

DuxEsto

MAGAZINE



AUTHENTICALLY
FAITHFUL

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PURPOSEFULLY
COMPASSIONATE

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ACADEMICALLY
DRIVEN

PAGE 10

HOMECOMING
HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 12



GROSS CATHOLIC
FAITHFUL • COMPASSIONATE • DRIVEN

UPCOMING EVENTS



Trivia Night

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Cougar Bar Olympics

Saturday, April 1, 2023

CeleBration

Saturday, April 29, 2023

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mass

Friday, April 14, 2023



For all event information, please check out our website: grosscatholic.org/give-support/events/

Dux Esto Magazine

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Leah Schwartz



**Check out year-round
news and stories
about the Gross
Catholic community.**

**Front Cover: Students celebrating a football victory against
Scottsbluff High School on Friday, November 11th.**

The Gross Catholic Advancement Office made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this magazine. Please accept our apology for any errors or omissions.

DEAR COUGAR FAMILY

We hope you enjoy this issue of Dux Esto. In addition to the featured articles and updates, I am proud to share a few outstanding accomplishments from this fall. Most significantly is that Gross Catholic recently went through a reaccreditation process with Cognia, considered the preeminent international school accreditation agency. Every five years a team of professional reviewers evaluates our programs and operations according to the agency's standards for quality performance. While on site, the evaluation team lauded Gross Catholic for exhibiting a culture of excellence and a highly engaged community that provides strong support to the school. The team noted that the progress made since the 2017 visit was "very impressive," the growth rate for improvements "fabulous," and comparatively much higher than other schools they have seen. Because we endeavor to provide for the very best student experience, we look forward to the full report which will outline measures for continuous improvement and quality instruction.

Speaking of excellence...

What a memorable football season it was for our community to experience! Each Friday night saw stands teeming with blue and orange. Even at away games our fans outnumbered those on the opponent's side. Energized by cheerleader and pep band cadences and flawless performances from the dance team, the packed student section showed such class with their tireless support for the Cougars on the gridiron. The optimism and abiding hope throughout the fall galvanized the community and brought generations together. The season showcased the family spirit that defines Gross Catholic on display and extended to all is the enduring triumph of a season that will not be forgotten.



Participation in Gross Catholic's VEX robotics program is at its highest level since it began in 2010. Our Cougars won the Nebraska State Championship for the past two years and for five years qualified for the World Championship. Out of more than 8,200 high school teams around the globe, currently one Gross Catholic team is ranked third... in the world!

Gross Catholic is the First Place Winner as "The Best in Omaha" in the Private High School category for 2022. Every year the Omaha World-Herald conducts an online poll and asks the people of Omaha which schools, businesses, and services are "the best". Those that win get bragging rights for the year. As the newspaper states, "being named Omaha's Choice is more than a plaque on the wall - it's a strong signal of community support." This is the second time Gross Catholic has won the award. There are many private schools in the Omaha metropolitan area and we are proud to receive this honor.

I wish to extend my personal gratitude to the entire Gross Catholic family. Your commitment to our students and to this wonderful academic institution is the backbone of everything we do. Thank you for your continued support and dedication. This Christmas season may Holy Mother Mary prepare us all to joyfully welcome Christ's coming into the world. May his glorious birth illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

Dr. Thomas J. Curry, P'24, '26
President

We invite you to honor your loved ones by enrolling them in Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Memorial Society. This special memorial, created in 1983, serves two important purposes:

- It is a meaningful way to remember loved ones daily in the Masses and prayers of the students and faculty of Gross Catholic High School.
- It affirms your belief in Catholic education by supporting the students of Gross Catholic. Gifts to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Memorial Society are accepted throughout the year as we support your prayer intentions.

The Cougar Family prays for the enrolled member of the OLPH Memorial Society daily. Please join with us as we prayerfully remember our loved ones, especially those who have preceded us and live in God's presence.

i If you would like to receive OLPH Memorial envelopes to enroll a loved one, please contact the **Advancement Office at 402.734.2000.**

MEMORIALS

APRIL 1, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

IN HONOR OF

Denis Herman
Dana Herman
Jim & Loene Herman
Kathy Bumgardner

Lauren Kosse
Lloyd and Jean Mill
The Shepoka Children
Timothy Meyers '90

IN MEMORY OF

Amy Lynn Niebling
Bill Silverstrand
Candiss (Dasovich) Woolverton
Ceil Tataa
Dane Sinnott
Daryl W. Greger
Diane (Krupski) Nowka '73
Elizabeth "Becky" (Larson) Tometich '76
Fannie Sorensen
Florian Grzywa
Frank Kokotajlo
Gerald Stahmer
Gina McClure
Gloria Prchal
Henry Karpf
Jack Steiner
James Miriovsky
Jason Ryan
Jim Paladino
Jimmy Moran
Joanne Sosso
John Kanouff

