

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Spring 2015

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



GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

A LOOK AT MDCHS STUDENT RETREATS PG. 12

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WE CONGRATULATE CARLOS ALCO CER ON HIS EXTRAORDINARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



A PERFECT SCORE!

Mater Dei Catholic High School junior, Carlos Alcocer, did something last year that most students could only wish for. As a sophomore, Carlos became one of the few elite students to get a perfect score on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, becoming one of just 91 students worldwide to get every possible point on his AP Spanish Language and Culture exam.

Spanish teacher, Peggy Chiappe honors student Carlos Alcocer with a plaque of appreciation after Ash Wednesday's school mass. Alcocer received a perfect score on an AP exam, one of just 285 students out of 4 million to get a perfect score on any AP exam, and just one out of 91 students to get a perfect score on the Spanish Language and Culture exam. Alcocer's counselor, Diana Luna holds the MDCHS certificate of recognition that Alcocer was awarded, as principal George Milke acknowledges him in front of the entire student body, faculty, and staff.



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Juan Diego Academy

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Blessed be God!

*When I stand before God at
the end of my life,
I would hope that I would not
have a single bit of talent left,
and could say, "I used
everything you gave me."*

Erma Bombeck

Dear Crusader Family,

It is with hearts full of gratitude for the talents God has given us that we present to you a tapestry of beautiful gifts we have received from above. (James 1:17)

2014-2015 has been an exciting year full of commitment and promise. Our vision of guiding and encouraging students to discover their abilities and produce a hundredfold measure has empowered them to find and cultivate their best self without fear. In addition, we rejoice for the tenderness of giving hands that care to make a difference in the world through small acts of love that extend beyond the campus life. It is well said that "Once a Crusader, Always a Crusader." There is an innate sense of magnanimity that unites us as one family in Christ.

We give thanks to God for the exciting journey He has granted us to travel during this first semester at Mater Dei Catholic High School, and we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and parents as we strive to provide quality Catholic education to the young men and women that are the future of our nation and our Church.

Finally, friends of Marian/Mater Dei, thanks for believing in Catholic education! Thanks for the gifts that provide continued support to make the 'dream' of many Catholic parents come true! We would not be able to do it without you!

Blessings for a beautiful Easter Season!

In Christ,

Sister Lilia M. Barba, SJS
MDCHS President

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Our faculty is
dedicated to providing
a plethora of
opportunities for our
students to broaden
their horizons and, all
the while, fulfill our
motto of "MDCHS is a
place for everyone!"*

At Mater Dei Catholic, there have been many expectations, hopes and dreams for this school year that have been met and exceeded. Administration goals and objectives have been high and faculty are excited about the work their students are doing. Coaches and moderators for co-curricular activities have seen great things happen with their athletes and members, from exciting seasons to great plays and performances!

It is a time where we renew our enthusiasm for teaching and for our vocation to Catholic education. We continue to inject new strategies, new pedagogies and reinforce our mission so that we can continue to provide the very best faith-filled education we can for our students.

With our faculty, the results of their efforts are evident. Our winter awards ceremony we acknowledged 211 students who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher. MDCHS' end of the 1st semester school-wide GPA was 3.12. Students in our Science Academy are engaged in all areas of STEAM, and are thriving. The student involvement with service to others is extensive, aiding those in our local communities as well as in Tijuana. The coming together as a class at the annual retreats is always uplifting.

Our co-curricular success has been so much fun to watch, whether it be the drama productions, our dance club, the cheerleaders, fall sports (Football making it to the CIF championship game, Tennis, Girls Golf, Boys Water Polo and Cross Country participating in the CIF's) or in the rallies orchestrated by our awesome ASB. Our Crusaders welcome and thrive on the challenge to be "outside of the classroom." It is exciting and rewarding to see so many Crusaders vested in their school!

Yours in Catholic education – Go Crusaders!

George Milke, Principal



MATER DEI'S LANGUAGE ACADEMY

CHANGING STUDENT OUTCOMES

Mater Dei is one of the few private schools that has its own Language Academy on campus to help students from other countries become proficient in English. Since Mater Dei opened it has had a distinct vision for the school to have a program to tutor and prepare English Language Learners for success. Since it's beginning it has helped hundreds of students, including our international students from places like China, Brazil, and Lithuania, as well as those who come from neighboring Mexico, overcome the barriers of learning English as a second language.

In the state of California, only 61% of English Language Learners graduate from high school. Often that is because they fail to meet the school's standards, and then are left with the inaccurate perception that speaking English is the measure of their mental abilities or intelligence. In many high schools, students who come in speaking English as their second language must do coursework that is extremely challenging for them, getting insufficient help to succeed.

Cliff Rachlin, Language Academy Department Chair, previously taught in San Diego county public schools, but as a devoted Catholic jumped at the opportunity to work at Mater Dei when he saw an opening. Rachlin says the program at Mater Dei offers intensive help to first year students, and after school tutoring to any student, even those with no language barriers. He, along with teacher, Carissa Peck, provide support to 10th-12th grade ELL students by directing a student support team, which involves meeting with each student to create a plan to succeed.

"It has its challenges," said Peck, who has an extensive history teaching English and living and studying in countries like

Korea, Spain and Mexico. "But I adore my job. I understand what the kids are going through because I was a student myself in countries where I didn't speak the language."

Together with other teachers from Mater Dei, Peck and Rachlin assist and mentor their students to move forward and achieve the best grades they can in class.

"We take advantage of the skills our students already have to take them to the next level. "Students improve their GPA and can move on to greater and more challenging classes. That is the goal."

Cliff Rachlin, Department Chair

"Each student in the Language Academy is an individual," says Rachlin. "Depending on how big the language deficit is, for one student I might consider it success if they obtain a B, while for another I would expect an A."

"But ideally we would like them to gain enough from the program that they move out of it before senior year," adds Peck. "We want to give them the tools they need to eventually do their work well enough that they can succeed without our help."

To figure out where a student is at academically, the Academy offers English Language Learners a customized education. First year students who score below a certain level on the language portion of the High School Placement Test are interviewed to see if placement in the Language Academy is appropriate. Enrolled students get tested upon entering the program and learn in smaller classes, with the same curriculum as students their age. And, after-school tutoring is not only offered to students who are part of the Language Academy, it is also available for students who have gone off track academically and need the necessary attention to succeed in their classes. The Academy is currently in the process of hiring gifted college students to help with tutoring.



LEARNING ABOUT WEALTH

HOW MR. REY'S BUSINESS COURSE IS CHANGING THE WAY MATER DEI STUDENTS THINK ABOUT MONEY

John Rey is a familiar face on the Mater Dei campus. Starting his teaching career as a math teacher at Marian Catholic High in Imperial Beach, and later becoming an administrator when the school moved to its new location in Chula Vista, Rey seems like an unlikely high school teacher with his previous Wall Street financial background and an MBA from San Diego State.

But for this CPA turned teacher, his dedication to teaching young people about money has merged his two worlds. Rey started an innovative business class at Mater Dei in 2013, and his simple course has quickly become one of the favorites on campus.

