

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Vol. 5 No. 1

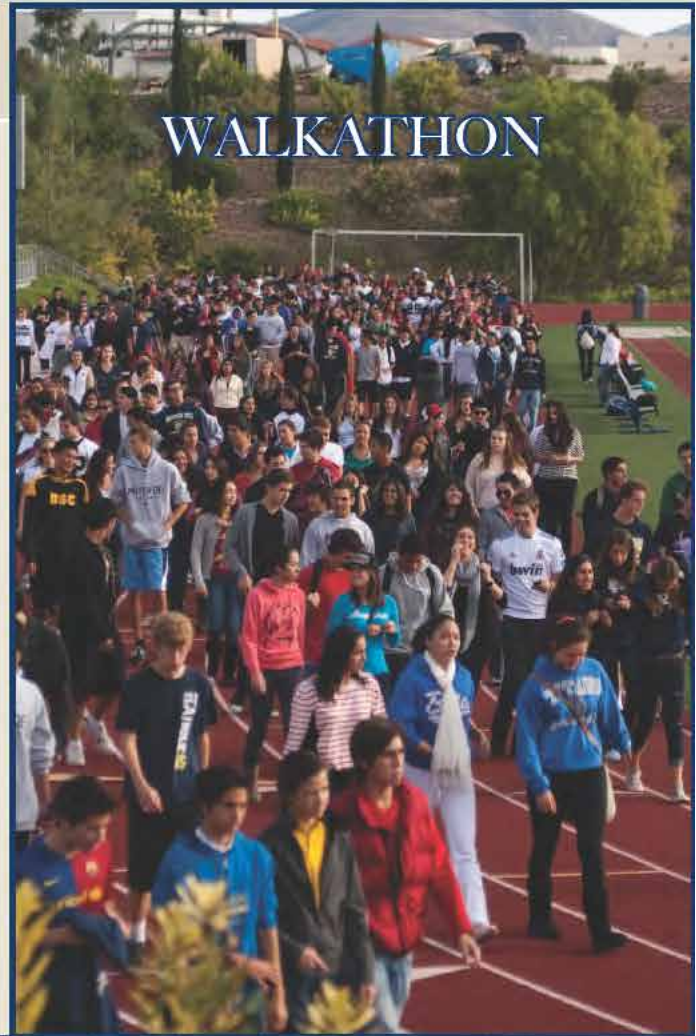
A publication dedicated to the Marian/Mater Dei Catholic High School Community



AQUATICS CENTER
OPENING SPRING 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3	Message from the President
4	Performing Arts
6	Homecoming
8	CIF Football
9	CIF Volleyball
10	Aquatic Center
12	Student Profiles
14	Invisible Children
15	Walkathon
16	Crusader Hall of Fame
18	Alumni Golf Tournament



WALKATHON

BELOW: RNT Architects, Balfour Beatty Contractors, MDCHS Principal, Coaches and Athletes



Left to Right: Phil Disney, Gordon Stanley, Kevin Smith, George Milke, Chikako Terada, Jorge Arredondo, Rommel Olaes, Guy Souza, Phil Sager, Alec Figy, and Colleen Radcliffe



1615 Mater Dei Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91913
ph: 619.423.2121
www.materdeicatholic.org

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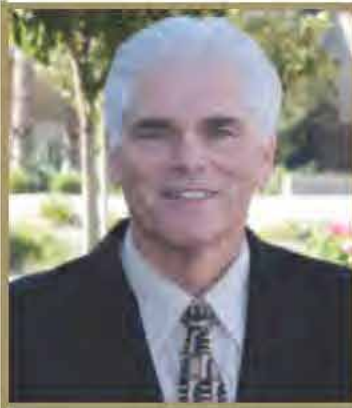
Mr. Thomas Beecher, Ex-Officio

Mr. George Milke, Ex-Officio

The Crusader Connection is published two times per year by Mater Dei Catholic High School. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions and report them to John Rey at (619) 621-5705 or jrey@materdeicatholic.org.

