

# Laetare



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“Let us not be afraid to get our hands dirty on the ‘construction site’ of our time. Like Nehemiah, let us pray, plan wisely and work perseveringly, placing God at the forefront of our actions and the human person at the center of our choices.”

POPE LEO XIV

*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, n. 16

# Laetare

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*On the Cover: The sisters and students greet Bishop Burbidge on his visit to JP*

SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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# Greetings from the Head of School

Dear Friends, Families, and Benefactors of John Paul,

At Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, our constant desire is to guide young men and women to lead an integrated life founded on a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. As we reflect upon the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways our students and alumni are thriving. In our Holy Father Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica humanitas*, we are reminded that "in Jesus Christ, this humanity in its grandeur becomes the Way, the Truth, and the Life, opening the path for each of us to grow toward fullness" (MH, n. 1). This is what animates our daily work, giving purpose and direction to our study, prayer, and service.

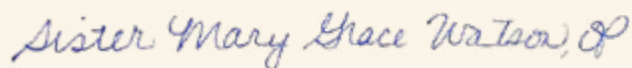
Our school theme for this year, "You will show me the path to life, abounding with joy in your presence" (Psalm 16:11) reminds us that even in these uncertain times, the Lord is with us as our guide. Authentic Catholic education is not merely an academic endeavor, but the formation of the entire person. When our students walk in the fullness of Truth, we witness them experiencing the genuine freedom and lasting joy that can only be found in the Lord's presence.

This past year has brought so many blessings to celebrate across our school community. Because of your generosity, we have been able to expand our bioethics, special services, and music departments; make improvements to Aquinas Hall, our baseball field, and stage floor; add mother/daughter and father/son retreats; and improve the security of our campus with a new entry system and additional security staff. All of this is made possible because of your prayers, partnership, and generous investment in our mission. Whether through your active involvement in our reestablished Family Association or your financial support of our annual fund, you ensure that Saint John Paul the Great remains a place where young people seek the Truth and are formed to lead.

As you read through the pages of this fall edition of our magazine, I invite you to join us in giving thanks to God for the abundance of His grace. As we plan for the next chapter in our history and look ahead to celebrating our 20th anniversary next year, we remain filled with hope and steadfastly committed to deepening our Catholic culture and expanding opportunities for all families who seek a John Paul the Great education.

On behalf of our administrators, faculty, staff, and most importantly, our students, thank you. May Our Lady and Saint John Paul the Great continue to intercede for you and your families.

With gratitude in Christ,



Sr. Mary Grace Watson, O.P.  
Head of School  
Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School



# *Pursuing Truth*

“School is the place where new generations can learn to seek and love the truth, to reflect on the meaning of life and to recognize the dignity of every person.”

POPE LEO XIV  
*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, N. 143

Students dive  
into social studies  
assignments.



## In the Words of Parents

Our family has been blessed to be part of the Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School community since 2018. From the very beginning, our oldest daughter was welcomed with open arms. JP was the first school where she truly felt included, valued, and part of a community. Our second daughter experienced that same spirit of acceptance, encouragement, and belonging.

The exceptional academic education and strong Catholic faith formation our daughters received at JP helped prepare them for their futures. We are incredibly proud that our older daughters were accepted to William & Mary and the United States Naval Academy, opportunities made possible in part by the strong academic and personal foundation they developed at JP.

Our youngest daughter, Lucy, has Down syndrome and is part of JP's Options Program. From the very first day Lucy walked through the doors of JP, she has been surrounded by love, kindness, and genuine inclusion.

Her teachers and fellow students have always encouraged her to participate, challenge herself, and pursue the things she loves—choir, theater, history, science, criminal justice, speech, and so much more. Even more remarkably, she was chosen by the student body to serve on the Servant Leadership Association—a reflection of the meaningful relationships she has built and the respect she has earned within the JP community.

Lucy has been given the opportunity to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and personally while being encouraged to dream big and pursue those dreams. Although she graduated in May 2026, she has chosen to return as a "Super Senior" because JP is truly where she belongs.

**Saint John Paul the Great does more than educate students. JP sees the whole person and helps each student discover their God-given gifts, strengths, and purpose.**

For our family, JP is more than a school. It is a community that welcomes every student, celebrates their individuality, and believes in their potential. We are forever grateful for the love, faith, education, opportunities, and sense of belonging that John Paul has given all three of our daughters. JP has truly become part of our family—and we could not imagine our daughters' journeys without it.

*Mark and Mai Lytle  
Parents of Three JP Graduates*

## New Academic Pathways

This year, JP introduced three new pathways for students to explore the intersection of bioethics and growing, in-demand fields (Applied Engineering, Health & Medical Sciences, and Digital Arts & Media), pairing bioethics electives with our AP and DE courses.

## AP Excellence



JP was recognized as a 2025 AP School Honor Roll School at the Gold Level for developing an AP program that creates a college-going culture and gives students opportunities to maximize their college outcomes.

## Recognized for Peer Mentorship

**Jade Winmill, '27**, was one of three high school students in the Diocese of Arlington to receive the 2026 St. Timothy Award for Outstanding Peer Mentor from Porto Charities, a nonprofit focused on inclusive Catholic education and employment. Jade, inspired by her uncle who has Down syndrome, built a bridge between JP's art club and the Options program and planned the school's annual inclusion week.



Jade Winmill holding the St. Timothy Award with Options teacher Ms. Emilia Foster and Head of School Sister Mary Grace at the Porto Charities Advocacy Awards Gala

# Hands-On Learning

JP takes full advantage of our location near the capital to turn theory into practice. Our faculty actively seek out local opportunities for students to engage in real-world learning experiences and share their knowledge beyond the classroom.



**The Future of Healthcare:** JP Students attend the Symposium for the Advancement of Catholic Health Care at CUA to hear expert-led discussions on the Church's role in healthcare, government financing of healthcare, public policy, and more.

**Eyes on the Road:** Driver's Ed students navigate simulations to learn the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.



**Character in the Making:** Juniors nominated by JP attend the National Capital Region West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference, where they participate in a leadership and ethics workshop to refine their skills in moral reasoning and principled decision-making.



**Ideas in Flight:** From exploring aircraft to talking with pilots, Intro to Engineering students take over the hangars at Joint Base Andrews for STEAM\* Day to learn how science and technology power military aviation.

*\*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics*



**No Scalpel Needed:** JP students hone critical thinking and problem-solving skills while testing their anatomy knowledge through challenges with 3D digital cadavers at an Anatomage Tournament.



**All the World's a Stage:** Drama students participate in the Folger Shakespeare Library Secondary School Festival in DC and perform their original work—*Hamlet, Interrupted*—in Folger's Elizabethan-style theater.

# Celebrating the Class of 2026

## Pursue What is Real, True, and Good

Bishop Burbidge charged the Class of 2026 with an important task: “As you go forth at this new and exciting time in your life, be sure to avoid seeking that which is artificial and to pursue all that is real, true, and good. As an individual, never be artificial. Be true to Him. Be true to yourself. Be the person the Lord calls you to be and be known for your integrity.”

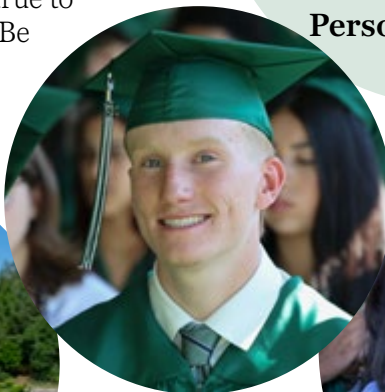
*A JP graduate is a...*

**Faithful disciple**

**Seeker of truth**

**Ethically responsible citizen**

**Person of integrity**



## Modeling the Pursuit of Christ

Bishop Burbidge presented **Luke Williams**, with the St. Thomas More-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award during the commencement ceremony. This award, given to a graduating senior at each diocesan high school, recognizes someone who shows “deep love for our Eucharistic Lord, devotion to our Blessed Mother, faithful witness to the sacredness of all human life and humble service to the poor and those in most need.”

