



Saint Agnes School
Arlington Catholic
High School

Alumni Newsletter

April 2024

Reflections from Dr. Andrew Keough

The Challenge of Being Humble

At Saint Agnes School/ Arlington Catholic High School we speak proudly about our long history with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Since our earliest founding in 1888, they have had a profound impact on the culture of our school. To this day, we are proud to carry on their tradition while upholding their values and virtues. One of those virtues is humility, which Catholics are taught early in life. In the words of Saint Augustine, “The way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility, third through humility” (Letters 118:22). It is through humility that we come to recognize we are essentially adrift without Christ and thus we should not take credit for any of that which has been bestowed upon us, because ultimately, it has come through the generosity of God.



Needless to say, this concept of not taking credit for our accomplishments can at times hurt us in Catholic schools. We genuinely do not like to boast. In this day and age, however, when we compete for students and want them to choose our school over other excellent options in the Boston area, we must take time to tell those prospective students and families why we feel we are the best choice. That is why in the coming weeks and months, we will be taking time to highlight some of our successes for all to see. We will “shout them from the rooftops” as it is often said, not because we lack humility, but because we are proud of what we accomplish here on Medford Street with God’s guidance and we want all of you to feel proud of it too.

With spring and the Easter season fully upon us, I want to wish you all the very best and thank you for your ongoing support of this amazing school! *Together* we are doing great things!

Sincerely,

Andrew

DID YOU KNOW?

23 Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered at Arlington Catholic.

This number is matched by only one other Boston area Catholic school:

SAINT JOHN'S PREP

This surpasses many area public schools:

**WELLESLEY (16) BURLINGTON (18) MEDFORD (20)
LEXINGTON (20) SOMERVILLE (22)**



This year, two grandparents, who have asked to remain anonymous, funded:

\$79,000

for upgrades to our Wi-Fi network and infrastructure.



Saint Agnes School has been approved for a grant of approximately

\$50,000

from the Catholic Schools Office to start building a playground structure for K0 to Grade 3.



Saint Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School is the **ONLY** Infant-Grade 12 Parish School in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Alumni Spotlight: Michael Santoro '14

This month, we are proud to spotlight Michael Santoro '14. Michael wrote the following article reflecting on his experiences at AC, how they contributed to the pursuit of his passions in his career, and ultimately influenced his decision to work in education.



"I always look back on my time at Arlington Catholic High School with fond memories, admiration for the supportive and engaging teachers and administration, and a deep sense of appreciation for all the wonderful experiences AC afforded me. Currently, I am the Assistant Dean for First Year Advising and Programming at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA. In this role, I oversee a team of staff to design and implement the successful onboarding and transition programming to assist students in getting acclimated to MIT, as well as overseeing academic advising initiatives for the first-year class. This role is dynamic and challenging and I use some of the skills I learned at AC every day in my workplace.

"I graduated from Arlington Catholic in 2014, and the four years I had there were what helped set me up for a successful career. Being a student at AC was a wonderful experience for me. I was fortunate to be engaged both academically and socially in a variety of co-curricular activities. I was able to be challenged in my coursework and learned the value of education both inside and outside of the classroom. Some of my favorite

courses were French with Mrs. Grugan and Ms. Kerwin, Voice and Vision with Ms. Seminara, and AP English Language and Composition with Mrs. Billings. Ms. Seminara in particular was not only a teacher, but a mentor to me. I was fortunate to have had her for two classes. She taught me to think critically, question the norm, and challenge the status quo. She looked out for every student individually to help foster their personal development, which I try to do in my career. Outside of academics, I was involved as President of the Student Council and an active member of ACDC. Looking back on this, I know that these academic and co-curricular involvements helped me to learn and grow. These experiences gave me the tools to turn my passion into a career.

"What I learned at Arlington Catholic helps to influence my work daily. I went on to pursue a degree in Business Management from Merrimack College and then a Master's degree in Education from Salem State University. Every day, I think back to the values of acting justly, fostering a strong community, and treating others fairly. Before going to AC, I thought I wanted to work in Engineering, but through my involvement and academic exploration, I realized that going into the education field was meant for me. I am forever grateful to all of the mentors I made in my time at Arlington Catholic.

