Thank You! - Jay Goldrick, Headmaster

During Morning Assembly each day, students and faculty focus on a word, idiom, and quote, any of which can help frame our mindset for school. Recently, the quote came from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

The teacher in charge of selecting these each week, Isaiah Ratti, surely knows something about the impact selflessness and service can have on the lives of Nativity students. An alum of the Canisius Class of 2010, Mr. Ratti is now an integral part of our faculty. He and our eight other teachers lead by example, giving of themselves on a daily basis for the betterment of their students. Each has an intimate understanding of how your support makes a positive difference in our students’ lives.

It is with this sentiment in mind that the faculty, staff, Board, and I express our gratitude to you for your generosity this holiday season during our Annual Appeal. Your contributions help us address everything essential to the continued operation and growth of our school community. From enhancements to curriculum, instruction, and extracurriculars to the realities of keeping our students and the building safe and secure, every dollar is meaningful!

A recent article in The Atlantic, “Stop Trying to Raise Successful Kids,” argues that “teaching children to care about others might be the best way to prepare them for a successful life.” Evidence across the board demonstrates that helpfulness, collaboration, sharing, and care for others tend to lead to positive outcomes in academics, interpersonal relationships, and ultimately careers and family life.

All of you in the Nativity community who contribute time, talent, and/or treasure are modeling these essential traits for our young men in your own ways. Developing Nativity Men for Others takes time and people to lead by example – we cannot do it without you.

Thank you for supporting our students and our community!
Our Annual Christmas Luncheon was again hosted by the Friends of Nativity with Angela Fusco, Gina Monaghan and Sarah Wayslow serving as co-chairs. Jay Goldrick, Head of School, introduced Pastor Derek Atkinson of the Hope Evangelical Community Church who offered the blessing.

Our guests enjoyed Italian food from Riccardi’s and homemade baked goods compliments of the volunteers. The Nativity puppeteers performed “Deck the Halls” accompanied by our Drumline.
Joe Lazarus – Alum, Environmentalist & Mountain Man

- Sue Phillips, Director of Alumni Support

Joseph Lazarus graduated from Nativity in 2009, as a member of the Gonzaga Class. He knew before he left Nativity that he wanted to have a career dealing with environmental issues.

He began his pursuit of that goal in the Environmental Science Program at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School. During his high school tenure, he amassed quite an environmental resume for someone so young which included: an internship at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, a trout tagging program for Massachusetts Wildlife, harvesting and re-populating oyster beds in Barnstable, Massachusetts and presenting a Macro-Invertebrate Study at the State Science Fair held at MIT. He also refurbished a historical cemetery in Wareham, Massachusetts, which was part of his earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Upon arriving at Montana State University as an Environmental Microbiology Major, he was immediately involved in field work and ended up as an assistant on the Priscu Research Group at Montana State where they studied samples of water from an Antarctic sub-glacial lake. He, also, worked with a graduate student on her NASA funded research project.

When not in the classroom or research lab, Joe is out in the wilds of Montana or Alaska as a fishing guide and/or running white water rafting expeditions. When conversing with Joe, his knowledge of all things environmental is mind blowing.

When asked what Nativity meant to him, Joe said, “Nativity is a school where boys come out as young men ready for any of life’s difficult challenges. We were taught to challenge ourselves at every level. I took that lesson to heart and it has paid great dividends in my life. Another thing, that makes Nativity special, is the fact that though I might be far away in Montana, Nativity is just a phone call away if I should need something. What other middle school can you say that about?”

Joe did take those lessons to heart and not only meets all challenges head on but has also left the world a better place because of his genuine concern for the environment. Someday, don’t be surprised to see him on the pages of National Geographic Magazine or on a NatGeo television program.

“We were taught to challenge ourselves at every level.”
Twenty Years !!!

The logo celebrating our 20 years is accompanied by three June graduates, Sam Martin, now at Bishop Stang High School, Julian Pereira, at Greater New Bedford Regional Technical Vocational High School and Noah Baker, a freshman at Cushing Academy on a scholarship.

Robert Murray, President of Murray Communications has kindly offered time during the month of February to Nativity on his electronic billboard, located on 195E at the New Bedford exit. The billboard changes every minute so Nativity receives significant exposure.

Former Nativity Board of Trustees member, Carl Taber, Executive Vice President of BayCoast Bank initiated this connection with the company ten years ago.

Save the Date !!

The Nativity Community is pleased to announce it will host a very special 20th Anniversary celebration of our school on Friday, May 29th, 2020.

We will honor many of Nativity’s 195 graduates, and commemorate Nativity’s leadership, staff, teachers, students, families, volunteers and supporters, because it is their collaboration which has enabled Nativity Prep to not only survive, but thrive. Details to come in the mail soon, but please put this on your calendars now. It will an inspiring night of appreciation and thanks to remember.

Special Readers!

On Sunday, February 9th, four Nativity gentlemen were honored by the New Bedford Historical Society to be invited to read at the annual Frederick Douglass read-a-thon. Each read a passage from the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. They were Jack Bruce, Johnny Kazan, Xavier Aviles, and Austin Henriques. This was Nativity’s second year to be invited to participate.

L to R: Jack Bruce, grade 6, Xavier Aviles, grade 8, Austin Henriques, grade 6, and Johnny Kazan, grade 5.
Our Board of Trustees:

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