



CHRIS POPE/POPE PHOTOGRAPHY

**CONGRATULATIONS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES OF**

**20
21**



CHRIS POPE/POPE PHOTOGRAPHY



MARY DIBIASE BLAICH



MARY DIBIASE BLAICH

MOVING FORWARD—Graduation season has begun at the 44 Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of New York as the images on this page illustrate. Top, graduates of the Class of '21 at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle enjoy their commencement May 21. Above, a second set of graduates, grouped and in procession, were attending their commencement at Msgr. Farrell High School on Staten Island the next day. This special section, pages 11-34, includes graduation information for all the Catholic high schools in the archdiocese.



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| Marianna Alonge | Lauren Dean | Mackenzie Markle | Kathleen Schmitt |
| Meghan Anderson | Irina DiCunto | Emma McDonough | Maria Scutero |
| Santina Arena | Emilia DiGiovanni | Kerry McGouran | Cheyenne Seobarrat |
| Lidia Argenziano | Brianna DiNapoli | Alanna McGovern | Vanessa Sexton |
| Sophia Atilos | Lauren Duffy | Kayleigh McMahon | Olivia Sherman |
| Isabella Avila | Colleen Egan | Isadora Meristil | Lauren Sobolevsky |
| Giovanna Badalamenti | Sophia Falbo | Marianna Messina | Teresa Spieler |
| Kate Baldwin | Faye Fudjinski | Sydney Mizhquiri | Olivia Stack |
| Colleen Bambury | Maeve Gallagher | Angelic Molos | Paige Stathis |
| Maria Bechlivanis | Alessia Gallo | Olivia Muir | Breanna Tallarine |
| Amanda Beckmann | Danielle Giallanza | Maeve Murnan | Audrey Tissot |
| Juliann Bianco | Caroline Gifford | Chloe Murphy | Toni Tolve |
| Madelyn Billows | Alyssa Giudice | Brynn Nelsen | Isabella Torani |
| Anna Bolino | Gianna Glover | Erin O'Sullivan | Joanna Trapani |
| Victoria Bruno | Amanda Gopie | Nicole Osak | Elise Tugander |
| Mairead Buckley | Deandra Grant | Isabella Passanisi | Leslie Vazquez |
| Molly Burns | Maria Grzegorski | AnnaMaria Petalas | Gabrielle Venegas-Delval |
| Grace Butler | MariaRose Guardavaccaro | Gina Pettignano | Gianna Veneziano |
| Claudia Cain | Isabella Guariniello | Deborah Pigeot | Gina Verrengia |
| Sophia Cain | Nicole Gutwirth | Meaghan Plante | Kaylie Walsh |
| Julianna Camporeale | Kaylee Hermance | Kaitlyn Potter | Diana Willoughby |
| Gia Carosone-Bosco | Valentina Hines | Gianna Pronesti | Hala Wilson |
| Abigail Cassamassino | Emma Keane | Tiana Radomski | Grace Woods |
| Lauren Catalano | Katherine Kelly | Angelica Rao | Irina Zheng |
| Joanne Centeno | Camille Kelly | Casey Rodgers | Vasilike Zougras |
| Olivia Chaber | Jacqueline Khorsandi | Kayla Rolon | Demetra Zougras |
| Raven Cole-Hector | Kristen Kupper | Valerie Rosanelli | |
| Corinne Connelly | Alessandra Latino | Francesca Rossi | |
| Laura Cretella | Dina LaVecchia | Rianna Royo | |

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Notable Achievements:

- Acceptance into top-tier colleges and universities!
- An average of \$40 million awarded to graduating classes since 2018



LA SALLE ACADEMY, MANHATTAN
Valedictorian: Hunter Colon
Salutatorian: Jeremiah Perez-Mendez
Graduation: Thursday, June 3, in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral and livestreamed; 68 graduates.



THE URSULINE SCHOOL, NEW ROCHELLE
Valedictorian: Claire Cregin
Salutatorian: Cecilia Visco
Graduation: Friday, May 21, in-person, outdoors; 167 graduates.



CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX
Valedictorian: Darryna Guy-Williams
Salutatorian: Kamilah Abubakar
Graduation: Saturday, June 12, in-person. 285 graduates.



MARIA REGINA HIGH SCHOOL, HARTSDALE
Valedictorian: Cristiana Santos
Salutatorian: Julianna Giacoio
Graduation: Friday, June 4, in-person outdoors; 117 graduates.



MOUNT ST. MICHAEL ACADEMY, BRONX
Valedictorian: Joshua Campbell
Salutatorian: Noah Imafidon
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, three in-person, outdoor ceremonies; 126 graduates.



CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN
Valedictorian: Sharon Quinn
Salutatorian: Skyla-Ariana Collado
Graduation: Wednesday, June 9, in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 114 graduates.

CLASS OF

2021

VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS

Catholic New York annually salutes the hard work and dedication of the members of the senior class graduating from the 44 Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of New York. The valedictorians and salutatorians are recognized for their academic achievements in the listings below. If a school does not use those designations, and instead has selected student speakers, they are noted. The number of graduates of each school is also listed.



ACADEMY OF MOUNT ST. URSULA, THE BRONX
Valedictorian: Jannatun Akhund
Salutatorian: Christy Nguyen
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, in-person, outdoors on AMSU property and livestreamed—three separate ceremonies that day; 82 graduates.



FORDHAM PREP, BRONX
Speaker for the Graduates: Alec Bastone
Graduation: Tuesday, June 15, in-person ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 220 graduates.



ALBERTUS MAGNUS HIGH SCHOOL, BARDONIA
Valedictorian: Christine G. Meehan
Salutatorian: Gabriel V. Abreu
Graduation: Sunday, June 6, at 4 p.m., in-person, Palisades Credit Union Park, Pomona; 140 graduates.



MSGR. FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL, STATEN ISLAND
Valedictorian: Christopher McCoy
Salutatorian: Joseph Barbera
Graduation: Saturday, May 22, in-person, outdoors in the school's athletic stadium; 212 graduates.



CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX
Valedictorian: Jose Alberto Torres I
Salutatorian: Cameron Matthew John
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 194 graduates.



ALL HALLOWS HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX
Valedictorian: Brandon Sam
Salutatorian: Joseph Miron
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, at 3 p.m., in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 125 graduates.



ST. BARNABAS HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX
Valedictorian: Tanya Nguyen
Co-Salutatorian: Bria James
Co-Salutatorian: Natasha Owusu
Graduation: Friday, June 4, in-person; 48 graduates.



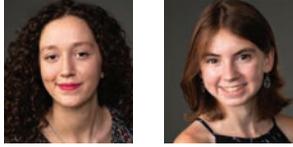
MSGR. SCANLAN HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX
Valedictorian: Kristine Tello
Salutatorian: Joel Offin
Graduation: Saturday, June 26, outdoor ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; 89 graduates.

