



DeTOURS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL

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SUMMER 2020

St. Martin's Class of 2020



Margaret Antonetti
Annecamie Augustin
Jackeline Avalos
Francheska Bazar
Julián Bejarano
Natalie Cruz
Hilda Diaz Juica
Brisa Fleitas
Adrianna Guiffo
Thea Javelosa
Angel Jusu
Austin Kallungal
Brian Kuhn
Abigail Lau

Gaithersburg High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Clarksburg High School
Undecided
Quince Orchard High School
Magruder High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
St. John's College High School
Brookewood School
St. John's College High School
Seneca Valley High School
Northwest High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Our Lady of Good Counsel

Henry Lynch
Hillary Malik
Alessandra Marino
Katherin Molina Vanegas
Victoria Moundongo Frank
Pablo Muralles
Diego Ortiz
Olivier Payen
Adán Romo Reyes
Valeria Santiago
Athena Stith
Leanna Torrence
Ariana Velasquez

Poolesville High School
Brookewood School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Clarksburg High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Watkins Mill High School
Watkins Mill High School
Watkins Mill High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Clarksburg High School
Mount de Sales Academy
Brookewood School
Clarksburg High School

Dear St. Martin's Community:

We are all facing unprecedented uncertainty, but these are the times when our community comes together in the best ways. This coming September, we will be celebrating our school's 95th year of making a difference in the lives of students by inspiring spiritual growth, academic excellence, leadership, and service to others. Many of our school families are facing a crisis unlike any other, and they have never needed support more. Extraordinary circumstances like these are exactly why we rely on the Endowment Funds, which offer the flexibility to adapt to our school's greatest needs-needs that are evolving daily. While we know so many in our community are facing challenges of their own, we hope you will consider supporting St. Martin's families and showing them they are not alone on this unprecedented journey.

Contributions may be directed to one of two mission-supporting funds:

- Tuition Assistance Fund, to help students in-need afford tuition
- School Operating Fund, supporting all areas of school operations, including digital curriculum resources, technology upgrades, student services, and facility improvements

If you believe in our mission, please give to our mission! Together we can ensure that all of us emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. Help us bridge this financial gap, allowing us to continue to foster students of intellect and character who work for a just world filled with the compassion of Christ.

Please make a tax-deductible donation today. On the envelope enclosed, be sure to check the box to designate which Fund should receive your generous gift. You can also give online by visiting www.smsmd.org, then clicking on Endowment Fund from the homepage.

In these moments, the goodness of humanity shines brightest. Thank you for supporting Catholic education and St. Martin's School.

May God bless and keep you and your loved ones safe,

Rev. David Wells

Rev. David G. Wells
Pastor

H C Lamont

Mr. Stephen C. Lamont
Principal

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary acts of generosity.





St. Martin's Virtually Shines During Distance Learning

The morning of March 16 started like a typical day for Susan Yeates. She woke up her two children and helped get them ready for their school day. They soon settled in at their desks to start their day, as did many other students from St. Martin's School. It was a normal routine. Just not a normal setting.

Instead of being inside their classrooms at our Gaithersburg school going over the schedule for the day, they read their teachers' morning greetings and assignments from a family computer in the kitchen. This was the new normal of distance learning at St. Martin's in the wake of the global coronavirus outbreak.

Governor Hogan announced that all public schools in the State of Maryland would shift to remote learning from March 16 through March 27. As a result of this order, Archbishop Gregory indicated that all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Washington would be closed during this same time frame.

Stephen Lamont, principal of St. Martin of Tours, said they began preparing for the possibility of distance learning several weeks earlier, along with practicing with students on how to login to the online platforms they would be using. "Our teachers had plans in place and we had a few days to make last-minute preparations." Students went home on Thursday, March 12 with their backpacks full of textbooks, workbooks, and all their school supplies. On Friday the 13th, teachers had a work day to begin prepping remote friendly lessons for the following weeks.

Technology Coordinator Logan Hsueh worked with teachers to familiarize them with Zoom conferencing and uploading coursework to class websites on Google Classroom – a platform for educators that some teachers have used throughout the year.

Mr. Lamont spent the weekend fielding emails regarding resources, assignment locations, instructions, contacts for technical issues, and forgotten passwords. By the second day of instruction, the emails had dwindled, a sign the community was becoming comfortable with the digital tools.