"This is the best class I've ever taken and my favorite. I wish it was a full year course!" wrote Arianna Gonzalez in one of dozens of student reviews on the course, all consistently positive.

"I agree," said senior, Mariangella Castrejon. "Mr. Rey's course is one of the most relevant we have here. I have it this semester and it's one of the best classes I've taken."

It's not a new idea—to teach young people about money—but it is Rey's distinct teaching style that leaves the greatest impression on his students. For example, the first thing students see each day when they walk into his class is CNBC, live streaming.

"I am passionate about personal finance and love teaching it to young people. At their age, I know what I'm saying can make a huge difference in their future."

"I want them to take a few minutes during each class to see what's happening in the real world. The best money minds are on CNBC, so they don't just learn from me, they get to hear what the smartest business minds in the world are talking about."

Rey narrates as the students watch. He explains to them what the news topics mean, and answers questions they have about real things that are happening in finance.

He uses whatever methods he can to make the biggest impact. He shows them

new inventions that are being created and discusses how there could be a ripple effect from those inventions that can impact the stock market.

He also uses the course *Foundations in Personal Finance* from money guru, Dave Ramsey, to teach students about investing, saving, controlling debt, and to give them a language about money they likely don't have in their normal daily lives. In addition, he uses a personal finance online curriculum where students can learn about these same topics in an interactive way.

Rey brings an energetic, but no nonsense approach to his teaching, a trait carried over from his Brooklyn upbringing. But he also has a softer side that his students don't usually get to see.

"You see this?" he says during his interview, his face breaking into a grin as he motions to the mug he's drinking from—one that has a picture of his children on it.

His children are where his soft spot lies. Along with his wife, Maegan, they have three; Breanna, 7, Mikayla, 5, and Brady, 2. Breanna, their oldest, was born with Down Syndrome and has a seizure disorder.

“At times it definitely can be tough with some of Breanna’s health challenges,” Rey says, “but we know that she is our little angel.”

As a result, Rey is active in organizations that support people with special needs, such as Noah’s Ark Angel Foundation, a charitable foundation supporting the work of Noah Homes, Inc., a residential community for adults with special needs. This past fall he helped raise money for an organization called Best Buddies International by organizing a team to do a 100-mile bike ride from Monterrey to San Simeon.

“It was an amazing weekend that helped to raise over \$4,000,000 for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The next organization I am thinking about getting involved in is called RODS: Racing for Orphans with Down Syndrome. My goal is to help increase awareness about some of these wonderful organizations that help people with special needs, because I think we can all agree that it is a worthwhile cause.”

To top things off, Rey is also an avid athlete. He’s participated in many triathlons over the last five years and in 2014 completed his first half Ironman. “I’m only really good at two things, aside

from being a dad,” he jokes. “Numbers and exercise.”

His quest for health is shared by his wife, Maegan, a devoted runner who completes 3-4 half marathons each year. Their love of exercise is also fueled by the knowledge that their oldest daughter will need them strong and healthy for years to come.

“Some years back we met a doctor who had a child with Down Syndrome. He told my wife and I that we needed to stay in great shape for the rest of our lives for Breanna.”

At Mater Dei, students might not have a clue as to all the things Rey juggles in his life, because in class he’s all business. Today he’s teaching a lesson on compounding interest, specifically the rule of 72, a method for estimating an investment’s doubling time. He’s shown his students that if they put \$1000 in an investment today and added another \$1000 to it every year for the next fifty years, they’d retire with over a million dollars.

“I have a running joke with my students that once they become millionaires at a young age, that they need to come back and share their wealth with me,” he laughs.



“Could we take money out anytime we wanted to?” asks senior Francisco Verdugo during the lesson.

“You could, but if you took the money out before the fifty years, you wouldn’t have the same amount when you retired,” Rey answers.

“What if we started with \$5000?” jumps in another student, senior Jaryd Joyner.

Rey does the calculations and grins at the number showing on the screen; nearly two million dollars.

“Time is on your side,” he tells his students. “If you wait until you are older, you will never get the same results. Don’t forget that.”



ADAPTING TO LIFE IN THE USA

FOUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

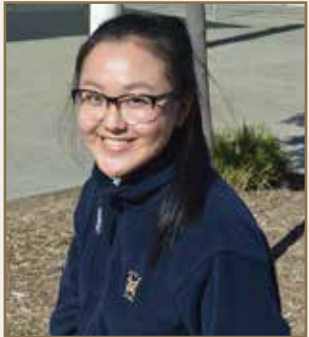
ADAMOS ALEKSANDRAVICI (LITHUANIA)



Mater Dei has been great. My first year as an exchange student has been very exciting. I have been learning English for 10 years, mostly it was not hard for me to learn English. The hardest thing for me was translating everything to English. Everyone tells me I speak clearly, but translating has been difficult to adapt to. I can now understand what my teachers are saying! At first, chemistry was difficult for me because of the new words, but I now feel confident with whatever they say to me.

I like everyone—my teachers, students, and friends. I love them all. It's going to be very hard for me to leave them. When I go home I will miss my new friends, teachers, and, after starting to play baseball, I will miss playing here.

STELLA GUAN (CHINA)



When I arrived to Mater Dei, it was difficult for me to communicate with people because of my culture and how different my way of thinking is compared to the American culture. I now feel more confident. Many people have told me I speak more fluently and I agree. Even after living for a month in America I knew my English was better and I felt like a local. I can learn Spanish and English here and I think that's really great. I think Spanish is a beautiful language and when I listen to people speak it, even though I can't understand it, I can feel the positive atmosphere.

Being at Mater Dei has been great! I've liked it. I will miss my friends. They are so precious! I will also miss my host family.

MATEO MANSO (BRAZIL)



My experience at Mater Dei has been really good. I like San Diego and Mater Dei is a great school. The people are very nice to me.

I'm from Brazil and I think the culture is really different. The first month I was here, it was really difficult to understand English, but now everything is okay. The teachers are really good.

I am going to miss the weather, and my host family because they are really nice to me.

JACK ZHAO (CHINA)



My experience at Mater Dei has been pretty good! Religion class was hard to adapt to because in China it is uncommon to have a religion class for Catholicism.

My English is not bad because at home I spoke English and when I talk to my friends here I only speak English. But I think the hardest part is in the reading and writing area, but talking and listening is not that bad. I have improved in the past semester.

When I go home, I'm going to miss the clean air! Also, how people respect each other. And I like the American education; that's the reason I came here.



Left to Right—Top Row: Daniel Sanchez, Kathy Vargas, Claudia De La Toba, Judith Strauss, Sylvia Armenta, Gary Cooper, Ron Skillman John Sorrentino. Bottom Row: Fabiola Valencia, Zaid Rivas-Lares, Maria Cooper, Susan Skillman.

MATER DEI'S PARENT ASSOCIATION BOARD

CO-PRESIDENTS GARY AND MARIA COOPER SHARE THEIR VISION, VIEWS, AND EXPERIENCE

The Parent Association Board assists the school in every way possible with school functions and fund-raisers. We solicit parent volunteers and coordinate various events, ranging from our Blast-Off Dinner, to our Open Houses, Town Hall meetings, Fashion Show, and Golf Tournament. Through these and many other events, we give parents an opportunity to get involved in their children's school as well as meet their obligations for parent involvement hours. Our goal is to promote and foster parental involvement in our Mater Dei Catholic High School community; as well as to assist with and coordinate fund-raisers and other school events.