Judy DiGiacomo
Kathy (Molek) Hug '81
Kelee (Kelly) Overgaard '72
Leonard Jarecke '86
Lola Rosa
Marianela "Candy" Buglewicz
Mark Kaipust '98
Mary Lou Cavlovic
Olga Kremke
Paul Moritz
Raymond Vodicka
Robert "Bob" White
Robert "Bobby" Brazeal '00
Robert Hohman
Rose Moritz
Russel Iwan '77
Ruth Circo-Drexel
Shara Goff '91
Sister Carolyn Mruz, OSF
Taylor Kaipust
Timothy McLaughlin '77
Virginia Grzywa
Virginia Stahmer

Please pray for our recently deceased members of the Cougar Family. May the souls of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Kelee (Kelly)
Overgaard '72



Timothy
McLaughlin '77



Russell Iwan '77



Diane (Krupski)
Nowka '73



Robert
Brazeal '00



Leonard
Jarecke '86



Shara Goff '91



Kathy (Molek)
Hug '81



Elizabeth "Becky"
(Larson) Tometich '76

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Join us in welcoming these outstanding additions to the Cougar Family!



Andrew Siewert
English



Michelle Ginn '91
School
Receptionist



Brandi Holys
Vice President of
Advancement



Ryan Larson
Director of
Admissions



Emily Dorcey
Theology



**Terrence
O'Donnell '98**
Assistant Athletic
Director



Lizzie Mason
Social Studies



Paloma Power '15
Theatre Director

ANNIVERSARIES

CELEBRATING

30 YEARS

AT GROSS CATHOLIC
THIS YEAR



SUZANNE NANO

Physical Education teacher,
Sports Medicine,
Athletic Training

Faculty Hall of Fame



Mr. Jim Homan began working at Gross Catholic more than three decades ago. During his time as a Cougar, Jim spent many years in the classroom, teaching Theology and Web Development. He transitioned out of the classroom in 2015 and currently coordinates the school website, the school information system, and all social media accounts.

Jim earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Theology and a Masters of Ministry from Creighton University.

Mr. Jim Homan shared, "I have great pride in being a part of the Cougar family over the years as a teacher, coach, and moderator of the Student Council and as the former Head Coach of the Girls Soccer team. It has been my privilege to serve the community here at Gross Catholic."

Homan and his late wife Darci have two daughters, Alex and Kenzie. Both are graduates of Gross Catholic and are currently studying to get their doctorates.

In his spare time, he enjoys watching soccer, walking, yoga, and traveling, especially to Nashville, Tennessee.

Authentically Faithful

As a Marianist school our mission is to join our sisters and brothers in Marianist communities across the globe to continue Mary's mission to bring Christ to the world. This year we begin a multi-year collaboration called the Marianist Family Encounter Project. The inspiration of the Encounter Project comes from Pope Francis, especially his encyclicals *Fratelli Tutti* (2020) and *Laudato Si'* (2015). In these teachings, the Holy Father calls for the Church and the entire human family to respond boldly and creatively to urgent

educational and ecological poverties that affect all of us — most especially the poor and disenfranchised. He invites all persons of good will to “dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet and the need to employ the talents of all, since all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more welcoming society.



Gross Catholic faculty and students have begun planning and implementing projects surrounding the objectives of the Encounter Project. Our Environmental Science class, taught by Ms. Leah Schwartz, is working on creating a recycling plan for the school. Students are making posters and a video to explain what can be recycled and where to put it. In January, Mrs. Michele Sweetmon, Campus Minister, is working with a group of students to create awareness of Fast Fashion and why it is so harmful to the environment. In the spring, we will host a week-long technology recycling project. All of these are great examples of integrating environmental learning with service in the Marianist spirit.

The Marianist Family is particularly well-suited to respond to Pope Francis's invitation because of our shared charism: to excel at adaptation and change, working together in family spirit to provide an integral, quality education that emphasizes formation in faith and prioritizes service towards justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

The goal of the Encounter Project is to carry out the Pope's seven common objectives:

- 1 RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH
- 2 RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE POOR
- 3 FOSTER ECOLOGICAL ECONOMIES
- 4 ADOPT A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE
- 5 OFFER ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION
- 6 DEVELOP ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY
- 7 SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

As the Marianist school of Omaha, Gross Catholic is committed to joining our worldwide family in mission along a seven-year journey to promote these strategies. Each year we will concentrate on these consecutive focus areas. The Encounter Project challenges us to envision bold ways of bringing together our shared hopes, creativity, talents, and resources, working on focused

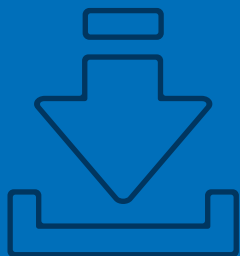
local initiatives and projects that will make a meaningful contribution to the seven response areas.

With Mary as our model of discipleship, the meaning and measure of being a Marianist family is how we respond in love to the weakest among us. We acknowledge that individually none of us can do everything to overcome the massive inequalities in education or perfectly obey God's call in Genesis to be stewards of the earth. Still, we each must do something. The success of the Encounter Project will depend on the efforts of the entire Gross Catholic family: students, teachers, administration, parents, board of directors, alumni, and coaches.

We ask everyone to scan the QR code and "Become a Site Member".



