



# Answering God's Call: Cardinal Cupich

Stephanie Kozlowski  
editor-in-chief

With the declining number of Catholics entering religious life, particularly in the United States, it is interesting to discover the motivation of those who do. Many see entering religious life as the answer to a call rather than purely a personal decision.

Throughout this school year, we have presented feature stories about individuals who answered God's call, including a current seminarian, a priest, a brother and a nun.

For this issue, Archbishop of Chicago Blase Cardinal Cupich generously shared his time to talk about his call to the priesthood and, eventually, the Church hierarchy.

I spoke with His Eminence on the telephone on March 23.

*When and how did you first feel a calling to the priesthood? How did your parents react?*

In our family, which was large, we had nine children. My parents always said to us that we should always be open to the possibility of God calling us to serve in the Church. It was always in the conversation within the family without any pressure.

I entered the seminary because people encouraged me to study for the priesthood. It wasn't until my senior year of college that I made the decision that this was really something that was for me. My parents always told me that if I decided otherwise, that would be fine, too.

*Before you answered the call to the priesthood, did you have other career dreams or aspirations?*

Yes. I had scholarships to go to different colleges and I was thinking that maybe I would study law.

*Are you concerned about the declining number of people entering religious life? What do you think can be done to encourage more people to become brothers, priests or nuns?*

We always want more people, but it really depends on the call of God. I would just want to make sure that young people see that [religious life] is a life that is very rewarding. People now see Sister Jean from Loyola University, who's 98, and how happy she is. I think that to see people like her helps us understand that it is really a very happy life to go into. She really is witnessing to that today.

I think young people today are trying to figure out where their life is going and what they want to do with it. Perhaps if they see people like Sister Jean and priests they know who are very happy, it will influence them. I think that it will all work out in time.

*What advice do you have for young Catholics who might be contemplating religious life?*

First of all, I would say be open to the fact that your life is bigger than you think. If you begin to approach life that way then you don't have to have all the answers. The whole business of allowing people to

tell you what to do, or that you have to come up with all the answers, is really a mistake.

It's always good to be open to where God is calling you, and that's what I would suggest. I pray that they remain open to where God is calling them and then respond to it.

*Did you have aspirations to rise in the hierarchy of the Church, or would you describe your promotions as further callings from God to serve the Church in a different capacity?*

When I was ordained, what I wanted to do was to be a parish priest, and I really was very happy doing that. I was asked early on to get involved in administration and other things. I guess I was good at it. When the Pope asked me to come to Chicago, I said, "You know, I've never asked for anything and I've never refused anything."

I trust that the Church is going to use me and anybody else in a way that is going to be the best thing for the good of the Church, that is going to be respectful of my talents and abilities. I feel that sometimes it's just good to go with the flow.

*What are some of the things you like best about being Archbishop of Chicago?*

I like that it puts me in contact with a lot of different people, diverse people, young and old, people of different faiths and backgrounds. In order to be a happy priest, you have to like people. And I like people. And I like being with people who are different. I like that this position puts me in an environment where there are people who are different.



**Cardinal Cupich talks with RedHawks in the Red and White gym before the basketball game on Feb. 2, 2015.**

*What aspects of being Archbishop of Chicago do you find challenging?*

I think it's the time demands. I wish I had more time to do things. There are many requests that I have to say no to simply because I can't do them. I'd love to visit a school or parish every day, but I just can't because of all the things I have to attend to. So I think it's a matter of realizing that there are a lot of things I wish I could do that time will not permit.



photo by Patti Arvesen

Archbishop of Chicago Blase Cardinal Cupich met with Br. Hank and Mr. Tucker in Champagnat Square during his visit to Marist in January 2015. In his interview with editor-in-chief Stephanie Kozlowski, Cardinal Cupich noted that visiting schools and meeting young people are one of the things he likes best about being archbishop, although it is difficult for him to find time to do this more often.

*What do you think the Catholic Church will look like in the United States 25 years from now?*

I think it would be foolhardy for me to speak to that because nobody 25 years ago would have predicted where we are today. As the Pope said, "Jesus is always doing something new."

To me, our job is to be attentive where Christ is leading us now, rather than trying to predict what is going to happen.

*Do you think that if the Church allowed priests to marry we might see an increase in people who enter religious life?*

We already have priests who are married. We have people who were Protestant ministers who became priests. They were ordained even though they were already married.

Yet other Christian religions, which have married clergy, are struggling to find people.

Plus, there is the fact that there really is the gift of celibacy, where the priest is able to give his whole self to that community. We would lose something if we got rid of celibacy.

**"Our job is to be attentive to where Christ is leading us...."**

*Do you think that if the Church allowed women to be ordained we might see an increase in vocations?*

The Holy Father has indicated already that is not possible, and that is the teaching of the Church. I don't see that changing at all.

*Is there anything else you would like young Catholics to know?*

I just want them to know that I care about them and I am excited always to be with them. I find that I'm energized when I am with young people. Whenever I go to a school or visit with young people, I find that I come away energized by the enthusiasm they have and the energy they with which they approach life.

I want young people to know that I really care about them, that I value and treasure them.



Cardinal Cupich, a native of Omaha, Nebraska, was installed as Chicago's 9th Archbishop on Nov. 18, 2014. Pope Francis named him a Cardinal on Oct. 9, 2016 and he was officially elevated to the College of Cardinals on Nov. 19, 2016.