Class of 2021...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX****Valedictorian:** Ingrid Alikaj**Co-Salutatorian:** Analisa Matranga**Co-Salutatorian:** Adriana Krasniqi**Graduation:** Saturday, June 5, in-person and livestreamed; 125 graduates.**ST. RAYMOND ACADEMY FOR GIRLS, BRONX****Valedictorian:** Daniela Gregarek**Salutatorian:** Laura Perez**Graduation:** Friday, June 4, at 5 p.m., in-person; 53 graduates.**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY, STATEN ISLAND****Valedictorian:** Gianna Russo**Salutatorian:** Victoria Giumenta**Graduation:** Friday, June 4, in-person, outdoor ceremony on campus; 122 graduates.**JOHN F. KENNEDY CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOL, SOMERS****Valedictorian:** Luciano Hoinkis**Salutatorian:** Maggie Mahoney**Graduation:** Saturday, June 12, a two-part traditional commencement ceremony will be held at St. Joseph's Church in Somers; 170 graduates.**ST. VINCENT FERRER HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN****Valedictorian:** Kayla Miskovsky**Co-Salutatorian:** Esmeralda Abrue-Jerez**Co-Salutatorian:** Hanora Woodruff**Graduation:** Saturday, June 5, Official Graduation Date (with two ceremonies on June 3 and June 4, in-person at St. Vincent Ferrer Church; 109 graduates.**OUR LADY OF LOURDES HIGH SCHOOL, POUGHKEEPSIE****Valedictorian:** Moira Kennedy**Salutatorian:** Sedem Apedo**Graduation:** Friday, June 4, in-person outdoor graduation ceremony with a limited number of guests; ceremony will be livestreamed; Baccalaureate Mass June 1 will be for graduates only, in-person at St. Martin de Porres Church and livestreamed for family members; 167 graduates.**ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY, STATEN ISLAND****Valedictorian:** Thea Akhrass**Salutatorian:** Michelle Chen**Graduation:** Friday, June 4, in-person graduation; 141 graduates.**ST. PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, STATEN ISLAND****Valedictorian:** Ryan Gould**Salutatorian:** Louis Cuomo**Graduation:** Friday, June 4, outdoors ceremony; 114 graduates.**CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN****Valedictorian:** Anell Paulino**Salutatorian:** Esther Mojica**Graduation:** Tuesday, June 15; in-person; 91 graduates.**ST. GEORGE ACADEMY, MANHATTAN****Valedictorian:** Yana Andreychuk**Salutatorian:** Josephine Pabon**Graduation:** St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Saturday, June 12, at 11 a.m.; 17 graduates.**XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN****Valedictorian:** Ryan Wong**Salutatorian:** Dylan Buck**Graduation:** Thursday, June 10, in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 274 graduates.**ST. RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, THE BRONX****Valedictorian:** James Pham**Salutatorian:** Neol Guitierrez**Graduation:** Saturday, May 22, in-person; 107 graduates.**MOORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STATEN ISLAND****Valedictorian:** Sydney Xhunga**Salutatorian:** Alyssa Polemeni**Graduation:** Saturday, June 5, at 10 a.m., in-person on the new school field; 86 graduates.**THE MONTFORT ACADEMY, FLEETWOOD****Valedictorian:** Ryan Seonarain**Co-Salutatorian:** Michael Lulaj**Co-Salutatorian:** Stephanie Spruck
Graduation: Friday, June 4, in-person graduation ceremony in the school chapel; 30 graduates.**JOHN S. BURKE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, GOSHEN****Valedictorian:** Mackenzie Weidel**Salutatorian:** Julia Ward**Graduation:** Saturday, June 5, in-person outdoors; 66 graduates.

Class of 2021...



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN
Valedictorian: Cecilia Fiorindo
Salutatorian: Brigid McCabe
Graduation: Thursday, June 3, in-person at St. Patrick's Cathedral; 82 graduates.



MARYMOUNT SCHOOL, MANHATTAN
Valedictorian: Lila Fremont-Smith
Salutatorian: Grace Hooper
Graduation: Tuesday, June 8, at 3 p.m.; in-person at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, livestreamed; 62 graduates.



ST. CATHARINE ACADEMY, BRONX
Valedictorian: Shima Binmahfood
Salutatorian: Audrey Mendez
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, in-person at Salesian High School, New Rochelle; 107 graduates.

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SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL, NEW ROCHELLE
Valedictorian: Liam O'Driscoll
Salutatorian: John Navarra
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, in-person, outdoors on campus, 124 graduates.



SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, YONKERS
Valedictorian: David Conway
Salutatorian: Catarina Vala
Graduation: Friday, June 4, 2021 - In Person - Church, 64 graduates.



DOMINICAN ACADEMY, MANHATTAN
Valedictorian: Gabriella Montalvo
Co-Salutatorian: Isabella Quatela
Co-Salutatorian: Olivia Jaskolska
Graduation: Friday, June 4, 2021 - In Person - St. Vincent Ferrer Church, 63 graduates.



ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HIGH SCHOOL, STATEN ISLAND
Valedictorian: Isabella Coraci
Salutatorian: Demi Lara
Graduation: Saturday, June 5, in-person outdoors on the athletic field; 286 graduates.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

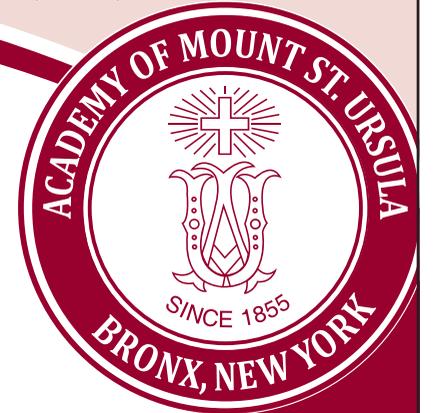


Adelphi University • Alfred University • Allegheny College • Arizona State University-Tempe • Ave Maria University • Barnard College • Barry University • Bentley University • Berkeley College - New York • Bethune-Cookman University • Binghamton University • California State University-Los Angeles • Centenary University • Champlain College • Clarkson University • College of Mount Saint Vincent • College of Saint Elizabeth • Concordia College-New York • Connecticut College • CUNY Bernard M Baruch College • CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College • CUNY Bronx Community College • CUNY Brooklyn College • CUNY City College • CUNY College of Staten Island • CUNY Hostos Community College • CUNY Hunter College • CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice • CUNY LaGuardia Community College • CUNY Lehman College • CUNY Medgar Evers College • CUNY New York City College of Technology • CUNY Queens College • CUNY York College • DePaul University • DePauw University • Dominican College of Blauvelt • Drew University • Drexel University • Duquesne University • D'Youville College • Farmingdale State College • Fashion Institute of Technology • Felician University • Fisher College • Fordham University • George Mason University • Georgia State University • Georgian Court University • Hampton University • Hartwick College • Hawaii Pacific University • Hofstra University • Hudson Valley Community College • Iona College • Ithaca College • Johnson & Wales University-Providence • Kean University • Kessler University - Flagship Campus, FL • Kutztown University of Pennsylvania • La Salle University • Le Moyne College • Lehigh University • LIM College • Long Island University - Brooklyn • Loyola University Chicago • Lynn University • Manhattan College • Manhattanville College • Marist College • Marymount Manhattan College • Medaille College • Mercy College • Molloy College • Monroe College • Montclair State University • Moore College of Art and Design • Moravian College • Mount Saint Mary College • Mount St. Mary's University • Nassau Community College • Nazareth College • New England College • New York Institute of Technology • New York University • Niagara County Community College • Niagara University • Nichols College • Pace University • Pennsylvania College of Technology • Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus • Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Harrisburg • Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Lehigh Valley • Quinnipiac University • Ramapo College of New Jersey • Rider University • Rochester Institute of Technology • Rutgers University-Camden • Rutgers University-New Brunswick • Rutgers University-Newark • Sacred Heart University • Saint Joseph's University • Saint Leo University • San Diego State University • Sarah Lawrence College • Seton Hall University • Seton Hill University • Siena College • Spelman College • St. Francis College • St. John's University-New York • St. Joseph's College-New York • St. Louis College of Pharmacy • State University of New York at New Paltz • Stony Brook University, SUNY • SUNY at Albany • SUNY at Fredonia • SUNY at Purchase College • SUNY Buffalo State College • SUNY College at Brockport • SUNY College at Geneseo • SUNY College at Old Westbury • SUNY College at Oswego • SUNY College at Plattsburgh • SUNY College at Potsdam • SUNY Morrisville • SUNY Oneonta • SUNY Westchester Community College • Syracuse University • Temple University • The College of Saint Rose • The College of Westchester • The New School • The University of Tampa • University at Buffalo, SUNY • University of Bridgeport • University of California-Riverside • University of Connecticut • University of Delaware • University of Hartford • University of Houston • University of Maine at Augusta • University of Massachusetts-Amherst • University of Massachusetts-Boston • University of New England • University of New Haven • University of Pittsburgh-Bradford • University of Rhode Island • University of Rochester • University of Scranton • Utica College • Vassar College • Villanova University • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • Western Connecticut State University • William Paterson University of New Jersey