*“Luke was a very active participant in the rich spiritual life present at JP. He carries himself humbly but reveals a depth of character and strength when he converses with others. He has a servant’s heart, and his genuineness can be seen by the esteem in which his peers hold him. When Fr. Tipton announced Luke as this year’s recipient, his classmates cheered with great enthusiasm and happiness for him.”*

— MR. SHAWN McNULTY, PRINCIPAL



# Special Honors

## Valedictorian & Salutatorian

Pictured below, Valedictorian: **Lily Pennella**  
Salutatorian: **Tristan Tee**



## Serving Our Country

*Highlighting many of our grads who have chosen service*

### **Gianna Albanese**

Attending the University of Virginia with an ROTC Scholarship

### **Luke Chaves**

Enlisting in the US Marine Corps

### **Joey Fortunato**

Attending Virginia Tech with an ROTC Scholarship

### **Brogan Jordan**

Enlisting in the US Marine Corps

### **Isabella Koler**

Enlisting in the US Air Force

### **Ciara Marcy**

Attending the US Coast Guard Academy

### **Allison Mendez Rivas**

Enlisting in the US Air Force

### **Stephen Orloski**

Attending the US Naval Academy

## National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists

**Mary Lynch, Lily Pennella, and Isabelle Fannin** reached the top tier of achievement in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Fewer than 1% of students nationwide receive this honor.

# "At the Service of Man" Through Education: Forming Students in Faith, Bioethics, and AI

By: Dr. Andrew S. Kubick



***"AI's impact is already pervading the culture. It is evolving faster than the necessary ethical analyses that ought to precede it. It appears as if the 'could' has entirely outpaced the 'should.'"***

***"Respect for life requires that science and technology should always be at the service of man and his integral development."***

**JOHN PAUL II, *EVANGELIUM VITAE*, n. 81**

In his landmark encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life, our school's patron reminds us that the litmus test for virtuous design, development, and use of technology is its respect for human life and its effect on authentic human development. Just over three decades later, Pope Leo XIV affirms those words in *Magnifica humanitas*: "... the human person always remains the 'way for the Church' and the heart of every authentic path of integral human development" (Leo XIV, *Magnificas humanitas*, n. 50).

That letter on the magnificence of humanity represents the Holy Father's first major contribution to the corpus of Catholic social teaching. He delivers it at a time when the world is experiencing rapid and consequential change. As his namesake predecessor—Pope Leo XIII—guided his flock during the Second Industrial Revolution (see *Rerum novarum* (1891)), Pope Leo XIV takes up the shepherd's crook to guide us through the present artificial intelligence (AI) revolution.

There has been a lot of interest in *Magnifica humanitas* since it was published earlier this year, and understandably so. AI's impact is already pervading the culture. It is evolving faster than the necessary ethical analyses that ought to precede it. It appears as if the "could" has entirely outpaced the "should." In that regard, the Holy Father warns us of the grave consequences of technology (like AI) when it is "detached from ethics and responsibility" (see MH, n. 182).

So then, how do we respond to ensure that ethics and responsibility are essential, not optional? Pope Leo XIV turns to education as one response. He writes, "In an era when truth is often distorted in order to serve particular interests and communication strategies, the field of education assumes decisive importance. . . . Educating people about the use of AI, then, involves teaching them to decide when and for what purpose it ought not to be used" (MH, n. 139-140).

Here, at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, educating students on how to decide when and for what purpose something ought or ought not to be used is precisely what we do—it's part of our mission. Saint John Paul the Great remains the only Catholic high school in the country with a required four-year bioethics program. Beginning with Human Person, then Principles of Ethics, Bioethical Issues at the Beginning of Life, and Bioethical Issues at the End of Life, we work diligently to give each student a robust understanding of who we truly are and how we ought to act. Additionally, we offer the course Case Studies and Applications to provide a deeper ethical reflection on several key issues affecting human life.

Now, in response to the AI revolution, emboldened by the words of Pope Leo XIV, and in service to our students and school community, we are proud to offer a new bioethics course—AI, Algorithethics, and the Digital Person. In this course, we will explore the promises and pitfalls of AI and other digital technologies, and blaze an ethical path forward so that these remarkable tools can be “at the service of man and his integral development” (EV, n. 81).

***“Here, at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, educating students on how to decide when and for what purpose something ought or ought not to be used is precisely what we do—it’s part of our mission.”***

#### About the Author

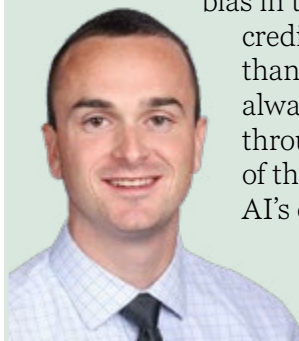
**Andrew S. Kubick, Ph.D., M.A.**, is a teacher and faculty mentor of bioethics at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. He also serves as the Director of the Academy of Fellows and Senior Research Fellow at the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance and an adjunct instructor of bioethics at the University of Mary. Dr. Kubick is a science columnist for *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* and a regular contributor to the radio programs *Ave Maria in the Afternoon* and *Beacon of Truth*.



## JP Shaping AI Policy in Arlington

A few of JP's community members served on the Diocese of Arlington's working group to help develop AI policy for schools in the diocese. We asked two of them for some of their thoughts on why JP must integrate AI into the curriculum and what students should keep in mind as they interact with this ever-evolving technology.

AI gives access to tons of information, both facts and opinions, with just a simple prompt. Exercising our critical thinking is so important as we take in the information AI presents—distinguishing facts from opinions, recognizing bias in the response, analyzing its credibility and accuracy rather than blindly believing. We must always pursue truth and educate through the lens of the dignity of the human person, both in AI's development and use.



**Mr. Shaun Silk**  
Physics Teacher

Our bioethics program aims to prepare students to respond to the world through the lens of recognizing and respecting human dignity in all stages and conditions. There are applications of AI that help us in that goal. There are also applications of AI that are detrimental to the human person. Like any other tool, use of AI must be governed by virtue and the moral law. After the home, the classroom is the best place to form persons to use tools only in ways that will aid them and never in ways that will destroy.

Our students must remember that God created humankind in His own image and likeness with the very purpose of becoming united with the Trinity for eternity. No amount of sophistication can ever give AI the dignity of the human person. We were made by God and for God. If we replace

God with AI, we will only experience frustration after frustration as we expect the finite nature of AI to fulfill our infinite desires for loving communion with the Lord.



**Sr. Malia Grace, O.P.**  
Bioethics Department  
Chair

“Let us cultivate relationships! In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness.”

POPE LEO XIV  
*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, N. 239



Students cheer on their classmates as they compete in the “Hungry Hungry Hippo” house competition

# *Belonging* Authentically

# In the Footsteps of Charlemagne

This summer, **Father Christopher Tipton** led JP students and faculty through Germany and France to follow in the footsteps of Charlemagne—King of the Franks and first emperor of what was later called the Holy Roman Empire. Facing heat and long drives, the pilgrims prayed at the tomb of St. Matthias, drank from springs in Aachen, attended overnight adoration while staying at Sacré-Cœur, and witnessed how cultures are renewed through the beauty of churches and the lives of the saints.

“There are parallels between Charlemagne’s time and our time in history: rediscovery of culture and tradition, the challenge of bringing faith into our present circumstances, and building upon foundations of the past to ‘renew the kingdom’ (Charlemagne’s pseudo motto),” said Fr. Tipton.

For **Peter Hansen, ’27**, visiting the grand European churches evoked something spiritual. “The Cologne Cathedral was truly awesome. As I looked up at the vaulted ceilings, I was so overwhelmed by the height that it felt like I was about to fall over. At the same time, it made me realize how small I am in the presence of God,” he said.

The pilgrimage was also an opportunity for JP students to bond with each other and learn how to handle the big and small challenges that arise with travel. “One of the greatest parts of the trip was the opportunity to travel with my classmates. Although I have traveled overseas before, those trips were always with my family. This pilgrimage required me to take greater responsibility, and I experienced significant personal growth and gained confidence in traveling more independently,” said **Matthew Such, ’28**.



At the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur de Montmartre in Paris, JP students took part in a long, unbroken chain of prayer. Since the basilica was founded in 1885, our Lord in the Eucharist has never spent a minute alone. Two World Wars. Nazi occupation. Pandemic lockdowns. Day and night, someone has always been kneeling before the altar.\*

*\*Liturgical exception: When the Eucharist is moved to a place of repose after Mass on Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday to commemorate the passion at the beginning of the Triduum. Adoration resumes on Easter Sunday.*

Did you know?



# A Snapshot of Student Life

## On the hunt.

Students follow clues at the Freshman Scavenger Hunt.



**Grit, focus, and resilience.** Student-athletes represent JP with pride throughout the year.



**Shakespeare's classic with a Cold War twist.** Students put on a fresh production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, set in Messina, Italy, amid rising global tension.



**Seeing orange.** Students cheer on JP at the Orange Out basketball games, a tradition that honors a student who passed away from leukemia in 2011.



## Honoring our patron.

The entire school community comes out to celebrate JP the Great Day on Saint John Paul the Great's feast day.



