



# THE TORCH POST

CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL  
CRUSADER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In February of 1939, the recent graduates of Catholic Central convened and realized the importance of staying connected with their beloved Alma Mater. As penned by Fred Ferris, Class of 1938: "We realized that our attachment to the School, Faculty, and one another was too strong and loyal to be forgotten." At the time, the school newspaper was named "The Torch", so, to connect the past with the present, the alumni named their newsletter "The Torch Post". In their honor, we are excited to continue this tradition of connecting with our incredible alumni community!

The school has been bustling with students and staff settling into the 2023-2024 school year. We welcomed our youngest Crusaders (Pre-K 3, The Class of 2038!) and have been busy planning the Centennial Year celebrations! We will be kicking off the festivities the first weekend in November and are looking forward to you joining us for some or all of the Homecoming events!

**Friday, November 3rd** you are invited to come cheer on the students in the traditional Powder Puff game, completed with a Hot Cocoa bar to warm you up!

**Saturday** evening will be a wonderful reunion at the Marriott Albany, where special Crusader Cocktails will be served.

**Sunday** begins with a Community Mass at 11:00 am at St. Ambrose Church followed by coffee and tours of the school building.

The Monsignor Burns Centennial Dinner will be an extremely special evening as we honor those who have done so much for our school and community:

**Linda Callahan Cavanaugh '73** (*Former CCHS Teacher and Assistant Principal*),

**Joseph Geiger '60** (*Basketball Hall of Fame Honoree*),

**Father Brian Kelly** (*Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish*) and

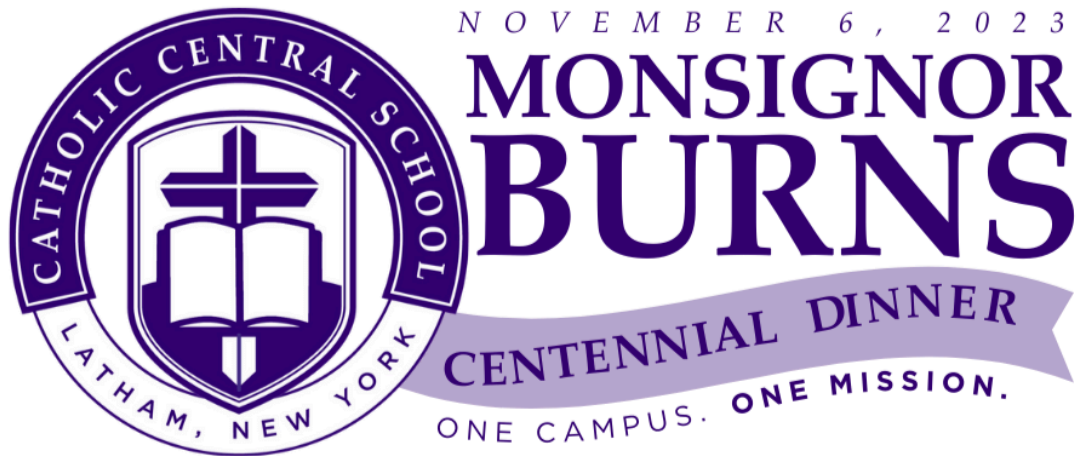
**Maureen Stapleton '42**, posthumously (*Recipient of BAFTA, Emmy, Tony, and Academy Award*).

This will be a true once-in-a-lifetime occasion as we reflect on and celebrate the past 100 years and look forward to a bright Crusader future.

The bonds built on shared experiences, values, and commitment to excellence are a hallmark of Catholic Central alumni. Your continued involvement and support preserve the legacy of Catholic Central and shine a light on the future road ahead.

Thank you for being a cherished part of our school's family. We look forward to reconnecting and celebrating our shared heritage.

With purple, white and banners bright,  
*Ginny Bariteau*  
Director of Alumni Relations



For over 25 years, the Monsignor Burns Memorial Award has recognized individuals from our Catholic Central family whose lives and actions reflect our school's values of personal moral development, the building of community and service to others.

**Please join us on**  
**Monday, November 6, 2023**  
**at**  
**The Polonaise Ballroom**  
**225 Washington Ave. Ext in Albany**  
**6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

**REGISTER HERE BY OCTOBER 13th**



Celebrate the Monsignor Burns' Honorees by congratulating them in the Commemorative Journal!

Give a "shout out" from your Class, spotlight your business or share some accolades in this year's ad book.

SUBMIT YOUR AD HERE BY OCTOBER 13th



Spend the weekend visiting your Capital Region with special room rates at the Marriott Albany!

BOOK YOUR ROOM HERE BY OCTOBER 13th

## Weekend Schedule

It is going to be a weekend of reunion, recognition and rejoicing . . .