Site Members get access to Site Resources, Group Conversations, one-to-one Members Chat, and email notifications whenever encouraging Updates from across the Marianist Family are posted.



DUX ESTO MAGAZINE IS GOING DIGITAL!

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, the spring magazine has gone digital. Contact us at nolte@gcgmail.org to share your updated contact information and email to ensure you continue receiving the magazine.

Purposefully Compassionate

By Michele Sweetmon '96

The 2022 - 2023 school theme is “Blessed are the Peacemakers”, inspired by St. Francis of Assisi (Barrett House patron saint). As a school, students and faculty/staff participate in experiences and prayer that encourage conflict resolution, finding inner peace, and seeking reconciliation with the Lord. As a school that is purposely compassionate, we strive to live by the words of St. Francis of Assisi, “to heal wounds, to bind what is broken, to bring home those who are lost.” For that reason, Campus Ministry has redesigned its Marianist Mission Program to create more of an encounter for students when they complete service. The intention is to pull students out of their comfort zone to work with new people, in order to gain an appreciation for differences and to hone their leadership skills.

These lessons in compassion and continued care begin with our freshmen students. These students spend time the summer before their freshman year volunteering at the Food Bank of the Heartland. There they work side-by-side with new classmates, building relationships with each other and serving the community by preparing pantry items to be sent out to organizations like Heart Ministry Center in North Omaha. Our sophomores, seniors, and faculty/staff then have the opportunity to directly serve those who are materially poor at the Heart Ministry Center. Our students, faculty and staff are able to encounter our brother and sisters heart-to-heart; to enter into authentic conversations with members of the Fresh Start Program; and to literally walk with those experiencing material poverty.



Freshman Service Day

Nearly every one of the students we brought to the Heart Ministry Center said that the experience opened their hearts and minds to the needs of others and to the possibility that we really could live in peace and equality with one another if we would only apply the principles of Heart Ministry Center to our daily lives.

Sophomore Alyvia Christensen shared that "You make relationships with people you would've never had a chance to know. It's a great way to spread the love and kindness of God." Marie Brousek, sophomore, added, "My experience with my class at Heart Ministry was incredible. Being able to help those who are less fortunate than us and seeing the joy and community that they have was inspiring. This experience helped me see God in others and grow in community with those around me."

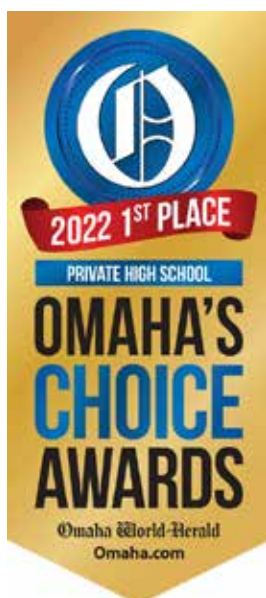
In addition to these experiences in compassion, sophomore and senior students examined causes of poverty in the Omaha Metro area and are encouraged to continue to bring Christ to our world today.



Seniors Nicole Hanus, Emma Bilgere, Joanna Goetz and Alison Henggeler volunteer at the Food Bank during Cougars on a Mission Day



Sophomores serving at the Heart Ministry Center during their retreat this fall



Gross Catholic has been named the 2022 First Place winner in the Private High School category.



THANK YOU
TO RYAN LAWN AND TREE FOR
KEEPING OUR CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL

Academically Driven

By Salvador S. Robles '10

Gross Catholic has always been known for tailoring its curriculum to its students' needs. When the high school first opened its doors in the late 60's, students were able to take woodshop and other various courses to gain hands-on experience and prepare for jobs in the trade industry, if they desired. In the early 2000's the curriculum shifted and began to offer ACT Prep and AP courses to help better prepare its students to go onto post secondary institutions. During this time the laptop program commenced, which helped incorporate technology in the classroom and jumpstart a new wave of learning for students.

In the last couple of years, Gross Catholic has undergone not just a facelift to its academic wing, but a new shift to add more dual enrollment classes. Students who successfully complete these classes earn college credit in addition to high school credit. These courses will also expand student's knowledge for their future career choice and give them a head start after they graduate. Many of these dual enrollment classes are offered through new Academic Academies, which were introduced in the fall of 2021. The Academies grant students real-life experiences and opportunities for networking outside the traditional classroom setting.

Tim Powers, Dean of Curriculum and Faculty Support, oversees the dual enrollment courses. "The dual enrollment classes allow us to partner with local universities and colleges as well as places like CHI Health. It gives students a hands-on and unique learning experience based on whatever track program they are enrolled in," Powers says.

Senior Audrey Swanson has been studying nursing in the Health Sciences Career Academy. "I started the nursing track program when I was a junior, taking online classes through Metropolitan Community College," Swanson says. "I just earned

my CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certification this past summer." Swanson's recent certification allows her to divy her time between school and CHI Health Immanuel Hospital, allowing her to apply what she's learning in her classes to the workplace.

“I’ve always known I wanted to pursue a career in the medical field,” Swanson says. “It just makes sense that Gross Catholic provides classes and academies for us students, giving us the experience not just for college, but after college too.”