This year, our focus has been on raising funds for our sports programs and for our new marching band. By participating in events such as our Golf Tournament and our Fashion Show, parents can help raise funds, meet their hours requirement, make new friends and have lots of fun!

We have been on the Board for three years. We joined because we wanted to make a difference—we wanted to contribute to the continued success of MDCHS, and enhance our students' high school experience. We have always been very involved in the schools our children have attended, and we truly believe that parent involvement is very important.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." This has been our motto, and feel it can be applied to Mater Dei: "Ask not what your school can do for you, ask what you can do for your school."

We would like to increase the number of parents that are actively involved in our school. We want to show them how rewarding it is to give back, and how much fun it can be to participate and help with school functions. If we can make a difference, and positively impact our students, our staff, and our administrators, then we've done our job!

BRANDON MOORE

STUDENT WRITER

Freshman Brandon Moore is one of Mater Dei's Presidential Scholars, which means he scored in the 99th percentile of all students for the High School Placement Test and was awarded a full scholarship for his four years at Mater Dei. On campus, he is a member of the Water Polo team and part of the Optimist Club, Crusader Closet, and Academic League. He looks forward to becoming a member of the Science Academy and he hopes to become involved with ASB and Ambassadors for Christ at Mater Dei as well. Brandon is an outstanding student who excels in Honors English, Math, Science, and History. In his spare time, Brandon participates in several



extracurricular activities, including camping and hiking with the Boy Scouts (in which he is almost an Eagle Scout) and serving as the lead Altar Server at his church. Brandon also has an aptitude for music and has been taking piano lessons since he was in the first grade. On the side, Brandon runs an eBay business, which he hopes to expand to a charity, and he works as a scorekeeper for local youth basketball games. Finally, in his free time, Brandon enjoys reading, using the latest technology, and traveling with his family. Brandon's short term goal is to continue working hard at Mater Dei, and down the road, he would like to study medicine and serve as a surgeon in the US Navy.

CRUSADER FOR CURE

BY BRANDON MOORE



Yaira Guardado Margarita Osuna

When senior Yaira Guardado's cousin was affected by cancer, she saw firsthand how painful it was for a young child to go through such a traumatizing experience. She also saw how difficult it was for her cousin's parents to pay for the expensive treatment and hospitalization that her cousin desperately needed. After learning that there was an organization that provided free cancer treatments for children like her cousin, she decided that she needed to help.

This year, Guardado teamed up with another Mater Dei senior, Margarita Osuna, to help kids like her cousin in need

of cancer treatment. They partnered with Fundación Castro-Limón, a non-profit organization that operates the Pediatric Oncology Center of Baja California (COP). This organization, which was established in July 2003 after the cancer deaths of its founders, Juan Carlos Castro Munguía and Irineo Limon Vargas, is dedicated to providing medical, social, and psychological care for children 0-18 years old with cancer. To date, COP has provided more than 45,000 medical and social services to patients with limited economical resources. To accomplish their goal of providing medical services such as chemotherapy or surgery, Castro-Limón asks for donations of bottle caps, which they recycle to earn money to fund their operation.

After learning of this, Osuna and Guardado decided to bring bottle cap collection to Mater Dei. In order to donate enough bottle caps to make an impact, the two girls have placed a collection box in every classroom at the school, hoping that kids will contribute whenever they are

finished with a bottled drink on campus. So far, their effort has been a success: by Christmas break, they had collected more than 14,000 caps, which is enough to provide one patient at Castro-Limón with complete cancer treatment. When asked about her efforts, Guardado said that "Because my cousin had cancer, I wanted to help others too...this is an easy way for us to give back." Osuna also noted, "If it's in my hands to help someone, I'll do it. It takes only one step to save a child's life."

Osuna and Guardado are hoping to collect even more caps this semester, and they need our help. Also, because they will be graduating in May, they will not be able to continue their service at MDCHS. They are looking for someone who will carry on their work after they leave. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Angeles.

Special thanks to Dr. Pedro Cruz Camarena, General Director of Fundación Castro-Limón, who provided information about his organization and the Pediatric Oncology Center of Baja California.



SPARTAN FOR ALL

BY BRANDON MOORE

Mater Dei Freshman, Jordan Wesson, and Junior, Tristan Wesson, are an elite group of athletes known as “Spartans.” The two brothers and their father participate in the Spartan Races, a series of obstacle courses created in 2010 which are known for their extreme difficulty in more than fourteen countries around the world. All athletes that compete in the races, which are either five mile “Sprint” courses, eight mile “Super” courses, or thirteen mile “Beast” courses, know that they must have physical toughness and mental grit in order to successfully complete the race. Finishing makes competitors “Spartans”—which is what the two Wesson brothers have become on multiple occasions. After being crowned a Spartan several times, Tristan stopped to consider how much someone who had a physical limitation might want to participate, but how difficult it might be for that person to complete the race—or even be able to race at all.

Tristan then found his way to give back to the community and help others while he was doing something he loved. He

came up with the idea of helping people with physical limitations through a race, giving them an opportunity they might never have had otherwise—to become Spartans themselves. He and his family, including Jordan and their father, Garrett Wesson, started to do their part this year by partnering with Mr. Travis Ricks at the Challenged Athletes Foundation, who put them in touch with a local National City resident who wanted to compete in a race. Their “challenged athlete,” Pablo Villarreal, was very active and loved to participate in sports before he was injured in a motorcycle accident several years ago. He had wanted to participate in and complete a Spartan Race, but had been apprehensive about doing it himself. That all changed when the Wessons called Mr. Villarreal, offering him the chance of a lifetime.

On January 25th, 2015, the Wesson family escorted Mr. Villarreal as a team—dubbing themselves the “619 Spartans”—by helping him through the numerous obstacles that the Sprint race threw at them along the way. Mr. Villarreal didn’t need physical

support as he trudged through obstacles like the Barbed Wire Crawl, in which Spartans need to crawl in mud under 20-100 feet of barbed wire that is less than a foot high—what he really needed was the much more valuable emotional support, like “patience, encouraging words, and pats on the back”—which is what Jordan and Tristan were there to give him. To their amazement, he was able to complete every obstacle by himself. To this, Jordan said, “Some of the obstacles were too much even for non-Challenged Athletes to complete! It was an inspiration to all who saw us running.”

The Wesson family plans to continue their mission to make the Spartan races accessible to all by assisting nine other athletes this year, and potentially more after that. And, their work isn’t only beneficial for the athletes they’re helping—it encourages them, too. Says Tristan: “It’s really inspiring to see an athlete with a physical limitation complete an amazing physical feat like the Spartan Race. I’m honored to be able to help them along the way.”