THE  
SENTINEL



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Race for valedictorian, salutatorian continues

Erin Hohl  
senior reporter

The performance of five seniors during these last days of classes and on their final exams will determine which one will emerge as the valedictorian of the class of 2018.

The top five seniors at press time include Jack Anderson, Jacob Mozdzen, Michelle Lenz, Jacob Rahn and Elise Viz.

Jack Anderson will continue his education at Kenyon College, majoring in economics and playing baseball.

Anderson knew he wanted to be a part of our school community ever since he shadowed in junior high. The atmosphere of the school and the athletics are the factors that brought Anderson in.

Over the past four years, Anderson has learned that life requires sacrifice.

“My goal has been to play college baseball, and it has taken a lot of effort balancing this with schoolwork,” Anderson said. “I have learned I would have to sacrifice certain things in order to succeed.”

Anderson urges students to not drive themselves crazy stressing over minor details. He believes it is important to step out and enjoy what high school has to offer.

Michelle Lenz will attend Texas A&M University to major in chemical engineering.

She thought that Marist provided the best option in terms of challenging herself academically, especially in the math department.

“The main thing that I learned at Marist is that your hard work pays off,” Lenz said. “My teachers and my classes have all challenged me, but I’ve picked up work ethic and skills that will help get me ahead in life.”

Lenz advises students to take advantage of the opportunities that are given and to participate in the events and service projects that are offered.

Jacob Mozdzen will attend Notre Dame to study bioengineering or physics.



photo by Erin Hohl

The top five seniors (L to R) Jacob Mozdzen, Jack Anderson, Elise Viz, Jacob Rahn and Michelle Lenz gather in Champagnat Square on April 25, just under a month before graduation day. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be announced after senior exams on May 23.

His long-term goal is to get into medical school.

“I think being a doctor is the highest pursuit of a life’s work for someone who loves solving problems and interacting with people,” Mozdzen said.

This summer he will be part of a cancer research team at the University of Chicago.

Mozdzen encourages students to follow what they love and what makes them laugh, because, at some point, they will only have the memories to look back on.

Jacob Rahn will attend Purdue University for actuarial science. Rahn’s goal in college is to pass all of the actuarial exams that are required to become a certified actuary in the insurance industry.

Rahn credits his participation on the math team throughout high school with teaching him that hard work pays off.

Elise Viz will attend Cornell University to major in mechanical or aeronautical engineering.

Since many in her family are Marist alumni, Viz grew up attending events at school. She said that for as far back as she can remember, she has loved the atmosphere and the people here and knew that she would fit in perfectly.

Viz aspires to be a successful engineer and hopes she can do something which enables her to help people as well as gain experience.

She learned to reach out knowing that she could not do everything on her own.

“Here at Marist, there are so many great resources and people who are willing and able to help you along every step of the way,” Viz said. “There’s no shame in taking advantage of the opportunities you have been blessed with.”

Veteran teacher looks forward to retirement

Erin Murphy  
junior reporter

As he recalls all the pep rallies, school plays and sports contests he has attended during his career, religion teacher Mr. Tom Samonski claims he is ‘one of the lucky ones.’

“I have been able to work at a job that I love and in a school that has so much to offer,” Samonski said. “We are all lucky to be here.”

After 39 years, Samonski is retiring in June.

He said that witnessing his students learn and grow in faith was the best part of his career.

“Many kids come in with little to no understanding of religion,” Samonski said. “I want them to leave with a better understanding of religion and a stronger faith in God.”

Campus minister Patrick Meyer is among a number of faculty members who had Samonski as a teacher.

“His dedication to teaching us religion went beyond achieving educational goals,” Meyer said. “He approached class in a spiritual way and by always encouraging student participation in class discussions and projects.”



Mr. Tom Samonski

Among the many changes he has seen over the past four decades, Samonski said that the school going coed was the biggest and best.

“Going from all boys to coed was one of the best decisions we made,” he said. “It is better to have guys and girls learning together because it mirrors what happens outside in the real world.”

In retirement, Samonski looks forward to improving his golf game and helping his wife, who is already retired, babysit their four grandchildren, Jayden, Avery, Jackson and Kennedy.

He also hopes that he and his wife can travel more in the future.

Samonski said he will also continue working part-time as a ranger at Silver Lakes Country Club, where he said his chief duty is to move along golfers who are taking too long on the course.

To his colleagues who are just starting or in the beginning years of their careers, Samonski offered some advice.

“Just enjoy the students and love them the best that you can,” Samonski said. “Take time to get to know the other teachers and be open to learning new things from your colleagues.”

Principal Larry Tucker expressed his gratitude for Samonski’s contributions over the years.

“For 39 years, Mr. Samonski came in and helped build this school up to what it is today,” Tucker said. “He is a guy who loves teaching religion, who believes in it and lives for it. He has also been a tremendous help at sporting and other events, so he has been so much more than a teacher.”

Administrators, faculty and staff will celebrate with Mr. Samonski at a retirement party at the Marist Brothers’ residence in Beverly on Tuesday, May 15.

“I know I was a quiet person, but being remembered as a humble person would make me happy,” Samonski said.



# French impressionist: visiting student shares her views

Kathleen Wilkison  
senior reporter

Two teachers and 17 students from our Marist sister school in Lyon, France participated in the exchange program during spring break to visit Chicago and go sightseeing.

