Mission Statement

Holy Family Catholic High School offers students excellence in education by providing opportunities to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically within a community of faith. We empower and encourage our students to achieve personal excellence, to use their talents to lead, to serve God, one another, and the larger community.

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SEVEN SENIORS EARN EAGLE SCOUT

Approximately four percent of Boy Scouts in the entire nation achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Seventeen scouts from Troop 345 in Deephaven earned this rank in April, seven of them Holy Family students. Eagle Scout rank is earned by fulfilling requirements in leadership, service and outdoor skills. A candidate for Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, hold one or more positions of responsibility in his troop, and complete a significant community service project. Projects completed by these seven students include shelving units at STAR Academy, raised garden beds for Deephaven Woods Senior Living Center, a retaining wall at Bennett Family Park, and a bridge spanning a water drainage area between the football/track field and practice fields at Holy Family.

BACK ROW L TO R: BENNETT LANNERS, SAMUEL KROENING, ZACHARY MCCORMICK AND JOSEPH OAKMAN.
FRONT ROW L TO R: AARON NOWAK, JACK NEW AND JAMES FARNER.
The first issue of Passages of each school year glows with the memories of summer events and explorations. Its pages hint at the possibilities to come when new students and their families, new friendships, new interests, and new goals share the same space. The winter issue displays the developing culture that is a blend of traditions and the unforeseen that is the hallmark of working with teenagers. There are achievements to acknowledge, banners to hang, and service to provide. The last edition of the year, however, is a culmination of what happens when youthful energy fully recognizes and embraces the pillars of faith, hope and love.

Mortar boards fly.

And with those caps, enthusiastic appreciation is let loose to be shared with the rest of the Holy Family Catholic High School community. It is clear relationships are especially important to our young people. Though ever-questioning, this generation values the mentorship of the adults in their lives. At the same time, they insist upon finding out for themselves the essential truths. These teens appear to learn best when given time to reflect (and share reflections), witnessed so well in their Leadership Institute presentations and graduation speeches. Perhaps we need to worry less about the world into which our young people are propelled and, instead, provide more opportunities for them to be challenged and discover their choices.

The Class of 2016 tossed a bit of their former selves into the air with their mortar boards the evening of May 18. They walked out of the Slattery Athletic and Convocation Center with the skills and experiences to face life both as it is and as it can be – a world in need of their faith, hope, and love.

Living Jesus in our hearts,

KATHLEEN A. BROWN | President & Principal
I have had the privilege of seeing another Holy Family Catholic High School class complete their studies and graduate. Congratulations, Class of 2016!

I think it impossible for this class to know the joy, satisfaction, and pride we as a board and as members of this community feel. They join an ever-growing body of our alumni in representing all that is good about our school family. We know they are moving forward to colleges, universities, and careers well equipped to succeed. Our hopes and prayers go with them.

We trust the members of this class leave us secure in the knowledge they are now and will always be a part of our family. In the years to come as you, the Class of 2016, look back, remember you are always welcome here.

Good luck and may God bless you in your bright and exciting futures.

JOHN RADICK | Chair, Board of Directors
President/Principal Brown’s Baccalaureate Address

MRS. BROWN IMPARTS FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

Last week a parent asked me if letting seniors go after so many years of being together was difficult – or sad. Absolutely not! In fact, we let you out before all the other students!!! We need to be practical about how we care for and about you: you have outgrown rules and policies and methodologies that strive to keep 14-17 year olds both safe and productive. You don't want messages sent home on a weekly basis showing upcoming tests and assignments. You should not need that anymore. You don't want to come to school at 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday mornings anymore because you couldn’t arrive on time for class by 7:30 a.m. the rest of the week. This is for people who have not realized how their time and the time of others are intertwined. It is time to use what you know to design your own days, organize your own possibilities. You are not just legal adults; you must be conscious adults. While people continue to learn throughout their lives, the foundational work is completed. Your families have provided you with what you need to develop. This includes the gift of a Holy Family education. So starting next week, you need to search for the future in the present.

I cannot help but offer some ideas for your consideration (a longer way of saying “Here is some advice.”):

You are a product of your environment – your homes, your school, your activities, your parishes. You will continue to be a product of your environment. Choose wisely. Find the places and people who will support the gradual unfolding of your best selves. Everyone has a mission, a vocation. You may believe you do not know what it is yet, but it is God’s expectation of us. It is the principle by which we measure everything, including our fulfillment. If we are unhappy, it may be because we are trying to live someone else’s reason for being. Be patiently attentive to discovering your own.