### Powder Puff Game

**Friday, November 3th @ 4:30pm**

Catholic Central School, 347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY

*We are kicking off the Centennial celebration with a homecoming tradition and a post-game BONFIRE! Cheer on the Juniors and Seniors as they battle it out on the back field and find out who will be walking away with bragging rights this year!*

### Crusader Catch-Up

**Saturday, November 4th @ 6:00pm**

Chats Lobby, @ Marriot Albany, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY

*What could be better than catching up with friends on a Saturday night? The Marriott Chats Lobby Lounge will be the place to be as they serve up special "Crusader Cocktails". This is an on-your-own event.*

### Community Mass

**Sunday, November 5th @ 11:00am**

St. Ambrose Church, 347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY

*Gather as a Crusader family at St. Ambrose Church during the 11 am Mass to worship with parishioners and give thanks. Light refreshments will follow in the school gym.*

### Open House

**Sunday, November 5th from 12:00pm - 2:00pm**

Catholic Central School, 347 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY

*Pull back the purple curtain and take a peak behind the scenes at Catholic Central School! Meet and greet with staff and students, tours of the facility and a beautiful display of "vintage" Crusader gear will be on display!*

### Monsignor Burns Centennial Dinner

**Monday, November 6th from 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

The Polonaise Ballroom, 325 Washington Ave. Ext. Albany, N.Y

*The official launch of the Centennial Year and a night of honoring those who have done so much for our school community over the years. This is a true once-in-a-lifetime event— we will reflect on and celebrate the past 100 years and look forward to a bright Crusader future.*



Thank you to everyone who generously invested in our school! Our Phone-a-thon volunteers were busy calling alumni this past June and we are grateful to everyone who participated. There is still an opportunity to participate in this campaign by clicking below or mailing a check made out to "Catholic Central School", with a memo of "Annual Appeal 2023".

The campaign goal is \$250,000 and your impact will be seen in the many areas that make Catholic Central School exceptional, such as ongoing facility improvements, tuition assistance, classroom technology, ongoing professional development and athletic equipment for our new outdoor fields and programs. You play an important role in advancing our innovative learning environment aligned to Catholic values for the next generation!

Click to donate by October 31, 2023.

Thank you!

## COMPANIES WITH EMPLOYER DONATION MATCH

*Through employer matching programs the impact of your investment can be multiplied!  
Please review the list below of companies with employer matches or talk with your employer today.*

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| A. J. Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.  | Federal Home Loan Mortgage              | Merck Company                                 |
| Abbott Laboratories and subsidiaries    | Fidelity Foundation                     | Meredith Corporation                          |
| ADP                                     | First Data Corporation                  | Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.                     |
| Albertson's, Inc                        | Foster Group Inc.                       | MetLife Foundation                            |
| Alliant Energy Corporation              | Gannett Co., Inc.                       | Microsoft                                     |
| Altria Group                            | Gap Foundation                          | MidAmerican Energy                            |
| American Express Co., Inc.              | General Electric Foundation             | Midland National Life Insurance               |
| Apple Inc.                              | General Mills Matching Gift Program     | MMC - Marsh & McLennan Companies              |
| Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation          | GlaxoSmithKline                         | Monsanto Corporation                          |
| Assurant Matching Gift Program          | Global Atlantic Financial Group Limited | Motorola Solutions                            |
| Athene USA Charitable Foundation        | Goodrich Corporation                    | Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co                |
| Aviva Charitable Foundation             | Google Inc.                             | New York Life Insurance                       |
| Avon Products, Inc.                     | Guidant Corp                            | Northwestern Mutual                           |
| Bank of America Foundation              | H & R Block Foundation                  | Northrop Grumman Corporation                  |
| Bank of New York Foundation             | Hallmark Cards Inc.                     | Novartis US                                   |
| Bank of the West                        | Hershey Company                         | Novo Nordisk                                  |
| Barrick Gold                            | Hewlett Packard Company                 | Oppenheimer Funds                             |
| Bechtel Corporation                     | Hillshire Brands Company                | Osram SYLVANIA, Inc.                          |
| Benefit Source, Inc.                    | Home Depot                              | PepsiCo                                       |
| Boeing Co.                              | Honeywell International                 | Pfizer Foundation                             |
| BP Corp.                                | IBM                                     | Phillips 66                                   |
| Burroughs Wellcome Fund                 | Idaho Power Company                     | Principal Financial Group                     |
| Case Corp.                              | Ikon Office Solutions                   | Prudential Insurance Company of America, Inc. |
| Chevron Corp.                           | Intel Corporation                       | Quaker Oats Foundation                        |
| Circuit City Stores Inc.                | Intermec Foundation                     | Raytheon Company                              |
| CISCO Inc.                              | Intermountain Gas Company               | RBC – Royal Bank of Canada (US)               |
| CITGO Petroleum Corp.                   | J. Heinz Company Foundation             | Rexnord Industries                            |
| Coca-Cola Co.                           | John Hancock                            | Sammons Financial Group                       |
| Colgate-Palmolive Company               | Johnson and Johnson                     | Sanofi  |
| Computer Associates International, Inc. | Justens                                 | Schneider Electric/Square D NAOD              |
| Corning Incorporated Foundation         | JPMorgan Chase Foundation               | Sempra Energy                                 |
| Dana Corporation                        | Kinder Morgan Inc.                      | Sherwin-Williams Co.                          |
| Deloitte                                | KeyCorp and subsidiaries                | State Farm                                    |
| Des Moines Register Matching Funds      | Lexmark International, Inc.             | T-Mobile                                      |
| DirecTV                                 | Lenovo                                  | Trane Technologies                            |
| Dow Chemical Company                    | Liberty Mutual Group                    | Toyota Motor Sales                            |
| Dow Jones & Company                     | Marion County State Bank                | UBS AG  |
| Duke Energy Foundation                  | Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.        | Union Pacific Corp                            |
| DuPont De Nemours & Company             | Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance     | US Bancorp Foundation                         |
| Eaton Corporation                       | Mattel, Inc.                            | Verizon Foundation                            |
| Eli Lilly & Company                     | McDonald's Corporation                  | Warner Media                                  |
| ExxonMobil Foundation, Inc.             | McKesson Foundation, Inc.               | West Pharmaceutical Services                  |
| Farmers Insurance                       | Medtronic, Inc.                         | Williams Companies, Inc.                      |