The students stayed with their American hosts and attended school with them. I hosted 16-year-old Chiara Achdjian. Toward the end of her visit, Achdjian shared her opinions about our school, city, people and country.

*What was your overall impression of the U.S. before you came and have your views changed as a result of your visit?*

Before coming to the United States, a foreigner imagines seeing fast food places all around and many overweight people. There are countless fast food restaurants everywhere you go, which is very funny. Even though Americans do eat a lot, the stereotype is false because there are as many overweight people in France as there are in the United States.

We also imagined seeing people who carried guns in their hands, immense billboards and big schools. Thankfully, some of our preconceptions weren't true. We didn't see people walking around with guns, instead, we saw a lot of police keeping the streets safe.

The high school, for example, is enormous. It had a great impression on us because it is exactly like the ones we see in the American movies with the typical lockers, the huge hallways and a football field. We don't have that in France.

My opinion did change with regard to the friendliness of the people here. The students and teachers were surprisingly normal. They behave as we do and are incredibly kind and welcoming.

One thing that did surprise us was the importance of God and the creator of the Marist Brothers.

Faith is very present at the school. In France, the difference is that secularism is more important than religion.

Our overall impression of Chicago embodies the image of how one sees the U.S.: the city is gigantic with its skyscrapers that surpass the clouds. Downtown is full of life, and the outskirts with their very symmetrical neighborhoods and typical American houses.

*What was your favorite part of the school, the people and the city?*

My favorite place in the school was the cafeteria because I found it very inviting where one can easily get together with others. I also enjoyed the football field. It is unique in my eyes and I enjoyed learning more about this sport which isn't commonly practiced in Europe yet very well known.



photo by Kathleen Wilkison

French exchange student Chiara Achdjian enjoys sightseeing on Navy Pier during her visit to Chicago over spring break.

The hallways fascinated me. I loved walking from one room to another to change classes. I felt like I was in an American high school movie.

Everyone was very friendly, funny and smiling. It was fun shaking hands to say hello and having to say 'nice to meet you' every time I met someone new.

Although downtown was fun, lively and has plenty of things to see and do, I didn't really like the skyscrapers.

My favorite place was the Art Institute of Chicago because it had many famous artists and even the French ones.

My experience in this new country was truly amazing. What I loved the most was my host's home and her neighborhood. It was a welcoming and family place where I felt good and experienced a lot of happiness.

I wouldn't trade the memories of my visit to Chicago and Marist for the world.



photo by Stephanie Kozlowski

RedHawk journalists Georgia Lattas, Gina Musso, Jocelyn Diaz, Emma Brown, Gianna Miritello and Martin Buck gather before competing in the IHSA state journalism finals at Eastern Illinois University on April 27. All six students advanced from sectionals at Homewood-Flossmoor on April 21, where sophomore Cecelia Gibbons also placed fifth in editorial writing and junior Jenna Fessler placed sixth in photography.

## RedHawk journalists make history

Stephanie Kozlowski  
editor-in-chief

A record number of RedHawk journalists advanced to state this year, after placing in the top three at the IHSA sectional competition at Homewood-Flossmoor on April 21.

Senior Marty Buck became the first male journalist in school history to advance in two categories, headline writing and caption writing, placing second in each.

Junior Georgia Lattas was sectional champion in copy editing, while her classmates Emma Brown took second place in review writing and Gina Musso took second place in copy writing.

Senior Gianna Miritello, who placed sixth in state last year, came in third in sports writing at sectionals this year, while classmate Jocelyn Diaz placed second in editorial cartooning.

For the second consecutive year, Marist came in fourth place overall at the highly competitive sectional.

At state, hosted by Eastern Illinois University on April 27, Miritello became

the second RedHawk in school history to be named to the Illinois Journalism Education Association All-State Team. She is the only student from a Catholic high school on the team this year.

Miritello will be honored with her fellow all-state team members at a luncheon in Springfield on June 2.

"Those who make the all-state team are of a very high caliber and I am honored to be among them," Miritello said. "RedHawk journalism has been a very rewarding experience and I will always be grateful for everything I have gained from it."

In addition to the numerous individual awards earned this year, the *Sentinel* staff also earned a first-place award for overall newspaper from the American Scholastic Press Association for the seventh consecutive year.

"Journalism was something I had never expected to be good at," Buck said. "My friends signed up for the class, so I decided to join. This class and paper have given me opportunities I would have never dreamed of. I am proud to have been part of a staff that worked very hard and earned so much recognition for our program."





# Thanks, Marist



Megan Alagna

Writing this farewell column is bittersweet. Writing this farewell column means I have finished my career at Marist, and while I am infinitely excited to begin the next chapter of my life, I also do not want to say goodbye to the family and friends I have found along the way.

Senior year is all about nostalgia and that “*Where did the time go?*” feeling. One minute, you are sitting in cold metal chairs in August listening to Brother Hank and Mr. Tucker introduce Marist to you at freshman orientation, and the next, you are sitting in those same chairs waiting for your name to be announced as you walk across the stage in your cap and gown.

So, here’s my advice to you all. Don’t wish for the future and ignore what is happening right now. Enjoy being at Marist, because one day you’ll walk out of school after MOD H and it’ll be the last time.

Get the buffalo mac and cheese at lunch. Don’t be afraid to sit next to someone new in class. Apply to host an exchange student. Go on Junior Retreat and Kairos. Just be *present*.