Work is sustaining. To be asked to do something is a compliment, not an imposition. It is a gift that allows each of us to be co-creators in a world that begs for understanding. Continue to seek understanding: in your faith, in your studies, through your relationships. Protect your values. Accept the world is not necessarily just. You have a responsibility to do your best anyway. You do not exist to work for grades or a place on a company’s organizational chart. I hate to break it to you: Extra credit doesn’t really exist. Do good because it needs to be done.

You have the gift of a lifetime – one lifetime - however long that is. You are an exceptionally caring group of people. You have said “Yes” to many opportunities serving the poor locally and in other countries. You have heightened awareness about a number of current issues that are significant influences on our world: Alzheimer’s, teen homelessness, world hunger. You refuse to be daunted by the magnitude of these issues. Instead, you work toward solutions and impact what you can.

You have the choice to be overwhelmed by life or you can see it through God’s eyes, eyes of hope. Be grateful for all you have and all you can do. Work through challenges. Remember: you do everything in the holy presence of God; the reality of the Divine is all around you offering encouragement.

The faculty and staff reflected on a prayer last week. I will end with it because it speaks, perhaps, more to your inclinations to wish time and events to move swiftly, to demand immediate answers and results, to think about what is coming next rather than enjoy what is happening now. I thought of you when I read these words by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – And that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don’t try to force them on, as though you could be today what time will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

I wish you the patience to love the questions as well as the journey to the answers. 🌟
Margaret Kirsch, Salutatorian

Claudia LaRose, Valedictorian
EXCERPTS FROM VALEDICTORIAN CLAUDIA LAROSE’S AND SALUTATORIAN MARGARET KIRSCH’S ADDRESSES

The Class of 2016’s valedictorian, Claudia LaRose, and salutatorian, Margaret Kirsch, possess strong aptitudes in the classroom, talents in athletics and the arts, and mature faiths with hearts for service to their peers and the global community. Both veterans of Holy Family service trips, their commencement addresses reflected a desire to use their talents to be inspired Christ in a world in need.

Claudia shared an impassioned address encouraging her classmates to use their education as a source of hope and light.

Today, we close the door on our high school experience. We leave the safety and comfort that Holy Family has provided for the last four years. Today, we enter the real world. (So what do we do now? It seems scary because up until now we’ve been protected and guided every step of the way by all the wonderful people in the audience. But now, for the first time, our path is completely up to us. There is no definite next step. Instead, we have countless choices for what to pursue next.) We sometimes will make good choices and some bad choices; we will sometimes fail and sometimes succeed. Sounds intimidating, right? It can even be more so when you think about what is going on in our nation and the world. (Lately, it seems like the world is filled with negativity and discord. The news is plastered with stories and images of violence, terror, crime, discrimination, or hatred. As 17 and 18-year-olds, we should be eager to forge our path in the world, but when all we hear on the news is arguing, it is easy to become discouraged. However, we cannot allow our discouragement to turn into indifference. Instead, we must channel our frustration and transform it into passion: passion to change the world’s narrative from one of ignorance and hatred to one of tolerance and compassion. The future is in our hands, and the world needs us to shine our light and spread our love. Luckily for us, our four years of Lasallian education at Holy Family have given us the tools to spread this goodness in the world. Our education has taught us to stay true to our morals, to be attentive to the needs of others, and to accept and value the differences of others.)

Margaret also asked her classmates to remember their connections with all people of the world, especially those in greatest need. She recalled a moment on a service trip to Haiti while waiting for a water truck to fill. She and a few other students were in conversation with a young man who teaches English in a Haitian school. He asked the group their reasons for being there and challenged them to understand what difference they could make if they only stayed one week. She recalled how this conversation forced them to reflect on their service and its impact. They came to realize they were not there to save the world but to have open minds and hearts to walk with solidarity and serve as best they could the people they encountered.

Margaret concluded with this passage from Thomas Merton’s book, Thoughts in Solitude:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

CLAUDIA LAROSE WORKING WITH STUDENTS ON A TRIP TO ETHIOPIA
MARGARET KIRSCH, AND DANNY GUILLEMETTE ’15, ON A SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIP TO HAITI.
Mary and Joseph Medals

The Mary and Joseph Medals are awarded to a senior girl and boy who exemplify the identity and values of Holy Family Catholic High School. These individuals demonstrate a strong, mature faith in Christ while actively participating in the life of the Church. They are knowledgeable of the teachings and traditions of the Church, desire to live like Jesus in their love and service to others, and strive to grow spiritually and intellectually.