Students aren't the only ones attaining certifications for the academies. Gross Catholic's teachers are required to have at least a master's degree to teach the college level courses as well attain any specific certifications which come along with facilitating dual enrollment courses.



Mrs. Suzanne Nano explains to seniors Connor Capece and Jake Garcia how to use the electric stimulation machine.

Suzanne Nano, who oversees the Health Sciences Career Academy and helps supervise the catered curriculum, works hand-in-hand with universities to adjust syllabi based on each student's needs.



Students in the Care and Prevention of Medical Injuries Course experiment with different types of modalities.

“Our students are getting all the benefits of a university level course, but our classes are still in person and smaller,” Nano says. “This just allows us to continue to show our students more and give them the attention they need.”

This past year, Gross Catholic added the Athletic Training Track Program. Students are able to take classes such as Care and Prevention of Medical Injuries and Medical Terminology which are just a handful of the newly catered courses in the program. Senior Jake Garcia, who is part of the Athletic Training Track Program hopes to pursue a career in physical therapy. “I came to Gross Catholic because I wanted to play football here,” Garcia recalls. “But this school gives us students the opportunity to try different classes, supports what we might want to do in the future, and that’s something that other kids my age aren’t going to get anywhere else.”

Alumnae Mari Jo (Hrabik) Schneiderwind ‘78 and Alexis (Schneiderwind) Herting ‘15 spoke to students in the Healthcare Academy about their careers in the medical field. Mari Jo is a medical assistant at Ear Specialist of Omaha and Alexis is a nurse at Children’s Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. In this photo Mari Jo is showing senior Audrey Swanson how to use an otoscope





During half time of the homecoming football game, we welcomed back the 2012 State Champion Football Team to celebrate their 10 year reunion. The team was determined to win a state championship title, despite challenges they had to overcome throughout their season. Their victory over Norris at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln marked the first state football title in Gross Catholic history.

“Cougars Around the World” was the homecoming theme this year. Students celebrated by wearing crazy socks, dressing as tacky tourists, and of course, sporting their best orange and blue on Friday! The week included a cornhole tournament, Cougars on a Mission Day, pep rally, a varsity football win over Ralston and concluded with the homecoming dance. Sal Nacarelli ‘23 and Maria Conneally ‘23 were crowned King and Queen.



2022 Homecoming Court



Freshmen Amalia Doty, Gianna Carranza, Samara Blanco, Mia Goodwin and Layla Osorio cleaning up campus during Cougars On A Mission Day



King Sal Nacarelli and Queen Maria Conneally



Seniors Andrew Powers, Brooklyn Rotert, Alison Henggeler and Skylar Walkingstick dress as tacky tourists



Members of the Rice family helping with the Cougar Fight Song Mix



Juniors Jacob Vankat and Joe Connor



Freshmen Robbie Brennan and Derik Balis

Scan the QR code to watch some of our Gross Catholic family singing the Cougar Fight Song.



ORTMAN SCHOLARS

The Ortman Scholar Award, named for one of Gross Catholic's founding donors, Mrs. Louise Ortman Gross, is the highest academic honor awarded to graduating seniors who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 or higher.

We are proud to share that the Class of 2022 boasted 25 Ortman Scholars - representing nearly one quarter of the 2022 graduating class!



Gabriel Alcala

Jackson Balis

Kathleen Brousek

John Cervantes III

Kayla P Chau

Allison H Drozd

Gabriela Gandara-Gutierrez

Leia Groski

Preston Higginbotham

Megan Le

Kendall Martin

Rosalie Maxwell

Jenna McGargill

Andrew McNamara

Mary Miller

Vincent Morales

Robert Pechar

Elizabeth L Rice

Nathan Schmitz

Keegan Shanahan

Jenna Lynn Skradski

Jordan Lee Skradski

Jayden Sterba

Carly Stern

Cadence Sweetmon

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GIVING LEVELS

We invite you to join the President's Circle at the following giving levels:

PLATINUM

\$10,000 and above

GOLD

\$7,500-\$9,999

SILVER

\$5,000-\$7,499


BRONZE

\$2,500-\$4,999

ORANGE & BLUE

\$1,000-\$2,499

Go to grosscatholic.org to make your contribution to the Dux Esto Annual Fund.

 Please contact the Development Office at **402.734.2000** or advancement@gcgmail.org for more information.



DUX ESTO ANNUAL FUND

Meet Jazlyn, a Senior at Gross Catholic

She has been involved in nearly every facet of the school – athletics, drama, campus ministry.

She is a Eucharistic minister, and last year was the junior grade winner for the Archbishop's pro-life essay content.

While at Gross she has taken advantage of every single honors and AP class she can handle, which means she will graduate with both a high school diploma and guaranteed college credit.

She was recently recognized by the College Board, receiving a National Hispanic Recognition Award.

She plans on double majoring in English and Criminal Justice and dreams of attending Swarthmore or the University of Chicago. Jazlyn wants to develop her career in law enforcement to strengthen trust between law enforcement and citizens with the goal of influencing and implementing policy changes that ultimately create more collaborative and safe communities.