See the best in others, especially if they can’t see it themselves. You never know what anyone has going on in their lives at any given time, so be kind.

Getting through high school is never easy. I still remember the nights filled to the brim with homework in every subject, the anxiety as the ACT proctors passed out the exams, the fights with friends and after school cross country practices that nearly made me pass out.

However, I am grateful for those experiences because if I have been able to make it out of all that alive, then I know I can survive other things in life. I am even more thankful because I have learned so many things about the world that I could not have anywhere else.

I am also thankful for traveling to Argentina with 16 other students this year. I will never forget the bonds I formed there.

There’s also one unlikely thing I’m grateful for. As a junior, I was placed in the remote lot and had to make the journey from 116th and Springfield to Marist. At first, I absolutely hated it.

However, it was because of that long walk to school that I met my best friends. Alyssa, Sam, Sarah, PJ, Alexis and Tess, I love you all, and I can’t wait to have more adventures together in the future.

To the class of 2018, I want to say that all of you are amazing in your own unique way, and I’m glad we were able to get through this milestone together.

I can’t wait to see where life takes all of us: be it on Broadway, in medicine, the NFL, politics or so much more. I will always consider Marist an integral part of my life.

I know we’re all going to do great things.

# Started from the bottom, now we’re here

It is a cliché, but it is so true when people tell you that high school passes by in the blink of an eye. I swear just yesterday I was coming into school with my bangs covering half my face and eyeliner smudged against my eyelids. Yeah, I was your local emo girl. In a way I am still emo because coming to the end of high school is bittersweet.

I cannot wait to begin my journey as an official college student at DePaul University, but I also long to stay in the back of Mrs. Borkovec’s English classroom with my eyes glued onto *The Scarlet Letter*.

High school has taught me an abundance of things, such as how to get away with not wearing your lanyard for a day without getting a detention.

No, but in all seriousness, I learned so much about myself in the last 10 months than I did in the last four years.

Senior year has taught me to value my youth and not take anything for granted. Growing up is a trap, so be sure to enjoy being a kid while you can.



Jocelyn Diaz

I came to Marist not knowing anyone. At first, I felt like I had no one. Eventually, I met my best friends, Denise and Marty. They have given me something I could never repay them for, memories. Every hallway I look down is associated with a million memories of me laughing with friends and living in the moment. Every friend I’ve made, whether we’re still friends or not, has shaped me into the person I am today.

I want to thank my best friends Denise and Marty for helping me get through these four years, I know for a fact I wouldn’t have made it out alive without you guys.

I also want to thank my junior year English teacher, Mrs. Borkovec. Although I never told you, I want you to know that you made English fun for me and gave me confidence in my writing when I needed it most.

I also want to thank my haters because, ha ha, I made it.

To my K133 sisters, I love you girls with all my heart.

Finally, I want to thank my mom for being the prime example that hard work pays off. You motivate me every single day to be the best version of myself.

I leave Marist with my heart full of hope and love. I know I say I won’t miss it, but I am not even gone yet and I already wish I could go back to the beginning of senior year.

It’s so weird knowing that I’m entering adulthood. No longer a chica, but a señora.

# Oh, the places you’ll go

I knew Marist was my first choice as soon as I shadowed. I thought I would have had a tough choice between Marist and McAuley but the second I walked into Marist, I knew this was the place for me.

Coming to a school where there were a lot of unfamiliar faces was not easy. I was very unsure of what I was walking into at the moment.

I ended up cheering my freshman year which allowed me to meet some people and make friends before my first day.

I was nervous about meeting other new people and teachers but after freshman orientation I was happy with where I was.

Everyone was so easy to talk to and every class I had, I ended up finding someone who had the next class with me.

As the years went by, I would always get anxious for that very first day. Anxious to meet new teachers, people and was even nervous of making a fool of myself. I was always nervous I would embarrass myself by tripping up the stairs or saying something dumb.



Raini Eldorado

That never made me shy away from saying anything and anyone who had a class with me knows that very well.

As we have already had our senior lock in and as we approach prom and graduation, I still get that eerie feeling that something embarrassing is going to happen such as ripping my dress at prom or tripping and falling at graduation.

It is bittersweet that senior year is finally coming to an end.

People always say that these will be the best and fastest four years of your life and they sure were. I never realized it until now and I do not think anyone realizes it until the end actually approaches.

Senior year has been amazing. Kairos was such a great experience. I always saw seniors walking around with new quarter zips that would say “K” and a number and I always wondered what it meant.

Thank you Marist for all of the great memories, thank you to the friends and teachers who have made my high school experience unforgettable, and especially thank you to my parents for investing the time and the money into my high school education.

I’m optimistic for the future and cannot wait to see what it has in store for me. I am excited to attend Ball State University and bring everything Marist has taught me.

I’m blessed to have the experience that most people do not get. It was truly life changing and I would do it all over again if I could.

# Flying through time



Erin Hohl

For some of us, the journey was harder than it was for others. During my journey, I found friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I have befriended those I never thought I would. I have met people who have impacted my life in the best way possible. I have been taught by prime educators who have mentored me over the past four years.

Being a loyal and true RedHawk is something that I will always hold with pride, and underclassman so should you.

Students, be proud of who you are. We have all come together in times of sorrow, helped in times of struggle, and thrived in times of victory.