AMSU class of 2021 students have been accepted to 135 schools. In addition to acceptances, our seniors have reported scholarship awards of over \$18 million in four-year scholarships.

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Class of 2021...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

**ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL,
WHITE PLAINS**

Valedictorian: Nicholas John Desanctis
Salutatorian: Devlin Plunkett Hose
Graduation: Thursday, June 17, in-person;
 168 graduates.

**IONA PREP, NEW ROCHELLE**

Valedictorian: Christopher Johnson
Salutatorian: Aaron Paul
Graduation: May 27, indoors at Iona College;
 189 graduates.

**AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX**

Valedictorian: Yamileth Lopez
Salutatorian: Marie Marquez
Graduation: Thursday, June 10, at 5 p.m.; in-
 person at St. Martin of Tours Church,
 the Bronx; 46 graduates.

May every graduate of the Class of 2021 in the Archdiocese of New York
 continue to learn and grow in faith, wisdom and peace.



When one realizes that life, even in the middle of so
 many contradictions, is a gift, that love is the source
 and the meaning of life, how can they withhold their
 urge to do good to another fellow being?

» Pope Francis

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS *of* 2021

We salute you and all the seniors throughout the Archdiocese of
 New York for always doing good for your fellow brothers and sisters
 in Christ. Your class set an example of service with the many acts
 of charity you sponsored throughout your high school tenure.
 You did not let the circumstances of the past two years impede you
 in any way! Your class always stood in solidarity with those in need.

You taught us.

You inspired us.

You gave us hope.

With gratitude,

ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

**REGIS HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN**

Speaker for the Graduates: Thomas Barone III
Graduation: Friday, June 4, in-person;
 130 graduates.

**CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, MANHATTAN**

Valedictorian: Rachel Kim
Salutatorian: Joan Playford
Graduation: Tuesday, June 8, at 4 p.m.,
 in-person; 59 graduates.

**LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN**

Valedictorian: Caroline Adams
Salutatorian: Alexander White
Graduation: Friday, June 4, in-person at
 St. Ignatius Loyola Church; 55 graduates.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE HIGH SCHOOL, MANHATTAN

Valedictorian and salutatorian were not
 determined by press time.
Graduation: Friday, June 4, at 3 p.m.; in-person
 ceremony, with limited number of guests,
 at St. Jean Baptiste Church; 93 graduates.

CATHOLIC NEW YORK

AMERICA'S LARGEST CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER



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TO *the*

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Thomas Allison
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Jaden Archie
Albert Artega Battista
Andrew Asaro
Panayoti Athineos
Brian Baldwin
James Banks
Michael Battaglia
Robert Betsais
Jack Bettex
Sebastian Bettigole
William Bissell
Nicholas Boccadifuoco
John Boger
Daniel Bono
Hudson Borelli
Michael Borrelli
Dennis Brannick
Evan Briguglio
Quinn Brosnan
Jacob Brucker
Michael Bruno
Dylan Buck
Christian Buonanno
Thomas Burgos
Patrick T. Burke
Christofer Bustamante
Colin Byrne
Tomas Cabrera
Giorgio Calado
Stephen Caliendo
Giancarlo Carrion
Derick Cespedes
Chirag Chadha
Aidan Chan
Colin Chan
Amado Charles
Luciano Clare
Terence Clayton
Michael Coccimiglio
Vincent Coluccio
Peter Commisso
Christopher Conlon
Jack Conlon
DeVaughn Copeland
William Coppa
Robert Corbett

Daniel Corr
Edward Crabbe
Gunner Craig
Justin Cruz, Jr.
Melvin Cruz
Declan Cullinan
Sean Cunniffe
Andrew D'Alessio
Andrew Dantone
Timothy Davila
Dylan De La Cruz
Maxime Degryse
Leo DeRisi
Trevor Deterville
Kori Dezena-Andrade
Devon Diaco
Ricky Diamond
Christopher Diaz
Joseph DiBona
Steven DiSiervi
John DiSomma
Daniel Dolan
Reid Donovan
Michael Doyle
Michael Duer
Eamonn Duffy
Brian Duggan
Marcel Dunat
Kenneth Duran
Jack Durso
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Jack Geyer

Matthew Giang
Nicolas Giannini
Alexander Giebler
Austin Ginocchio
Nicholas Gioino
Ayden Giustra
Jacob Goell
Samuel Goldenstein
Griffin Gomez
Dezmus Gonzalez
Kaleb Griffin
Diego Grullon Ramos
Harry Guiracoche
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Reece Harding
Owen Hassler
Matthew Hazar
Conor Hennessey
Jack Hennigan
Ian Hoffman
Yahir Huerta-Salas
Damian Huggins
Junha Hwang
Gianfranco Iacobucci
Ian Irwin
Matthew Iuele
Gabriel Jimenez
Sebastian Jimenez
Luke Johnston
Bernard Jolis
Edison Jones
Kian Jones
Isaiah Jordan
Nathaniel Kelley
Stephen Kemp
Brandon King
Russell Koo
Nikita Kozyarchuk
Samuel Jude Kudera
Jonathan Kuhn
Evan Kujawski
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Andrew LaBarbara
Quinn Lafferty
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Gerald Lanning
Samuele Lanza
Christopher Laporte
Matthew Larson
Caleb Lawton
Thomas Ledwith
Daniel Leinfelder
Eric Li