Jazlyn Rodriguez



Jazlyn Rodriguez spoke at the President's Circle Dinner in early October and we would like to share some of why Gross Catholic is so important to her.

“Gross Catholic is a great place to help students explore what's out there and discover what they love. There's something here for everybody, whether you're looking for an easy four years with only the basic requirements, or if you are absolutely ravished for knowledge. Then Gross challenges you, revolutionizes your view, and strengthens your mind. Whichever path you choose, no one leaves Gross the same person they were when they came in.

Any school can be great. But there's something different about Gross Catholic. There's a beating, bleeding heart inside of these walls. It's almost tangible. You can feel it in every classroom. You can hear it from the mouth of every teacher and from the fruits of every student. You see, Gross Catholic has this way of taking the most immature and hopeless of middle-school graduates, and just absolutely transforming them. Shaking their foundation to the very core until they find someone deep within themselves that they never dared hope they could be.

And we get to be here, largely because of all of you. Because of your generosity they have the tools and the resources they need to help us succeed. I am one student, one story, of more than 400 others. Plus, countless alumni.

You make this happen. Your actions have directly touched my heart, and those of every foot that enters this building. Thank you for taking the time to care about the next generation. And most of all, thank you for believing in us. ”

Jazlyn has a bright future ahead of her and we pray for her acceptance into the college of her choice. Generous alumni and donors like you make a quality Catholic education possible for Jazlyn and many other students at Gross Catholic. In the spirit of the giving season, we invite you to make a gift to the annual fund.

As a Catholic school, we rely on generous support from donors like you to help bridge the difference between tuition revenue and the full cost of providing a superior academic program. The Dux Esto Annual Fund is our annual giving program that invites you to invest in our mission with a financial gift.

Gross Catholic is dedicated to making our integral, quality education an option for committed families and students. Our goal is to work with families, one on one, to arrive at a fair and feasible tuition plan. Thanks to your support of the annual fund, 77% of our students are receiving grants and scholarships.

Gross Catholic relies on your support of the annual fund and tuition from our families to fund our operating expenses to underwrite the educational

How can I support the Dux Esto Annual Fund?

- **Make a one-time gift or pledge a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift**
 - **Become a member of the President's Circle which recognizes leadership giving to the Dux Esto Annual Fund at the \$1,000 level or higher. Members of the President's Circle are among Gross Catholic's most faithful donors.**
 - **Consider a Planned Gift**
-

Go to **grosscatholic.org**, or scan the QR code, to make your contribution to the Dux Esto Annual Fund.



CELEBRATION38

Returning to a gathering in-person, CeleBration38 was an exciting event for all who attended. Papillon Landing was transformed into a tropical Havana Nights with tropical decor and featured professional Cuban cigar rollers. The Dux Esto Award was presented to Paul and Lorrie Reed and family. This year's \$10,000 Gold Cup winners are past parents, Dr. Bruce and Toni Lundak.



The event raised more than \$208,000, including \$49,000 for our fund-a-need project. This project has allowed the school to have state-of-the-art video conferencing technology installed in our Innovation Center and Presentation Room. In early 2023, these funds will also help to refresh the main office to create a more welcoming space for our guests and future Cougars.



Gross Catholic faculty and staff dressed in the Havana Nights theme.



Dux Esto Award Recipients, Paul and Lorrie Reed, pictured with many of their grandchildren.

COUGAR CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, September 19th, 188 golfers took to Eagle Hills Golf Course for the annual Cougar Classic Golf Tournament. More than \$61,000 was raised for the school. A special thanks to Jim and Dorothy Riha for their time and dedication to this event for the past nine years. As they step aside to enjoy their retirement, they leave the event in good hands with the remaining co-chairs.



Justin Pogge '03, Kyle Longenecker '04, Tricia Hughes '92, Scott Riha '91, Dorothy Riha, Tim Riha '96, Jim Riha, Matt McWilliams '04, Bart Protzman '04



Tournament Winners: Tim Meyers '90, Robb Huck '88, Grant Huck '17, Chad Meyers '93



TITLE SPONSOR

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DINNER SPONSOR

Bob Stutzman & Dr. Jane Carnazzo

LUNCH SPONSOR

Elkhorn West Construction

BAR SPONSOR

NPDodge Pogge Real Estate -
Justin Pogge

CART SPONSOR

OWM, Inc. -
Robert and Mike Stutzman
Core Bank

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

John Pogge
Edward Jones - Matt McWilliams

HOLE SPONSOR

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Better Homes & Gardens -
Colleen Almgren
Catholic Mutual Group
American Family Insurance -
Dan Grzywa
Locher Pavelka Dostal Law -
Kevin Dostal
ELCH - Dan Zoucha
American National Bank
All Wired Up -
Chris Zeleny
State Farm Insurance - Jeff Moore
MWH Advisors - Tim Meyers

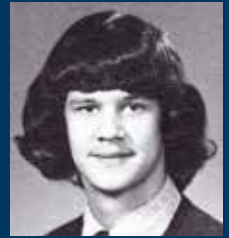
GREEN SPONSOR

Mama's Pizza
Rotella's Italian Bakery
The Riskowski Family
Westside State Bank - Heath Paulson
Pietro DDS PC
American Boiler Company
Honda Cars of Bellevue
Ken Brooke Roofing
Midlands Community Foundation
Edward Jones - Kyle Longenecker
Omaha Insurance Services -
Phil Winkelmann
Papio Valley Nursery
Egermier Builders
Select Van - Scott Riha
First Westroads Bank



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Mike Filipowicz better known as Coach Flip, Flipper or just Flip graduated from Gross Catholic in 1973. During his high school years he played baseball, basketball and golf. After graduation he worked for several different appliance parts companies. Mike then realized that he had a passion to work with kids, returned to college at UNO and earned his bachelor's degree in 1999. He taught at Walnut Creek Elementary in Papillion for 20 years, before he retired in 2020.



Mike and his wife Michele (Morin) class of 1972, have been married for over 30 years. They have five children between the two of them. Mike and Michele have supported Gross Catholic in many ways, including volunteering to co-chair our CeleBration event in 2019.

Mike has coached both football and baseball for the Cougars. He capped a 31 year coaching career for the baseball program in 2020. During his time as head coach, his team earned the Class A State Legion Championship in 2003 and two Class B State Championships in 2009 and 2010 and ended his career with more than 1200 baseball victories.

Mike was also instrumental in helping the Cougars win the 2012 State Football Title and has served as both a defensive coordinator and a linebacker coach for 20+ years. He still serves as a linebackers coach for Gross Catholic.

Fellow coach Mr. Tim Bowen said "Flip is one of those people you never forget. Not only because he bleeds orange and blue, but because he has touched the lives of so many kids throughout his coaching and teaching career. His pregame speeches before each game were filled with motivation and playing for the "G" on the helmet."

Thank you for your time and commitment to Gross Catholic Coach Flip!



**Scan the QR code to see past
Distinguished Alumni Recipients**

2022 Alumni Giving Challenge

September 18th - 24th



The goal of the Alumni Giving Challenge is to increase philanthropic participation for Gross Catholic. What better time to do that than homecoming week, when alumni come together to celebrate their affinity for their alma mater. Each year, we challenge all graduating classes to a friendly competition to see which class can achieve the highest giving percentage.

During our Alumni Giving Challenge this year, we featured Cougars living around the world.



Scan the QR code to see more Cougars living around the world.



Kent McLaughlin '00



Susie Louis '92



Jessica Slattery '98

High alumni participation levels indicate an engaged donor base which helps when we solicit foundation grants. Thank you to all who participated.

[LEGACY GRADS]

CLASS OF 2022



Jackson Henry Balis
Son of Dan Balis '85
Peggy Krakowski Balis '89



Kathleen Elizabeth Brousek
Daughter of Bob Brousek '90



McKenna Mae Buscher
Daughter of John Buscher Jr. '95



Jessica Ann Carroll
Daughter of Liz Cavlovic Carroll '84



Patrick James Collins
Son of Patty Doolin Collins '86



Mackenzie Rose Leslie Cook
Daughter of Mary Plambeck Cook '02



Ryan Paul Driscoll
Son of Christine Theiler Driscoll '91



Tessa Louise Egermier
Daughter of Rick Egermier '88
Maureen McKernan Egermier '87



Rex Martin Floerchinger
Son of Marty Floerchinger '91
Shari Williams Gorham '95



Ruby Jean Floerchinger
Daughter of Marty Floerchinger '91
Shari Williams Gorham '95



Dustin Jackson Franks
Son of Dustin Franks '96
Erica Luellman Franks '95



Alexis Grace Gewinner
Daughter of Steven Gewinner '85



[LEGACY GRADS]

CLASS OF 2022



Lucas John Gewinner
Son of Steven Gewinner '85



Giovanni Louie Gomez
Son of Ashley Razicka Gomez '03



Leia Corrine Groski
Daughter of Jodi Mill Groski '97



Gerald Dwight Hiles
Son of Karen Stahmer Hiles '83



Delaney Renee Huck
Daughter of Robb Huck '88
Amy Mickells Huck '90



Kristin Elizabeth Kreps
Daughter of Jennifer Godfroy Kreps '91



Kyle W Labs
Son of Michelle Gaube Labs '93



Megan Quynh Le
Daughter of Gina Forman Le '93



Alexander Edward Lee
Son of Joanna Jungers Lee '93



Andrew James McNamara
Son of Mark McNamara '90
Julie Reed McNamara '91



Joseph Isaiah Meier
Son of Rene Munchrath Meier '92



Gage Evan Mill
Son of Ken Mill '85



[LEGACY GRADS]

CLASS OF 2022



Mary Elizabeth Miller
Daughter of Matt Miller '84
Mimi Kinsella Miller '83



Michael Raymond Nowak
Son of Sean Nowak '98



Jack Charles Nutter
Son of Bernadette Fiscaro Miller '93



James Arman Pajnigar
Son of Cathie Adam Pajnigar '95



Thomas Arman Pajnigar
Son of Cathie Adam Pajnigar '95



Robert John Pechar
Son of Patty Campbell Pechar '91



Aleia Dineen Podliska
Daughter of Janet Dineen Podliska '92



Elizabeth Louise Rice
Daughter of Bill Rice '86
Debra Egermier Rice '86



Jenna Lynn Skradski
Daughter of Joe Skradski '96
Jody Coniglio Skradski '96



Jordan Lee Skradski
Daughter of Joe Skradski '96
Jody Coniglio Skradski '96



Jayden Daniel Sterba
Son of Jason Sterba '00



Carly Ann Stern
Daughter of Rob Stern '86



[LEGACY GRADS]

CLASS OF 2022



Cadence Noelle Sweetmon
Daughter of Michele Greenhagen
Sweetmon '96



Elijah Paul Weiss
Son of Alan Weiss '90



Jack James Theiler
Son of Jim Theiler '89
Jean Bouckaert Theiler '89



Samuel Joseph Wilwerding
Son of Kati Wilwerding '81



Joaquin Dario Vargas
Son of Oliva Espejo Vargas '93



Ellie Jo Zoucha
Daughter of Dan Zoucha '89
Carrie Lehotak Zoucha '94



Legacy graduates and their alumni parents before the Baccalaureate Mass on May 23, 2022 at St. Cecilia Cathedral.

GROSS CATHOLIC ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Four Gross Catholic Alumni were together in May 2022 for Judge Srb's public swearing in. From left to right:

The Honorable Candice J. Novak. Governor Ricketts appointed Candice to the Separate Juvenile Court for Douglas County in 2020. She previously worked in private practice and as a Juvenile Court Attorney in Sarpy County Juvenile Court. Candice received her law degree from Creighton University and her undergraduate degree from the College of Saint Mary. She is a 1997 graduate of Gross Catholic.



The Honorable Marcela (Marci) A. Keim. Governor Heineman appointed Marci to the County Court for Douglas County in 2011. She previously worked as an Assistant City Prosecutor in Omaha and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Douglas County Public Defender's Office. Marci received her law degree from Creighton School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Benedictine College. She is a 1992 graduate of Gross Catholic.

The Honorable George A. Thompson. Governor Ricketts appointed George to the District Court for Sarpy County in 2016. He previously worked as a Deputy Douglas County Attorney and as an attorney in private practice. George received

his law degree from Nebraska College of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He is a 1988 graduate of Gross Catholic.

The Honorable LeAnne M. Srb. Governor Ricketts appointed George to the District Court for

Sarpy County in 2021. She previously served as the District Court Referee for Douglas County and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Douglas County Public Defender's Office. She received her law degree from Creighton University and her undergraduate degree from College of Saint Mary. She is a 1992 graduate of Gross Catholic.



Marlo Lundak '15 was recently awarded a Nebraska Broadcasters Award for Best Continuing Coverage of a News Story. Her continuing coverage of a Nebraska family that fought hard to bring several Afghan students to

Omaha following the Taliban's takeover won her this award. Marlo is currently a news reporter for 6 News WOWT.



Des Moines University Graduate graduate Dr. Robert Greenhagen, D.P.M., was named the 2022 College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Alumnus of the Year



Lynn (Reed) Schultz '88 is currently the principal of St. Bernadette School in Bellevue, Nebraska and was awarded Administrator of the Year at this year's Archbishop's Dinner for Education



Diane (Skryja) Knicky '86 was recently promoted to Executive Director at Midlands Community Foundation (MCF). As Executive Director, Diane will be responsible for overseeing the development of MCF's

strategic plan and continuing to enhance MCF's non-profit organization, donor, business, and community partnerships.

WEDDINGS



Sara (Stuva) '12 married Evan Allberry on June 26, 2021. They were married at St. Bernadette Church and their reception was held at the Scott Conference Center.



JP '07 and Erin (McGill) Baker were married on October 23, 2021 at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Several Gross Catholic alumni were in their wedding party including Brandon Dlugosz '07, Jake Mueller '07, Joey Carney '07, Jake Heimann '07, Sean Tangeman '07 and David Rock '03.



Jacob '14 and Lisa Johnson were married on July 16, 2022 at The Palace Event Center in Treynor, IA. Gross Catholic alumni in their wedding party included Matthew Sullivan '14, Anthony Vigneri '14, Nathan Koenig '14, Daniel James '14, Jack Fraser '14, Trevor Nollett '14, Nathan Felty '13 and Christian Bertagni '14.

GROSS CATHOLIC REUNIONS



'07 Members from the class of 2007 gathered June 4, 2022 at Mann Fields in Papillion to celebrate their 15 year reunion.



'97 On August 6, 2022 the class of 1997 gathered at Oak Hills Country Club to celebrate their 25 year reunion.



'12 Class of 2012 met at Scriptown on Saturday, August 6, 2022 to celebrate their 10 year reunion.



'02 The class of 2002 celebrated their 20 year reunion on September 10, 2022 starting with a tour of the high school and followed with a gathering at Proof Midtown.