## Setting the tempo for school spirit.

The marching band performs at halftime.

**In the spotlight.** Students and faculty bring their skills to the talent show.





### Global roots, one Wolf Pack.

Students celebrate their diverse backgrounds at the annual Cultural Heritage Festival.



### House pride on display.

The houses go head-to-head in a variety of challenges at House Competitions.



**The hills are alive.** A talented cast and crew bring the beloved musical *The Sound of Music*, to life.

## Competing on the Next Level.

*Student-athletes sign to play at the college level.*

*Front Row (left to right)*

**Julia Foster** | UNC Charlotte | Lacrosse

**Eric Koler** | George Mason | Swimming

**Valentina Barrera** | Cleveland State | Soccer

*Back Row (left to right)*

**Louis Dobson** | Christopher Newport University | Cross Country/Track & Field

**Ian Harris** | Shenandoah University | Football

**Jacob Thompson** | Lynchburg University | Cross Country/Track & Field



**Jonah Berkey** | Catholic University of America | Track & Field

**Josue Ayala** | Waynesburg University | Soccer

**James Genovese** | New River Community College | Baseball

**Damien Ramirez** | Eastern Mennonite University | Soccer

**Andrew Kurrus** | Franciscan University | Lacrosse

*Not pictured*

**Tommy Hickman** | Ave Maria University | Football

# *Following* Christ

“In Jesus Christ, this humanity in its grandeur becomes the Way, the Truth and the Life, opening the path for each of us to grow toward fullness.”

POPE LEO XIV

*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, N. 1



Eucharistic procession on  
Saint John Paul the Great Day.

# MEET FATHER SMITH

Get to know **Fr. Jonathan Smith**, JP's new chaplain, with some basic—and not-so-basic—icebreakers.



## Why did you become a priest?

I actually wanted to be President of the United States when I was younger. The priesthood was never on my radar until after college. I was working as a FOCUS missionary when I realized the Lord had been calling me to be a priest my whole life. I had encountered the person of Jesus Christ in college, and as a priest I want to bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people.

## You have an entire Saturday free. What do you do?

With a couple of priest friends, I would drive out to the Shenandoah Mountains or the Northern Neck and go on a hike, followed by lunch at a local restaurant and an afternoon at a local winery or brewery.

## Which liturgical season most closely matches your vibe?

**Lent:** Reflective, intentional, disciplined, minimalist

**Easter:** High-energy, vibrant, joyous, optimistic

**Ordinary Time:** Steady, peaceful, rhythmic, rooted

**Christmas:** Welcoming, cozy, warm, hopeful

## What would you be the patron saint of?

Pilgrimages

## What's one virtue you're trying to grow in during this season of life?

Indifference—not apathy! St. Ignatius of Loyola describes it as the capacity to let go of what doesn't help me to love God or others while still engaging in what does.

## What's on your bucket list?

I would love to visit all seven continents.

## What's a hot take you have?

If you really want to take your faith seriously and become a saint, go to Mass daily as often as you can and confession at least once a month.



## Do you have anything cool or unique in your office?

I have a crucifix on my wall that belonged to my great-grandfather. It was given to me by a cousin while I was in seminary.

## In your opinion, what is the best parish food-centered event?

**Lenten Fish Fry**

**After-Mass Doughnuts & Coffee**

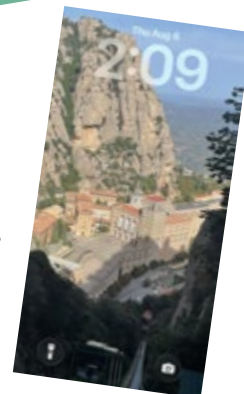
**Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast**

**International Festival**

Anything with food!  
It's my love language!

## What is your lock screen photo?

Montserrat Monastery outside of Barcelona, Spain. It's the monastery that St. Ignatius of Loyola made a pilgrimage to when he laid down his military sword and devoted his life to Christ. I went a couple of years ago and would love to go back.



## What is something you think is totally underrated?

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life! I hope students can see how fulfilling and joyful a life it can be through my witness and the witness of the sisters!

## How can the JP community pray for you?

Pray for my transition as chaplain. The day-to-day is very different from being a parish priest, but the mission of salvation of souls is the same!

## Father's Favorites

**Book:** *The Shadow of His Wings*  
by Fr. Gereon Goldmann

**Movie:** *The Sound of Music*

**Dessert:** Tiramisu

**Subject:** History

**Local spot:** Occoquan

**Saints:** St. Benedict &  
St. Francis Xavier

**Bible verse:** "Behold, I am with you  
always, until the end of the age."  
(Matthew 28:20)

# A Great Gift

## Sister Ann Dominic's "Yes" to God—and JP

*For 13 years, Sister Ann Dominic Mahowald has been instrumental in shaping the culture and community of Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. As she begins a new chapter as principal at Mount de Sales Academy, she reflects on her time at JP, its role in her own faith journey, and the gifts she has received from and shared with the school.*

### Spying on the Sisters

Sr. Ann Dominic was curious about religious sisters from an early age—their life of prayer, their community, their joy. By the time she was a senior at the Catholic University of America, Karen Mahowald, as she was called then, knew religious life was a possibility for her.



While she saw she could be happy in that life, she was still exploring. "Close to graduation, I saw an ad in the *Catholic Herald* for a new school, Pope John Paul the Great, and I applied on my lunch break. I thought it would be great—I could work there and spy on the sisters," she recalled.

Because JP was still a construction site, she interviewed in the gym of St.

Thomas Aquinas Regional School, and a few weeks later, was hired as a teacher to the inaugural staff.

### Laying the School's Foundation

From building a school culture to waiting for textbooks and backordered uniforms to arrive, working at a new school offered both adventures and challenges to the young, energetic Ms. Mahowald. "It was really exciting to be part of the newness. There was a sense of all hands on deck. We had to help each other out. I remember being sick the first week of school, and **Mr. McNulty**, as an assistant principal, had to sub for me



because we didn't have a sub list ready," Sr. Ann Dominic remembered.

Beneath all the excitement and chaos was a foundation of prayer. In fact, during the first Mass—held in Aquinas Hall because the chapel was not completed—**Father Matthew Zuberbueler**, the school's chaplain, announced that the chapel altar was being installed at that very moment. "We started in prayer as a school community from the beginning," Sr. Ann Dominic noted.



It was evident they were building something wonderful. Like all the founding faculty and staff, Sr. Ann Dominic wore many hats in those early years, teaching French, public speaking, and computer applications and coaching the cross-country team. She was grateful to be part of all the excitement and newness. She also admits to being a bit more of a prankster in the early days, but those stories are all off the record.





## Answering the Call

During her first year teaching, Sr. Ann Dominic was called to the office by **Sister Mary Jordan Hoover**, the founding principal. As a new teacher, Sr. Ann Dominic was scared she was in trouble, but she quickly realized Sr. Mary Jordan did not want to talk about teaching.

“Sr. Mary Jordan knew I had been on a discernment retreat and asked where I was at in the process. I hemmed and hawed ... ‘You know, I just got out of college, I’m trying to figure life out and pay back loans.’ Then she said something beautiful to me: ‘Don’t be afraid to give your youth to God.’”

*“Don’t be afraid to give your youth to God.”*

ADVICE FROM SR. MARY JORDAN, FOUNDING JP PRINCIPAL,  
TO THE DISCERNING SR. ANN DOMINIC

After another year of teaching and a generous grant from the Fund for Vocations to help pay off her remaining student loans, Ms. Mahowald left JP to join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia.

“I was extremely sad to leave the school. I think part of delaying my vocation was that I was so happy here. But I also knew I wouldn’t be happy if I put off God. The kids were a great support. I think they thought it was fun that their French teacher was going to enter the convent. They all wanted to know if they could buy my stuff,” Sr. Ann Dominic laughed.

## From the Yearbook Archives

What do you write in your teacher’s yearbook when she’s leaving to join the convent? Check out some of the notes Ms. Mahowald’s students wrote in hers.

you're hilarious!  
you're going to be an  
amazing sister!  
Thank you for helping  
me discover my love of  
french! i'll miss you!  
God bless you

Ms. Mahowald,  
you were  
a great teacher.  
Have fun becoming  
a sister. Have a  
great summer.

you are going to rock the nun house!

← This is  
Super-Sister.  
— With her Rosary/Lasso  
of Truth, she is  
the ultimate defender  
of God and scourge  
of Atheism.  
We'll miss u, Ms Mahowald!  
Public Speaking was Great!

you're gunna be  
an awesome sister...  
line you'll be so  
popular at the  
convent (house idk)



## Returning to JP

When new school assignments were released in the spring of 2015, Sr. Ann Dominic could not find her name. She read over the list several times but was unable to find it. “I must have involuntarily glanced over JP in this default mechanism of, ‘Oh, well, I would never go back there,’” Sr. Ann Dominic recalled. When she finally saw she had been assigned to JP again, her jaw hit the floor.

Elated and a little apprehensive, Sr. Ann Dominic returned to JP in fall 2015 as head of the religion department, five years after leaving as a laywoman to join the convent. “I remember the very first day, walking through the doors thinking, ‘This is so weird.’ It took about one day, and then it felt like home again.”

## Connecting with Students Beyond the Classroom

On her return to JP, Sr. Ann Dominic discovered joy in working more closely with the student life side of the school and became House Director in 2016.

She praised the JP students’ leadership: “The students are just fun. I love that sometimes the best ideas come from the students, and I don’t know if people always appreciate that. So many of the improvements we’ve made are because the students care about their school. I love that they participate in making their school experience even better.”

In 2020—a difficult time to maintain a sense of school community—Sr. Ann Dominic transitioned from teaching to serving as the Assistant Principal of Student Life. The challenges only highlighted the importance of her new role. “Academics are wonderful, but to be really well-rounded, we need to interact with others, and high school has so many important life moments,” she emphasizes. We need to remember, she said, “just how important the social and emotional part of high school is.”

*“Not many people in a supervisory role can effectively form you while being a true friend—but Sr. Ann Dominic did this with great joy, every single day for our students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators. She truly understood how to ‘will the good of the other, as other,’ which of course is the definition of love.”*

— MR. NATHAN ALLARD, DEAN OF STUDENTS





*“Over 15 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Sr. Ann Dominic, first when she was a lay person and later a Dominican sister. Sister embodies the Dominican charism of joy. This can be seen through her Love of Our Lord, servant leadership, and laughter. I have never met anyone who would immediately offer her service in various capacities, whatever the need was, and fully engage in it as much as she does. I will miss her friendship, but I know she will do great things in her new role at Mount de Sales.”*

— MR. SHAWN McNULTY, PRINCIPAL

## ***Beginning a New Chapter***

In spring 2026, after thirteen years of service to John Paul the Great, Sr. Ann Dominic learned God had a new adventure in store for her as principal of Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, MD. But for her, JP will always be a second home.

“JP’s really been an extension of my family. Family is a place where you can be yourself, a place where you’re called to be better. Family’s a place where there’s prayer, laughter, tears, vulnerability, friendship,” Sr. Ann Dominic reflected.

*“There’s a real joy and peace that it’s okay to leave because you never really leave home.”*

“Just like a parent who has a teenager getting ready to go to college—it’s sad for them to leave home, but it’s important they move on. I feel like that’s my analogy for John Paul. I’ve grown up here in many ways, both spiritually and professionally. But it’s okay that I’m leaving. That just means I’ve learned what my John Paul family has been here to teach me. Hopefully, I’ve given as much as I can during this time. There’s a real joy and peace that it’s okay to leave because you never really leave home.”

## Preaching that Inspires



Last year, JP welcomed a couple of well-known Catholic speakers to campus. Jason Evert shared God's plan for human sexuality, calling students to embrace the heroic virtue of chastity to better love those around them. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, an *EWTV* radio host also known as the "Dynamic Deacon," brought his passionate preaching to students.



## 25 Years of Sisterhood

This past year, Head of School Sister Mary Grace Watson celebrated her 25th anniversary as a Dominican sister. To celebrate, the school gathered for Mass and presented her with two gifts: a spiritual bouquet from the entire community and a red rosary—the color of the House of Ruiz. The rosary made quite the journey to get to Sr. Mary Grace. It went on pilgrimage the previous summer to three holy sites: Spain (on the Camino), France (in the footsteps of St. Dominic), and Italy (during the school pilgrimage to Rome).



## Marching for Life

As a school with a special focus on bioethics, JP students, faculty, and community members put knowledge and faith into action to be a voice for the voiceless at both the national March for Life and the Virginia March for Life. Attending both marches allowed students to learn the importance of advocacy at different levels of government.

More than  
**250**  
students  
marched for life  
on the  
National Mall!



## Back to the Books

*Father Tipton returns to student life as he begins studies to become a canon lawyer*

This past summer, **Father Christopher Tipton** took on a role many in the JP community can relate to: student. For the next two years, he will be working towards his Licentiate in Canon Law (JCL) at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

When asked what it feels like to be a student again, Fr. Tipton said, "It is like walking down memory lane! Packing my lunch, making

sure my 'uniform' is all set, carrying my textbooks, choosing a seat in class, raising my hand, doing my homework—it is actually quite exciting! This time, I have a deeper appreciation for my teachers, having seen the great effort and work our own JP faculty and staff do every day!"

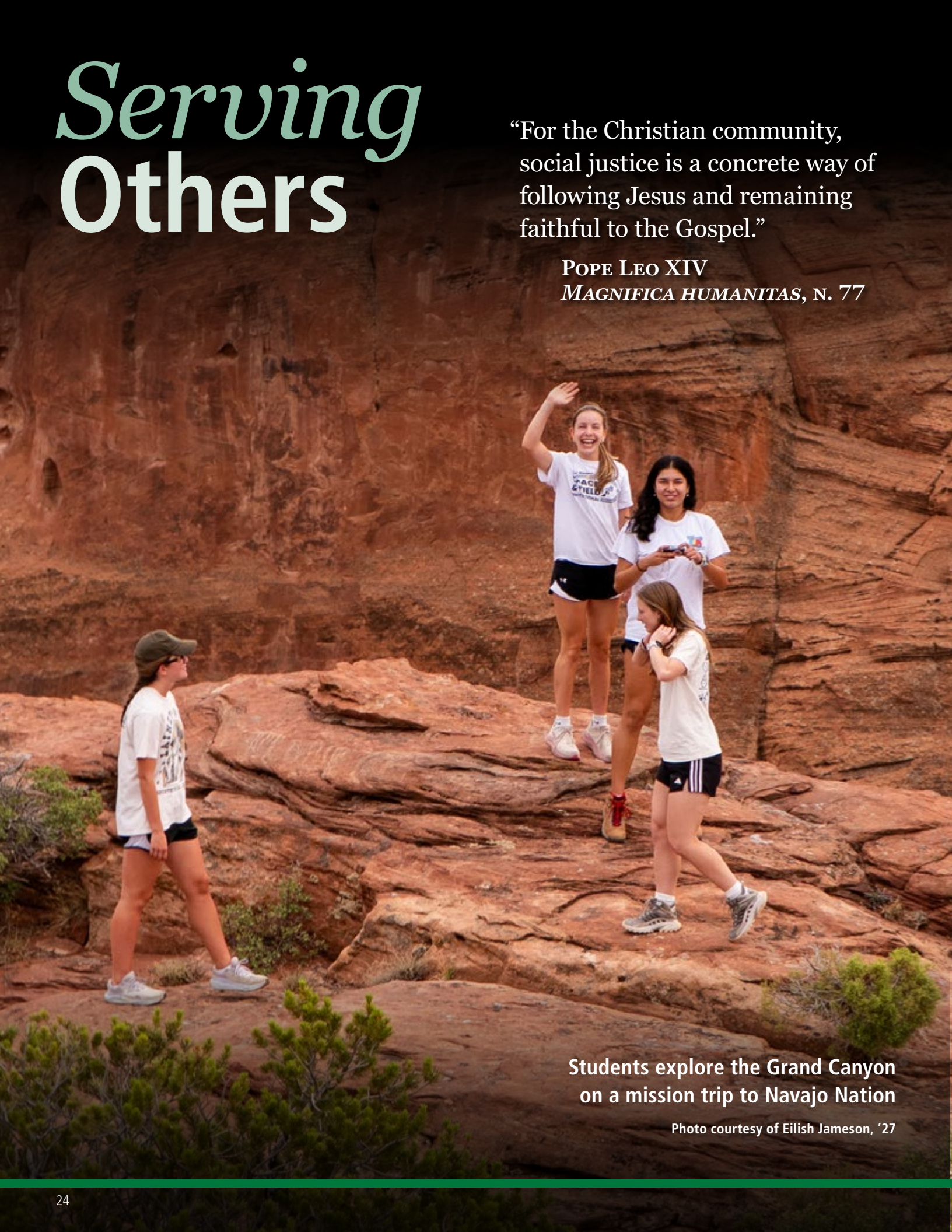
Once a canon lawyer, Father Tipton will serve on the Tribunal in the Diocesan Chancery, where he will help people walk through and heal wounded and broken marriages.

His message to JP students: "I miss you all and pray for you often. Education is a marathon; little things we do day-by-day build up possibilities in the future, but it doesn't guarantee them. What is guaranteed is that when we embrace our vocation as students and do what we can to the best of our abilities, we will grow in grace and wisdom!"

# *Serving* Others

“For the Christian community, social justice is a concrete way of following Jesus and remaining faithful to the Gospel.”

POPE LEO XIV  
*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, N. 77



Students explore the Grand Canyon  
on a mission trip to Navajo Nation

Photo courtesy of Eilish Jameson, '27

# Venturing West

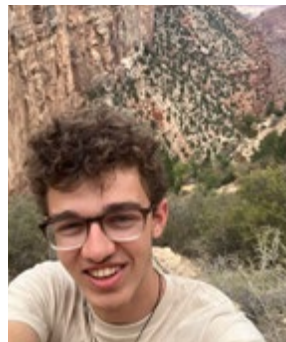
## *A Mission in Navajo Nation*

This past summer, 15 JP students—led by new chaplain **Father Jonathan Smith** and theology teacher **Mrs. Rebecca Madan**—traveled to Navajo Nation to serve at All Saints Mission in Ganado, where they ran a Bible camp for Navajo youth of all ages. Throughout the week, they taught Bible story lessons, led art projects, and played games with the kids.

In their downtime, the JP students explored both Canyon de Chelly and the Grand Canyon; attended Mass with Bishop Wall; and built relationships with each other through card games, volleyball, and basketball. Even the many long car rides became opportunities for bonding.

**Troy Carter, '28**, came home telling his family the mission trip was the best week of his summer—much to the amusement of his parents, who a few weeks earlier had taken the entire family on a European vacation.

When asked about his favorite moment, Troy said, “I wouldn’t say there was a highlight because the whole trip was great, but if I had to pick one, it would be the Navajo children and the time we got to spend playing and interacting with them. I could’ve done that forever and will always miss it—even sprinting around giving them piggyback rides and getting really tired. I would go back in a heartbeat, and I really hope that I’ll get to go again next year.”



Troy Carter, '28, at the Grand Canyon





# ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT Annual Impact Report 2025–26

## Thank YOU!

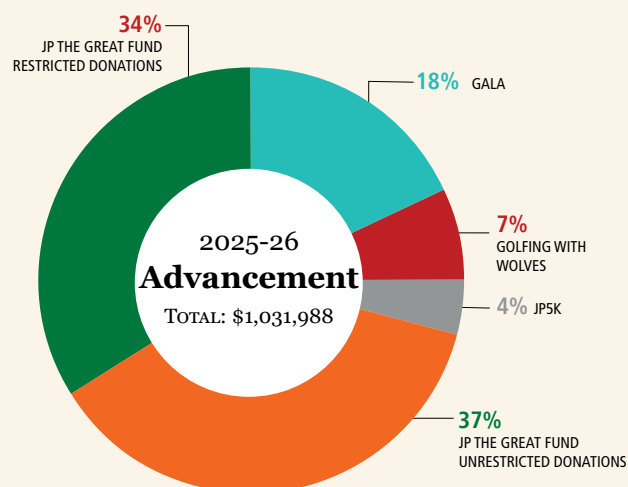
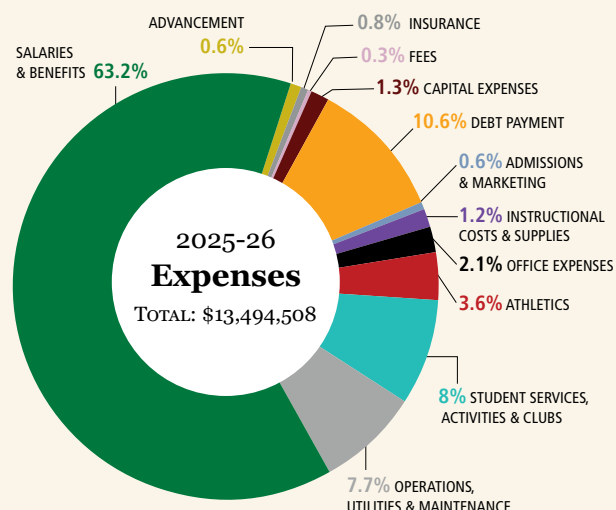
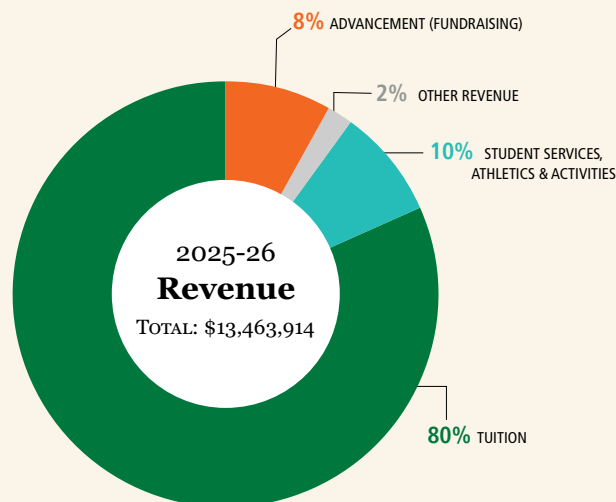
This past year, for the first time in school history, the JP the Great Fund and JP's fundraising events brought in more than \$1 million thanks to the immense generosity of our community. Every gift, no matter the size, truly makes a difference and signals your belief in the power of a JP education. Whether it is sharing your time, talent, treasure, or prayers, your support allows us to fulfill our God-given mission to educate young people in Truth, virtue, and service. Please enjoy our annual impact report, which gives just a small glimpse of all you have helped make possible.

## In the Words of a Parent

Our family will never be able to thank John Paul the Great enough for making it possible for our children to attend school here. As we often tell friends, sending them to John Paul the Great is an answered prayer. It is one of the very best things that has happened to our family. The students are taught with joy, dignity, and love. When they make a mistake, it is treated with kindness and encouragement. The teachers are amazing and so patient. The sports are challenging and fun. Most importantly, the coaches build teamwork and encourage their players to be positive and play fair!

The students have daily access to confession, advice from a holy priest, and a gorgeous chapel to stop and say a prayer or attend Mass. The Dominican sisters show them the love of Christ and meet them with a smile. At John Paul the Great, my children have met lifelong friends who challenge them to become the best versions of themselves. The entire staff—from the cafeteria and front office workers to the counselors, coaches, sisters, and priest—wants the best for each and every student.

*Jennifer Morano*  
Parent of Two JP Students



# Your Philanthropy in Action

## Creating a Beautiful Environment

You help make JP a welcoming, safe place for our students to learn. This year, thanks to the generosity of our donors, JP has been able to make many much-needed improvements to our campus, including:

- Installing brand new record boards outside of the gym.
- Upgrading the baseball field.
- Adding a beautiful St. Joseph statue in our chapel.
- Replacing the stage floor in our theater.
- Making necessary repairs to address leaks in our roof.



## Opening Doors to Education

We never want a student to miss out on an excellent Catholic education because of financial barriers. Your generosity makes it possible for families to enroll and stay at JP.

**\$1.6 million**  
total awarded  
in financial aid  
in the 2025-26  
school year

**\$1 million**  
from  
JP Tuition  
Assistance

**\$600,000**  
from  
Diocesan  
Assistance

**\$250,000**  
awarded  
in merit-based  
scholarships

"My family and I were in financial distress. Without the generous support of Saint John Paul the Great's tuition assistance, we would have been forced to take my son out of JP. It broke our hearts to consider this as his academics, sports activities, and the social aspects with his friends and amazing teachers would have all been swept aside. Please pray, and if it is in your heart, donate to the JP the Great Fund. It quite literally has been a huge blessing in our lives!"

—JP Parent



## Expanding Options

Because of a generous donor and a grant from Porto Charities, we were able to hire an additional Options teacher and expand the program's enrollment to five students for the 2026-27 school year. We are thrilled to welcome more students with diverse learning needs into the JP community while still offering every student the individualized, inclusive education they require.

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Anonymous 3  
Anonymous 4  
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Mr. Gianoulis Roussos and  
Ms. Stephanie Sokol Roussos

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St. Timothy Catholic Church  
Todos Neighborhood Market

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Anonymous 15  
Anonymous 16  
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fahey  
Mr. Paul Faraci  
Ms. Patricia Fatovic  
Mr. Carlos E. Figueroa and  
Mrs. Marcela Gregory  
**Mr. Charles Florenzo, '24**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jose G. Flores  
**Mr. Joseph R. Fortunato, '26**  
Mr. Sam Fosdick  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Foster  
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Fratanantonio  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Frey  
**Mr. Troy M. Fry, '29**  
**Mr. Xander Fry, '22**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gallagher  
**Mr. Andre M. Gallant, '16**  
Mr. Kuassi A. Ganmavo and  
Ms. Mahatane G. Toupe  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gannon  
**Mr. Ethan M. Garcia, '26**  
Ms. Elizabeth Gardner  
Ms. Gabriella Gardner  
Ms. Margaret Gardner  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gardner  
Ms. Susan Gardner  
Mr. Thomas Gardner  
**Ms. Claire E. Garster, '18**  
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Geary  
**Mr. Christian Geigel, '16**  
**Ms. Stephanie Geigel, '19**

**Mr. and Mrs. Patrick E. Gelbach, '14**  
**Mr. James T. Genovese, '26**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Giska  
Ms. Paulyn M. Glawu  
Mr. Joseph K. Gley and  
Mrs. Joana G. Fobie-Gley  
Mrs. Sheila L. Glinski  
**Mr. Ethan D. Grant, '28**  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gribschaw  
Mr. Jody Guerrero  
**Ms. Sofia G. Guirguis, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ham  
Ms. Katie Hamlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Hansen  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harrison  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Hayes  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haywood Jr  
**Mr. Henry X. He, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Healy  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Healy  
**Mr. Patrick D. Healy, '29**  
**Ms. Laurel E. Heath, '26**  
**Ms. Alexandra K. Heatwole, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Holscher  
**Mr. and Mrs. Ryan G. Hoskins, '14**  
Mr. Chase Hubred  
Mr. and Mrs. Zachary C. Huff  
Mr. Dennis Humphrey  
Mr. Tim Hunt  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hurley  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Husketh  
LTC(Ret) and Mrs. Christopher Iwan  
**Ms. Eilish Jameson, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Jameson  
Mr. Dinuka Jayaweera and  
Ms. Pavithra Wijendrasinghe  
**Ms. Vonadie Jayaweera, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Jensen  
Mr. Leonado Jimenez de Alcantara  
Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Jolly  
Ms. Justine Jones  
Mr. David E. Jordan and  
Ms. Heydi A. Quiroz  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Jordan  
Ms. Rosa Jordan  
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Juarez  
Mr. and Mrs. James Judy  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kabeiseman  
Mr. Anthony Kasdorf  
Mr. and Mrs. Sridhar Kaza  
**Mr. Liong Caden R. Kee, '26**  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter de Keratry  
**Mr. Andrew L. Kern, '26**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kern  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kidd  
Mr. and Mrs. James King  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kingett  
Ms. Katherina Kirby  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin M. Klumpp  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Konicki  
**Mr. Michael P. I. Konicki, '28**  
**Mr. Mark R. J. Kormos, '23**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kovac  
Ms. Katie Kowalski  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kretz  
**Ms. Veronica I. G. Kretz, '26**  
Lt. Col. Matthew Krisak  
Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Krumnow  
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Kubick  
Mr. Terye Kuchta  
Mr. Walter Lamb  
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Lattanzio  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lee  
Ms. Julia Lee  
**Mr. Aidan P. Leonen, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Leonen  
**Mr. Anthony John N. Licud, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Luzzo  
Mr. Ronald Llobrera and  
Ms. Kathleen Encomienda  
Mr. Peter Lucas  
**Mr. Ivan F. Luciw, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Orest Luciw

**Mr. Benjamin V. Ludena, '28**  
**Ms. Lucille Lytle, '26**  
**Mr. John A. Mahoney, '28**  
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Mahoney  
Mr. Joven Malazo  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Malinowski  
Ms. Ruth Mamo  
Ms. Rachel Manley  
**Ms. Sophia R. Manley Kristanc, '28**  
Mr. Emmanuel Mañón and  
Ms. Jiramy Martinez  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marino  
Mr. and Mrs. John-Paul Martinez  
Mr. and Mrs. Isamu Massey  
Ms. Joye Materne  
Mr. Raul Matias  
Mr. Brayden F. Mayberry  
Mr. and Mrs. Corey Mayberry  
Ms. Emily Mayberry  
**Mr. Eric P. McCann, '26**  
**Ms. Alyssa P. McCoppin, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. James McCoppin  
**Mr. Rhys H. McCoppin, '29**  
Ms. Winnie McCormick  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. McDowell  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. McDowell  
Ms. Evelyn McKay  
**Ms. Tesia B. McNulty, '13**  
**Mr. Aidan J. McQuade, '28**  
Mr. and Mrs. William McCsorley IV  
**Mr. Andrew P. McVicker, '26**  
Ms. Megan McVicker  
Mr. Andrew Meagher  
Ms. Catherine Meagher  
Ms. Judy Meagher  
**Mr. Ryan B. Meagher, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Meagher  
Mr. Juan P. Mendieta and  
Mrs. Miriam Olivera Rosales  
Ms. Janeth Mendiola  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Merkai  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Miclot  
**Ms. Hannah M. Mihalik, '19**  
**Ms. Sarah E. Mihalik, '26**  
Ms. Julianne L. Miles  
Ms. Sarah Moffit  
Mr. and Mrs. John Moloko  
Ms. Anna R. Montes  
Mr. and Mrs. David Morales  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moran  
Mr. Nico Moran  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Morano  
Ms. Erick Moreyra and Ms. Gina Torres  
Ms. Kelsey Morris  
Mr. Stuart L. Morse  
Ms. Deborah Munsell  
Mr. Eric Myers  
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Myrvold  
Ms. Emme Nemec  
**Mr. James M. Nemec, '28**  
**Ms. Madison Nemec, '27**  
Ms. Danielle Neuland  
Ms. Angela Newbold  
Ms. Olivia Newman  
Mr. An-Khanh Nguyen and  
Mrs. Cam-Tu Le  
Mr. Greg Novoth  
Mr. and John O'Donnell  
Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Obasi  
Mr. and Mrs. David Odell  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ong  
Mr. Joseph C. Opare-Abetia and  
Mrs. Magdalene Boyd  
Ms. Kate Operario  
**Mr. Stephen K. Orloski, '26**  
Ms. Tiffany Palmer  
**Mr. Javier O. Palomo, '29**  
Mr. Alvaro Parada and  
Ms. Amalfi Martinez-Parada  
Ms. Melissa Parella  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Pascale  
**Mr. Liam Pennella, '30**  
**Ms. Lily A. Pennella, '26**  
**Mr. Noah M. Pennella, '27**

Mr. Ryan Pennella  
Mr. Zeno Pennella  
**Mr. Michael D. Pham, '28**  
Mr. Jim Phillips  
**Mr. Patrick R. Phillips, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Picha  
Mr. Andres V. Pico  
Ms. Mary Pishock  
**Mr. James P. Pohlmeier, '28**  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Pohlmeier  
Ms. Juliana R. Polanco, '27  
**Mr. Breydon R. Pomeroy, '27**  
**Mr. Connor J. Pomeroy, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pomeroy  
Mr. Bashaan E. Prewitt and  
Mrs. Sheila R. Wilson-Prewitt  
Ms. Laura Prosser  
Mrs. Margaret A. Puritano  
**Mr. Adrian G. Quezada, '29**  
**Mr. Sergio V. Quezada, '27**  
Mr. Joseph W. Quinlan and  
Mrs. Carolyn M. Mueller-Quinlan  
Mr. and Mrs. Rory Quinn  
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Raines  
**Mr. Damian M. Ramirez, '26**  
Mr. and Mrs. Delvis Ramirez  
Mr. Edward I. Ramirez Flores and  
Ms. Margarita Ramos  
**Mr. Francis P. Ramirez, '29**  
Ms. Gianna Ramirez  
Mr. Joe Ramirez  
Ms. Mireya Ramos Espinoza  
**Mr. Jack A. Ramsel, '27**  
**Ms. Anastasia Rao, '22**  
**Ms. Bernadette Z. M. Rao, '25**  
Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Recalde II  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnulfo Reyes  
**Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Sabrina Reyes, '15**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Riley  
Ms. Elaine Rivera  
Ms. Carla Rivera-Hansen  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Roberts  
**Mr. Joseph M. Roberts, '27**  
Mr. Patrick Robson  
Ms. Adriana Rodriguez  
Cmdr. and Mrs. Charles Roman  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Romero  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Root  
**Ms. Olivia M. Root, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rousseau  
Ms. Mallory Roussos  
Mr. and Mrs. John Rusnak  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ryan  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Salley  
Mrs. and Mr. Albertyna Sanchez  
Mr. Monte S. Sanchez  
Mrs. Megan C. Sanders  
**Mr. Owen C. Sanin, '29**  
Ms. Nirvana-Jade Santos  
Ms. Alisia Sargeant  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Savelloni  
Ms. Alessandra N. Scaletta  
Ms. Andrea Scaletta  
Ms. Briana Scaletta  
Mr. Dean Scaletta  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Scanlon  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Schultz  
Mr. Paul Sigur  
**Mr. Matthew J. Sjurset, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Skala  
**Mr. Isaac M. C. Slayter, '26**  
Mr. Aric G. Smarra and  
Ms. Carolina Avendano Arce  
**Mr. Connor R. Smith, '29**  
Mr. William S. Smith and  
Ms. Rosa M. Martinez  
Capt. and Mrs. Joseph Snyder  
**Mr. Noah C. Snyder, '24**  
Ms. Vera Sogolian  
Mr. Daniel Solter and  
Ms. Alexandra Nowotny-Solter  
Ms. Sophie Speelman  
Mr. and Mrs. Markeith Spell