In the first days of remote learning, teachers for younger grades shared videos of letter tracing and STEM projects. The art, music, and P.E. teachers put together assignments. Miss Jones, our school counselor, recorded herself reading books, which helped students and families acclimate to this new format for learning. On St. Patrick's Day, first grade teacher Susan Feudale suggested her class make a Leprechaun house. It was clear from the results that moms, dads, and siblings joined in on the fun. The middle school teachers continued their teaching using online textbooks offering interactive features, videos, and assessments.

On the other side of the screen, the Yeates children worked away on their assignments. Daniel in first grade and Bella in fourth grade sat at the table as their mom helped scan and upload completed assignments to their teachers. Each of the children spent time each day completing lessons on a computer or tablet, as they would at school. The internet connection held strong. For the most part, the kids followed a schedule akin to a normal school day, stopping to take a break, get a snack and especially go to recess.

"There was a good amount of work and we have kept a really nice schedule. The teachers did an amazing job and parents did their best navigating this new world," Yeates said.

Parents, grandparents and caregivers were at home with the students, Lamont said. He was, as well, making only a couple of trips to the school to provide computers and school books to parents of students who needed them. Lamont bounced between virtual classrooms to see how remote learning was working. Some students shared their likes and dislikes with the temporary home classrooms; among the dislikes: not being able to see their friends. Zoom meetings helped, though Lamont admits it was an imperfect substitute. Still, students found some positives, such as eating whenever hungry. "They loved eating and staying in their pajamas," Lamont said of his own children.

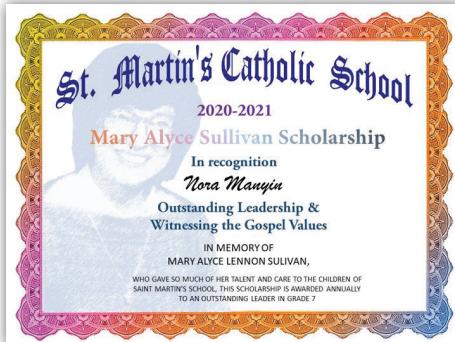
To keep Catholic traditions alive while remote learning, the teachers videotaped themselves reading the Stations of the Cross, which were then posted on the school's social media platforms. The parish priests live-streamed daily Mass, in which families were encouraged to participate with their children. Many school happenings and spring events had to become virtual, such as birthday celebrations, morning prayers, principal's coffee, May Crowning, and Grandparents' Day. On several occasions, families took the opportunity to drive through the school parking lot and wave to the teachers while dropping off food items for our St. Martin's Food Pantry. Seeing each other face to face, although six feet apart, was a treat for many. In so many ways the community embodied the popular phrase, "we are all in this together," Lamont explained. Since the initial announcement regarding the move to distance learning, the decision was made to extend it through the end of the school year. Graduation was added to the list of virtual end-of-year events.

Parents thanked St. Martin's staff for their preparedness, and as one eighth grade parent stated, providing her daughter the comfort of a school routine amid a chaotic time. Principal Lamont agreed. "Our teachers have worked remarkably hard to create a sense of normalcy for our students in a year they will never forget." The rapid and successful response of faculty and staff reflected the depth of their instructional expertise, continued professional development, and the commitment to excellence in Catholic education. Lamont also stressed the critical role our parents played in the success of the virtual classroom structure. This collaborative learning experience strengthened the bonds we share as a school family even while we were physically apart.



Mary Alyce Sullivan Scholarship: 25 Years of Leadership with Grace

Over the last twenty-five years, the Mary Alyce Sullivan Scholarship has been awarded to a rising eighth grader who embodies the values of scholarship, service, and leadership by their works, words, and persistent character. This is the last year for which the scholarship will be awarded. For the recipients who exemplified these qualities, many have gone on to lead lives of significance in medicine, engineering, teaching, finance, and more. The Lennon family established this scholarship in 1996 in memory of their sister and principal of St. Martin's from 1984 through 1993. Our 94-year legacy is built on the shoulders of many great principals, each leading while facing unique challenges. Principal Mary Alyce Sullivan was a pivotal leader guiding our community into the new state of the art school building in 1988. As our community changed, she adapted to meet the needs of the times. She established the Aftercare Program, brought in school uniforms, and integrated more lay teachers into the faculty. Her driving force was to give back to the community. Principal Sullivan was devoted to the students, the teachers, and the families. She was always there to reach out with a helping hand or a kind heart. Her innate qualities of intelligence, courage, and empathy have served well as a guidepost for our students and will surely live on for years to come. "The scholarship has been a wonderful legacy, and we are proud to have kept it going for so many years," said family member Kathy Lennon.