## CLASS NOTES!

*News and updates from your fellow alumni.*

## Congratulations to Colonel Christine Gilhooley Rem, Class of 1967

Our very own Christine Gilhooley Rem will be honored as the Veteran of the Year for 2023 on Saturday, October 14th at 1:00 P.M. at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161 at 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs. The event is free and open to the public. The

annual award is co-sponsored by the Friends of the New York State Military Museum and the Capital District of New York Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Christine served for 30 years as US Army Nurse in the Active Army and US Army Reserves. She was commissioned 1LT, US Army Nurse Corps in 1982 and served the majority of her time in the US Army Reserve Hospitals in the Albany area. She served two one-year Active Duty Tours in the Wurzburg Army Hospital, Wurzburg, Germany, and from 2007-2008 deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. While serving, she also received her Doctor of Nursing Science degree from Sage College. She retired in March 2012. She has also been awarded the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4 Awards), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War On Terror Service Medal.

After retiring from the Army, COL(Ret) Rem continued to pursue her dream of using her family home for Women Veterans and Children in Need. She founded the Capital District Women Veterans (CDWV) Program, a NYS Tax Exempt 501.c.3 Not For Profit Organization. She donated what was her maternal grandmother's house in Troy to CDWV. It opened in June 2021 and currently houses 2 women veterans. COL(Ret) Rem continues to serve as a Volunteer Case Manager for Christopher House developing and implementing the policies and procedures for this organization's growth. She works every day to enhance the lives of Veterans, Veterans Families and Veteran Caretakers in the Capital District. She is also the Chaplain for DAV Chapter 38 in Troy and is an active member of the Veteran's Peer Connection in Saratoga County, VFW of Clifton Park, the Tri County Vietnam Veterans and the American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany, NY. She currently resides in Clifton Park, NY and has 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

Presidents of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum and the Capital District of New York Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will present the award. Saratoga County Supervisors Chairman Todd Kusnierz will present a Proclamation from Saratoga County. New York State Senators Jim Tedisco and Neil Breslin will present Proclamations from the New York State Senate. US Congressional Proclamations and flags will be presented by Congressman Tonko and remarks by the Adjutant General of the State of New York will be given.

**We are so very proud of our Crusader, Christine Gilhooley Rem!**

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#### Spotlight on Ray Girard, Class of 1956

Ray Girard has enjoyed a lifetime of professional and volunteer service to his country. A retired US Army veteran, Ray also retired from the Department of Defense Civil Service after 38 years of combined government service. He then served as the University of Cincinnati MBA Coordinator at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and also was a member of the Sinclair College academic faculty, teaching Department of Defense Acquisition and Logistics. Major Girard also volunteered in the Ohio Military Reserve as the General Staff Training and Operations Officer.

For over 53 years, Ray has held numerous volunteer leadership positions in public safety and community service. For a total of 26 years, he volunteered in law enforcement, first as Officer-in-Charge of reserve police personnel for Huber Heights, and then as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Ray also has volunteered as a Huber Heights Fire Division Firefighter/ Paramedic, where he served as Deputy Chief for Emergency Medical Services. He also was a paramedic instructor at Good Samaritan Hospital for 11 years, and he continues his 53 years of work with HHFD, as an emergency skills community educator.