Director of Publications: John Rey
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A MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It has been nearly five years since we left Marian and during that time we have marked many important accomplishments. These achievements don't belong to any one individual or small group but they are instead milestones for the entire Crusader community:

- established The Academy of Science
- offered full scholarships to the most academically gifted students
- Scholarships to each diocesan elementary school
- built tennis courts and aquatics center
- established the Crusader Hall of Fame
- established the Distinguished Crusader Award
- won two California State athletic championships
- established the Strategic Plan
- received our first independent accreditation
- expanded course offerings in the Visual and Performing Arts

These are just a few wonderful examples of our community moving forward as a school evolving and growing toward excellence. It is a goal that can never be reached because every time we mark an achievement we also reset our goals on a new horizon. The culture of dedicating ourselves to reaching ever greater heights is what being a Crusader is all about!

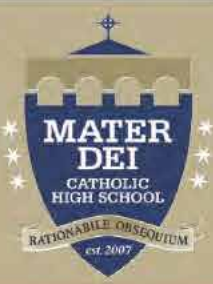
Students, parents, staff, alumni and friends all aiming to grow their faith through the community they share as Crusaders is at the heart and soul why we exist. Students pray, learn, celebrate and serve. And we as adults guide and support their efforts. Tomorrow, they will follow us and guide a new generation as God's plan unfolds in ways we can't predict. But our efforts today, no matter how small or large, have an impact on these young lives as we act in communion to support the Catholic education of our students.

Thank you for striving with us these past five years. May God continue to bless you for your efforts as we pray –

Mary Mother of God. Lead us to your Son Jesus.

Yours in Christ

Thomas Clayton Beecher
President



PERFORMING

HARVEY

The MDCHS thespians shone this fall with a brilliant production of the clever comedy *Harvey*. Mary Chase's hilarious play about the invisible rabbit Harvey was performed on Friday and Saturday, November 18th and 19th, 2011, to very amused audiences. The story takes place in the Midwest circa 1952 – and has a cast of twelve interesting characters – plus a 'pooka'.

The play centers around a family: Elwood P. Dowd, whose best friend is Harvey, his sister Veta Louise Simmons, and Veta's daughter Myrtle Mae Simmons. Just how is Myrtle Mae ever going to get a suitor with an uncle known to associate with a 6 foot talking rabbit? The actors who brought these people to life did a remarkable job – John Michael Strauss as the unflappable Elwood, Theresa Chiappe as the excitable Veta, and Elizabeth Castillo as the frustrated Myrtle. Veta takes Elwood to a sanitarium hoping that will enhance her daughter's dating possibilities, and it is there that we run into a couple doctors, a nurse, and a burly aide.

They were played with such finesse that it was hard to believe they were actually high school students. Dr. Sanderson was played by the seasoned Alejandro Rivera, Dr. Chumley by our talented Zach Bishop, Nurse Kelley by the charming Brianna Truffa, and Mr. Wilson by one of our newest actors – Jaryd Joyner. The cast was rounded out by thespian Edith Camargo



ARTS



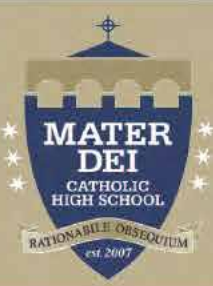
playing the socialite Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet, A.J Beck cast as the respectable Mrs. Chumley, Carlo Acosta as the learned Judge Gaffney, Robin Brown as the wise taxi driver, and Kirsten Mae Galen as the family's trusted maid. With such an amazing ensemble cast the play flowed from the home, to the mental institution, back to the home, and finally back to the institution – "Chumley's Rest".

A show cannot be a success without all of the hard work that goes in from the unseen backstage crew. There was also a fun pre-show film made by Alexa Bueno and A.J Beck that set the mood for the show. And what would the show have been without our portraits of the family matriarch and Harvey/Dowd, painted by our very own Annie Cox and Aera Palaganas. All in all, it has to rate as one of the school's best productions to date – since we were entertained by the stunning voice and performance of the whole talented cast!



VAPA

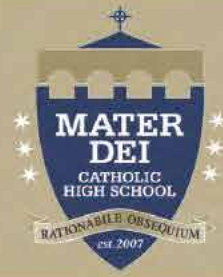
The Visual and Performing Arts department held its Christmas concert on December 15th. The choir sang a number of Christmas carols and wintertime favorites, including "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy." Several students also performed solos for voice, piano, and guitar. Upcoming events include VAPA night on May 17th. VAPA night is a celebration of Mater Dei's Visual and Performing Arts Department, including Art, Ceramics, Choir, Computer Graphics, Dance, Drama, Guitar, and Steel Drums.