Scholarship Recipients Honored

Mary Alyce Sullivan Award – 25th and Final Year Awarded

This scholarship was established in 1996 in memory of Mary Alyce Sullivan, principal of St. Martin's from 1984 through 1993. This rising eighth grader embodies the values of scholarship, service, and leadership by her works, words, and persistent character. Congratulations to this year's winner, Nora Manyin.

Youstra Family Scholarship

This scholarship has been established as a tribute to Jo and Ray Youstra and their family, for their generous hearts and their many years of extraordinary service to St. Martin's. This scholarship benefits a rising eighth grader who has excelled academically, shown leadership qualities, participated in service projects, and demonstrated faith through character. We congratulate Medwin Nora, recipient of this year's scholarship.

Branagan Family Scholarship

This rising seventh grader demonstrated the most personal and academic growth through the course of the school year. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Kyle Bikanda.

Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship was established in memory of Carl Waclawik, a graduate of the St. Martin's Class of 2006. This scholarship is awarded annually to help further the education of a St. Martin's middle school student. The recipient is to be an academically strong student of good character. Congratulations, Hugo Díaz Alvarenga.

Annie B. Shaw Scholarship

This scholarship is named in memory of the grandmother of Kaitlyn Matsko, Class of 2017. It is awarded to a rising seventh or eighth grader who embodies exemplary academic effort and character. We congratulate Samantha Tomasi, recipient of this year's scholarship.

Please Support Our Students

To enable us to continue to support extraordinary students such as these award recipients, please consider contributing to one of these scholarships. To donate, please mail a check payable to St. Martin's School to 115 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Be sure to include to which scholarship you are contributing. Thank you and we appreciate your support of St. Martin's and our students!

Congratulations to Our Eighth Grade Scholarship Recipients. These students were offered more than \$160,000 combined for scholarships for the next four years in academic performance, leadership, service, and co-curricular achievement.

Annecamie Augustin

St. John's Catholic Prep Fine Arts Scholarship
St. John's Catholic Prep St. Peter Claver Scholarship
Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Arts, Vocal, and Athletic Scholarship

Francheska Bazar

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County Essay Scholarship

Adrianna Guiffo

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
Academy of the Holy Cross Scholarship
Brookwood School Scholarship

Thea Javelosa

St John's College High School Cadet Corp Scholarship

Brian Kuhn

St. John's College High School Alumni Scholarship

Alessandra Marino

St. John's College High School Principal Scholarship
Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship
Archdiocese of Washington Fitzgerald Scholarship

Olivier Payen

St. John's College High School Presidential Scholarship
Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship

Adán Romo Reyes

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship

Ariana Velasquez

St. John's Catholic Prep Fine Arts Scholarship

As I Say Goodbye

By Thea Javelosa

Winnie the Pooh once said, "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?" I know I may seem a bit old for Winnie the Pooh and his friends, but I never understood that quote until it was my turn to say goodbye. I have been attending St. Martin of Tours School for ten years, and those years have been wonderful, memorable, and life changing. They also went by so fast, just like our parents told us they would. It wasn't until moments with my classmates became more meaningful and we were being measured for our caps and gowns that I came to the realization that everything eventually ends.

As much as I've looked forward to this day, I've always dreaded endings. The last chapter of a good book, the last days of summer, the end of the marking period. Endings are unfortunately inevitable; you eventually must close the book, watch as leaves fall from the trees, and your report card comes home. Today is just like that for us. Today, we say our goodbyes. As I say goodbye to St. Martin's, I have learned the value of humility, the importance of change, and the true meaning of love. What I've learned at St. Martin's will stay with me forever, and I will never forget

the teachers, the students, and all the love I have experienced here all ten years.

I have learned so many subjects in my years at St. Martin's. However, one of the most important things I learned didn't come from my Science or English books. It came from my classmates and teachers. They taught me the value of humility. Many times, throughout my time here, I will admit that I thought I knew everything, and I could do everything on my own. Even in doing group projects, I was so full of pride. I wanted to be right all the time and have no mistakes or flaws. But I realized along the way with the help of my classmates and teachers that I needed to humble myself, which didn't mean I needed to think less of myself; I needed to think of myself less. I had to open my mind and my heart. Instead of pointing out errors and differences in people, to look for our similarities and the good in them. Back then I never admitted my mistakes, but I later realized that it's okay if I make mistakes or fail. For it is when we hit our lowest point, we are open to the greatest change.

