frimenko '87 (2/27/19 Pensacola)

Jean DeLaBar Harris (4/30/19 Pensacola)

Mother of Sue-Sue Harris Sherrill '80

Sandra Elizabeth Hays '58 (4/18/19 Pensacola)

Sister of Vera Hays Meacham '89 and James '73

Brian J. Maguire (3/15/19 Pensacola)

Father of Nolan '14

Franklin Eugene May (2/17/19 Hawaii)

Father of Catherine May Steib '78, Jennifer May Stephens '81, Gene, Jr. '85, and Meredith May '88

Albert Nicholas Mayfield '69 (5/2/19 Pensacola)

Brother of Michele Mayfield Stowey-Blankenship '61

Josephine Patti Merritt '54 (4/28/19 Pensacola)

Sister of Frank, Sr. '48

Jessica (Josie) Dolor Meyer '84 (8/21/18 Denver, CO)

Edward Moyer '86 (3/25/19 Pensacola)

Brother of Randy '71, Paul '75, and Chris '80

Andrew Wesley O'Pry (2/16/19 Fairhope, AL)

Husband of Jane Rose O'Pry '64

Daniel Lee Parker '71 (2/24/19 Pensacola)

Brother of Mickey '65

Theresa Stephens Pankhurst '65 (11/5/18 Pensacola)

Sister of Debbie Stephens Jelks '76

Joseph William Peko, Jr. '69 (3/15/19 Pensacola)

Brother of Pat Peko Newburn '72, Sandra Peko Chandler '74, Debbie Peko Lingner '76 and Karen Peko Deane '79

Mary Jo Clark Scarborough (3/2/19 Pensacola)

Mother of Joe '81

Marcella Thublin Snowden (3/16/19 Pensacola)

Mother of Timothy '78

Betty Jane Caro Solchenberger (3/8/19 Pensacola)

Mother of Jane Solchenberger McCoy '78

Rene D. Thames (8/30/18 Pensacola)

Wife of Greg '80; mother of Josh Howell '08 and Jonathon Howell '05

Joseph 'Joe' Edward Webb (4/15/19 Pensacola)

Brother of Bryan '78, Nina Webb Blay '78, and Kevin '87

Helen G. Wilkinson (4/18/19 Pensacola)

Mother of Glenn '71, Desiree 'Gail' '71, Todd '73, Regina Wilkinson Baniakas '79, and Kateri Wilkinson '81

In Memoriam

Have you recently lost a family member whom you would like to have remembered during our annual CHS Memorial Mass in November? Please mail or email the following to CHS (jmoseley@pensacolachs.org).

Name _____

Date of death _____

Location of death _____

Association to CHS _____

Closest relative _____

Address of relative _____

City, state, zip _____

Catholic High Wants to Know . . . **WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?**

Catholic High is excited to be able to begin including in our CHS Connections publication and on our website information on all the exciting things that are happening in our alumni's lives! Please help us out by completing the form below and mailing it to Jane Moseley at Catholic High OR completing a similar form online which will be digitally sent to the CHS Development Office for inclusion in the Connection and on the website.

Examples that have recently come to our attention as very noteworthy are:

Whitney Preisser, a graduate of the Class of 2009, graduated from Notre Dame with a bachelor of science in Biology in 2013, and has been attending Texas A&M as a graduate student, studying parasite diversity and ecology. She has received numerous fellowships, grants and awards, including a fellowship from the Smithsonian Institute and grants from the American Museum of Natural History, National Institute of Health and National Science Foundation. Whitney is a PhD candidate and will complete her doctorate degree in August of 2019. She will then begin work as a research scientist at the University of Washington in Seattle, studying parasites in the fish of Puget Sound.

This year ARC Gateway celebrated their 65th Anniversary. In celebration of this amazing milestone, they launched *The 65 Faces of The Arc Gateway* campaign on Facebook, highlighting some of the people who have made a difference in this organization. Among those selected for this honor were Catholic High alumni *MaryAnn Humphreys Bickerstaff '81* (James N. Evans President's Award) and *Drew Adams '94* (the Lucy Petree Outstanding Service Award).