Nicholas Sokolis
2016 Joseph Medal Recipient

Family: Richard and Shauna Sokolis, sister, Emily ’19
Middle School: St. Joseph Catholic School
Parish: St. Joseph Catholic Parish, Waconia
College: Saint Louis University, civil engineering

What role does your faith play in your life?
Faith is very important to me. Faith has been integral to my development as a person, and it has connected me to a great community of people. It is something I think about every day, and it influences my daily actions.

How has your faith developed/changed in your years at HFCHS?
My faith greatly flourished during my time at Holy Family. The different theology classes I took each year increased my faith by building a greater understanding of the Catholic Church, as well as other religions, which solidified my beliefs. The different service trips I went on through Holy Family also allowed me to see religion from the eyes of people around the country and the world. I think these trips were pivotal in maturing my perspective.

Who has influenced you and your faith?
My confirmation sponsor and middle school youth ministry coordinator, Paulette Halloran, taught me about faith in action. She leads her life according to the values of her faith, and she leads both her family and the community by example.

What do you find most rewarding about your faith?
The most rewarding thing for me has been the connection with other people through faith. Faith has opened many doors to meeting and connecting with new people.

What is your favorite HFCHS memory?
My favorite memory would be the trip to Haiti last spring break. That trip had an immense and lasting impact on the development of my character, and I greatly contribute my growth in high school to that experience.

Margaret Kirsch
2016 Mary Medal Recipient

Family: Patrick and Ann Kirsch, sisters, Emily ’14 and Laura ’18
Middle School: Home school
Parish: Saint Joseph Catholic Parish, Waconia
College: Saint Louis University, biology/pre-med

Who has influenced you and your faith?
The two most influential people regarding my faith are my parents. They raised me in the Catholic Church and dedicated time to teaching my siblings and me about the faith. They brought me to Sunday Mass and Adoration for as long as I can remember, and they have taught me so much about how to grow in personal relationship with Christ. They taught me how to pray the Rosary and other prayers, and even brought me on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land when I was in grade school. All of these experiences have allowed me to grow deeper in my faith and make me more interested in learning about the relationship with Christ and strengthening it. My parents lead lives of humble service, putting the needs of others before their own in small and large ways. With their support, I have been able to travel to Montana and Haiti, and I will be traveling to Ethiopia this upcoming summer.

Many of my teachers at Holy Family influenced me and my faith. Whether it has been through class teaching or through personal conversations, from these experiences I have hope that I can have a passion to help others. Many of my teachers have displayed selfless love and care for those they are helping, and I look to their actions as an example for how I wish to live out my faith to others, always putting others first and working for the good of all.

What do you find most rewarding about your faith?
One of the really unique parts about my faith and something that I find fascinating is the universality of the Catholic Church. God is everywhere. He is not just in church, not just in the United States, but he is literally everywhere. I think the most rewarding part of all of this is knowing that I am a part of something bigger.
Ambassador of Christ Award

The Ambassador of Christ award is given to the senior who leads others with a strong code of ethics consistent with the teachings of Christ. Recipients are nominated by their classmates and nominations are then voted on by faculty and staff.

Natalie Waltz
2016 Ambassador of Christ Award Recipient

Family: Kristan and Greg Waltz, brother, Andrew ’19
Middle School: Shakopee Area Catholic School
Parish: The Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne, Shakopee
College: Marquette University, biomedical engineering

What role does your faith play in your life?
My faith plays an active role in my life each day as I turn to God for guidance. I begin and end each day by placing my joys and struggles in front of Him. This allows me to focus on living my life in accordance with His will. My faith shapes my morals and values and leads me to opportunities to discover my passions.

How has your faith developed/changed in your years at HFCHS?
During the first few days of freshman Sacred Scripture class, I was confused about the different interpretations of the Bible and struggled to understand some of the deeper meanings behind the stories. Mr. Schlepp answered my questions while encouraging me to keep my curious nature. He also prepared me through Sacraments class my sophomore year where I developed a greater appreciation for Mass. This led to my active participation in Mass as a Eucharistic Minister. Campus Ministry class allowed me to share with the school community, through Convocation, the knowledge I gained. I now have a greater understanding and appreciation of the scriptural aspects of Catholicism and feel confident in my ability to live out my faith in my daily interactions.