A lot has happened in the ten years I have been here. I've been through so much change. I never liked change, but I'm so lucky to have had my classmates. Through the years, we've helped each other as we went through hard times. However, I wasn't ready as our class itself started to change. I watched as new friendships formed, and old ones grew apart. Old classmates left, new ones came, and then old ones come back three years later. I wasn't ready for it at all. I was so confused as our class continued to change, and I didn't take it well. I always thought everything would stay the same. However, as I grew older, my teachers taught me that change was a part of life and it is with change that people grow. They go hand in hand. They showed me if I kept on clinging to the past, I'd never get to see what God has for me in the future. Change can be good, and it can be bad, but it is with embracing it that we can learn and grow.

When I was in Pre-K, I remember learning about the word love. It was 4 letters, two vowels, two consonants, and it was a noun as well as a verb. I recalled using the word before towards my family. I only thought of it as a kiss or a hug. As I grew up in St. Martin's, I learned it was so much more. Love wasn't just an act of wrapping your arms around someone. It was someone helping you pick up your books after you've dropped them in the busy hallway. It was a



big kid helping you tie your shoelaces because you didn't know how even though you were in 4th grade. It was your friend volunteering to help you to the nurse, even if they were the one who hurt you. It was a teacher coming in early before school or staying two hours after to help you with your subject. And most of all, it was any act of kindness or compassion towards someone. I've met so many people in my time here, and none have failed to show an act of love towards anyone. St. Martin's showed me the true meaning of love, and I am so fortunate to have learned it in such a loving and inspiring environment.



Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart," and St. Martin's has done just that. I have met so many wonderful people here, and it's hard and saddening to be saying goodbye. Ten years in one place can do wonders. The people that are your friends grow to be your family, and the lessons learned stick with you for life. Talking about it just makes it that much harder to say goodbye to. But as the nighttime isn't permanent, goodbyes aren't forever. I know that I will never forget the people, values, and lessons that have come from St. Martin's. I hope to carry the love they shared with me for the rest of my life as I move on to the next chapter. Here's to the class of 2020. We did it.



Perseverance & Planning Lands Harvard Acceptance



The acceptance rate for admission to Harvard University is less than five percent. Most applicants are in the top ten percent of their high school. The decision often comes down to the college's perception of whether the applicant will contribute positively and significantly to the Harvard experience. If Olisaneme Okonkwo, class of 2016, dives into Harvard University much like he did Poolesville High School and St. Martin's, there is no doubt he will leave a lasting legacy.

"I just like service," Olisaneme stated when he elaborated on the experiences he had in the Global Ecology magnet program at Poolesville High School. This field-based program afforded Olisaneme the opportunity to develop a global ecological perspective and the awareness for the need to protect the earth's natural resources. Olisaneme worked on projects at Black Hill Regional Park and Meadowside Nature Center. He also became an advocate and spokesman for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) when speaking to a Maryland State legislative committee and at a Fridays for Future rally challenging political leaders to take action to combat climate change. He honed his leadership skills as president of the Chesapeake Bay Coalition, a CBF chapter at his high school.

Olisaneme's interests extended to school athletics, and he became a three-sport athlete. With good time management and perseverance, he became a varsity athlete in cross country, wrestling, and track. Olisaneme "ran one hundred miles in July while conditioning for the upcoming senior season," which contributed to his success in making it to the Maryland State Championships.

Olisaneme will be attending Harvard in the fall, majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Pre-Medicine. "I have an interest in studying medicine through an engineering lens, and hope to focus one day on biomedical attachments using plastic and neural interfaces," explained Olisaneme. St. Martin's middle school teacher Netta Morelli recalled that Olisaneme's education was a top priority and his ultimate goal was to attend an Ivy League school and eventually become a neurosurgeon.

"St. Martin's prepared me well for the academic rigor of a magnet school," claimed Olisaneme. "The work ethic instilled in us gave me a kick start well into sophomore year. The education was top-notch, thanks to the teachers' ability to focus on student achievement," he added while describing the school he attended from kindergarten through eighth grade.

He once told Mrs. Morelli that his name, Olisaneme, means "God's work." "I always thought this was an appropriate name for such a remarkable, compassionate person. He was a leader and a loveable role model, frequently helping younger students after school and participating in service projects," explained Mrs. Morelli.

"Along with my academics, I will try my best to continue my community service work at Harvard," noted Olisaneme. If the past is any indication of the future, Olisaneme will be achieving that goal and many more.

Sponsor a Piece of St. Martin's History!