Underclassmen: you may face times of difficulty, but remember to keep a positive attitude. It will bring you a long way.

Work hard, because I am sure there are a handful of seniors that would tell you they wished they put in just a little more effort during their time in school. I am a firm believer that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything. Believe in yourself because the first step to success is knowing that you can achieve it.

Thank you Marist for providing me with all the laughs, friendships and memories. Students, remember to be bold and brave. If you face adversity, rise up and fight with all of your might to gain your victory.

To the class of 2018, good luck on the rest of your journey. I cannot wait to see the success we will all achieve.



## Four years to remember

I was told by many people that my four years of high school would go by fast. They weren't kidding.

It seems like only yesterday I was walking into the main gymnasium doors, picking up my schedule and looking for a place to sit.

Now I'm sitting here writing this and getting ready to graduate.

To the freshmen, please enjoy every little and big thing during your time at Marist. Make memories, go to the sports games and cheer on your classmates. Enjoy these very short four years you have with one another.

To the sophomores, you are already half way through, so make these last two worth it. Join clubs, get to know your teachers and enjoy where you are right now.

To the juniors, this year really was the hardest. Make the best of next year because it will go by so fast. Spend time with friends and enjoy every moment there is because soon you will be walking across the stage to get your diploma and it will all be over.



Jillian Okelman

To the seniors, thank you for being such a great class. I will cherish every memory that was made for the rest of my life. All of you will do amazing things in your lives and I cannot wait to be able to watch each and every one of you change the world.

To my beautiful sisters of K133, thank you for helping me to climb my mountains. Thank you for the laughs and tears. I love each and everyone of you more than words can describe, you all hold a special place in my heart. Especially to Table Matthew

who helped me realize my worth. You are all amazing and will move mountains of your own one day.

To Jenna, Jocelyn, Marty, Megan, Kathleen, Nathan, Gianna, Emma, Gina, Marykate and Chrissy, thank you for being there for me. I could never thank you enough for making my four years of high school so amazing. As we graduate and part ways, never forget how amazing each and every one of you are.

To my teachers, thank you for being so supportive throughout my four years, for never giving up on me and helping me prove to myself that I am capable of doing anything I set my mind to. You changed my life for the better and I cannot thank you enough for what you did for me and continue to do for everyone every day.

To Marist High School, thank you for making me become the person I am today. I will never regret the choice I made when I came here. This is my second home and forever will be. This school taught me how to be the best I can. I will miss this place every single day.

## Adiós, Marist. Thanks for the memories



Marty Buck

My first memory from Marist is one of fear. A shy 14-year-old boy, me, sat in his desk afraid of what was to come.

I was scared to start at a new school, make new friends and my greatest, and probably most irrational fear, was having Spanish as my first class in high school, which I just "knew" I would fail.

I have changed a lot since then, but I am still scared. My new fear is having to leave Marist, my "home away from home" that I've known for four years now.

I can truly say that these have been the best four years of my life, so far and I'm ready to move on, but it will be very hard to do.

Marist has changed me so much, for the better I think. I'd like to think that I've become stronger, smarter, use my faith more and that I've become more respectful and responsible, all because of my experiences here.

Every part of my Marist experience has shaped me, every class I've taken, every club I've joined and this paper that I was lucky enough to write for this year.

This class has given me so much knowledge and so many opportunities I would have never dreamed of before. Before this school year I had never been on a plane, now I have been twice. I was lucky enough to go to Dallas and San Francisco with a class full of some of my best friends.

Writing is something I had dreaded since grammar school, I have come a long way. It has helped me express myself during these four years, especially in this paper.

Whether you are a just starting your time here at Marist, or leaving like me, I urge you to find something you love and stick with it.

Now, I embrace my fears. Now, I have great friends and am excited to make new ones in college. Now, I am excited, but sad, to start over at DePaul. Now, my biggest fear, Spanish, has become one of my greatest loves.

I even plan to become a Spanish teacher so that I can help to be a guide and an example, like my Spanish teachers, Mrs. Lilek, Ms. Krol and Ms. Sitrin, have been for me. Each of them has taught me so much, but especially that Spanish can be fun and that it is truly important.

Every teacher I had here has impacted me in some way and I am so thankful that I was able to take all that they have taught me and use it.

I will miss Marist and everyone that I have met here, almost greater than I will miss anything else in my life.

I will forever wear my "RedHawk" title proudly.

So, goodbye Marist. Thank you for all the opportunities and memories that you have given me.

Nos vemos.

## Brothers and sisters for life

I made the spontaneous decision to take journalism literally as I walked into the guidance office to schedule my junior year classes. Once I got my schedule that summer, I started to regret that decision because I felt that it would be too stressful to deal with during junior year and I almost dropped the class to take a study instead.

That would have been such a huge mistake.

Taking journalism has probably been one of the best decisions of my high school career. I have won awards, traveled to Dallas and San Francisco and tremendously improved my writing skills and my confidence in my writing.

Aside from all of the opportunities journalism has given me, I have also met some of my best friends. I am so grateful for every single one of the people in this class. I consider us a family. We spent a lot of time together, had some great laughs and made so many memories. We have also been through some tough times, but we got through them together.



Gianna Miritello

I cannot even begin to thank my class for everything. I am so proud of everything we have done together and I can honestly say that I have never been a part of a group with such unique and entertaining people.