"Having graduated 10 years ago, I have been able to reflect on my experience. Some advice that I would give to current students at AC would be to chase your dreams. If you have ever been curious about taking a class, want to try something new, or even want to take on a new challenge: Do it! This is the time to explore, try different things, and prove to yourself you are capable of more than you think. There are an infinite amount of opportunities that AC has allowed me to pursue, and your education here will set you up for success, whatever you hope to achieve. Do not doubt yourself and embrace failures as they come, for those are some of the best learning experiences you will ever have! Go Cougars!" - Michael Santoro '14

We are committed to featuring SAS/AC alumni and their lives after graduation in future editions of our alumni newsletter. Do you know of fellow alumni living the mission of SAS/AC in their professional or personal lives who would be open to being interviewed by Sister Barbara McHugh and featured in a future alumni publication? Please email Sister Barbara directly at sbarbara@achs.net to nominate an alum or yourself!

Former Faculty Gathering

On a beautiful spring day six former Arlington Catholic teachers made their way to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Ipswich to have lunch with Sister Elaine McTaggart, SND, long time Math Teacher at Arlington Catholic High School. Sister Elaine is 92 years young and has very fond memories of all of her former students. She prays for all of you each day. May God continue to bless Sister Elaine with continued good health.

Pictured (left to right): Terry Dennen, Marie Leen, Janet Dowling, Rachel Shea, Sister Barbara McHugh, Mary C. MacGillivray and seated Sister Elaine McTaggart



Campus Happenings

Luke Amato '18

United States Air Force Officer, Luke Amato '14, recently visited Arlington Catholic to talk to students about his experience as a Pilot in the Air Force. Luke was visiting Massachusetts on a recruiting mission and we were fortunate to welcome him home to his Alma Mater. The students enjoyed Luke's talk and they asked wonderful questions. Luke's parents were able to attend the discussion as well. We are most grateful to Luke for his continued support of Arlington Catholic. Thank you for your service, Luke.

Pictured below is Luke (far right) with current AC students and two fellow United States Air Force Officers.



Culture Day

On Friday, April 12, the Student Diversity Council hosted the second annual Cultural Day for Arlington Catholic students and staff. Students shared cultural pictures, traditional clothing, and foods from the many cultures represented at Arlington Catholic. We appreciate the opportunity to grow and learn more about our world. We believe that we are more alike than different and we can make a difference in the world. Thank you to the students and staff who contributed to this special day.