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Stenson  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Stio  
**Mr. Shepherd W. Stockham, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swahn  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugenio Talastas  
Mr. Declan Tantinawat  
Mr. Randolph M. Tayamen and  
Ms. Rhiza Aguila  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Tee  
**Ms. Melina C. Tellado, '26**  
Ms. Juliette Theroux  
**Mr. Brady Thomason, '24**  
**Ms. Kelly A. Thomason, '23**  
Mr. Sean Thomason  
Mr. Zachary R. Thomason  
Ms. Ekua Thompson  
Ms. Pamela Tipton  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Titus  
Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Trujillo  
Ms. Neneth Tsimi  
Mr. Donny Tubbs  
Mr. Christopher Tull  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Turner  
**Mr. Daniel R. Turner, '11**  
Ms. Janice Tutt  
Dr. and Mrs. Waldo Valdivia, Sr.  
Mr. Dennis Valentine  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Vaughn  
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Villazon  
Mr. William Virrill  
Mr. and Mrs. Roman Vitkovitsky  
**Mr. Lucas D. Wagner, '29**  
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Wagner  
Mr. and Mrs. Al Waineo  
Ms. Jane E. Waineo  
Mr. Edward Walsh  
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Walton  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Ward  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warr  
Mr. and Mrs. William Waters  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Welsh  
Ms. Jennifer West  
Mr. and Mrs. David White  
Mr. and Mrs. William Wicks  
**Mr. William T. Wicks, '28**  
Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Williams  
Ms. Jacqueline Williams  
**Mr. Khae'el L. Williams, '27**  
Ms. Leena Williams  
**Mr. Paul J. Williams, '24**  
Ms. Shemone Williams  
Ms. Lucia Williamson  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Williamson  
Mr. Michael Williamson  
Mr. Robert Williamson  
**Mr. Christopher I. Wode, '14**  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wolf  
Mr. Douglas Wood  
**Ms. Melody Wood, '27**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Woodaman  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Woods  
Mr. and Mrs. Julio C. Yataco  
Mr. and Mrs. John Yates  
Mr. Victor Yeo and Mrs. Imel Yu  
Mr. Will T. Young and  
Mrs. Bethann Garcia  
Ms. Elizabeth Yurasko  
Mr. Jonathan Yurasko  
Mr. Zachary Yurasko  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Zelaya  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zelaya  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Zott  
Fairfax Food Service  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry  
The Fatovic Family Fund at Blue Grass  
JTeas Printing  
Knights of Columbus  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Kona Ice  
Mary's Flower Shop  
Pizza Boli's

# Wolves in the World



“With the same faith as Mary, let us become ‘weavers of hope’ in our world, sharing who we are and what we have, so that the presence of Jesus may grow among us and his Kingdom take shape. In the humble fidelity of daily life, even the era of AI can become a time in which the Holy Spirit brings about the civilization of love in our lives.”

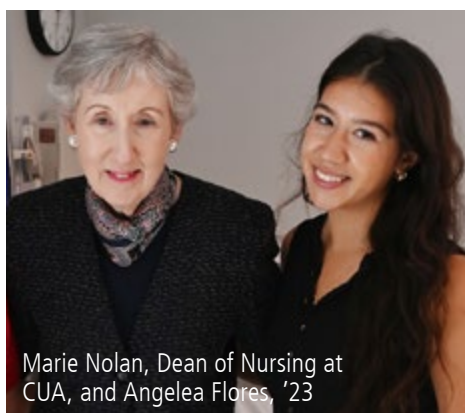
**POPE LEO XIV**  
*MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, N. 245

**Angelea Flores, '23, completes her Nurse Externship Program at Sibley Memorial Hospital.**

# Practicing Faith

“The need for faithful servants in healthcare is more urgent than ever,” says Marie Nolan, Ph.D., R.N., Dean of the Conway School of Nursing at the Catholic University of America (CUA). “It is essential that we form faithful professionals grounded in the dignity of the human person. Students must understand they are doing God’s work—meaningful work that brings the Kingdom of God to earth through service.”

**Angelea Flores, '23**, currently a senior nursing student at the CUA, notes Principles of Ethics taught by **Sister Malia Grace Reed, O.P.**, cemented her de-



Marie Nolan, Dean of Nursing at CUA, and Angelea Flores, '23

termination to pursue a career where she could make a difference and show God’s love. The course “gave me the foundation to truly understand Godly love and to recognize and show respect

to each person’s basic dignity.” Ms. Flores will graduate in May and plans to be a labor and delivery nurse.

John Paul alumni often choose to pursue a career in the medical field and cite the bioethics curriculum and science courses as the reason. JP students are increasingly pursuing medical careers at schools such as CUA, the University of Virginia, the University of Notre Dame, and James Madison University. John Paul’s mission of forming young people ethically provides them the intellectual background to support life from conception until natural death.

This year, we are excited to have **Roberto Nang, MD**, join JP’s faculty. He brings “his passion for service, healthcare, and the faith into our nursing classroom and shows our students what it means to serve not only as a competent healthcare professional, but to do so with supernatural motives and a heart of service,” says Sr. Malia Grace Reed.

Dr. Nang will teach the dual enrollment Introduction to Nursing: Human Anatomy course, which has grown to two sections over the past few years. This course, first taught by **Dr. Clare (Donohoe) Kuisell, '13**, gives our students the opportunity to earn college credit while

## *Leading the Way in Bioethics and Healthcare*

exploring their interests before making a larger investment. Importantly, students are assured that the course will be informed by ethics and the understanding of human dignity. “The important logical, philosophical, and theological issues that we are exploring [in bioethics] will pro-

vide my [Human Anatomy] students with strong ethical ideas to complement scientific theories that by their very nature have to look beyond what science can explain,” says Dr. Nang.

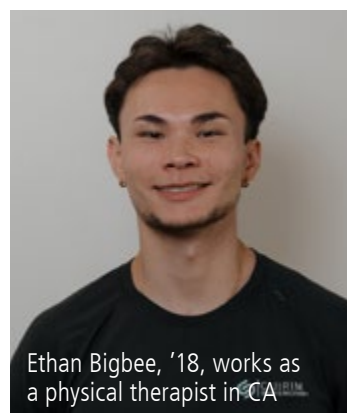
“What we were taught at JP sets us apart from others. Living our faith is better for us and better for our patients,” says **Dr. Ethan Bigbee, '18**, a doctor

of physical therapy who trains and rehabilitates professional athletes and works as a high school athletic trainer in California. He notes extensive research shows that patients have better outcomes when they are treated by someone they know cares for them.

“Healthcare in itself can be tough,” says Dr. Bigbee. “You’re charged with caring for others. It can weigh on you. It helps to know I have faith to fall back on.” His Human Person course was central to forming his understanding, he says. “**Mr. [Victor] Alcantara** did not just teach that we must treat each person with respect; he lived it.”

**Erin Elliot, '21**, who is earning her doctorate in physical therapy at Shenandoah University, concurs: “The principle of the dignity of life and treating each person as their own person is central to my work. The Catholic teaching I received at JP forms how I live and how I treat my patients. I am very grateful to have the background of bioethics I received from JP.”

JP’s efforts in marrying bioethics and the healthcare sciences are supported by Dean Nolan, who notes, “The mission of those educating students is to ensure that the students understand the need to bring their full, authentic self to their practice. Their value for the sanctity of life cannot be hidden away. To do God’s work, students must also believe in the greater calling of serving others and respecting the dignity of every person entrusted to their care.”