It has been an honor to work with all of you and I feel so lucky that I get to call you guys my friends.

Thank you to all of the teachers. I have had some very memorable teachers at Marist who have influenced me and driven

me further into my desire to be an education major. I am especially thankful for the guidance of Mr. Gonczy and Mr. Butler.

To all of my K133 sisters, I want you all to know how much you mean to me. I was skeptical of the "kai high" that everyone claims to feel, but after spending four days together, I understand it. Thank you all for being such a wonderful and supportive group of girls. Always remember that you never have to climb those mountains alone.

Thank you to my parents. I literally could not have done anything without you. I hope you both know that I will be grateful for your love and support forever.

And of course, to the class of 2018, I thank you as well. Thank you for making these last four years unforgettable.

We have already accomplished so much, and I cannot wait to see what we do in the coming years.

Some of us will go hundreds of miles away from here and some will stay at home, but we will always be brothers and sisters for life.

## Fly nowhere but up Redhawks

As a stubborn freshman, you never believe anything adults say to you. You simply nod your head and agree hoping they will be satisfied and walk away.

I never believed my parents when they said my four years here will be gone before I know it.

Well, I should have listened because I am only a few weeks away from graduating and few months away from entering the adult world.

Freshmen, do not worry I am not an adult yet, these next three years will fly by so go out of your comfort zone and make an impact on the world one step at a time. You are a new generation of Redhawks who should take advantage of new opportunities. You are the future.

Sophomores, the journey to success only gets more complicated. If you thought your math final was hard, you have another thing coming when it is time for the ACT. You can take the test more than once so do not worry. Study hard.

Juniors, senior year only happens once, so savor your last homecoming, the lock in, Kairos and prom. Do not stress about



Kathleen Wilkison

colleges or the Common App. The process is not as bad as it seems. Be patient.

Seniors, enjoy yourselves. We are almost done. There are still finals and AP tests, but nothing can stop us now. We are pretty much in college. Only smooth sailing from here, at least that is how I like to think of it. Prom is next week, so who cares about the rest (but do not tell the teachers-they tend to get a little crazy this time of the year!)

Classes come and go as years pass, but French, Italian and journalism will forever be in my heart.

My passion for writing has blossomed over two years of taking journalism and I love seeing my work come to life in the issues of the newspaper. My goal is to shed light on people and things that remain overlooked or undiscovered. Everyone has a voice that deserves to be heard.

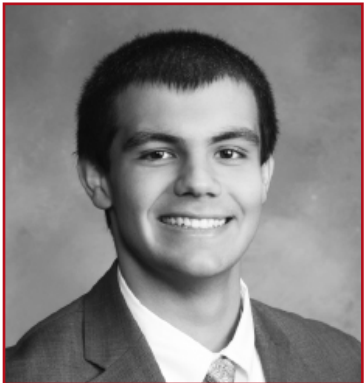
Languages, there are just so many. Français, italiano and español. Where do I start?

My language teachers have provided a strong foundation of what I am proud to call my future of becoming a translator. They have ignited this passion that has always been inside of me. Merci beaucoup, grazie mille and muchísimas gracias.

I will learn as many languages as possible because it is never too late. Well, for some it might be. Portuguese, Mandarin or who knows what else? One is very fortunate to become bilingual because life is easier when people from different countries understand each other.

Good luck, bonne chance, buena suerte and in bocca al lupo to the class of 2018. We are bound for greatness. We always have been. We always will be.





best personality (boy)  
**Ravi Majeti**

You voted.  
We tabulated.  
Congratulations Class of 2018!  
Here are your choices for this year's  
"MOST LIKELY TO" and "BEST IN CLASS"  
AWARDS



best personality (girl)  
**Peyton Ashford**



best eyes (boy)  
**Rob Staszewski**



best eyes (girl)  
**Meghan Newhart**



best hair (boy)  
**Jack Rochford**



best hair (girl)  
**Emma Fisher**



most likely to become famous  
**Brian Burton**



couple most likely to get married  
**Tim Vulich and Jackie Bauer**



best smile (boy)  
**Delonte Harrell**



best smile (girl)  
**Abby Arvesen**



most likely to work at Marist  
**Erin Stapleton**



most likely to become your boss  
**Elise Viz**



most likely to never leave the south side  
**Joe Green**



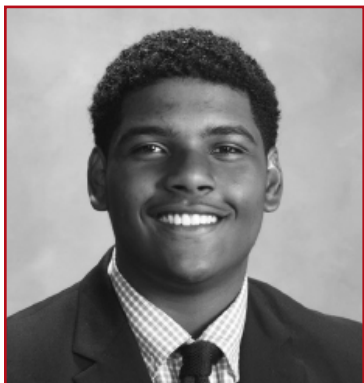
most likely to marry for money  
**Jessica Grzesiak**



class clown (girl)  
**Maeve Tracy**



class clown (boy)  
**Danny Hughes**



biggest flirt (boy)  
**Spencer Henderson**



biggest flirt (girl)  
**Chloe Gonzalez**



best bromance  
**Brendan Shanahan and Joe Murphy**



most likely to get carded at age 30  
**Nathan Bednarczyk**



# Tennis season gets underway

by Mia Thorne  
junior reporter

The boys’ varsity tennis team came into this week with a record of 3-3, including a second place win at the Brother Rice Championship Tournament on April 23.

Junior Jeremiah Joyce took second place in first singles, senior Timothy Flynn took second in second singles and junior Kevin Dolehide and freshman Benjamin Marks took third in second doubles.

Marks said that although he came to the team with some playing experience, he is happy his older teammates have been very welcoming and helpful.

“I wouldn’t get any better experience if I played for any other team,” Marks said. “My teammates treat me well and motivate me to keep improving.”

In earlier matches this season, the team won against Marian Catholic with a score of 3-2, went on to defeat Richards, lost against Nazareth Academy and then won a tournament at Eisenhower on April 21, defeating Eisenhower, Thornwood and Shepard.

Joyce went to state last year for first singles and more players hope to follow his example.

“This year we have a really good chance of sending a lot of players down state,” junior Luis Pinal said. “We have grown and developed a great deal over the last few years.”

Pinal took second at doubles in the championship tournament with senior Jake Alberts.

Head coach Alex Karr said the team needs to focus on consistency.

“We need to make sure we’re thinking about where to place the ball and avoid errors like double faulting,” Karr said.

Karr has coached both varsity and junior varsity, noting the main difference is teaching the younger players how to hit and the teaching older players strategy and controlling the ball.

“I’ve been with some of these guys for four years and I’ve watched them develop,” Karr said. “I am very proud of their progression. This is one of strongest seasons that the team has had since I’ve been a part of the program.”



photo by Mia Thorne

Junior Luis Pinal and senior Steve Espinoza practice doubles last week in preparation for their match at Shepard on Monday at 4:30 p.m. The RedHawks will also compete in the ESCC Conference Championship on May 11 and 12.



photo by Carolyn Yusa

Sophomore Brigid Englehart runs the 300-meter low hurdles at the home meet against McAuley on April 4, helping contribute to the RedHawks’ victory. The girls compete next at sectionals on May 11 at Lyons Township High School.

# Senior girls look to finish strong track season

by Carolyn Yusa  
junior reporter

The girls’ varsity track team looks to finish the season strong as they prepare for conference and state, following wins at Hinsdale South, Glenbrook South and Batavia.

The team placed third at the Lockport Invitational and second at the H.L. Richards Dale Janssen Invitational.

Big individual first place wins in the Richards Invite came from freshman Bailey Butler in the 800-meter, sophomore Kaylin Strahan in the 100-meter and junior Jill Borza in the mile.

The team also came in second place at Hillcrest on April 12.

“Winning second place at Hillcrest was the best team effort we’ve had in years,” head coach Richard Karnia said.

Seniors on the team include Cameron Boswell, Logan Andrews, Kiya Cunningham

Nora Doyle, Serenity Rosa and Grace Stinites.

“Track has taught me how to work hard while having fun and I am so grateful for all of the memories,” Stinites said.

Doyle, the only senior who has signed to run in college, will run cross country for the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota.

“I think running is one of the hardest sports because other sports have plays and strategies and all we have to do is run hard,” Doyle said. “It is very mentally challenging, especially when you are tired, but when you hear your team on the side cheering you on, it inspires you to keep going.”

Boswell has been on the varsity team since she was a freshman.

“Track built me into someone who keeps a narrow focus,” Boswell said. “It has made me realize that proper preparation is what is going to get me to that goal I am trying to achieve, whether it is on the track, in the classroom or in my future.”

# Boys track races toward success

by Kaitlyn Klein  
junior reporter

The boys track and field team is on a steady pace to finishing a strong season.

The team has a new head coach, Jon Gordon, who is wrapping up his 20th year of coaching track and field. He has won three Illinois High School Association sectional titles and has coached 92 IHSA State qualifiers, including three state champions.

Leading the team in its successful season are senior captains Alton Brooks, Justin Williams and junior captain Lucas Pennix.

A highlight this season was sophomore Thomas Leonard breaking the sophomore school record for the 3200-meter run with a time of 9:43.06. The 35-year record was previously held by alumni legend Dan Cole in 1983 with a time of 9:51.

The RedHawks followed the record-breaking streak on April 20, when freshman Jovan Marsh and sophomores

Keyon Turner, Antione David and Brian Ferguson broke the sophomore school records in the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x200 meter relay.

The previous 4x100 meter relay record lasted 31 years and the 4x200 meter relay lasted 36 years.

“Our goal this season is to bring Marist its first sectional title since 1982,” Gordon said.

The team looks to be on track toward their goal after a win against defending conference champions Benet Academy on April 10.

Senior Martin Smith qualified for the indoor state championships in the 55-meter dash, and sophomore Brian Ferguson qualified for the 400-meter dash.

Seniors Justin Williams and David Daniels have also earned medals in every long and triple jump competition this season.

The RedHawks will continue their race towards the title at the ESCC Conference Championships on May 9 at Notre Dame High School starting at 2 p.m.



photo by Emma Brown

(L to R) Freshman Santonien Flowers and senior Benjamin Ehigie run the 4x100 meter at the home conference meet against Nazareth Academy, Joliet Catholic Academy and Marian Catholic on April 24. The RedHawks will compete in the ESCC Conference Championship meet at Notre Dame High School on May 9.