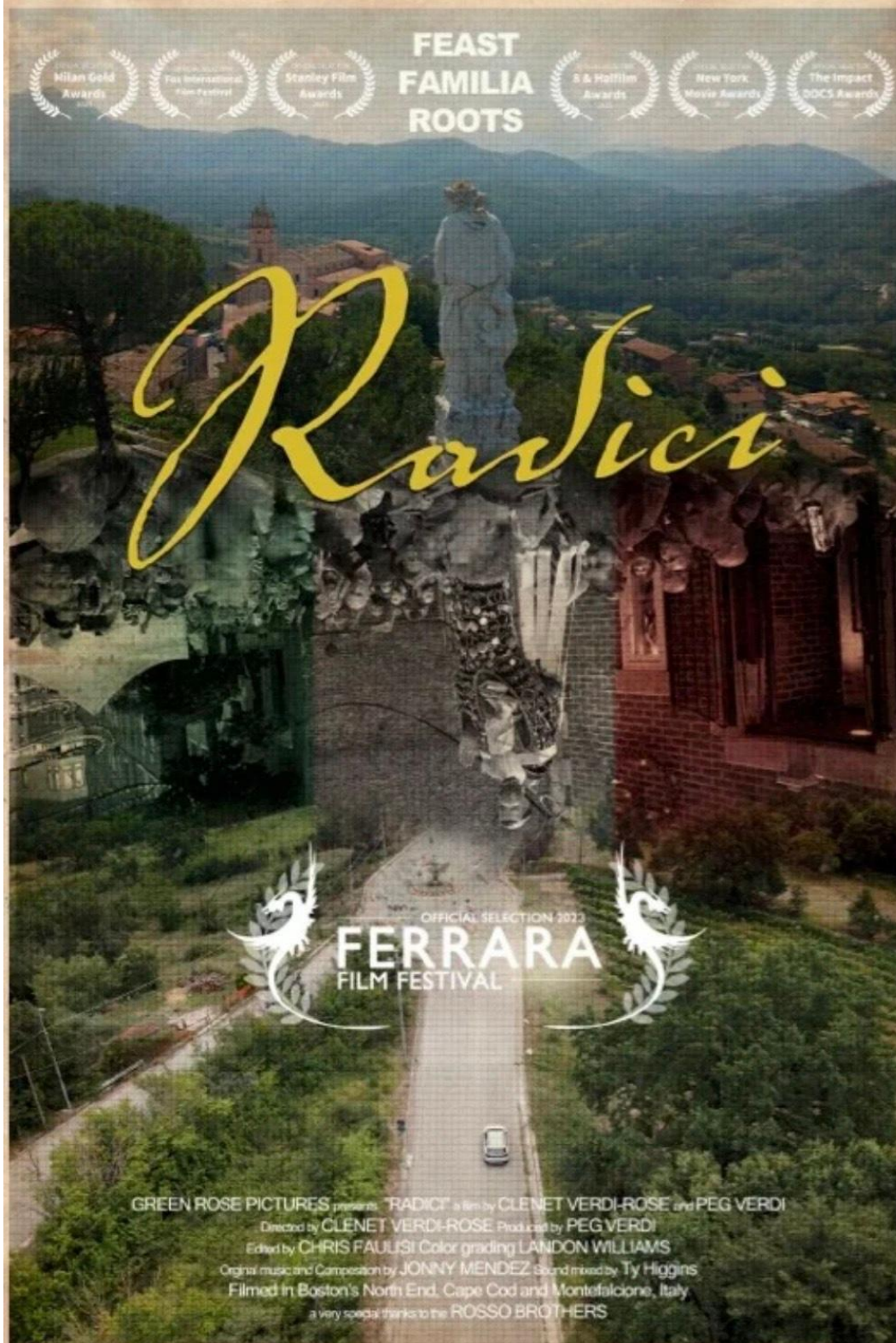
Christian Guarino Documentary Screening

Our very own Italian and Social Studies teacher, Mr. Christian Guarino, had the honor of participating in the documentary, RADICI.

A screening of the documentary is being held at the Capitol Theatre in Arlington (204 Mass Ave) on Friday, May 17 at 6:00 PM as part of the Global Cinema Film Festival of Boston.

Radici invites audiences on an intimate and heartwarming journey as a mother and son explore the roots of their family's heritage, tracing the origins of a beloved saint's feast from their small Italian town of Montefalcione to the vibrant streets of Boston, Massachusetts. Through touching encounters, shared laughter, and poignant reflections, this documentary captures the essence of heritage, tradition, and the timeless connections that bind generations. Sponsored by the Russo Brother's (popularly known for their Marvel comics-based films) Italian American film grant.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the trailer!



Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1964 - 60th Reunion

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Location: Woburn Country Club, 5 Country Club Rd, Woburn, MA 01801

Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$60

Contact: Linda Wilson Chopelas at lchopelas@verizon.net or 781-710-4742 and Phillip Brillante at pbrillante@verizon.net or 703-946-5804

Class of 1974 - 50th Reunion

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024

Location: Savinos Italian Restaurant, 449 Common St, Belmont, MA 02478

Time: 5:00 PM

Cost: \$60

Contact: Bill Driscoll at bdriscoll@lindenmeyrcentral.com and Larry Barton at laurencebartonllc@gmail.com

CLICK HERE for more information!

Class of 1979 - 45th Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Location: Knights of Columbus, 15 Winslow St, Arlington, MA 02474

Time: 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Contact: Patty Mazure at pmmazure@gmail.com

Class of 1984 - 40th Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024 (tentative)

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

Contact: Paul Buckley at arlexins@gmail.com

Class of 1994 - 30th Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Location: Menotomy Grill & Tavern, 25 Mass Ave, Arlington, MA 02474

Time: 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Contact: Michelle Deasy at michelledeasy@icloud.com and Christine Fleming at christinejfleming@gmail.com

Class of 2004 - 20th Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Location: Sam Walker's American Tavern, 1 Rainin Rd, Woburn, MA 01801

Time: 5:00 PM

Contact: Mary Bowen at marycecilia.bowen@gmail.com

4's and 9's...It's Your Reunion Year!

Reunions are held every 5 years so if your graduation year ends in '4 or '9 your reunion year is 2024!

CLICK HERE to view a message from our Alumni Relations Ambassador, Sister Barbara McHugh about planning for your upcoming reunion.

Submit your class note for the next edition of Fidelitas!

This is a great chance to let your fellow alumni know what is happening in your life. Whether you've just hit a major life milestone, recently traveled somewhere new, or began a new business venture, we want to hear about it!

Click below to submit a class note today!

[Submit a Class Note](#)

In Memoriam

If you are aware of a graduate of Saint Agnes School or Arlington Catholic High School who has passed away, we would be most grateful if you would kindly email Sister Barbara McHugh at sbarbara@achs.net.

[Update Contact Information](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

FOLLOW US!

NEW ACCOUNTS



ONE SCHOOL. ONE COMMUNITY.



[@achs.sas](#) | [/achssascougars](#) | [@achssas](#)



Saint Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School | 16 Medford St, Arlington, MA 02474

[Unsubscribe aconnolly@achs.net](mailto:aconnolly@achs.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by bygfoderaro@achs.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!