For 20 years, Ray has volunteered in Staff Officer positions for the Miami Valley Young Marines, dedicated to cultivating and leading young boys and girls towards excellence in service, character, and personal development. Ray also serves as the Honor Corridor Commander for Dayton Honor Flight. In addition, he was appointed as a Commissioner for the City of Huber Heights Military and Veterans Commission.

Throughout his Volunteer career, Ray's numerous recognitions for Volunteerism include: the Huber Heights Mortimer Award for Outstanding Citizenship; the Montgomery County Reserve Deputy Sheriff of the Year 1984; the President Bush (43) Lifetime Volunteer Service Award; the Huber Heights Key to the City; the City of Huber Heights Volunteer of the Year; the Miami Valley Young Marines Volunteer of the Year; and, in 2019 was inducted into the Young Marine Hall of Fame.

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#### Class of 1965

William Vandenbosch moved to Arizona in 1972 and retired in 1996.

#### Class of 1967

Brian Dongelewic retired from NYS Government after 35 years and is now an active SAG-AFTRA actor and a professional drummer.

Mary Anne Rushia Forslin has been busy traveling!

#### Class of 1971

Michael Germano shares that he is still busy working!

#### Class of 1974

Terri Marro Rinchik is retired and has been summering in Cape Cod!



Class of 1990

Nancy Bellard Bell spent 10 years in New York City and then headed west to Newport Beach in California for 3 years. She's now back home in Albany where she is the Director of Sales for the Albany Diocesan Cemeteries and busy raising her family.

Class of 2005

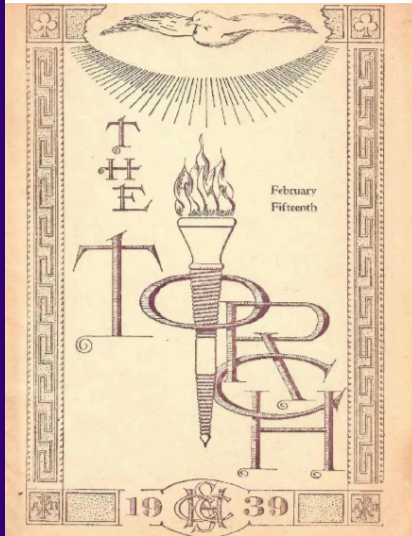
Rebecca Haight is married with three children. She lives in the Berkshires and is an accountant.

Class of 2007

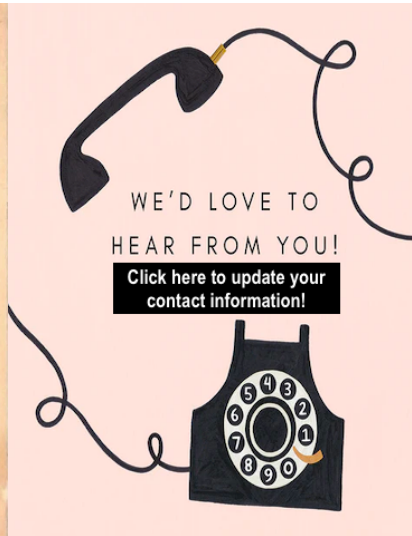
Sara Hillen Cronin married Adam Cronin in 2012. They have two children, Atticus (born in 2014) and Molly (born in 2017). She is working as a teacher.

Class of 2014

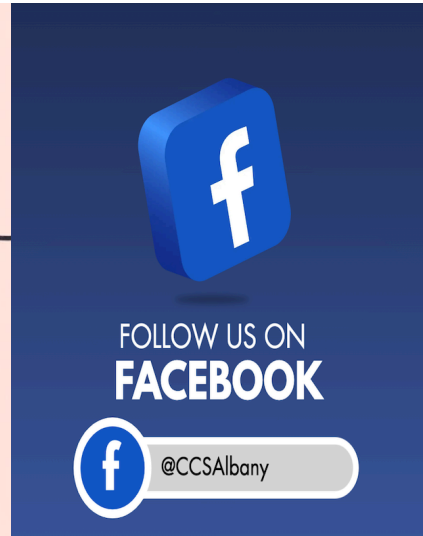
Nora Baker graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albany Law School in 2022 and was admitted to the Bar this past January. She is a family law attorney at O'Brien & Associates Law



Sit back, relax and click on the image above to read The Torch from 1939.



Stay in touch and get involved . . . we love hearing from our alumni!



Be in the know with all things Catholic Central. Click above to follow us!

*we love our alumni* ♥

**THANK YOU**  
to all our Phone-A-Thon volunteers! Your commitment and dedication to Catholic Central School is extremely inspiring and we are so grateful for the time you shared to reach out to your classmates. You are what it means to be a Crusader for Life!



**Our Contact Information**  
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