HOMECOMING



TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN





CIF FOOTBALL

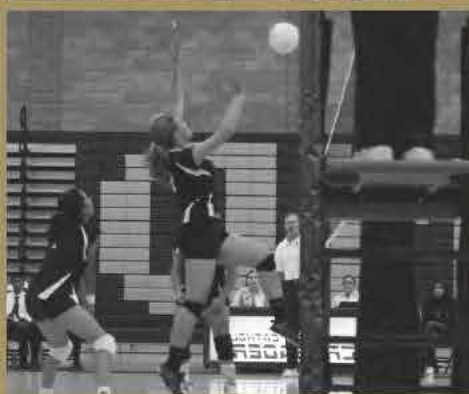
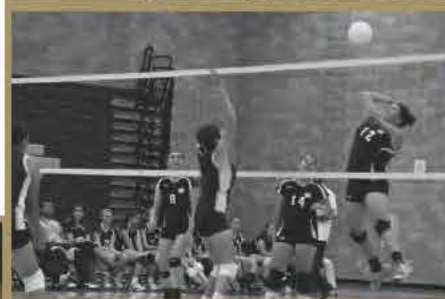
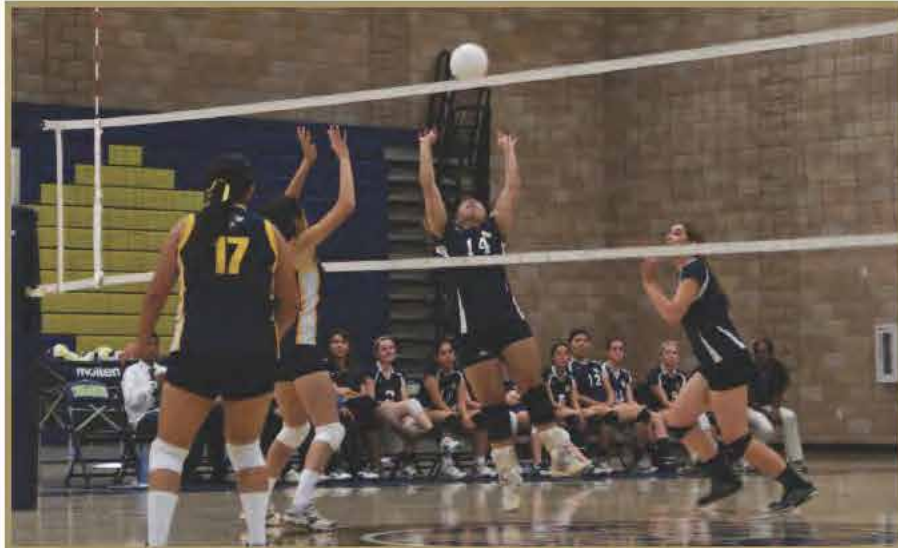
Mater Dei Football experienced a myriad of new beginnings this season entering the brand new Metro Pacific League. In the league's first year of existence, the Crusaders proved to be the elite of the league winning the Metro Pacific with an undefeated record. Mater Dei also experienced its first ever playoff victory with a convincing 44-7 victory over Palo Verde High School. Mater Dei was led to a great season by their senior class and all of its hard work. Senior Linebacker Andrew Martinez won Metro Pacific League Defensive Player of the Year, Junior Quarterback Joseph LeGerrette won Metro Pacific League Offensive Player of the Year and Senior Offensive Lineman Nico Siragusa was named to the Union Tribune 1st Team ALL CIF. In all, the Crusaders had fourteen 1st team all-league award winners and four 2nd team selections. This season with its many accomplishments, is the start of great things for Mater Dei Football.