Mauricio Lima
Leonard Litwin
Matthew LiVigni
James Lockley
Aidan Lubin
Gabriele Lunardi
Patrick Luongo
Owen Maclellan
Fabio Magalhaes
Thomas Mahoney, Jr.
Rocco Marchesona
Owen Martin
Melvin Martinez
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Dilyn McHugh
Cody McKiernan
Aidan McMahan
Matthew Mendez
Gavin Meoli
Tracy Montana
Matthew Moran
John Morenzi
Damian Morley
Thomas Mortillaro, Jr.
Sean Mullen
Timothy Mulvey II
Daniel Mundy
Nikhil Munshi
James Murray
Timothy O'Brien
Aidan O'Connor
Declan O'Dea
Patrick O'Halloran-Gannon
Lou Orlando
Luca Orlando
Colin O'Shea
Nicholas Paquette
Tarik Parker
Aidan Pasquin
Jeremy Peralta
Joseph Petrovicci
Andrew Pinto
Robert Posio
Steven Priolo
John Purtill
Altin Qalliu
Christopher Queijo
Yael Ramirez-Perez
Josue Ramos Carpio
Joshua Ramos
Tommaso Reres
Peter Reyfman

Travers Richardson
Alexander Ringos
Zion Rinker
Aaron Rivera
Elian Rivera
Mekiah Rivera
Sebastian Rodriguez
Christian Rosowicz
Danny Rostron
Joseph Rowdis
William Rozakis
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Evan Shields
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Gabriel Slack
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Joseph Solmo
Joseph Stasiak
Maximilian Stein
Michael Strehle
Alec Swenson
Ryan Taft
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Owen Tan
John Tansey
Michael Terzuoli
Alexander Thanos
Michael Tigri
Richard Toledo
Thomas Tompkins
Michael Tuffey
Eroni Vakasisikakala
Tomas Valenzuela
Michael Visconti
Christopher Vitale
McAllister Whiting
Eoghan Wilson
Ryan Wong
Tyler Wong
Giovanni Worrell
Fu'aad Yeonaba
Nikolas-Kaan Yilmaz
Daniel Yonamine



The Tradition of Jesuit Excellence Continues

A PARTIAL LISTING OF THE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES TO WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021 HAVE BEEN ADMITTED



Amherst College · U. of Arizona · Babson College · Baruch College · Binghamton University · Boston College · Boston University · Bowdoin College · Brigham Young University · Bucknell University · U. of Buffalo
U. of California, Davis · California Polytechnic State U. · Catholic University · College of Charleston · U Chicago · Citadel Military College · City College of New York · Clarkson University · Clemson University · Colby College
Colgate University · U. of Colorado, Boulder · Cornell University · Creighton University · Dartmouth College U. of Dayton · U. of Delaware · Dickinson College · Drew College · Drexel University · U. C. Dublin · Duke University
Duke University · Emerson College · Fairfield University · Florida Atlantic U. · Florida State U. · Fordham University · George Washington U. · Georgetown University · Georgia Institute of Technology · Gettysburg College
Hamilton College · U. of Hartford · Hofstra University · College of the Holy Cross · Howard University · Hunter College · U. of Illinois, Chicago · Iona College · Ithaca College · John Carroll University · John Jay College
Lafayette University · Le Moyne College · Lehigh University · Loyola University Chicago · Loyola University Maryland · Loyola University New Orleans · Macaulay Honors Program · Manhattan College · Marist College · Marquette University
U. of Maryland, College Park · U. of Massachusetts, Amherst · McGill University · Met Film School · U. of Miami · National U. of Ireland · U. of New Haven · College of New Jersey · New Jersey Inst. of Tech. · New York Inst. of Tech.
New York University · Northeastern University · U. of Notre Dame · Oberlin College · The Ohio State University · Oklahoma State U. · Oregon State U. · Pennsylvania State University · Pratt Institute · Princeton University · Providence College ·
Purdue University · Quinnipiac University · Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. · U. of Richmond · Rochester Inst. of Tech. · U of Rochester · Rutgers University · Sacred Heart University · U. of San Diego · U. of San Francisco · Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art & Design · School of Visual Arts · U. of Scranton · Seton Hall University · Sienna College · Skidmore College · U. of South Carolina · U. of Southern Florida · U. of Southern California · Southern Connecticut State
St. Bonaventure University · St. John's University · St. Joseph's University · St. Louis University · Stevens Inst. of Technology · Stony Brook University · SUNY Albany · SUNY Buffalo State · SUNY Cortland · SUNY Maritime · SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Oswego · SUNY Purchase · Swarthmore College · Syracuse University · U. of Tampa · Temple University · U. of Tennessee · Trinity College Dublin · Tufts University · Tulane University · Union College · U. of Utah
U. of Vermont · Villanova University · Virginia Polytechnic Institute · U. of Waikato · Webb Institute · West Virginia University · College of William and Mary · U. of Wisconsin, Madison · Xavier University



Congratulations to our Montfort Knights of 2021!



BRIANA ADIMARI
Fordham University



HALLIE BOUGHNER
Quinnipiac University



ARNAE BROWN
SUNY Plattsburgh



SORAYA BROWNE
Baruch College



IVAN CORNEJO II
NYU



OLIVIA DERIZZIO
Drexel University



ALYSSA DIPAOLO
Macaulay Honors College



YSSABELLE GATILAO
St. John's University



CHRISTIANNA GENTILE
Texas A&M - Tarleton



SEBASTIAN GILLIAM
American University of Paris



CAMELY GOMEZ
Northeastern University



CLAUDIA GRECO
Cornell University



NICOLE GRULLON
East Stroudsburg



SYDNEY LEATHERS
Loyola Maryland



RONAN LEHANE
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STEPHANIE MAIOQUI
University at Buffalo - Honors



MEAGAN MALDONADO



MARIA MATTHEWS
University of Central Florida



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HUNTER MOORE
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ISABELLA ROSARIO
Sacred Heart University



JUAN SANTOS
Lehman College



RYAN SEONARIAN
University of Buffalo



JUSTIN SINGH
NYU



GINUTIS SIPAS
Coastal Carolina



STEPHANIE SPRUCK
Pace - Honors Program



KEVIN TORRES
University at Buffalo

Valedictorian

Ryan Seonarian

Co-Salutatorians

Stephanie Spruck & Michael Lulaj

Ancient Greek Rhapsode

Claudia Greco

Joel L. Shin Memorial Latin

Oration

Alyssa DiPaolo

*“With Roman might
and wisdom Greek,
Through Our Lady’s
help virtue seek,
And Christ the Lord,
Source, Summit, Seek,
For the Glory of the
Blue and Gold.”*

From The Montfort Academy Alma Mater

The 30 Seniors of the Class of 2021 have also been accepted into the following universities:

*American University of Paris
Baylor University
Baruch College
Binghamton University
Boston University
Catholic University of America
College of Saint Rose
Columbia University
Cornell University
Clarke Atlanta University
Culinary Institute of America
CUNY Baruch
CUNY Hunter
Drexel University
Emerson College
Fordham University
Franciscan University
Georgia State University
Iona College
Kean University
Manhattan College*

*MIT
New York University
Northeastern University
Oberlin University
Pace University
Quinnipiac University
Rutgers University
Salve Regina University
St. John’s University
Stevens Institute of Technology
SUNY Plattsburgh
Texas A&M University
Union College
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Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Connecticut
University of Texas at Arlington
University of South Carolina
University of Miami
University of Virginia
Villanova University
York College of Pennsylvania*

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SCOTT



50 Years of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund Celebrated at Cathedral Mass

By DAN PIETRAFESA

Eligio and Mercedes Solis are thankful their children have an opportunity to attend Catholic school with assistance from the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, which marked its 50th anniversary with a Mass offered by Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 25.

"We are very fortunate because we are very

lucky to have them go to Catholic school," Eligio told CNY. "Without the scholarship, I don't think they'd be in Catholic school."