ACADEMIC HONORS

First Honors - Grade Point Average of 3.8 and above

SENIORS

Amylene Cabrera	Alonso Garcia Ballesteros	Naomi Lizarraga	Karina Quiroz
Michael Cain	Luis Gonzalez-Flores	Nicole Madrazo	Sally Russell
Mariangella Castrejon	Phuong (Jasmine) Ho	Brandon Mamou	Kristine Joy Sellona
Monica Cooper	Margaret Holscher	Estefania Martinez	Susan Shoemaker
Estefania Corona	Matthew Ireland	Hannah Otte	Alfonso Valencia
Franco Faucher	Cintia Quan Kiu Kuang	Gerardo Perales	Yang (Bessie) Yang
Luis Foglio	Trent Lilley	Ivanna Quiceno	

JUNIORS

Carlos Alcocer	Joseph Chiappe	Matthew Sam Mejia	Kayla San Pedro
Anamaria Ancheta	Valeria Corral	Maxwell Montes	Stephanie Schaffer
Elia Astiazaran	Diana De La Toba	Mario Pena	Ana Vildosola
Angel Beltran	Madeline Friedrich	Rica Isabelle Perez	Tristan Wesson
Danielle Jessica Bongulto	Maria Galvez	Fausto Polanco	Qineng (Tim) Zeng
Steven Bradley	Maribel Garcia	Gabriela Quevedo	Ana Paola Mata Zetina
Jordan Brasfield	Olivia Guevara	Eric Rodriguez	
Alejandra Felix Campos	Lauren Maalouf	Haya Rosenberg	
Nicholas Caruana	Mary Machniak	Nineth Rotsen Salazar	

SOPHOMORES

Leonardo Aguilar-Lopez	Sergio Cuadra	Jose Hernandez	Juan Pablo Villegas
Ana Alcantar	Tayra Curumilla	Chelsie Hernandez	Sofia Papadakis
Micah Apatan	Myles Domingo	Arianna Inferrera	Ana Patricia Felix-Ibarra
Ana Astiazaran	Jorge Escasan	Roberto Jimenez	Blanca Perales
Mary Bailey	Cassandra Esparza	Jenna Kruse	Enrique Rocha
Hazel Barajas	Quentin Frazier	Ileana Lemos	Paulina Rodriguez-Gonzalez
Kristal Calilung	Paola Garcia-Carrera	Kevin Li Zhang	Steven Shoemaker
Ezekiel Campos	Javier Gomez	Fernanda Lutteroth	Madelyn Tassiello
Eduardo Charvel	Miguel Guerrero-Medrano	Sabrina Mata	Sergio Villafranco
Bethany Colgrove	Austin Habib	Kelsey Munoz	Peyton Zizzi
Emilly Contreras	Brigid Healy	Malia Noble	Maryann Zora
David Cooper	Amorette Hernandez	Ashlyn O'Hara	

FRESHMEN

Olivia Adams	Vanessa Leon	Kyle Myers	Hanna Taglinao
Elena Arnold	Nicholas Lopez	Joshua Narezo	Paolo Tassinari
Jonas Philip Bongulto	Ian Lutz	Eduardo Navarro Gomez	Jordan Wesson
Roman Flores	Zoe Manalo	Zechariah Oakley	Niklaus Wetter
Carson Gorney	Kahtrel Maynard	Samantha Ruiz	Madison (O'Hara) Wickham
Edward Hagerty	Brandon Moore	Alessandra Salas	
Pablo Hernandez	Rosalind Moore	Manuella Sobol	



STUDENT LEADERS TALK ABOUT ASB

Mater Dei students have plenty of opportunities to find their niche on campus. They can join clubs or sports teams, focus on service, help with campus ministry or simply focus on their academics. However, some of the most ambitious students end up participating in school leadership, such as those in the Associated Student Body (ASB), who lead the student community.

Executive Student Body President, James Ricketts said. "I joined the ASB because I wanted to create more events that would strengthen school spirit. That is my goal before I graduate."

In its essence, that is the entire goal of the ASB—to create events and activities on campus that encourage school spirit and serve others. The dedicated members of the ASB take their job seriously, having meetings to organize events even before school starts in August. During the school year, members meet every other day at 7:30 am, in addition to after-school meetings, and even meetings at home via social media.

This year's ASB has done much, from holding an outdoor Welcome Back Rally and bringing back the annual Power Puff game for juniors and seniors—which aired on San Diego's KUSI Prep-Pigskin Report—to revamping ASB's Senior/Freshman Buddy Week to include more games, bonding and fun.

Spirit Week, held in October, is also an annual event run by the ASB. Held the

week of Homecoming, it has the most anticipated pep rally of the year run by the ASB, where the King is crowned. The week is followed by the traditional Homecoming game—where the Queen is crowned—and the formal dance that same weekend.

Currently the ASB is organizing Mater Dei's first Spring Fling dance in March. The event will be done as a Sadie Hawkins dance where female students will invite and pay for male students to attend as their dates. There are also plans happening to create a talent show before the end of the year.

"I wish we could do all of the things we want to," Ricketts said. "We have a lot of good ideas, but not enough time for all of them. Students are busy."

"ASB Thursdays is another new event students will be seeing on campus," Senior Class President Mariangella Castrejon shared. "Games that create more school spirit will be played in the courtyard during school hours. Everyone will see

the ASB running those events on a regular basis and become more familiar with us."



Senior Class President Mariangella Castrejon

The ASB raises money in different ways to plan and create their events. Candygrams and restaurant fundraisers like the one at Buffalo Wild Wings in February get a positive turnout. Additionally, they are highly active on social media to get the word out on things they're doing. You can find them on Instagram under username MDCHS_ASB, or just type in the famous hashtag #crusadernation.

"Each year more students are interested in becoming school leaders" Castrejon shared, "When I was a freshmen, only two people might run against each other for a certain position, but this year five students ran for the same one."

Spending many hours brainstorming and planning different events has created a strong bond within the ASB, Castrejon explained, "The ASB, as a whole, is a family. Seniors are like the big brothers and sisters. Juniors look up to seniors, sophomores can look up to juniors, and so on."



ASB President James Ricketts (3rd from left) at ASB run Homecoming Dance.

GROWING CLO

A LOOK AT MDCHS S



Texting, TV, school, homework, friends, and being online take up most of Mater Dei student's lives. That is just the way the world is today. This is why the school strives to teach them the importance of prayer and quiet reflection, and why it is vital that all students strengthen this understanding by participating in one of the school's student retreats.



Mater Dei students have opportunities that public school students don't. They get to celebrate their relationships with God during Mass and in Theology classes. However, outside of these times, they may not find enough of the quiet time they need to simply look within.

During MDCHS Junior and Senior Retreats, life is different. Students have one entire day and night to do nothing but spend time focusing on God. They participate in group activities like singing and sharing stories, as well as getting the free time they need to just reflect and pray.



OSER TO GOD

TUDENT RETREATS

“It was the best experience I’ve ever had at a school event,” said Nicholas Zora, a junior who went on his retreat this fall. “You always hear how you’re going to really be moved and feel closer to God, but it really is true. It is really emotional for a lot of people.”