----- **WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?** -----

Please use this form to help Catholic High keep up-to-date with the recent happenings in your life! You may also use this as an opportunity to update your current demographics! You may mail this to Jane Moseley at CHS OR submit it online at www.pensacolachs.org/alumni.

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

Events/ achievements _____

***We will have a special section which will focus on Marriage Announcements, Anniversary milestones, and the birth of future Crusaders!

CHS Annual Campaign--For it is in Giving that we Receive

Our annual campaign's contributions to Pensacola Catholic High continue to make a significant difference to the accomplishments and improvements made over the years. Gifts received are a reflection of the efforts and enthusiasm of the entire Catholic High community. To each of our donors, on behalf of the rich heritage that has spanned more than seventy-six years, and the confidence of a bright and secure future, Catholic High conveys our heartfelt thanks for your continued support as CHS continues to develop citizens of tomorrow—spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially.

To date over \$360,000 has been received from over 300 donors in support of our 2018-2019 Gift-Giving Campaign. Catholic High offers many opportunities for you to play a part in helping provide a value-based education to high school students in Northwest Florida. The possibilities for participation are diverse:

Testamentary Bequests – Why not include in your Will or trust document a provision making a bequest of property to CHS? A simple bequest of cash or other property from an estate or trust can greatly benefit future academics and other worthwhile programs at CHS, while also reducing potential estate tax liabilities and administrative costs.

Charitable Remainder Trusts - This type trust allows an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of a bequest, avoids the potential of capital gains tax, ensures income for one's lifetime or a set term, and provides for the remainder of the assets to pass to Catholic High at the death of the donor.

Life Insurance –Catholic High can be named as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The payment of insurance premiums is a relatively inexpensive way to make a large bequest of either the face amount of the insurance policy or a designated smaller percentage. Income and/or estate tax benefits could result.

Retirement Plan Gifts - Consider naming Catholic High as a full or partial beneficiary of your IRA, 401K or whatever retirement plan you have. There will be no income tax to CHS and the school only receives funds you haven't used while alive. This can be an easy gift to accomplish that makes a

2018-2019 Annual Gift-Giving Campaign

Please return to the CHS Development Office before June 30, 2019.
Donations may also be made online on the CHS website
www.pensacolachs.org.

Name _____

Address _____

My gift to the Annual Campaign is \$ _____

My gift is in memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please make checks payable to: Pensacola Catholic High School

real difference to the Catholic High. Or, consider a gift of part or all of your annual required distribution. Up to \$100,000 can be gifted this way with tax savings in almost every case.

Memorial Gifts - Make a gift to Catholic High to honor someone else living or deceased. These gifts are deductible for income tax purposes now. Your gift can be restricted – that is, designated for specific purposes-- or, if you leave it unrestricted, it will help fund the general needs of the school.

Matching Gifts - Many employers have a matching gift program, which is designed to encourage employees and retirees to make gifts to non-profit entities such as CHS. Contact your employer for details of such a program.

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• *The Sister Mary Consuelia Society was established by Catholic High in 1997 to honor those who make Pensacola Catholic High School a part of their legacy through a planned gift for the purpose of advancing CHS to new and higher levels of achievement. For more information about the society, please contact the CHS Development Office.*
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Crusader Boys Soccer and Tennis Teams in the Spotlight

Once again the *Crusader Boys Soccer Team* had a great season as they advanced to the Final Four in Orlando before losing to Lake Highland Prep in a thrilling 1-0 match. That reflected Coach *Del Greatwood's* Crusaders first loss of the year as they finished a very successful season 22-1-2. With six starters returning next year, and being able to rely on the leadership of the graduating seniors, the future looks very bright for next year's Crusader Boys Soccer Team.



The goal of both the *Boys and Girls Tennis Teams* at the beginning of every season is to be one of the last 8 teams competing at the FHSAA State Tournament. Both teams accomplished this goal in 2019, and while they lost both quarterfinal matches, Coach *Geoff Watts* was extremely proud that they reached Orlando, while enjoying the journey of each match, venue, and outcome - win or lose - along the way.





PENSACOLA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Spring Mass and Fish Fry