The Solis children attend Christ the King School in the Bronx where Salette, 12, is a seventh-grader and Eli, 11, is a fifth-grader. Salette and Eli were altar servers at the Mass.

"I love Catholic school," Salette said. "I love being Catholic. The Catholic religion taught

ANNIVERSARY MASS—Top left, Eligio and Mercedes Solis stand with their children, Salette and Eli, after a Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 25. Salette and Eli are scholarship recipients who attend Christ the King School in the Bronx, and they were altar servers at the Mass. Left, Isabella Lopez, an eighth-grader at Christ the King School in the Bronx, reads the prayers of the faithful. Top right, Susan George, executive director of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, addresses the congregation. Above, Cardinal Dolan greets Peter T. Grauer and his wife Laurie. Grauer is president of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Board of Trustees.

me to be a better person, to always be kinder to other people, and to love each other as you love yourselves."

The Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF), founded in 1971 by Terence Cardinal Cooke and a group of prominent executives of different religious backgrounds, annually awards \$12 million to more than 11,000 Catholic school children in 56 Catholic schools located in lower Westchester County, the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island.

Average family income for scholarship recipients is about \$24,000 and approximately 71 percent of scholarship recipients live near or below the federal poverty level.

In the archdiocese, 99 percent of Catholic high school seniors graduate and 99 percent of the graduates are accepted into colleges.

"It's working. We're giving that kid hope and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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Boston College (4)	Georgetown University (3)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Boston University (2)	McGill University	University of Notre Dame (2)
Bucknell University (3)	Middlebury College	University of Pennsylvania
Carleton College	New York University (2)	University of South Carolina
Case Western Reserve University	Oberlin College	University of St Andrews
Claremont McKenna College	Providence College	University of Wisconsin—Madison
Colgate University (4)	Rhode Island School of Design	Villanova University
College of the Holy Cross	Syracuse University	Wake Forest University (2)
Colorado College	Tulane University	Washington University in St. Louis (3)
Cornell University (3)	University at Albany	Wesleyan University
Elon University (2)	University of California, Los Angeles (2)	Yale University
Emory University	University of Chicago	



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Cornell	Northeastern	Univ. Virginia
Emory	Northwestern	Vanderbilt
Fordham	NYU	Villanova
Georgetown	Providence	Wake Forest
George Washington	RI School of Design	Wesleyan

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Students, Staff Are Grateful for the Aquinas Experience



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

By DAN PIETRAFESA

Lebene Ashinyo is saying a “proper goodbye” to Aquinas High School in the Bronx, which is shutting its doors after educating young women for 98 years.

Aquinas had its final classes June 2, will hold its final graduation ceremony June 10 and students will take final exams in the days following graduation.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to attend Aquinas,” Lebene, who will attend the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx for her senior year, told CNY.

“Even though it’s closing, there will always be memories. That is most important.”

Lebene is one of 53 students enrolled this year, and one of 16 in her junior class to return to Aquinas for the 2020-2021 school year after an announcement last June that the school was closing.

“I wanted to wear the uniform one more time and experience everything one last time. I didn’t want to leave without a proper goodbye,” she said.

“I thought I was going back to Aquinas to finish my high school years (after the pandemic). I didn’t expect to see it end. Aquinas had a certain

energy that I felt from when I attended the open house. It was like a second home.”

Students have been learning in hybrid and remote fashion due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Luz Perez-Arias, a senior heading to Fordham University in the Bronx, said her confidence level grew by taking on leadership roles with the school’s student council and varsity volleyball team.

“As an incoming freshman, you’re always thinking of your senior year,” said Luz, who is studying remotely. “I wasn’t able to experience my last year of high school with my peers. I wish things were different. “I’m very grateful I will be able to graduate from Aquinas High School.”

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill purchased an entire block of property in the Belmont section of the Bronx known as Grote Estate from the Astoria Homestead Company. The property, featuring a Victorian mansion and three-story frame house, was located from East 182nd to East 183rd streets

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

PROUD HISTORY—Top left, the Aquinas High School band is shown at the 2019 St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Manhattan. Aquinas is closing this month after educating young women for 98 years. Top right, Natalie Baez and Martina Amate Perez, were members of the Class of 2019 at Aquinas. Ms. Amate Perez, the class valedictorian, now attends Yale. Above left, students read *The Spirit*, the school newspaper. Right, volleyball was one of the varsity sports offered at Aquinas, which won the 2006 New York State Federation girls’ basketball championship.

Campus Ministry at Bronx High School Helps Form Faithful Leaders

By **ARMANDO MACHADO**

The campus ministry program at Saint Barnabas High School in the Bronx is committed to providing Christian leadership and guiding students in their faith journey through outreach projects and “assuming a more vital role in the schoolwide ministry.”

Last month, five of the school’s students received the sacrament of confirmation, including one who also received the sacrament of first Holy Communion. The May 10 ceremony was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Peter Byrne, who was assisted by Father Brendan Fitzgerald, pastor of St. Barnabas parish; Father Joseph Akunaeziri, parochial vicar; and Father John Smart, priest in residence.

Saint Barnabas High School, founded in 1924, is an independent, nonprofit all-girls college preparatory school. It is located on East 240th Street in the borough’s Woodlawn Heights section.

“Confirmation is a very important step in our high school students’ faith formation,” Sharon Traditi, campus ministry moderator, told Catholic New York last week. “It completes their sacraments of initiation which for whatever reason they were not able to do earlier in their education.”

As for service projects, she noted that charitable endeavors at Thanksgiving and Christmas were successful despite limitations associated with the pandemic.

Ms. Traditi said she and other school staff members congratulate the five students “who have dedicated and prepared themselves to receive the sacraments.”

Principal Theresa Napoli said, “It gives me great pride to know that our Catholic faith lives within the halls of Saint Barnabas High School and, by example, these young women have chosen to strengthen their faith.”

The five students were sophomore Michelle Torres, freshman Ceili Chapter, freshman Ciara Leo, sophomore Arriana Rijfkogel and freshman Shania Cueto. Shania also received the sacrament of first Holy Communion.

“I am asked to further my faith through my actions,” Shania told CNY, citing lessons from her sacramental preparation. “The words at Mass said by the priest are, ‘Do this in memory of me,’ just as Jesus said them. It is a way that we feed our souls. It is also a time when we come together to receive the sacrament as a Catholic community.”

Shania noted that she is looking forward to participating in more charitable projects during the next school year as a sophomore than she



COURTESY OF SAINT BARNABAS HIGH SCHOOL

CONFIRMED IN FAITH—A group photo was taken after the May 10 confirmation ceremony at St. Barnabas Church in the Bronx. In the top row, from left, were Father Joseph Akunaeziri, parochial vicar; Father Brendan Fitzgerald, pastor; Auxiliary Bishop Peter Byrne; and Father John Smart, who is in residence at St. Barnabas. In the second row, from left, are Michelle Torres, Ceili Chapter and Ciara Leo. In the bottom row, from left, are Emma Brannigan, Arriana Rijfkogel, Shania Cueto, Sarah Brannigan and Sharon Traditi, campus ministry moderator at Saint Barnabas High School.