In honor of our church's 100th anniversary, the story of the life of our patron saint, St. Martin of Tours, is now depicted through a series of stained glass windows recently installed in the church.

To help support the many celebrations that we pray will be happening later this year, we invite you to participate in a unique fundraiser that allows you to sponsor a piece of history.

A huge wall puzzle is hanging in the narthex of the church. Puzzle pieces may be purchased in the name of parishioners and our service groups for \$100 each, until they are sold out.

To purchase your puzzle piece, please go to www.stmartinsweb.org/centennial-year.

Thank you in advance for your support and being a part of St. Martin's next 100 years.



SMS CLASS NOTES

We would love to stay in touch!

Share with us your news and we will keep you up-to-date on happenings at St. Martin's School. Go to www.smsmd.org and click on SMS Alumni or email Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at agemunder@smsmd.org.



Endowment Funds: Honor Roll of Donors

Every Gift Matters. Every Giver Makes an Impact.

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for their generous support of our School Operating and Financial Aid Endowment Funds this past year. It is the collective impact of our entire community – including you – that enables us to continue to deliver on our mission. Our annual Endowment Fund Appeal in April was canceled due to an order issued by Governor Hogan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Help us bridge this considerable financial gap, allowing us to continue to foster students of intellect and character who work for a just world filled with the compassion of Christ. Extraordinary circumstances like these are exactly why we rely on the Endowment Funds, which offer the flexibility to adapt to our school's greatest needs – needs that are evolving daily.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our School Operating Fund or to our Financial Aid Endowment Fund. Together we can ensure that all of us emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. On the envelope enclosed, please check the box to designate which Fund should receive your generous donation.

The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts donated to the Funds from June 16, 2019 – June 15, 2020. If an error or omission has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact Anne Gemunder, Director of Development, at agemunder@smmsmd.org.

DeTours Club \$3,000-\$5,999

Mr. Stephen R. Cronmiller

Council \$1,000-\$2,999

The Honorable James A. Belson
Dr. Natalie Branagan
Mrs. Agnes Galvin

Associates \$250-\$499

Mr. and Mrs. Francis X. Emmet

Supporters \$100-\$249

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The Loh Family
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark N. Milton
Mr. Gerald O'Brien
Mr. Jorge Ochoa
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Prask
The Schuler Family

Crusaders \$1-\$99

Ms. Nila DiRaimo
Ms. Patricia Murphy
Mr. Michael Spagnola
Mrs. Wendy Woodland
Mrs. Susan Yeates



Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

Layla Abudayeh

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Received the Brother Gregory Turlik Alumni Award. Will attend Syracuse University in the fall, majoring in Health and Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology.

Faith Antonetti

Graduated from Gaithersburg High School. Will attend the University of Maryland in College Park in the fall, in the Global Communities Program. Received a scholarship from the Gaithersburg High School Choral Arts Society.

Benjamin Bell

Graduated from Georgetown Preparatory High School. Will attend Amherst College in the fall, majoring in Finance and Mathematics.

Jessica Brown

Graduated from Clarksburg High School. Will attend Towson University in the fall, double majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics.

Rachel Collazo

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall, admitted into the Life Sciences Scholar Program.

Isaac Cooksey

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall.

Caroline Crown

Graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross High School. Will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall, admitted into the College Park Scholars Program.

Nicholas Cruz

Graduated from St. John's Catholic Prep High School. Will attend St. Francis University in Pennsylvania in the fall, majoring in Engineering.

Ethan Lau

Graduated from Watkins Mill High School. Will attend Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, majoring in Military History, pursuing a commission in the U.S Navy.

David McVeigh

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall majoring in Biochemistry. Received the President Scholarship.

Felix Mediavilla

Graduated from Northwest High School. Will attend Montgomery College in the fall.

Cattleya Nora

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. While in high school, a member of the National Honor Society and the Archdiocese of Washington Youth Leadership Team. Plans for the fall are undecided.

Olisaneme Okonkwo

Graduated from Poolesville High School. Will attend Harvard University in the fall, majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Pre-Medicine.

Edwin Rodriguez

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend Montgomery College in the fall, majoring in Exercise Science.

Nicole Romo-Reyes

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend Loyola University in Maryland in the fall majoring in Biology. Received a three year ROTC National Scholarship.

Elizabeth Walsh

Graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross High School. Will attend Pennsylvania State University in the fall, majoring in Public Health.



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ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE CURIOUS MINDS ARE
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PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE