

# The Spartan Speaker



September 2021

## From the Principal's Desk

March 13, 2020: Our last day of in-school classes for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. COVID 19 has begun to change everything at Notre Dame.

Student: "But that can't be! We have the play next week. Everything is set to go!"

Parent: "Will we still be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade?"

Faculty Member: "What do I do about the NHS Induction Ceremony?"

Thus began a spring of Google Classroom, conference calls, zoom meetings and classes, etc. Remote learning and meetings were now a part of every day. **The school building was empty.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter grading was very different. Everyone had to adjust. Many families were "locked" inside their homes; computers, tablets, and phones were the mode of communication; some parents lost their jobs while others were working from home, some full-time, some part-time. Easter was spent at home not with relatives. Graduation was now scheduled for Pocono Raceway and parents watched from their cars, wearing masks. Bishop Bambera was handing out diplomas from the "pit area" of the raceway as students prepared to take their "victory lap" around the tricky triangle. June 3<sup>rd</sup> was the last day of school although school was not finished with the usual fanfare.

Now the 2020-2021 Academic Year had to be planned. "Social distancing" became our mantra. The lockers were off limits; the hallways were divided; the 30 classroom desks were now 15; lunch was now half in the cafeteria and half in the Cawley Auditorium; cohorting for Grades 7, 8, and 9 was another new reality; masks breaks were included for Grades 7 and 8; Google Classroom was the standard, virtual learners were being live-streamed in every class, every day; ND was in 5 days a week; assessing was a challenge; chromebooks for Grades 8 and 9 and then Grade 7; cameras on the classroom computers ("I can't hear you.", "Turn on your camera."); live streaming liturgies and other assemblies; you-tube for basketball games and other assemblies; new teachers, new students; missing old students; empty building at 2:30

p.m.; no activities (Homecoming, Semi-Formal, Prom, AAG, picnics, extra-curriculars: gone).

**YET**, we did have classes, we did laugh (but in smaller groups), we did exchange ideas, we did learn, we did pray, we did have liturgies, we did socialize (to a lesser degree), we did get out of the house, we did commiserate as we talked, we did learn so much more about computers and Google Classroom, we did apply to colleges and 39 out of 40 seniors are continuing their education at a college, we did have some sports and we did have a great boys' basketball season as well as baseball and softball, we had very successful athletes winning a multitude of honors and awards, **We (Notre Dame) had the best year possible under "these circumstances."**

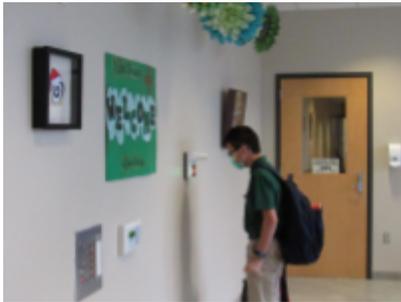


This was not the year we had hoped for but we had a good year as we all came to school together, kept safe, and did not have to close for COVID reasons. There is much to be said about enduring,

striving, and surviving this year and maybe, for some, thriving through the year. Do we want to have a repeat of this year? NO! Are there still some effects of this pandemic? YES! Will we do better next year? LET'S HOPE SO! We need to take what we have learned from our experience and grow as individuals and as a community (our ND family) to take what next year brings and try to take what has been good from the past and mix that spirit and those events and create a future which has forced us to re-look and re-think about how school should be, how Notre Dame should be. Thank you to all of our students, families, faculty, and staff for doing their part to keep us safe and growing in knowledge and experience as we moved through the 2020-2021 Academic Year. I'm proud of all of us!

Mr. Lyons

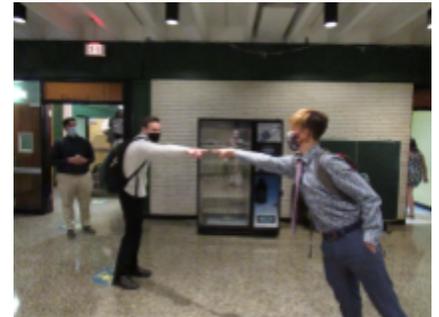
The pandemic introduced facemasks, social distancing, and virtual learning.



Each day began with a temperature screening.



Divided hallways helped reduce congestion.



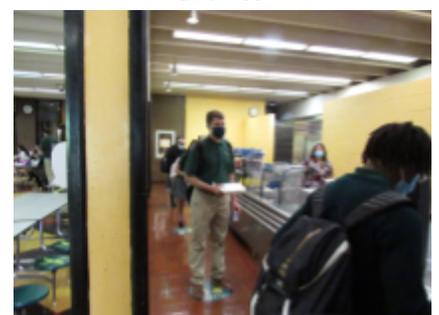
Students were safely distanced at all times.



We had in person instruction 5 days per week...



...with teachers simultaneously instructing virtual students.



Take out containers replaced the cafeteria trays.



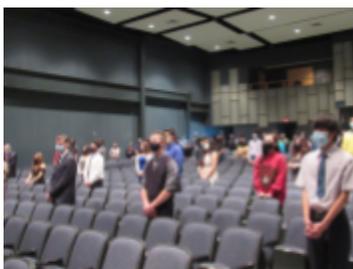
All liturgies were carefully orchestrated...



...with limited singing returning in time for the Baccalaureate.



We celebrated a virtual liturgy with Bishop Bambara...



...and Ring Liturgy with the Class of 2022.



We had food drives and a toy drive and raised over \$5000 for the Missions.



Two graduations were held at Pocono Raceway.

Pre and post pandemic milestones were reached.



The 2020 Mock Trial Team won the District Championship right before Covid shut us down.

Aaron Bailey scored his 1000th point and was named to 2nd team All State.



Aaron was also the BRCTV Winter Athlete of the year and signed to play with Dickinson.



**We Are ND!**

The softball team had a tremendous season.



Jordan Pansy made 1st team All State and signed with Gettysburg...

...and Macy Schnatter signed with Penn State Hazleton.



We honored our senior athletes...

...and bid a fond farewell to Deacon John Musyt who retired after over 40 years of service as N.D.'s Guidance Counselor.





## Congratulations to our newest Alumni!

**NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020**

			<b>NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020</b>						

**NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021**

		<b>NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021</b>						

# This is our quest!

Dear Alumni (ae), Parents, and Friends of Notre Dame Jr.-Sr. High School,

WOW! What a year! Please read my message on pg. 1 of this newsletter first to have a feel for what the year was like at Notre Dame. In addition to our new health protocols, we were in class five days a week all year. There were also the realities our current families endured. Some parents/guardians lost their jobs; some were asked to work from home; while others had to quit their jobs in order to be at home with their children (especially younger children). Somehow, they were able to keep the family together and support them financially. For many families, this was not easy. Tuition was a greater challenge than usual but a



challenge that our families accepted. Some reached out to us for some tuition assistance. Thanks to many of you who contributed to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Drive, we were able to help. Those funds have been reduced and yet some of our families still have not regained their previous income so they have asked for aid again this year. Most are families who have been in our Notre Dame System since Pre-K. How do we say no?



Today I am asking all members of our Notre Dame family (current and past) to consider sending a monetary gift in order for us to continue to offer financial aid to these families in crisis or need. We don't want to lose these families yet their financial situations are jeopardizing their ability to stay with us. Any amount, large or small, will help. Please consider what you may be able to do and I thank you for your continued support for all that we do at Notre Dame.

God bless!

Mr. Lyons



Contributions to the scholarship fund support need based tuition assistance for our students. Your gift will allow families to choose a Catholic Education that challenges the mind while strengthening the spirit. Thank you on behalf of our students

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Name

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Address

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City State Zip

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Please accept my donation to Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My gift is (in honor of) or (in memory of) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form with your check payable to:  
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 60 Saprunburg Ave.  
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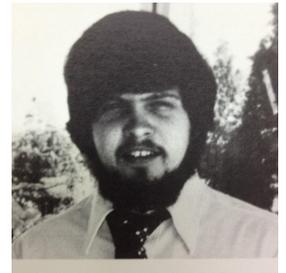
## Spartan Spotlight

This edition's Spartan Spotlight is on John P. Musyt (these days Deacon John), who retired in June after serving as Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School's Director of Guidance for 45 years!



John started in the Fall of 1976 and said he "was grateful to Sister Margo McCormick, N.D. Principal, and Superintendent of Schools Monsignor William Donovan for taking a chance on a kid they didn't know from Olyphant, Pa." Mr. Musyt felt lucky to do something for so long that he loved and believed in. "Guidance is an integral part of the total school program", he explained. "It's concerned with the educational, emotional, and social development of all students in

relation to their overall school experiences." And Musyt was certainly an integral part of N.D. He was "all-in" in every way, helping students progress into their futures and supporting their activities along the way...prompting one yearbook to print "Our faithful Guidance Counselor, Mr. Musyt, is always available to encourage pride and individuality. His concern is appreciated by the student body, and his participation in events like the Senior Pep Rally and the Famous Football Fiasco will not be forgotten!" We all thank Mr. Musyt and wish him a long and healthy retirement!



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**News and Notes**...please email us yours at [advancement@ndhigh.org](mailto:advancement@ndhigh.org). We're here to share!

**Christine Swisher '83** lives in Montoursville and has earned a Ph.D. from Penn State University.

**Angelica Bertola '14**, our school's all-time leading basketball scorer, recently became Mrs. Angelica Zimmerman.

**Jennifer Zannelli**, now Rosenthal, '90 would like to connect with classmates (a great idea for all of us)...reach her at [jenkrosenthal@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkrosenthal@yahoo.com).

**Leon Perkowski '89** has moved back to PA after 25 years out-of-state...great, we can finally get Perko his Hall of Fame plaque earned as a member of the '88 boys' basketball championship.

**Chiara Gilardoni '00**, who was an exchange student here from Italy, works for Vrbo and lives in Austin TX with her husband, three young children, and a big pool...anyone up for a barbecue??

Life has brought **Elizabeth Groff '01** back to PA as a member of the HR team at Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. Liz also consults for a security company.

**Sarah Williams '96** has led a career in education...she recently completed a second Masters degree, teaches at the Hyde Leadership Charter School in NY, and enjoys daughters Mia 19 and Hannah 16.

**Angela Barlie '98** is representing all of us Spartans in Auckland, New Zealand these days.

**Chris Beermann '91** is the Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds...if he tells us more, he'd have to kill us.

**Kate Valleri '00** teaches English in the coastal town of Albany, Western Australia with her husband Brendon, also a teacher, and her stepson James.

**Dana Snyder Ahnert '94 and husband Kevin Ahnert '89** are enjoying watching their son Matthew '25 this Fall as the Spartans' starting Boys' Soccer goalkeeper.

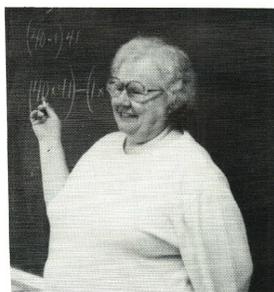
**Paul Kennedy '89**, wife Denise, and daughters Cara and Teagan just relocated to Fort Myers, Fla...look him up for a round of golf.

**Gerard Letendre '07** just received a promotion in the accounting field, which comes with a corner office in Parsippany...he may yet earn the senior superlative his classmates assigned him.



All of Notre Dame were saddened to hear of the passing of two great individuals who gave us twenty years of service and care.

**Sister Carol Lubas, I.H.M.** and **Reverend Alfred J. Vito** were different in their personalities and duties. Sister Carol quietly taught Mathematics while Father Al loudly taught Theology, but they both improved lives. Father Vito also served as Director of Religious Formation, travelled on school trips, and produced the N.D newsletter...and Sister Carol loved the rides at Dorney Park every year! Their smiles still light our hallways!



Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

#### Some school year gatherings

Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup>; Thanksgiving Liturgy, Theater at 10:20am

Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>; Advent Liturgy, Theater at 10am

Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup>; Annual Open House from 1-3pm

Friday February 4<sup>th</sup>; Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, Theater at 10:30am

Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>; Athletic Hall of Fame inductions, Gym at 4pm

Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ash Wednesday Service, Theater at 8:20am

Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>-Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>; Spring Musical, Theater at 7pm

Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>; Baccalaureate Mass, Theater at 7pm

Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>; ND's 52<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Exercises, Theater at 11am

\*For all event schedules, including extra-curricular/athletic activities with exact times and sites, please check us out at [www.ndhigh.org](http://www.ndhigh.org).\*

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[www.ndhigh.org](http://www.ndhigh.org)

**Advancement Office:**

Roger Barren, Director



## Remember to Keep Us Updated

If you have a change of address, email, phone number, or new job, please access the Alumni Link on the Notre Dame Website and update your information. We want to keep the Notre Dame Community "in the know" about exciting upcoming events and you will be the first to learn about the latest school happenings. You can also email your updated information to the Advancement Office.

We want to hear from our Notre Dame Alumni! If there is an exciting event, you're succeeding in a new job, a new member of the family is born, or other exciting news, let us know so we can share these achievements with the Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School Community.