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Boston University
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Claremont McKenna College
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Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
College of William & Mary

Connecticut College
Emerson College
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Georgetown University
IE University (Spain)
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Penn State University

School of Visual Arts
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Saint Barnabas High School

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Natalia G. Bascoe
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Jada Sinia Callands
Emily Eve Carota
Sonali M. Clark
Sierra Emma Colon
Isabella Corrado
Taylor Marie Daly
Chira Drakes
Nickoletta Drejaj
Tiana Dynasia Findley
Milira Renée Fitzgerald
Kalie Fowler
Amirah Gantt
Tamirrah Nadiya George
Atalia Graham
Haley Marie Gray
Mia Guerrero
Darlene Raad Hijazin
Naomi Tatyana Hill
Bria James

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Amanda Alicia Levy
Daniela M. Liptak
Angelina Rose Lukic
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Tanya Nguyen
Jenesis Shevanna Norwood
Natasha Helena Owusu
Elizabeth P. Prepetit
Ominique LaRosa Pinder
Rovila Preadakaj
Zamira Preadakaj
Emily Marie Rivera
Noelani Massiel Rivera
La'nya B. Rodrigues
Emily Ruiz
Angella Mahogany Simmons
Jaylene Tavarez
Samantha Ulaj
Anaya Denise Williams
Mychael Marie Williams

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Bronx High School...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

was able to this year amid the pandemic.

Emma Brannigan, a junior, and her sister Sarah, a freshman, serve as campus ministry student mentors and were also present at the confirmation ceremony. "As a student mentor, I have the pleasure of helping underclassmen understand the values that Saint Barnabas High School has instilled in me," Emma told CNY. "I love volunteering to help others, and it is great to see the impact I can have in the end."

Organizers said student leadership is the hallmark of the school's campus ministry, allowing members the opportunity to develop, with their peers, a more active life of faith. Although Saint Barnabas accepts students of all faiths, students often are drawn to become Catholic or to further their commitment of faith and understanding through campus ministry projects, activities and gatherings.

The school's "long tradition of sisterhood" is shown through the action of campus ministry members, who often serve as mentors. Campus ministry members help plan prayer services, and they lead the school in daily prayers.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, they collected food and clothing to help needy families, serving in communities in the Bronx and Westchester County. The campus ministry group has more than 20 members. The school, which has 205 students, was formerly part of the parish but became independent in 2015.



Congratulations to the Class of 2021

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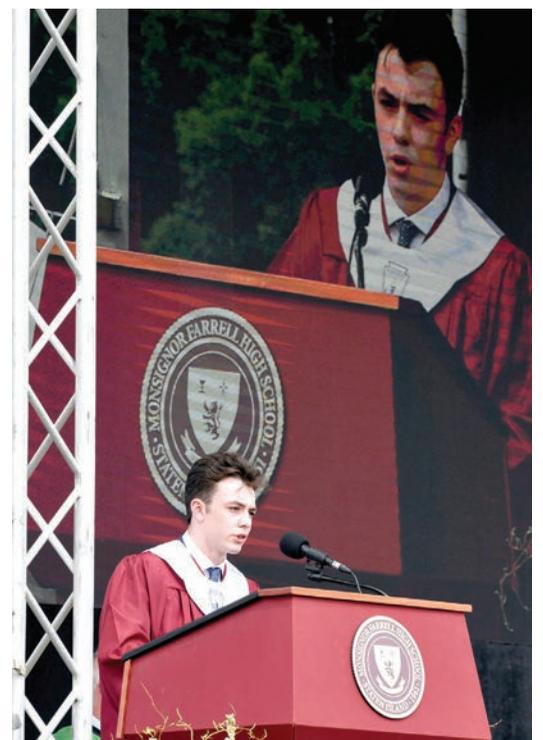
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MARY DIBIASE BLAICH

BRIGHT FUTURES—Valedictorian Christopher McCoy delivers his remarks to fellow graduates of the Class of 2021 at the commencement ceremony for Msgr. Farrell High School on Staten Island May 22.



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The graduates were awarded over \$27 million in college scholarships and grants and have been accepted into schools such as Rice University, Cornell University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Southern California. Among our graduates we have a QuestBridge Scholar.

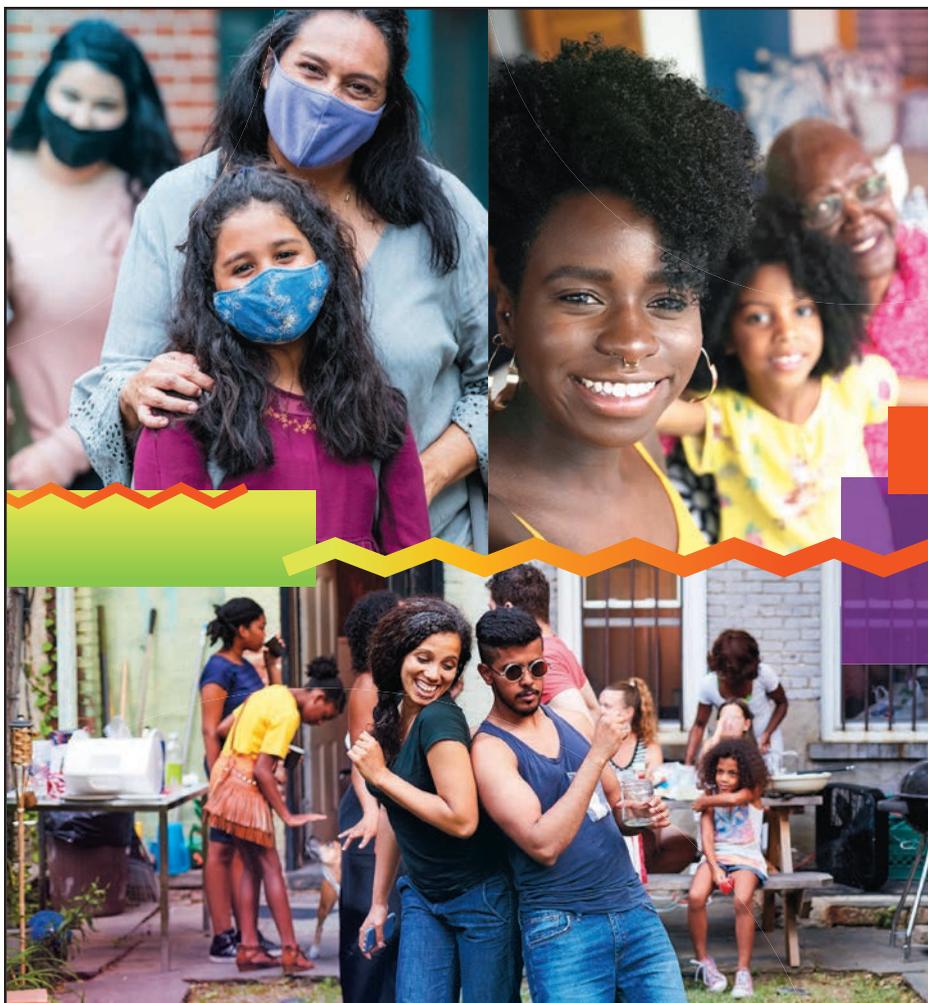
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Valedictorian
Columbia University



ISABELLA QUATELA
Co-Salutatorian
Villanova University

The graduates in D.A.'s Class of 2021 will attend the following colleges and universities. Just 64 graduates earned over \$22 million in merit scholarships and grants. Among them are three National Merit Semifinalists and a National Hispanic Scholar.

- | | | |
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| Colgate University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | University of Arizona |
| College of the Holy Cross | Saint Louis University | University of Delaware* |
| Columbia University | Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education | University of Florida |
| Cornell University* | State University of New York Albany | University of Miami |
| Fairfield University* | State University of New York Binghamton | University of Michigan* |
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| Franklin and Marshall College | The City University of New York City College | University of Pennsylvania |
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His Work on Behalf of Homeless Pays Help Forward

When he first began as chief operating officer of the nonprofit Care for the Homeless in 2016, Ronald Lawson thought that if he worked hard every day, he “would be helping our organization go out of business.”

It hasn't exactly turned out that way, as his organization's operations have expanded considerably since then. Its budget of \$35 million is almost double what it was when he started.

Care for the Homeless runs 26 health care centers in New York City, as well as two shelters for women—a 200-bed facility in the Bronx and one in Manhattan with 120 beds. Some 8,000 to 10,000 individuals who are homeless or unstably housed use its services annually.

Lawson is overseeing the construction of three new shelters and six new health centers.

To better understand the scope of the challenge, New York City's homeless population, if ranked as a city, would stand just behind Utica as the 11th largest in New York state.

Despite the daunting task ahead, Lawson, 68, says he plans to dedicate the rest of his working life to the cause. He said he's not sure that homelessness in New York City will disappear in his lifetime, but he's confident that he and his co-workers at Care for the Homeless “are a team of concerned, committed folks trying to address this problem.”

The biggest way they do that is by delivering quality health care. Foot problems are a consistent bane to their clients, so podiatry services are offered. Dental services are also offered at two of the health centers run by Care for the Homeless.

The organization's philosophy, espoused by CEO George Nashak, is that those they serve receive health care equal or superior to the rest of New York City's residents.

The reason is simple. Once the homeless receive such care and are stabilized, “it's easier to get them placed” into permanent housing, Lawson said.

Care for the Homeless has placed 1,200 women who were homeless into permanent housing over the past 11 or 12 years, he said.

Lawson was one of seven people honored last month by his alma mater, the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., with the Sanctae Crucis Award for their extraordinary service and leadership in critical fields during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is the highest non-degree accolade the Jesuit college bestows on alumni.

“I was quite surprised and humbled,” Lawson said. “A lot of very highly regarded alumni received it.”

He and his wife, Nina Klyvert-Lawson, are active parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo in Harlem, where he is a parish trustee and chair of the finance committee. They have an adult daughter, Bailey.

Before he switched to the non-profit world, Lawson spent the early part of his career employed at well-known Wall Street firms.

After a layoff in the early 1990s, he fully expected to be back to work in short order. When that was not the case, he was unprepared to weather the personal downturn. He hadn't saved while times were good. He assumed that his work experience and degrees from Holy Cross and Carnegie Mellon University would help him land on his feet.

As weeks turned into months, he was forced



Ronald Lawson

to put almost everything he owned into storage and move into a roach-infested apartment with the friend of a friend.

“I know what it's like to lose everything you own,” he said.

He was fortunate to have good friends who helped him eventually get back on his feet. A pastor of a Presbyterian church in Brooklyn, where he was living at the time, also gave him a piece of sage advice that Lawson took to heart: “Hard times don't last always.”

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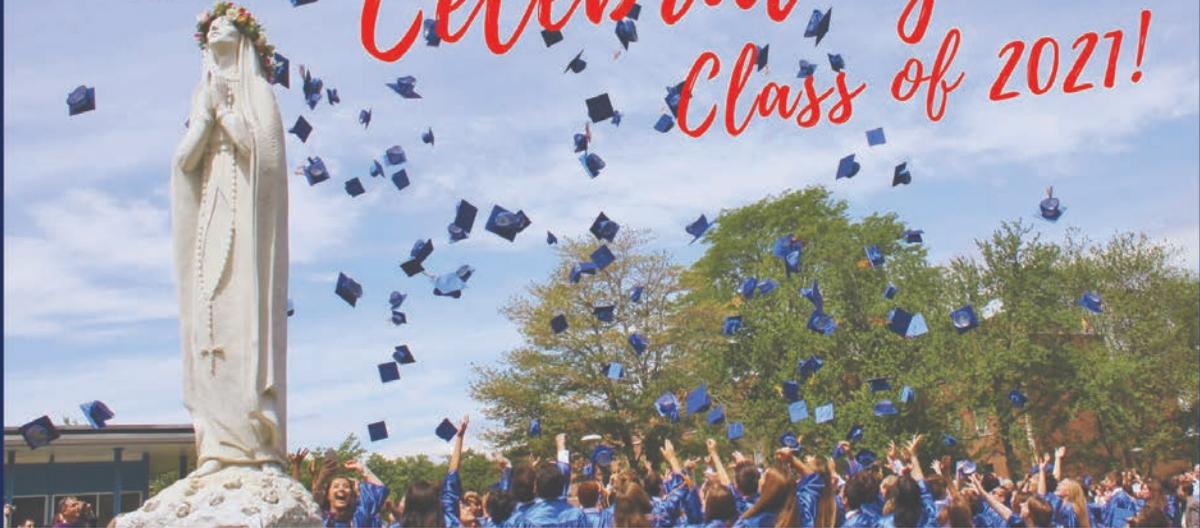
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Editor's Report



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Cecilia Visco, Salutatorian



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Aquinas...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

and from Belmont to Cambreleng avenues.

The property served as a school for younger children in St. Martin of Tours parish starting in 1900. When the parish school opened in a new location, the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill opened Aquinas Hall, a two-year business school, to 30 young women in September 1923.

In 1939, the historic mansion was demolished and Aquinas High School was constructed, welcoming 438 students when it opened in September 1939. In the next decade, enrollment increased to 800 students.

Aquinas received state and national honors over the years, becoming the first high school in New York City to be named an exemplary school by the U.S. Department of Education in 1985. First Lady Laura Bush visited Aquinas on Sept. 11, 2002, the first anniversary of 9/11.

"It was a home away from home," said Sister Catherine Rose Quigley O.P., a 1959 Aquinas graduate who served as school principal, 2000-2018, and assistant principal, 1994-2000.

"It provided an education for women appropriate to a particular time. It was a quality education in the Catholic tradition."

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill will continue leasing the property to the Cardinal McCloskey Charter School and Cardinal McCloskey Community Services.

A celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of Aquinas is planned for 2023.

"There always was so much life in the building," said Kris Sherwood, a teacher at the school since 1993 who will teach at St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island for the next school year.

"The building is stunningly beautiful, always so clean and bright. There was something about this building. You walked up to it and you were hooked to it."

Leslie Limardo graduated from Aquinas in 1993 and has been library media supervisor at the school since 2018. She said the school always prepared its students for college and life, and shared what she'll miss most when the school closes.

"I think it's the hours of conversations with the students," she said. "As a librarian you help students with research and anything they need.

SPECIAL VISITOR—

Right, Aquinas High School opened in 1923 on the former Grote Estate as a two-year school for women before becoming a four-year high school for young women in the 1930s. Below, First Lady Laura Bush visited Aquinas on Sept. 11, 2002, the first anniversary of 9/11. Standing next to the first lady is Charlene Cruz, a graduate of Aquinas who invited Mrs. Bush to the school the previous spring when she was student council president.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL



CHRIS SHERIDAN

The girls would come to the library to just talk. They would surround my desk and talk. It was something I would look forward to and missed during the pandemic."