# RedHawk varsity baseball sets sights on state

by Megan Alagna  
senior reporter

The varsity baseball team stood 17-5 for the season at press time, despite challenging rivals and setbacks from the weather. This year, the RedHawks are focusing on winning conference and state. The team includes many players who have already committed to play baseball in college, including seniors Jack Anderson (Kenyon College) and Jason Trbovic (Loras College) and juniors Jack Brannigan (Notre Dame), Justin Janas (University of Illinois-Urbana) and Max Malley (University of Evansville). Varsity underclassmen include freshmen Noah Smith and sophomores John Kubin and Caden Carr.

“I think this is the best overall team in my four years of coaching,” head coach Kevin Sefcik said. “We have a lot more speed, along with lots of stolen bases and a solid defense. With hard work and dedication, we are really able to compete against anybody.”

Standout players named by Sefcik include Malley, Janas and Kendal Ewell on offense. The pitching staff consists of Brannigan, Kubin and Carr. “This season has gone well in terms of improving our pitching and letting our defense make plays,” Brannigan said. “I’m focused on doing whatever I can to help the team win, whether pitching in a tough situation or manufacturing a run on base paths.” Major wins so far came against rivals Sandburg, Lincoln-Way Central and St. Viator. Although the RedHawks faced a tough loss against Benet Academy on April 23 with a final score of 13-0, they quickly came back the next day with a 9-7 win against them. The RedHawks also beat Carmel on Monday, 8-7. “We have worked extremely hard, really focusing on our hitting,” Anderson said. “There are always setbacks in a season, and we have not played our best in every game. But we have responded well to those defeats and learned from our mistakes.”



photo by Megan Alagna

Junior Kendal Ewell swings against rival team Benet Academy at home on April 23 when the RedHawks ultimately fell, 13-0 before rebounding on the 24th, 9-7. The 17-5 RedHawks (as of April 30) will host St. Patrick tomorrow at noon and Joliet Catholic Academy at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.



photo by Raini Eldorado

Sophomore Jake Bonnett leads the team through the Red and White Gym at the last pep rally of the year on April 20, just before the RedHawks’ victory at the Brother Rice Smack Attack tournament. The team hosts St. Patrick on May 8 at 6:15 p.m.

## RedHawk volleyball players soar

by Raini Eldorado  
senior reporter

With a 25-4 record at press time, the boys’ varsity volleyball team is looking forward to finishing the regular season and heading into playoffs. On April 28, the RedHawks faced Lafayette High School, winning 25-18 and 25-21. The team also won the Brother Rice Smack Attack Invitational on April 21, against defending 2017 state champion team Glenbard West. In all three matches (18-25, 25-20 and 25-19), junior Marty Jepsen had 18 kills and 12 digs. “It was a great tournament because we got to play against great competition,” Jepsen said. “I cannot emphasize enough how much of a team effort it is and that our biggest strength is that we play as a single unit. We’re working really hard in practice to keep improving.”

The team is coached by Jordan Vidovic who also coached the 2017 RedHawk girls’ volleyball state champions. Vidovic states that it is not much different working with the boys than it is the girls. “At Marist, we do not refer the different boys and girls volleyball seasons by the gender,” Vidovic said. “We are one program and work together as a whole. We take skills and techniques from each and use them with the different teams to see what works best.” With the playoffs approaching, the team and coaches feel that they have worked hard and are well prepared. “I believe that the team this year will go all the way and win in the state championship,” senior Marty Lundy said. “As a team we have continued to work hard and improve all season.” The RedHawks host St. Patrick on May 8 and Nazareth Academy on May 10. Both games begin at 6:15 p.m.

## RedHawk softball season starts strong

by Martin Buck  
senior reporter

The varsity softball team will enjoy home field advantage this weekend as the RedHawks host Benet today at 4:15 p.m. in a rescheduled game and Plainfield North tomorrow at 10 a.m. The RedHawks’ 16-3 victory over Nazareth on Monday brought their overall record to 19-1, with results of Tuesday’s and Thursday’s games unavailable at press time. A cold, rainy and sometimes snowy April forced the rescheduling of many games, but the team keeps training every day to accomplish their goals for the season. “We have a tremendous amount of talent,” head coach Colleen Biebel said. “This group is very dedicated and hard-working and they have a lot of fun. Both [captains] Kara [Apato] and Maggie [Kehoe] are great leaders, they know the drill and are able to help teach the younger kids our team’s standards and culture.” The team set clear goals for this season, using last season’s experience as a guide.

“Our goal is to win state this season,” Kehoe said. “After coming in fourth last season, our team has been motivated to return and win it all. My experience of being team captain this year has been easy because everyone has been buying into the mindset of being ‘all in’ to accomplish our goals.” The team also acknowledges that it will face some tough competition this season. “We have a lot of big competition,” Biebel said. “It would be nice to beat both of the Lincoln-Ways, Nazareth, Joliet Catholic and McAuley, but we’ve had a lot of tough games.” The team won against Joliet on April 24 and April 25, with scores of 5-1 and 21-6. The RedHawks also pulled out an 11-0 win against Lincoln-Way West on April 26. Apato and Kehoe appreciate that this is their last season and want to make it a memorable one. “This team has helped me grow into a better teammate and player,” Apato said. “As a senior I want to end my last season [at state] in East Peoria. Our team is so talented and we learn from and push each other to be better each and every day.”



photo by Erin Curtin

A torn ACL did not stop junior pitcher Angela Zedak from starting the RedHawk softball season in March or helping lead her team to a 19-5 victory over Marian Central on April 21. The team hosts Plainfield North tomorrow at 10 a.m.