Who has influenced you and your faith?
Numerous people have influenced my faith. My parents’ decision to send me to Catholic schools allowed me to grow in my passion. Through my Catholic education, I found teachers who not only taught the theological side of Catholicism but also exemplified how to live a faithful life. A wonderful youth minister guided me through Confirmation and helped me grow in my personal understanding of my faith. Finally, my great-grandmother is a role model due to her prayerful demeanor and kind heart.

Class of 2012 Joseph Medal Recipient
Headed to Priesthood

Class of 2012 Joseph Medal recipient Clayton Forner recently graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a double major in Catholic studies and philosophy. In July he will depart for Italy to begin his study toward priesthood.

On June 4, 2016, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, on behalf of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, accepted Clayton Forner ’12 as a candidate to the priesthood at a celebration Mass and candidacy ceremony held at his home parish, Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Chaska. Clayton has been selected to study at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy for the next four years.

Clayton recently shared, “One of the greatest encouragements for me at Holy Family in my vocation was the presence of Jesus in our chapel. Seeing people pray in there and being able to pray there myself was the sign that I was not alone on the journey. On one occasion, I was praying in the chapel, and I was distressed. I was begging God, “Please, just give me a sign of what you want me to do. Make it undeniable. I just need a sign.” I lifted my head off my hands, opened my eyes, and found myself staring at the sunlit stained glass window of Holy Orders. I was shocked, immediately shifted my attention to the stained glass window of Holy Matrimony and said to the Lord, “Good talk,” and I walked out. I was in denial of what sign had been presented, but I would eventually come around to seeing the providence of that day.”
Class of 2016 Destinations

This year’s 116 graduates were offered $10.13 million in college scholarship dollars and accepted over $4 million. They will attend over 60 different colleges and universities, 46 of which are Catholic universities. Some will follow passions for service and athletics before continuing their educations. They bring our total number of alumni to 1560 and remain forever a part of the Family!

Ryan Abdelnour          Undecided
Alexandria Anderson     University of Tennessee
Jordan Aritt-Steele     University of North Dakota
Nathan Atkinson         Saint Louis University
Alan Augdahl            University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Allison Barrett         Marquette University
Stephanie Begalke       Bradley University
Maximilian Bergmann     St. Cloud State University
Allie Bodin             Saint Louis University
Shea Braden             University of Maryland
Anna Brekke             University of Minnesota
Robert Bremer           University of Wisconsin-Madison
Margaret Bubb           Texas Christian University
Dylan Bueltel           Iowa State University
Daniel Cornelison       University of St. Thomas
Samantha Curoe          Saint Louis University
Zachary Curoe           University of Dayton
Michael Curran          Williams College
Jarod Devins            University of Minnesota
Monica Diedrich         University of Kansas
Alissa Dolan            Creighton University
Bianna Dosmann          Florida Gulf Coast University
Gavin Doyle             High Point University
Taylor Drazan           University of Iowa
Maria Eastman           University of Iowa
Joseph Esenther         Montana State University
James Farner            University of Oklahoma
Mark Foley              Loyola Marymount University
Logan Fox               Art Institute of Minneapolis
Katheryn Furlong        Creighton University
John Galioto            University of Notre Dame
Jackson Gamache         University of North Dakota
William Garin           University of Connecticut
Luke Gitzen             University of Indiana
Alaina Graupman         College of St. Benedict
Elizabeth Gregg         Rockhurst University
Grace Greseth           Montana State University
Matthew Grube           Wake Forest University
Fremont Gruss           University of North Dakota
Mason Hadden            University of North Dakota
Ava Hall                Coastal Carolina University
Isabel Hanson           University of Mount Olive
Noah Hawke              Georgetown University
Nicholas Heithoff       Colorado State University
Audrey Hickey           Loyola University Chicago
Brock Johnson           University of St. Thomas
Natalie Johnson         College of St Scholastica
AnnMarie Kalb           Creighton University
Gibson Kallstrom        University of Alabama
Margaret Kirsch         Saint Louis University
Jacob Knudson           St. John’s University
Samuel Kroening         Saint Louis University
Madisen Lamp            University of Kansas
Bennett Lanners         Gonzaga University
Claudia LaRose          Duke University
Brianna LaValle         University of Sioux Falls
Thomas Lentz            Creighton University
Matthew Linsley         South Dakota State University