Ethan Bigbee, '18, works as a physical therapist in CA

# The End of an Era, but Forever Wolves

*After 16 years, the Horans say goodbye to JP!*

Now that the last Horan has graduated, the family reflects on the 16 years they spent at JP.

When their first child was preparing to enter high school, Mark and Carla Horan began researching Catholic schools throughout northern Virginia. They wanted a Catholic education that integrated the faith throughout all aspects of the school. “When we attended open houses for JP, we loved what we heard! This is what we wanted—a great college prep school with a true Catholic identity. When we heard from the principal at the time, **Sister Mary Jordan Hoover**, we were blown away! She was the icing on the cake, and we were sold,” says Mrs. Horan, now mom of five JP alumni: **Kyle, '14; Michael, '16; Alexandra, '19; Colin, '22; and Gianna, '26.**

Once they knew JP was the school for them, the Horans moved ten minutes from JP because they wanted to be close to the community in every way. Mrs. Horan notes how special it is to have met families from all over Virginia—even some from DC, Maryland, and West Virginia—who bring their kids to JP, saying, “What dedication! What sacrifice that some families have made so they can send their children here.”

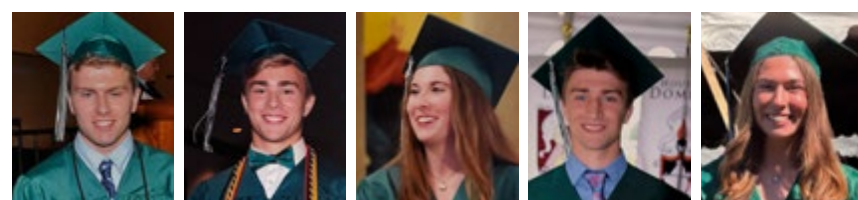


The Horans experienced much of JP’s history—they were part of JP’s early days, saw our patron get canonized, learned under three different heads of school, and survived a pandemic. And out of the many wonderful teachers they had throughout the years, two taught all five Horans: **Mr. Mark Moran** and **Mr. William O’Connor**.

Gianna, the Horan family’s last JP graduate, was only three years old when her family began at JP. “Some of my earliest memories are attending my brother Michael’s football games. I literally grew up at the school, so it feels like home whenever I walk through the doors,” says Gianna.



Lucy Horan—Future Wolf? | Gianna Horan, '26 | Colin Horan, '22 | Alexandra Horan, '19 | Michael Horan, '16 | Kyle Horan, '14 | Kendall (Parker) Horan, '13



Kyle Horan, '14

Michael Horan, '16

Alexandra Horan, '19

Colin Horan, '22

Gianna Horan, '26

Kyle credits JP with strengthening his faith and preparing him for his career, and he has an additional big reason to be thankful to the school. “I first met my wife **[Kendall (Parker) Horan, '13]** at JP. We reconnected several years after graduation at an event where we were the only two JP alumni. My life would be very different had I not met her,” he says.

As the Horans’ time at JP comes to a close, Mrs. Horan looks back on the past 16 years with gratitude, saying, “Thank you to God first, Who has always been so gracious in providing for our needs! Thank you to the founding principal, Sr. Mary Jordan, for helping us take the initial leap of faith. Thank you to the many families who touched our hearts. And to any prospective families—take that leap of faith, join our JP forever family, and begin a very special chapter in your lives!”

# JP Walks the Camino de Santiago

For more than 1,000 years, pilgrims have walked the Camino de Santiago to reach the tomb of St. James the Greater in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. During the medieval period, it was considered one of the three most important pilgrimages alongside Jerusalem and Rome.

This past summer, members of the JP community were among the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who journeyed along the Camino. Beginning in Villafranca del Bierzo, they walked more than 110 miles to reach Santiago. Two of the pilgrims—JP alumni Charlie Florenzo, '24, and John Cleveland, '24—share their reflections from the Way.

*Our Camino experience was nine nights on the trail. Father Álvaro Montero, who was with us on our pilgrimage, reminded us we “weren't there to vacation, but to be pilgrims.” As pilgrims, we prayed. Every morning, we walked our first two hours in silence. Our days were hiking, prayer, and silence, but also camaraderie, wonderful shared meals, games of football, swimming, and daily Mass. We quickly became a strong community. It was a blessing to be away and apart in this way; we lived in the moment in a way we can't do in the “real world.” We also had time to reflect on the pilgrimage and how it moved us. I decided to be more intentional about factoring God into my decisions and always actively moving forward rather than passively reacting.*

— CHARLIE FLORENZO, '24

*The Camino does a great job of stripping life to the basics. When the routine is so easy every day, it opens the door for more conversation and contemplation. And since we traveled with two priests, we not only had daily Mass but consistent opportunities for confession, which was fantastic.*

*Whenever I enter a new church, especially in Europe where they are much older, I look around and wonder how many people have walked where I walked and prayed to the same God I pray to. Every time, I am filled with a special awe and smallness when I think of my tiny speck on the timeline. The same can be said for walking the Camino. Saints, popes, kings, and normal people from different lands and backgrounds have walked the Camino. To share the road with so much diversity is a truly humbling experience.*

— JOHN CLEVELAND, '24



Patrick Donovan, '23, Charlie Florenzo, '24, and John Cleveland, '24, in front of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral



# Alumni News

*Once a Wolf, always a Wolf!  
Check out the latest good news and  
life updates from our alumni.*



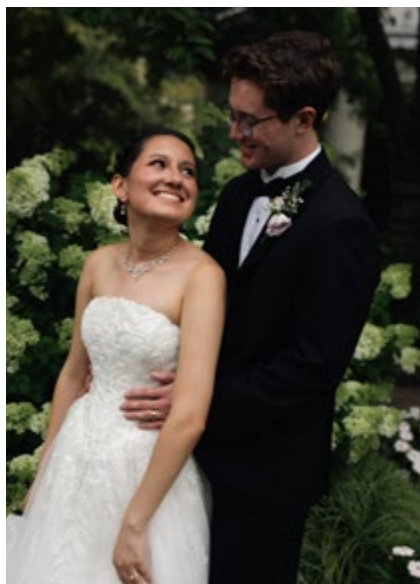
**Elena Mirus, '19**, married Ryan Fuller on June 15, 2024, at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. They met in Jacksonville through their parish young adult group while she earned her degree in Theology from Notre Dame's ECHO Program. They welcomed their first child, Annaliesa Therese Fuller, on April 26, 2025.



**Jack Wiederholt, '19**, and **Katherine Schiller, '20**, were married on April 11, 2026 at St. William of York in Stafford, VA.



**Isaac Cotnoir, '19**, and **Annaliese (Tamke) Cotnoir, '19**, welcomed baby Louise Bethany this past summer. She was baptized on August 9, 2026, at Good Shepherd in Alexandria, VA.



**Leticia Cortez, '21**, married Seneca Gruber on July 17, 2026, at St. Louis in Alexandria, VA. There were many JP alumni at the celebration. They met through the Catholic Campus Ministry at James Madison University.





**Faith (McNulty) Fikes, '21**, and her husband, Marquette Fikes, welcomed their baby, Michael Lawrence Fikes, on May 17, 2026. He was baptized on June 13, 2026, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Carrollton, OH.

**Cooper Bowser, '22**, who plays D1 men's basketball, was named to the SoCon All-Tournament first team for the 2026-25 season. He scored 21 points to help the Furman Paladins win the Southern Conference Tournament and secure a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Bowser will play for the Arkansas Razorbacks in the 2026-27 season.



**Kyle Falls, '23**, runs D1 track and field at the University of Detroit Mercy and is pursuing a degree in economics. With a strong interest in entrepreneurship, Falls has started building businesses focused on financial planning and financial literacy education with the mission of showing that money is not the goal, but a tool that creates freedom and opportunity.



**William Popp, '26**, received his pilot's license this past June. He is now a freshman at the University of Central Florida, studying aerospace engineering.



**Willem Jameson, '23**, recently won the Best Student Film Award at the International Beverly Hills Film Festival for his work as cinematographer on the short film "Find Your Why | A Volleyball Short Film." He is currently pursuing a BFA in Film Production with a focus in Cinematography at Liberty University.

If you are a JP alum and would like to share your good news and life updates, please go to [jpthegreat.org/alumniupdates](https://jpthegreat.org/alumniupdates).





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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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Scan here  
to help JP  
today!



**Golfing with Wolves**  
October 23

## SAVE THE DATES

*Don't miss any of JP's  
signature community events!*



**JP 5K & Fun Run**  
March 13



**Gala**  
May 1

**WWW.JPTHEGREAT.ORG**