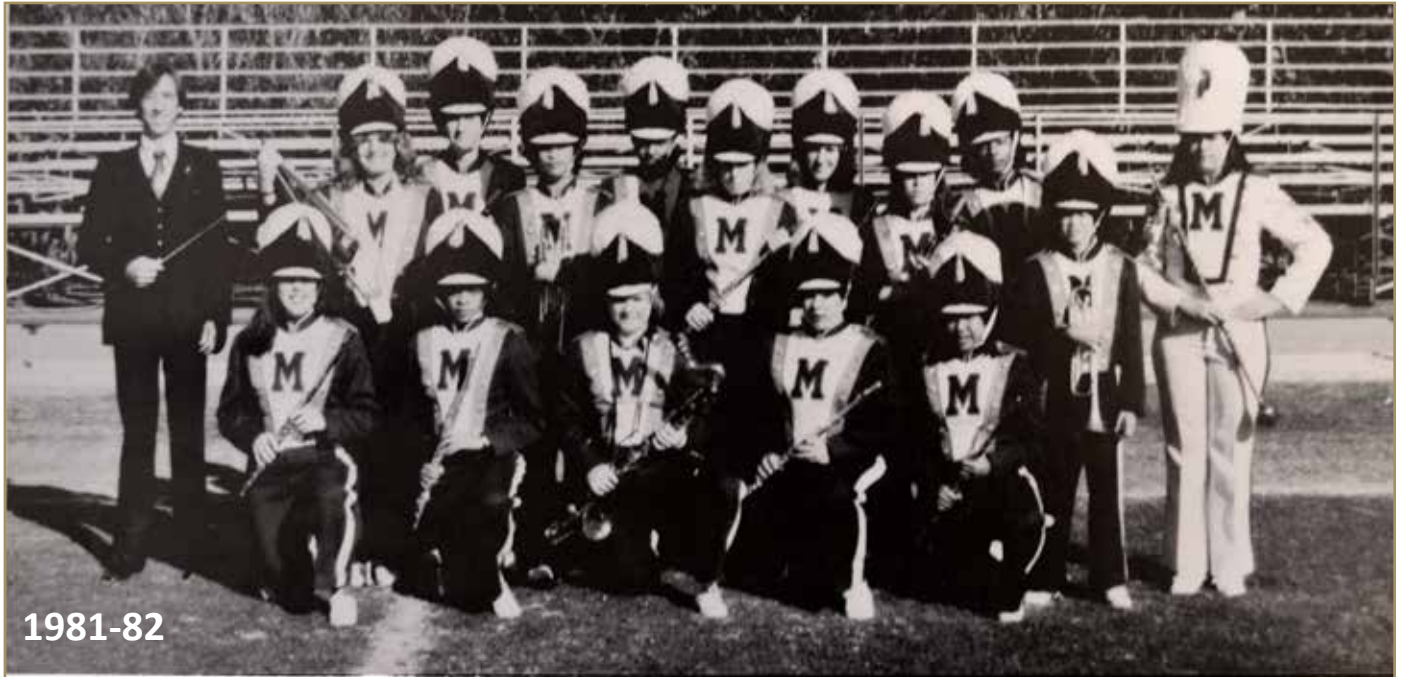
Zora is right, the retreat can be an emotional time. It is an occasion when students who have never interacted before on campus form close friendships. Some students who are struggling with their faith in God often return with a renewed faith. The student Campus Ministers at the Junior retreat are Seniors who have been on previous retreats and attend to help. Seniors also have their own overnight retreat, while freshman and sophomores have day long ones.

“They are very fun,” said Sergio Paredes, who attended his retreat this school year.

“Yes, I had a great time with everyone,” added Munir Cevallos. “The best thing is that you get to connect with other people and come back feeling really refreshed.”



STARTING A NEW LEGACY MATER DEI MARCHING BAND TO BEGIN SUMMER 2015



1981-82

Front Row: Michelle Inzunza, Kim Green, Donna Judge, Lillian Chavarin, Kim Conda. Back Row: Mr. Imming, director, Kani Helton, Phil Barney, Andy Adan, Terri Rather, Jenny Krause, Rita Lane, Karen Murphy, Tony Crockett, Frederick Miclat, Adrianna Castanon, drum major. Not pictured: Phil Brown, Hans Palmer.

There is going to be a new kind of athlete coming to the Mater Dei campus: one that is coordinated, enthusiastic, and, in this case... musical.

“We are really excited,” said Joseph Brunner, Dean of Boys. “We’ve been in talks to start a band for years but next school year it looks like the Mater Dei Catholic High School marching band is finally getting off the ground.”

Decades ago, Marian Catholic High had a marching band at its Imperial Beach location, but the program ended in the 1980’s, years before the school moved to the Mater Dei campus in Chula Vista. For the past decade the school has had a Steel Drum band led by current instructor, Troy Peets, and guitar and choir classes taught by music teacher, Ricardo Rosales. Both Peets and Rosales will be helping the school’s new marching band instructor to prepare students for their performances.

“This band has an advantage because it is being revamped in 2015,” said Laura Bookser, Director of Community Outreach and former trumpet player

in her Catholic high school band. “We’re getting the opportunity to build something dynamic and contemporary, with input from our students. Hopefully Marian Alumni who were band members in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s will remember their band, get excited and come back to help and cheer us on.”

Current Mater Dei students, and eighth graders who will be freshman next year, can sign up to be a part of the marching band through the school counselors. During the school year Band will be held as an elective, perhaps as an alternative to PE.

“But, if students think they’re getting out of a workout by not taking PE, they’re mistaken,” Bookser said. “They have to play music while learning the intricate steps for field choreography. They have to learn how to march with correct posture and movements. It’s more than just walking and playing an instrument. It’s a workout.”

The band will not only have students who will be playing instruments, it will also have the Color Guard; dancers who will do synchronized flag choreography to the

music the marching band is playing.

Even if students have never played a band instrument, or done color guard before, they can join and get free lessons as a part of the Band. It will take time to make the program grow, and for beginning students to become proficient in their craft, but the goal is to have a solid group of students signed up to start learning during a week-long intensive band camp that will be held in July.

One of the biggest challenges the band faces, according to Cres Angeles, Dean of Girls, is raising the additional funds needed for the starting costs of things such as uniforms, props, competition fees,

The community can add to the band’s start-up fund through the MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH BAND crowd-funding link that can be found at materdeicatholic.org. The hope is that many people will donate funds, instruments, or equipment to be part of getting the school’s long-awaited band off the ground.

MATER DEI NEW BAND AND COLOR GUARD UNIFORMS



FEMALE
COLOR GUARD
COLD WEATHER

FEMALE
COLOR GUARD
WARM WEATHER

and large band instruments like tubas and drums with Mater Dei's logo on them.

"However, we are holding a Fashion Show on Saturday, March 21st to help raise funds for those items," says Angeles. "Buying tickets or ad space in our program is one way people can help."

"A strong music program offers our students opportunities for college scholarships, just

like they could earn in academics or sports," said music teacher, Ricardo Rosales.

The school wants to give students the best chance at earning financial aid for college. With freshman, sophomores and juniors already excitedly putting Band on their class schedules for next year, the pressure to get everything done, and done well is there. However for the team at Mater

Dei tasked with putting things in order, the energy is one of pure anticipation and eagerness, and a strong faith that the Crusader community will come together to help them meet their goal.