CIF VOLLEYBALL



The 2011 Lady Crusaders Varsity Volleyball team finished a memorable season with a winning record of 20-12-0. The team had one of the most successful seasons the Lady Crusaders had seen in years. They began their season with a first place finish at the Monte Vista Varsity Classic, leaving the tournament with a perfect 7-0 record. At that point, the team and their head coach Ahmad Rice, made it clear that they were here to play and compete with every team out there. A highlight of the season for the girls, coaches, and fans was their final match against Hilltop, which culminated in an incredibly intense Game 5 win for the Lady Crusaders. The passion and athleticism the players exuded in that 19-17 finish was truly a pleasure to watch. The team however, ended their season with a loss in the quarter finals of the CIF playoffs to Santa Fe Christian. Regardless, the 2011 Lady Crusaders Varsity Volleyball team had a successful and entertaining season, and should be proud of what they accomplished. The dedication they had for their teammates and to the game alludes to a memorable season in 2012.





AQUATICS

One of the final facility projects on the Mater Dei Catholic High School campus is nearing completion and will be ready for use in the spring - the Crusader Aquatics Center!

The pool with the associated equipment building, deck and fencing complex is being built by Balfour Beatty Inc., a contracting company that has developed many projects throughout the County of San Diego and the Diocese of San Diego. The design of the project was done by Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects who were the original architects that shepherded the design and construction of the school between 2005 and 2007.

The specifications of the new facility include 18 swimming lanes in 25 yards by 35 meters. The pool will hold a half million gallons of water and will allow the school's four aquatics sports – girls and boys swimming and water polo – to compete and practice at home. This will save MDCHS a significant amount on rental expenses which are now being used at three different community pool sites. It will also allow our teams to practice in the "coveted" after school time slot. A major benefit will be that MDCHS will receive rental income from a variety of schools and community organizations that are interested in using the facility in the hours when it is available.



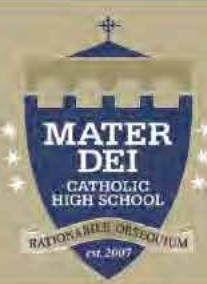
CENTER



MDCHS will also expand its course offering in the Physical Education Department with an aquatics curriculum to allow the greatest use of the pool and to provide our students with additional electives. One of those classes will most certainly be a developmental swim program for students who are currently unable to swim or who might lack confidence in the water.

Planning is currently underway for the Grand Opening of the facility to coincide with the end of the BIG BA\$H on line auction and the Parent Association's spring party on Friday, May 18th. This year's theme is called "THE BIG SPLA\$H" ...we hope to see everyone there!





STUDENT



Jennifer is a 10th grader at Mater Dei with a GPA of 4.59. She is also a part of the Mater Dei Academy of Science.

What school did you attend before Mater Dei?

I came from Our Lady of Grace in El Cajon. The reason I wanted to go to Mater Dei was the Science Academy. I love science, everything about it and Mater Dei's labs just blew me away. To have a school that focuses so much on science is wonderful and definitely my type of school.

What do you like most about Mater Dei?

The best thing about Mater Dei is the family-like community. Coming from a smaller school like Our Lady of Grace, you get used to everyone knowing each other and becoming close. Freshman year my best friend from OLG introduced me to one other girl, and that girl introduced me to her friends. The whole school is really close and we all look out for each other. We are like one big family.

What activities do you take part in at Mater Dei?

I am on the Girls JV Basketball team, I manage the JV Softball team doing stats and stuff, I am an Ambassador for Christ and I participate in the Science Academy. I really like sports and I really like school. I want people to know that nerds don't just live for homework and keep their faces in books. I want to show people that smart kids can live outside of homework.

What does being a Crusader mean to you?

To be a Crusader is to have faith in God and yourself. You find your relationship with God growing because of your friends. For example, my best friend and I will have conversations about life and things that are hard or things that are bothering us, but we always end up back at knowing that everything will be okay because God is there for us. He has a plan and everything that is going

on is happening for a reason. We also will just sit and talk about our faith and get really caught up in the conversation.

What do you see for yourself after Mater Dei?

I would like to start with four years at Notre Dame to get my bachelors and then go to Purdue for my masters. I really want to go to another part of the country for school because I feel like there is so much more to experience and so many other kinds of people to meet. I would like to study nuclear engineering because it is really interesting to me. It's a fascinating subject that I could use to help change the world for the better. I would like to prove to people that nuclear power is not only a negative thing. It's a tool like anything else, it just depends on how you use it.

What do you admire most about your parents?

I really admire their faith in me. They have been by my side my whole school career, supporting me and pushing me forward. When I first went to visit Mater Dei, I came home and told my mom that I didn't care if I had to walk there and back everyday, but I was going to this school. She never questioned me once. They believe in me without a doubt.

What do you like to do outside of school?

I love dirtbiking! I've been going out into the desert my whole life. At first I rode quads (they have the four wheels) but recently I started riding the bikes. It's an amazing feeling to just be able to go out and forget about everything. I've been doing it for so long, I don't know who I would be without it.

JENNIFER COLLINS

SPOTLIGHT



DIEGO ALVARADO

What school did you attend before Mater Dei?

I came from CVLCC where they were very, they went towards the morals, teaching us what good morals were and how to use them. They were more about the community, that's why it's called Chula Vista Learning Community Charter. That's where I started my organization called "Making Smiles." It's dedicated to helping families at the Ronald McDonald's House at Rady's Children's Hospital. We fundraise and do parties for the families.

How long has "Making Smiles" been active?

For about three years. I started it in 7th Grade. The school asked us for a service project, a way to help the community. You had to do your own thing. I saw that most of my friends went towards the beach clean ups. I wanted to do something different. The most gratifying thing that I receive is the smiles from the families and the kids. Little things you do for them, they see them as big. Um, anything you do is really appreciated by them because they need so much help. They are going through a crisis with their kids in the hospital. And, to be honest, it's not only the children in the hospital, but it's also their siblings because they need to pay a lot of attention to the kid in the hospital. They need to make sure he's tended for, he has the right medicine and doctor's appointments, daily sometimes. So the siblings aren't in the spotlight.

What do you guys do for the siblings?

In July 2009 we threw a party for the Ronald McDonald house with around 25 kids. Olive Garden donated the food, Victor's Decorations sent a DJ and decorations, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory donated chocolates and other treats for the kids. Various other organizations donated lots of other things for kids to have a great day. On Christmas Eve, we took 100 gifts to the Ronald McDonald House. I had a card from

one of the little girls that said "My parents had just told me that we weren't going to get presents this year because of my little brother. But then Diego came and gave us all presents."

What can people do to help with your organization?

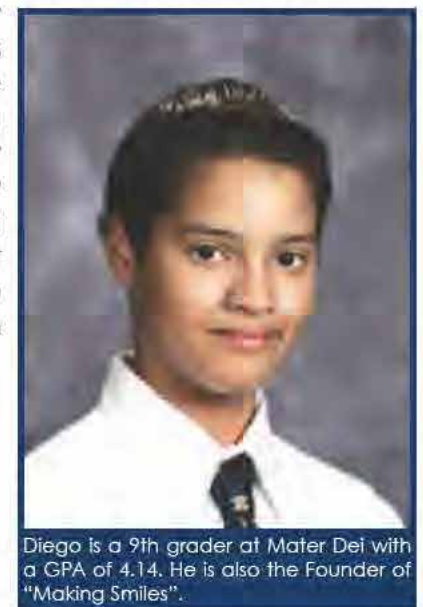
To be honest, anything, anything helps. Anything from donations to service. Many people offer their service. Anything can be offered to the Ronald McDonald house. Right now what we're working on is for a restaurant to serve food because at the Ronald McDonald house they serve food, breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the families. It's about 79,000 meals a year so they constantly need donations of food.

What made you decide to come to Mater Dei?

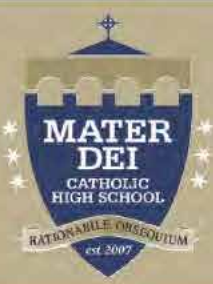
My mother has been to Catholic School ever since she was in kinder all the way to about 12th grade. She saw many of the benefits of being in Catholic school and I wanted to make sure that I got some of those benefits 'cause I see how they instill many morals in each individual. You grow up having a different mentality, towards God and having more faith in him. Also, the academics of Mater Dei have a lot of prestige and when alumni graduate from here they are really prepared for college.

What do you like most about Mater Dei?

From the short amount of time that I have been here at Mater Dei I easily detected many things I like such as the relationship that you build with everybody and how we all grow as a community and how we support each other and help each other through anything.



Diego is a 9th grader at Mater Dei with a GPA of 4.14. He is also the Founder of "Making Smiles".



INVISIBLE CHILDREN

Invisible Children is a San Diego based, non-profit organization set out to stop the use of child soldiers in Africa's longest running war. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has terrorized the citizens of Uganda by destroying villages, abducting children, and forcing families and neighborhoods to stay in overcrowded refugee camps.

Mater Dei had the pleasure of hosting a screening for Invisible Children's Tony 2011 Tour. At this screening the students were able to hear from a Ugandan who was directly affected by the LRA. Achi Nancy's heart-wrenching story impacted many of the students and was not forgotten after the screening was over. Mater Dei students began fundraising for Invisible Children's Frontline project. This project encouraged people around the country to raise money to install radio towers around the Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Southern Sudan, and Central Africa area. These radio towers will allow the citizens to communicate and warn each other about recent LRA attacks.

At lunch, Mater Dei students walked the campus asking for loose change. Some took it outside of school selling bracelets, but the most memorable fundraiser was the school's annual walk-a-thon. Every year Mater Dei asks the students to help raise money for financial aid. The usual promise is that if 80% of the students participate, there will be a day off from school. Since the 80% participation level was reached again this year, Mr. Beecher promised a \$1,000 donation to Invisible Children, as well as the day off.

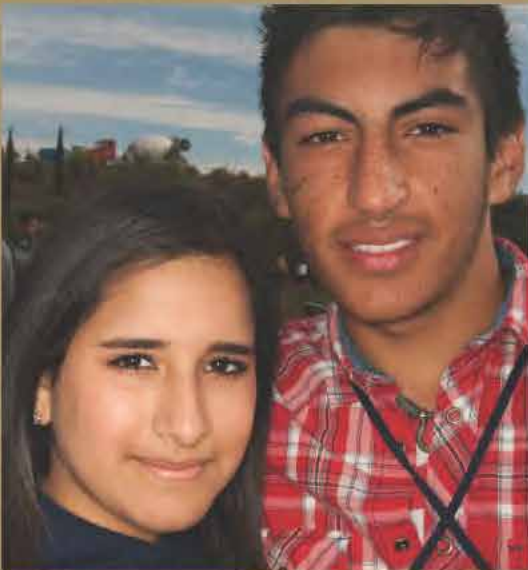
Upon hearing the good news of President Obama sending in advisory troops to help with the removal of Joseph Kony, the LRA leader, the founders of Invisible Children asked people to make a specific sign and take a picture. The sign reads "Mr. President, Invisible Children supports your action against the LRA," so people made the sign and put it as their Facebook picture. A small group of students saw a window of opportunity during the walk-a-thon. They acquired white boards, wrote the message and took pictures of students signing and holding the white boards. Over 200 students and faculty were eager to take a picture supporting a cause they feel so strongly about.

That's not the end of it though. Students continue to fund-raise working with members of Invisible Children to spread the message and let Tony know that we did not forget.

by AJ Beck
Class of 2012



WALKATHON



On November 10, 2011 the students of Mater Dei participated in our annual Student Walk-a-thon at Mater Dei Stadium. The student body raised over \$30,000, a Marian/Mater Dei all-time high, for tuition assistance while having a lot of fun along the way. The top three fundraisers were 10th grader Phillip Cuesta, 11th grader Andrew Pena and 9th grader Christine Cassani. On the day of the walk, the radio station Z90.3 was here on campus to play music for students.



Since over 80% of the student body participated in the walk, Mr. Milke graciously gave everyone a day off from school on February 6, 2012, which happens to be the day after the Super Bowl. All in all the Walk-a-thon was a huge success. We would like to thank all of our parent volunteers who made this event possible. We are very proud of our students for their hard work in helping to raise additional funds to augment our tuition assistance program.



CRUSADER



Bill Youmans, Crusader Class of 1965

Bill played Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Track as well as being the Valedictorian of his class. He was All League in basketball his junior and senior year and All League in baseball his sophomore, junior, and senior year. He was named to the All CIF Baseball team his senior year. Bill attended the University of San Diego on a baseball scholarship. After finishing college, he attended law school at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley. Bill worked for the City of San Diego District Attorney's Office, Legal Aid, and Office of the Public Defender. He was recognized as the State of California Criminal Defense Lawyer in 1998 and San Diego County Bar Foundation's Memorial Distinguished Lawyer Honoree in 2007. Throughout his law career, he remained active in youth sports. Bill passed away in 1999. His award was accepted by his brother, Gary Youmans, Crusader Class of 1969.