Emily (Almgren) '15 and Ben Klenke were married on April 23, 2022. Several alumni were in their wedding party including Holly McGregor '15, Katie Glaessmann '15, Jenna Macaitis '15, Brooke Bowen '15, Katy Miller '15, Collin Almgren '20 and Carson Almgren '23.



MacKenzie (Kaspar) '15 married Noah Fanslau '15 at St. Columbkille on May 14, 2022 with a handful of cougar alumni by their side including; Jenna Macaitis '15, Allie Gradoville '16, Emily Florance-Fanslau '13, Katie Glaessmann '15, Alexa (Schneiderwind) Herting '15, Alex Fanslau '17, Will Coenen '15, Matt Herting '15, Jason Reed '15, Kevin Kaspar '10, Nick Huelskamp '15, Pat Mruz '15 and Tony Sacco '15.



Kenny '99 and Adahisa (Pena) Burson were married on September 2, 2022 in Steamboat Colorado.



Zach and Emily (Riha) '17 Baratta were married on October 21, 2022 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church.



Zack '13 and Roma (Vora) Knicky were married on May 7, 2022 in St. Louis, Missouri.

'82 The class of 1982 had a fun filled weekend on Gross Catholic's homecoming weekend. They had a ton of fun gathering for a tailgate party before the football game on Friday, September 24, 2022, and then again at Philly's Bar and Grill on Saturday, September 25, 2022 to continue the celebration of the 40 year reunion.



Some women from the Class of 1982 celebrated their 40 year reunion in St. Petes Beach in June 2022. Pictured Left to Right: Sharon (Sledge) Fenwick, Suzanne Hibbs, Cindy (Mace) Mendick, Kate (McGargill) Lustgarten, Jacqui (Reznicek) Hrabec, Denise (Alter) Moore, Lori (Drey) Shannon, Theresa (Campos) Hook, Peggy Murray, Laura (Wolfe) Walker, Laurie (Bosilivac) Zagurski, Denise (Gehringer) Mills, Mary Jo (Nobel) Kocol, Lynn (Strachota) Sorch, Jackie (Depyper) Ryan, Kim (Carr) Krist, Sandy (Mace) Hill, Lesa (Nocita) Maneman.

BIRTHS



Jens Henrik was born on October 25, 2021 to Diana (Bartunek) '02 & Craig Nielsen.



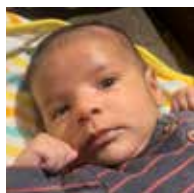
Kendall Joy was born on August 29, 2022 to Tom '08 and Mallory Van Haute. She joins big sister Cameron.



Steve '04 and Maggie (Monzingo) Winkelmann '04 along with big brother Sam welcomed Jack Henry on April 8, 2022.



Taylor '10 and Dana (Nisi) '10 Sidzyk welcomed Remy Taylor on June 8, 2022



Terrence '98 and Rosa O'Donnell welcomed Rafael Manuel on August 31st, 2022. He joins big sister Esperanza and big brother Carmelo.



Sarah (Mimick) '12 and Joel Ratzlaff welcomed Noah on February 3, 2022.



Matt '08 and Justine (Sacco) '08 Sullivan welcomed William Jacob on June 3, 2022. He joins siblings Haley, Sammy and Ryan.



Sarah (Watson) '15 and Oliver Jarosik welcomed Audrey Jo on February 27, 2022.



Nate '05 and Erin Novotny, along with big brother Oliver, welcomed Elliot John on September 6, 2022.

**ALL WEDDING
AND NEW BABY
ANNOUNCEMENTS
WILL BE SHARED IN
OUR FALL, PRINTED
DUX ESTO MAGAZINE.
IF YOU HAVE AN
ANNOUNCEMENT
TO SHARE,
PLEASE EMAIL
NOLTE@GCGMAIL.ORG.**



'72 Class of 1972 gathered on Friday, July 22, 2022 at Oak Hills Country Club, to celebrate their 50 year reunion. They also had an event on Saturday, July 23 at Beaver Lake Clubhouse



'92 It was a great turnout for the Class of 1992 who gathered at Addy's in Millard on Sept 17, 2022 to celebrate their 30 year reunion.



'87 Class of 1987 gathered at the Old Mattress Factory on Saturday, July 31, 2022 to celebrate their 35 year reunion.



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Gross Catholic High School is a faith and family based community committed to developing Christian leaders through academic excellence in the Marianist tradition.

President
Dr. Thomas Curry

Principal
Paulette Neuhalphen

**Assistant Principal/Athletics
and Activities Director**
Mike Dempsey '75

Assistant Athletic Director
Terrence O'Donnell '98

**Vice President
of Advancement**
Brandi Holys

Director of Admissions
Ryan Larson

**Alumni and Communications
Director**
Molly Nolte '99

Social Media Director
Jim Homan

Special Events Director
Dawn Sledge



Gross Catholic is an Archdiocese of Omaha school and is sponsored by the Marianist Province of the U.S.

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We work with committed families and students, one-on-one, to arrive at a fair, feasible Individual Tuition Plan. Individual Tuition Plans are confidential, based on your family's revenue and expenses, and respectful of your families needs. To learn more about how Individual Tuition Plans work, visit grosscatholic.org or contact:



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