If you'd like more information or know how you can help, please visit our website at www.materdeicatholic.org or call Laura Bookser at 619 423-2121 x120.

CRUSADER FOOTBALL: CIF DIVISION IV RUNNER UP



Playing a tough non-league schedule that included the Division II CIF champion El Capitan, the Crusader Football team finished the season 7-6, finishing second in the Metro-South Bay League and then receiving a #2 seed for the Division IV playoffs based on their tough schedule and power rankings in Division IV. The Crusaders defeated Clairemont in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs 35-13 and Central Union in the semi-finals 23-10. Down 13-10 with 5 seconds left the CIF finals against #1 seeded Bishops, junior kicker Alex

Golembiewski kicked at 35 yard field goal to tie the game and take the game into overtime. The Crusaders scored first in overtime with a field goal and then the # 1 rushing team in CIFSDS Section Bishops team pushed over a touchdown to take the title.

A tough loss, but a great season for the young Crusader team as the players are anxiously waiting for next fall season to come back and go for the gold again in a league and CIF title.

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS TENNIS: SUPERIORITY ON AND OFF THE COURT



After previous years of success, the Girls Tennis team managed to raise the bar once again this year. Unbeaten in their league (10–0) and a 14–3 overall record, these Lady Crusaders showed their superiority on and off the court throughout the entire season. After winning the Mesa League title for another consecutive year it was no surprise that they entered the CIF playoffs as one of the top seeded teams in the region. They swiftly glided through the first stages of the playoffs until they were cut short in sudden death when reaching the CIF Division I Semifinals. Nevertheless, these ladies are stellar examples of what it means to be both a student and an athlete and already looking forward to another great season next school year. Junior Valeria Corral went on to CIF singles and earned 1st Team All CIF honors.

CROSS COUNTRY: QUALIFIED FOR THE CIF CHAMPIONSHIPS



Perhaps one of the most popular sports at Mater Dei, Cross Country invites student-athletes of all levels to compete. In fact, athletes like Senior, Susanna López paved the way for new freshmen who had never been exposed to running and participating in major tournaments all around the county. Like many of the other teams here at school this team found success throughout their entire season.

Eventually they qualified for the CIF Championships here in the San Diego region and managed to stand out in our community. Junior Salvador Rodriguez won Mesa League honors and qualified for the state finals. With Track and Field season looming in the distance, many of these runners will be continuing to run throughout the entire year. Boys Cross Country earned CIF All Academic Team honors.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

TRUE ROLE MODELS ON AND OFF THE COURT

Another very popular sport among many of our female students is volleyball, who won All Academic Team honors. These young ladies train endlessly every afternoon for well over two hours. After finishing a long day at practice many drive home only to get home to study and do homework. There is no doubt that these ladies are true role models on and off the court as they not only juggle volleyballs in the air, but also manage to also excel academically.

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

BOYS WATER POLO: IN CIF PLAYOFFS CONSECUTIVE SEASONS

Following an extremely successful season last year, high expectations were anticipated from our Crusader Boys Water Polo team for the 2014 season. Like any team they faced their ups and downs through the course of the regular season, but managed to stick together during their difficult times. Jeffrey Jovellano (Junior) and Juan Carlos Gómez (Junior), both players since their freshman year described this season as a “rebuilding” time for their team. In fact, they did lose many key players on their roster that are now well into their second semester of college. Yet, this group of young men did much better than just a rebuilding team. They managed to enter the CIF playoffs for another consecutive season. Unfortunately though, their efforts came a little short when they lost in the



First Round of the CIF Division II Playoffs in a close game against Clairemont. Like all other teams on campus, they expect to be stronger and better next season.

GIRLS GOLF: CAME IN SECOND IN THE STRONG MESA LEAGUE



It seems that success found every team this Fall at Mater Dei. Girls golf earned All Academic Team honors. With a 9-3 record the Lady Crusader Golf team came in second in the strong Mesa League. Much of their success is owed to one of their most noteworthy players this year, junior Jessica Mangrobang. Ms. Mangrobang was named onto the First Team of the Mesa League and was also awarded Mesa League Player of the Year. She also earned 1st Team All CIF honors. We couldn't be more excited for Jessica and her future and especially for her upcoming season next year. We encourage many other ladies to join this wonderful group of athletes. Keep it up, Crusaders!

CHEER: A DEDICATED GROUP OF STUDENTS



One of the most influential staples in every high school are their cheerleaders. Mater Dei is no exception. Our Lady Crusader Cheer Squad is one of the most dedicated groups of students here at school. They practice weekly for countless hours and appear at every football and basketball game. Needless to say these girls

always pump up any crowd and make every game a fun one. With so much going on this season, like the CIF Division IV Football Championship and the Basketball season kicking off, these ladies will be very busy these coming weeks. Make sure to stop by a game and see them in action!

BEN VALLEJOS '85: FROM CRUSADER TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



1985 Alumnus Ben Vallejos grew up in the South Bay, along with his siblings, Christine, Ted, Chris, and Diane, all of whom graduated from Marian Catholic. Now the Executive Director of The Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista, Ben remembers being seen as just “another Vallejos” in the small, but tight-knit Marian community.

“By the time I got to Marian, I was the fourth in the family to go there,” he laughs. “Teachers were like, ‘Oh wow, another Vallejos.’”

Now living in the College Area with his wife, Kathleen, Vallejos has brought honor to his family name. He gives us a tour of the Living Coast Discovery Center with the pride of a man who has devoted years to it. An avid diver and ocean lover, he is passionate about his work and it shows.

“My real love is for fishes. I’ve even brought some from my own dives.” Vallejos stands next to the 21,000 gallon exhibit that houses sharks and fish. He

scans one of the underwater viewing areas until he finds a fish he knows. “There’s one,” he proudly points out.

Though a definite sea lover, Vallejos had an interesting journey to become the organization’s Executive Director. He received a degree in Marine Biology from San Diego State, but made a detour working in a retail department store for many years before coming to work at what was then known as the Chula Vista Nature Center.

“I really loved the ocean and fish, yet was working in retail for a major department store. I realized I was always going to be unfulfilled in that career, so came to work here at the Chula Vista Nature Center. I started in a part time job in the gift shop. As opportunities opened, I worked my way up.”

Many people in South Bay still refer to the property as the Chula Vista Nature Center, but Vallejos explains that the 2012 name change was a way to more

adequately describe their facility.

“We were originally founded by the City of Chula Vista in 1987, but transitioned to a separate nonprofit in 2010. The name Living Coast Discovery Center was a way to both reflect that change and to describe our unique location here on the Sweetwater Marsh. This is really a place that all San Diegans interested in wildlife should visit. There is no other place like it for people to explore the kinds of native animals and plants that call this area home.”





There are a variety of animals at the center. Some of the most popular are the rays that guests can get up close and personal with in an interactive touch pool, and the meet and greets with owls and other small animals.