Mark Shultz became the school's first lay principal in the 2018-2019 school year, when there were 248 students enrolled in grades nine through 12.

"In my 40-plus years as an educator, I have

never been in a more loving, demanding and supportive environment," Shultz said. "I will miss every student, faculty, staff member, parent and alumni who participated at one time or another in our mission to 'educate and inspire young women for a lifetime of faith, learning and compassionate action toward a more just world.'"

Students and staff will leave with memories with students looking to follow in the footsteps of graduates such as actress Debbi Morgan and Julissa Reynoso Pantaleón, current chief of staff to First Lady Jill Biden and former U.S. ambassador to Uruguay.

Reynoso Pantaleón, a 1993 graduate, will deliver a virtual commencement address at graduation June 10. Thirty-seven seniors will graduate and nine juniors are graduating after taking classes last summer to meet graduation requirements a year early.

"We need to celebrate these young women," said Dr. Mary Anne Evangelist, board of directors chair and a 1964 Aquinas graduate. "They've been through more challenging times than any of us with the pandemic."

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LEE FERRIS



BEN HIDER



COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

CAPS AND GOWNS—Commencement and recognition ceremonies took place last month at colleges around the archdiocese. Above left, Nikewhan Matthew of Newburgh, an information technology/cybersecurity major, receives his diploma from Dr. Jason N. Adsit, president of Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, May 22. Above right, Dr. Seamus Carey, president of Iona College in New Rochelle, speaks at an in-person recognition ceremony May 22. Left, graduating students from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill process during May 18 commencement exercises at Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona.



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50 Years...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

we've been doing it for 50 years. The organization is still thriving 50 years later," said Susan George, executive director of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund since 2004.

Ms. George attended the Mass as did Inner-City Scholarship Fund Board of Trustees President Peter T. Grauer, chairman of Bloomberg, L.P.; Michael Deegan, superintendent of archdiocesan schools; and contributors and benefactors to the scholarship fund efforts.

Cardinal Dolan, in his homily, thanked everyone for their work and financial support as he reflected on the day's reading from Sirach and Gospel from Mark, and said how fitting they were for this Mass.

"The first reading, extolling the gift of generosity that when we return to God what He's given us, it is extraordinarily pleasing to the Lord," he said. "So take those consoling words from God's holy word in the Bible this evening as an affirmation for your tremendous loyalty and generosity to this cause of our inner-city Catholic school scholarship fund.

"And, in our Gospel, Jesus is again talking about the value of sacrifice. When we sacrifice, when we give of ourselves, how pleasing that is to God and so many of your offerings have been at the point of sacrifice and difficulty and hardship. I've seen you dig deep. I've seen you come through time and time again even after a significant donation. When Susan (George) sounds the alarm bell, you come through again

to the point of sacrifice."

Cardinal Dolan closed his homily with a conversation he and Pope Francis had in the car after the pontiff's 2015 visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in Harlem. The pope asked Cardinal Dolan to explain who the benefactors were that he met at the school and what they did.

Pope Francis was surprised the government did not pay and was amazed how these kids were able to attend Catholic schools.

"I said we have to raise the money so that these kids can get this extraordinarily effective education of mind, soul, heart and body, and he was amazed, as I am to be honest with you and as the community in the world is amazed, that your consistent generosity has made this noble experiment possible for half a century," Cardinal Dolan said.

"Thank God. Thank you."

Isabella Lopez is an eighth-grader at Christ the King, who will attend Preston High School in the Bronx in the fall. Isabella, who recited the petitions at the Mass, receives scholarship funding along with her sister, Adrienne Lopez, a sixth-grader at Christ the King.

Isabella and Adrienne were in the cathedral for the first time.

"It's a very impressive cathedral," Isabella said.

Their mother, Taisha Rodriguez, was also visiting the cathedral for the first time and was thankful her daughters are attending Catholic school.

"We came into Catholic schools later on in their education, and it's changed their outlooks, their responsibility and their attitudes on school and learning," she said. "They enjoy going to Catholic school. They love their friends. They love their teachers. They are having a really good time and a really great experience."

Editor's Report...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

When Lawson's life was back in order, he told his friends that he "could never repay them for what they did for me."

They all told him to pay their assistance forward to someone else. "That's what I do," he said. "It falls right into the Jesuit tradition of being men and women for others."



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What I Learned This Year to Help Me Spread the Good News



Nicole Muranelli

By **NICOLE MURANELLI**

I feel we are a curious people. Curious about all the what-ifs, why-nots, how-tos and most of all, the great phenomenon of life.

And that's a good thing, because as followers of Christ we have the greatest pathway to seek and find these true answers.

We have all the members of the Church family to help us as we follow and get to know Jesus on our faith journey. He is where we find the answers to our questions, through Him. He is The Way, The Truth and The Life.

But I often ponder about what non-Christians have. Do they have a relationship with God? Do they know that God calls all of us and all they have to do is to open their eyes and minds and hearts? Are they able to find their way in life without any true answers, or with just a superficial peace?

In my opinion, the short answer is no. We, as humans, make mistakes and sin all the time. We can't possibly make our way through life successfully without Christ. We know if we repent and turn to Jesus again, He will remain with and in us. But people who grow up in atheist homes are often surrounded by a thick boundary of fog and may be blinded from the light. This is why it's our duty and mission to evangelize. We must allow the Holy Spirit to work through us, so we can help others find their way to Jesus.

This year, as a class, we started to read our Bibles together, something I hadn't had much experience of doing originally. I am proud to say I have made it a daily goal of mine to do this every day, so I can know more about my Divine Father and what he wants me to do in my life.

I've found not only reading the Bible beneficial in my life, but it may also help others in their lives too. Since I am now more familiar with some of the parables, Gospel and story of Jesus. In the Gospel, we will find truth.

I truly appreciate the kind and fabulous teachers that continue to help me learn more which has encouraged my newfound desire to spread the Good News.

God speaks to us in Scripture. As we learn and love Jesus, we can love and help others do the same.

Something that came out of my spark of inspiration to do this was to post Bible verses on my social media accounts. It's my hope that I can reach someone in times when they need Jesus

more than ever, or at least ignite a spark of curiosity about this "all-knowing," "all-loving" God that they may not know. The best part is He loves us no matter what! But sometimes, it's not always so easy. So many people are clouded by what is wrong because they haven't heard the truth.

But, if we spread the Word, look at how many lives we may have the potential to save, even if it was just one person; I still did my part to help save that person and lead them to Jesus.

It's really motivational. We should remember the work that the apostles did, guided through the Holy Spirit. They were able to proclaim the Good News to thousands, all because they knew and loved Jesus.

To end this, I'm inviting everyone to do something to help evangelize. Maybe read St. Paul's letters to the Philippians. I have found them extremely helpful in finding my way to proclaim the Kingdom of God. It is true insightfulness, and I promise it will give you the courage, strength, and innermost motivation you need to spread the glory of the Good News. God is always acting in us; we just need to answer the call.

I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Nicole Muranelli, who will enter eighth grade in the fall, is a religious education student at St. Columba's parish in Hopewell Junction.



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