Robin Krall, Crusader Class of 1979

Robin played varsity basketball and softball at Marian and was selected first team All CIF and high school All American in softball in 1979. Robin held the record for six stolen bases in one game and stole 72 career bases during her playing days at Marian. She received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Utah and pitched the school's first no-hitter. Robin served in the Army from 1981 – 1985 and played softball at her various army posts. She was the first of two American players to play professional softball in Kariya, Japan for Toyota Shokki from 1990-92. Returning from Japan she was actively involved in community work throughout the San Diego area.



Art Clavert, Crusader Class of 1981

Art was a three sport athlete at Marian. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball with his first love being baseball. He made all League both his junior and senior year in baseball and received an athletic scholarship in baseball to United States International University (USIU). He was drafted by the New York Yankees Organization in the 8th round of the 1984 major league draft and played for the Yankee's single A and double A teams and finished his baseball career with the Saint Louis Cardinals, St. Petersburg A Team in 1989. Art currently serves his community as a member of the San Diego Police Department.

Dr. Alisa Eischen, Crusader Class of 1983

Alisa played volleyball and basketball at Marian and was named most athletic Lady Crusader by her classmates. She was named All CIF Volleyball Player of the Year in 1981 and 1982 while at Marian. She went on to the University of Southern California where she played on the USC Volleyball Team. She received her Masters in Physical Therapy in 1991 from Chapman University/Children's Hospital and her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2002 from the University of Southern California. A lifelong athlete, she is a veteran of the USC volleyball team and an avid surfer. Alisa has served as the Director of Therapy Services at Torrance Orthopedic Sports Medicine Group since 2008.



HALL OF FAME



1988 CIF Champion Football Team

The first Crusader Football team to win a CIF Championship.
Top Left to Right: Manny Padilla, Henry Ocegura, Jerry Conlin, Jeff Hays, Jabarr Brown, Carlos Varela, Adrian Hernandez, Mario Ferrez, Danny Cacho, Jose Iniguez
Bottom Left to Right: Tony Fajardo, Teo Rosales, Darren Jaricek, & Aaron Gonzalez.

Sean Loomer, Crusader Class of 1982

Sean was 1st team All-CIF Football at Marian and broke the CIF All-Time Interception Record his senior year. He was captain of 1981 Marian team that won the South Bay Championship and was selected to the 1st Team All South Bay his senior year. He received an athletic scholarship to Long Beach State University and played football there. Sean was the Defensive Coordinator for 1988 CIF Football Championship Team at Marian. After college he founded "Low Price Communications" and was head football coach at Chandler Valley Christian High School in Arizona. He was voted the Arizona Cardinal's High School Coach of the Year. He also was the head boy's basketball coach at Salpointe Catholic in Tucson, AZ. Sean currently serves as CEO for "OneBode" (Phoenix, AZ) a Holistic Nutrition Company which he co-founded and is the co-founder of "BodHD" in Vista, CA.





ALUMNI GOLF

It was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon on October 16 when 128 players teed off for the 35th Annual Crusader Golf Tournament at Bonita Golf Club. After enjoying a taco feast, the players manned their carts and started the tournament. Signature sponsors were "Stokes Roberts & Wagner Law Corporation" and "Frontera International" which helped make the tournament a success. The foursome of Gordon Stanley, Tim Berry, Rick Marshal and Bunky Gorham came in first place in the "best ball foursome scramble".

The George Milke '72 foursome which included Dave Bushey, Scott Milke and Fr. Jacob Bertrand came in second and last year's winning team of Jose Olazabal, Alex Valenzuela '03, Billy Rivera and Alacoreto Arce came in 3rd. Next year's tournament will be held at Eastlake Country Club on the San Diego Charger's "bye weekend". We hope to see you at the 36th Annual Crusader Golf Tournament.





Mater Dei Catholic High School
1615 Mater Dei Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91913
Phone 619.423.2121
www.materdeicatholic.org

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