There are also habitats on location, like the one for the facility's endangered light-footed clapper rail breeding program. At the entrance of the facility is the sea turtle exhibit, where visitors can see up-close feedings. Inside are more fish and animals, like the jellyfish, and an octopus, for which the Mater Dei Science Academy helped cultivate a kelp habitat and purchased a new chiller, vital

for keeping the octopus tank water at the proper temperature."

Mater Dei's Science Academy has had a long partnership with the organization. Academy students have done internships there; work like they did on the octopus tank. The Science Academy also receives assistance for its sea bass project, where students study, raise and release sea bass in the waters near The Living Coast Discovery Center's land. The Center has provided all seawater free of charge to Mater Dei, along with invaluable assistance to troubleshoot and maintain the Academy of Science marine tank system. The center's South Bay location

makes it a perfect, close-by location for students to easily access.

Showing his true Crusader pride and spirit, Vallejos continues to support the Marian/ Mater Dei community through this special bond between Mater Dei's Science Academy and the Living Coast Discovery Center. Professional partnerships like this one keep Mater Dei students meeting and exceeding the high expectations they have to qualify for the Academy.

"I'm glad to do it. It meant a lot to have had the small, close knit community I had at Marian," Vallejos says. "Also, I love the South Bay. I grew up here and love sharing what it has to offer."



A LOOK AT OUR ROBOTICS TEAM

"THE CRUSADER CREATORS"

It is just before dawn on a chilly January Saturday morning, and eight Mater Dei students are driving to Point Loma, getting ready to compete. Everyone in this dedicated crew is a member of the Crusader Creators, the school's Robotics Team. Comprised of sophomores to seniors, the older students provide much needed experience for the younger team members. The younger students are a devoted group who will continue the team's tenacity in the coming years.

The Crusader Creators are part of the First Tech Challenge league (FTC), of San Diego. FTC is designed for students in grades 7-12 to compete head to head, using a sports model. Teams are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams.

Ready and eagerly waiting for the buzzer to sound, the team assembles themselves and their machinery for their match. Holding game controllers they are waiting intently to show how the robot they've built can perform. The team had to design a robot that was able to perform tasks required for this seasons challenge. This year's challenge is known as "The Cascading Effect". It is played on a 12' by 12' soft foam mat field with approximately one foot high walls. Two randomly selected teams are paired together as an Alliance to play a match against a second Alliance. Scores are calculated based on a variety tasks that each Robot performs during the match.

Team mentor, Tony Thomas, and coach, Brad Bookser are watching over their competitors at work. "We have a great team," says Thomas. "This has been our best year since Robotics started."



Back Row (L-R): Mr. Brad Bookser, Kevin Li Zhang, Tim Zeng, Angel De La Paz, Marco Manzano, Asbel De La Paz, Cory Stahl. Mr. Tony Thomas. Front Row (L-R): Luis Quiambao, Jasmine Ho, William Cook.

"And we have a fast and agile robot this season," says Bookser. "That's the main reason we're so competitive this year. The team worked hard to build a robot that could maneuver more quickly than the ones we'd built in the past."

The First Tech Challenge is about teaching students the value of hard work, innovation and creativity. It goes beyond competition by teaching teenagers the importance of working together, sharing ideas and treating each other with respect and dignity. Being part of FTC is a great opportunity for Mater Dei students. FTC offers over \$20 million dollars in scholarship opportunities each year. It also gives students the opportunity to learn about robotics, computer programming, computer assisted design and compete against other teams at the local, regional and national level.

"Robotics has been an extraordinary experience," said team member, Angel De La Paz. "It taught me to keep working and never give up even if the odds are stacked up against the team. I'm glad I've gotten to share the excitement of competing with team members who are my friends."

And compete they certainly did. The Crusader Creators finished in third place in two of their qualifying competitions during their tournament and got a spot in regionals, much further than the team had gotten in the past.

"This has been a great learning season for the team," says Bookser. "They did great in regionals, but the competition was steep. Still, this is the best season we've had. I'm looking forward to what lies ahead in the coming years."



MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH BECOMING A ONE TO ONE TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL



MDCHS is adopting a One-to-One technology system for the 2015–2016 school year! But rather than just a standard iPad or laptop computer, next year every student will be given a Lenovo ThinkPad S1 Yoga as part of their tuition—an amazingly adaptable touch-screen laptop device they will use in all of their classes.

To assist students, we have created a technology support package that includes hardware, software and insurance for their computer. That way, students will get support if their laptop breaks or gets some type of computer malware.

The Student Technology Package includes:

- Laptop:** Lenovo ThinkPad S1 Yoga
 - » Ultrabook
 - » Core i5 4010U / 1.7 GHz
 - » Windows 8.1 Pro 64-bit
 - » 4 GB RAM
 - » 500 GB HDD (16 GB SSD cache)
 - » 12.5" touchscreen 1366 x 768 (HD)
 - » Intel HD Graphics 4400
 - » 802.11ac
 - » 8 hours of battery life and a 30-day standby
- Antivirus (4 years):** Symantec Endpoint Protection—cloud version
- Accidental Damage Protection (4 years):** Provided coverage for accidental damage due to liquid spills, unintentional drops or bumps, and electrical surge.
- CompuTrace LoJack:** Loss and theft

protection

- Office 365:** Each student will receive up to 5 licensed downloads of Office 2013. The 5 downloads are compatible with PC, MAC, iOS (Apple) and Android devices. Students will have up to 1 TB of cloud storage. This allows the student and their family members to take advantage of the latest Microsoft Office software.
- Loaner Program:** The school will maintain loaner laptops if a student's laptop breaks, but these loaner laptops will be a lower end model than the student issued laptop. If a student is issued a loaner laptop, they will need to sign a digital check out with name, ID number and date. The laptop needs to be associated with the student ID. The loaners will have the same software and configurations of their school issued laptop.
- Student Help Desk:** Students will be able to submit trouble tickets and

reset passwords from the student helpdesk, which will allow us to provide support and quickly resolve technical problems. Students will be able to track their service history and find information that can help them resolve personal IT issues.

- Hardware Support:** If a student laptop gets damaged while under warranty, it can be taken to the helpdesk office, where a technician will determine the issue and either implement a fix or issue a loaner. The helpdesk will order replacement parts directly from Lenovo. Most parts are next day delivery. Once repaired, the laptop will be exchanged with the student for the loaner.
- Software Support:** If a student has issues with software on the laptop it can be taken to the student helpdesk. The helpdesk person will determine the issue and either re-image the laptop or issue a loaner to the student.

For more information or to ask questions about One to One at Mater Dei, please visit www.matericatholic.org/OnetoOne.



2014 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

OPENING PRAYER BY SISTER LILIA BARBA, SJS, PRESIDENT, MDCHS
 MASTER OF CEREMONY: GEORGE MILKE '72, PRINCIPAL, MDCHS

The 2014 Crusader Sports Hall of Fame ceremony recognized past alumni athletes of Marian Catholic/Mater Dei Catholic High who have been exemplary examples in the community. The 2014 Inductees are:



Jennifer Reyes (Class of '92)

A renowned athlete while at Marian Catholic, Jennifer Reyes was a member of three Crusader teams. As a varsity team member all four years in both basketball and softball, and a varsity player in volleyball during her junior and senior years, Jennifer received academic honors in all three sports, and was the recipient of the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete award in 1992. Other honors she received were: the All Harbor League honors in volleyball in 1991 and 1992, First Team All-League Honors in Softball in 1990 and 1991, and Jennifer was the Lady Crusader Basketball MVP during both junior and senior year.

She is currently a record-holder in the CIF record book for most career assists in basketball with 608, most assists in season with 239 in 1992, and most assists in a game with 20 in 1992. Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at CSU Dominguez Hills, where she played college basketball, and currently works as a production planner for Brooks Automation in Poway.



Benjamin Cordova (Class of '98)

Ben was a stellar athlete during his time at Marian. Lettering in football and basketball, Ben's real prowess was in baseball. Currently he is in the CIF San Diego Section Record Book with a record of 37 home runs and 151 RBI's in one season. Ben and the Marian Crusaders Baseball team also won the 1996 and 1998 CIF Division III Baseball Championship in the San Diego Section.

In 1998 he was selected to the All-USA 2nd Team Baseball Squad and was named the 1998 Cal-Hi Sports Baseball Player of the Year. After high school, Ben was drafted in the 3rd round of the 1998 Major League Baseball Draft by the Kansas City Royals. He played professionally in the minor leagues for Spokane, Charleston, Burlington, and Edinburg until in 2003. Ben is currently serving proudly as a U.S. Marine.

2009 Men's Soccer Team



CIF SAN DIEGO DIVISION IV & CIF STATE REGIONAL DIVISION III CHAMPIONS

Head Coach Jorge Zavala
Michael Blas '09
Sergio Crosthwaite '09
Alonso Martínez '09
Kevin Mercado '09
Jason Myers '09

Ivan Paredes '09
Octavio Rodríguez
Nick Wright '09
Germán Verduzco
Rafael Blanco '10
Sergio López '10

Juan Pablo Martínez '10
Hadrian Sánchez '10
Hiram Torres '10
Cesar Trejo '10
Diego Álvarez '11
Luis Ayala '11

Diego Galán '11
Chris Luu '11
Eduardo Martínez '11
Ricardo Rosique '11
Alan Carrillo '12
José De La Concha '12

Alejandro Guido '12
Coach Sergio Villalva
Coach Lorenzo Vázquez
Coach Miguel Chevez.

2009 Women's Basketball Team



METRO CONFERENCE MESA LEAGUE, CIF STATE REGIONAL DIVISION IV AND CIF STATE DIVISION IV CHAMPIONS

Head Coach David Monroe
Soulijah Evans '09
Ebony Henry '09
Kamela Jackson '09

Danae Johnson '09
Jhazmine Lynch '09
Romanda Harris '10
Tatiana Tobe '10

Wendy Tamayo '10
Jessica Baumgardner '11
Carina Erb '11
Ocean Escalanti '12

Victoria Manriquez
Coach Darrel Bailey
Coach Carla Martínez
Coach Druzella White

KAREN CHUDY—THE ULTIMATE CRUSADER



After 47 years of dedicated service, Assistant to the President, Karen Chudy, is retiring from Mater Dei. Karen is not only an alumni from Marian, class of '68, she has also been an exceptional example of dedication and loyalty as an employee at both Marian and Mater Dei.

Congratulations on your retirement, Karen. Here's to an end of an era for you and Marian/Mater Dei. Although we will miss you, may you truly enjoy this well deserved new chapter in your life. We wish you the best!



STUDENT AWARDS



Maggie Holscher

On February 6th, Maggie Holscher won second place at the Poetry Out Loud San Diego Regional Finals. She received a cash prize for her work and was invited to the State Finals in Sacramento on March 16th. Holscher, a student in Academy of Science at Mater Dei is also the student playwright that wrote the notable script for the MDCHS Fall theater production.



Diego Alvarado

Congratulations to Matthew 25 award recipient, Diego Alvarado from Mater Dei, who attended the Matthew 25 award dinner at USD on November 20th, accompanied by his mother and Mater Dei Principal, George Milke. The Matthew 25 awards are given annually by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of San Diego, as a celebration to recognize individuals who put their faith in action through works of charity for the least of Christ's brothers and sisters.



Outstanding Crusader Golf Mesa League Players

Congratulations to our Outstanding Golfers who were honored (L-R):

- Alexandra Scott: 2nd Team All Mesa League,
- Jessica Mangrobang: 1st Team All Mesa League and Mesa League Golfer of the Year, and
- Peyton Zizzi: 1st Team All Mesa League.

On left Athletic Director, Bill Gerken, on right, Coach Alex Valenzuela '03.

FIAT: SIX SAN DIEGO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS JOINING FORCES IN THE NAME OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION



When the Archangel Gabriel told Our Lady that she was to bear the Son of God and name Him Jesus, Mary completely surrendered herself to the Divine Plan in what is known as the FIAT:

“Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:38)

Mater Dei’s Juan Diego Academy, opening Fall 2015, has partnered with the current South Bay Parochial Schools in San Diego: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Charles Catholic School, St. Michael Academy, St. Pius X School and St. Rose of Lima School, to create a South Bay Catholic schools consortium. The consortium, to be known as FIAT Catholic Schools for the Fiat of Mary, her example for us to trust in God, also stands for Faith, Innovation, Academics, Team, a team of the six schools who have joined together to collaborate on growing Catholic education.

The FIAT Catholic Schools are in the beginning stages of their alliance, however for the next two years you will hear the name FIAT often, as the consortium shares the progress it is making. One goal of the consortium is to have a common standard of education that can be found in all six schools, utilizing the 21st Century learning STREAM model—Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. STEM programing; the first step toward the STREAM model, will be added this fall to the curriculum of all six schools.

FIAT Catholic Schools’ motto is: *Yes to God, yes to Catholic education!*



MATER DEI JUAN DIEGO ACADEMY 21ST CENTURY LEARNING THAT INCORPORATES FAITH FORMATION

The Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy (MDJDA) will be a K-8 school opening on the Mater Dei Catholic Campus in Chula Vista, California. Starting with grades K-2 in Fall 2015, and growing to add a grade each year, the school will serve the Mater Dei and Corpus Christi parishes and families in the local community.

MDJDA students will be exposed to 21st century learning that incorporates

faith formation, to better prepare them for high school and life beyond. The curriculum will focus on STREAM Education: Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

Our state-of-the-art program is part of the new San Diego South Bay Catholic School Consortium: FIAT (Faith, Innovation, Academics, Team)—six diocesan schools committed to offering innovative Catholic

education to families in our communities. Along with St. Rose of Lima, St. Michael Academy, St. Pius X, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Charles School, the goal is to provide all families in South San Diego communities with access to excellent innovative learning opportunities.

If you would like to learn more about the Juan Diego Academy at Mater Dei, please visit our website at www.jdacv.org.



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

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MDCHS ADMISSION TEST DATES 2015



WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2015 8AM-11:30AM

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2015 8AM-11:30AM

For information or to schedule a school tour, call Mr. Roy Vasquez, Director of Admissions
at (619) 423-2121 x106 or email: rvasquez@materdeicatholic.org