Class of 2016 Top 12 selected schools:
Class of 2016 Destinations

Mason Logan  Southern Methodist University
Allison Maddock  College of St. Benedict
Matthew Marone  Auburn University
Aubrey Marshall  Fordham University
Zachary McCormick  University of Texas-San Antonio
Emily McGlennen  Marquette University
Grace Meidl  University of Wisconsin-River Falls
Megan Menzuber  Marquette University
Gillian Miranda  University of North Dakota
Krista Mueller  Loyola University Chicago
Jaedin Ness  Junior Hockey
John New  University of Arizona
Carlos Neyra  Normandale Community College
Aaron Nowak  University of Wisconsin-Madison
Joseph Oakman  Colorado State University
Raina Olson  College of St. Benedict
Molly Overby  Purdue University
Matthew Parker  Workforce
John Pearson  Miami University
Reed Pernat  Wake Forest University
Breanna Pottebaum  University of Missouri
Abigail Proudfit  College of St. Benedict
Timothy Pumper  University of North Dakota
Eric Requet  University of Notre Dame
Natalie Richards  College of St. Benedict
David Richter  Junior Hockey
Maxwell Riegert  Montana State University
Jack Rinzel  Stevenson University
Casey Rock  Gustavus Adolphus College
Tyler Rock  Junior Hockey
Sonja Rojina  Boston University
Anne Rothstein  Santa Clara University
Noah Salonen  University of Minnesota
Samuel Scattarella  North Dakota State University
Luke Schliesman  St. John's University
Kedric Seibert  University of North Dakota
Joseph Semany  Baylor University
William Siems  University of North Dakota
Clare Simon  Boston University
Cara Sir  Service Year in Haiti
Carter Smith  Iowa State University
Molly Smith  Marist College
Nicholas Sokolis  Saint Louis University
Grace Sperr  Loyola University Chicago
Benjamin St. Peter  Marquette University
Eric St. Peter  University of St. Thomas
Thomas Staudohar  Creighton University
Spencer Stewart-Hester  University of Minnesota
Paige Strigel  Miami University
Shandon Sutherland  University of Wisconsin-Superior
Matthew Theis  Normandale Community College
Natalie Waltz  Marquette University
James Wicka  St. John’s University
Alex Wilson  Palm Beach Atlantic University
Hailey Wilson  Utah Valley University
Joseph Winfield  University of North Dakota
Nolan Wright  University of Minnesota
Kyle Wurm  University of North Dakota
The National Merit committee makes its selections from among those who complete the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). National Merit Finalists represent the top one percent of college-bound students taking the test, and National Merit Commended Students represent the top three percent of students taking the test.

The National College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college level courses while still in high school and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. Additional AP Scholars are announced by the College Board during the summer months. Those students will be featured in a future issue of Passages.
AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION
GRANTED TO STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE AN AVERAGE SCORE OF 3.5 ON ALL AP EXAMS TAKEN, AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FIVE OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS

MICHAEL CURRAN
Tim and Kathleen Curran
Eden Prairie
St. Therese School
Williams College
Undecided Major
Additional honors:
High Score on AMC Math Test

JAMES FARNER
Kevin and Jennifer Farner
Victoria
Homeschool
The University of Oklahoma
English
Additional honors:
Eagle Scout
Scholastic Writing
National Silver Medalist

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR
GRANTED TO STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE AN AVERAGE SCORE OF 3.25 ON ALL AP EXAMS TAKEN, AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FOUR OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS

ANNA BREKKE
Jon and Barbara Brekke
Shakopee
Shakopee Area Catholic School
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Sustainable Systems Management

ALLIE BODIN
Joel and Katie Bodin
Chanhassen
St. Hubert Catholic School
St. Louis University
Neuroscience

AP SCHOLARS
GRANTED TO STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THREE OR MORE AP EXAMS WITH SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER

JOHN GALIOTO
Angelo and Cara Galioto
Chanhassen
St. Hubert Catholic School
University of Notre Dame
Business

ERIC REQUET
Edward and Margaret Requet
Eden Prairie
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
University of Notre Dame
Biomedical Engineering

NOAH HAWKE
Jesse and Patricia Hawke
Victoria
Chaska Middle School East
Georgetown University
Business

MOLLY SMITH
Joel and Lucy Smith
Shorewood
St. John the Baptist School - Excelsior
Marist College
Undecided Major

CLAUDIA LAROSE
Mark LaRose and Monica Norwick
Waconia
Clearwater Middle School
Duke University
Global Health

NATALIE WALTZ
Greg and Kristan Waltz
Shakopee
Shakopee Area Catholic School
Marquette University
Biomedical Engineering
Your destiny lies before you. Choose wisely.

JOEL GRACZYK ’08 RETURNS AS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Good evening and congratulations, Class of 2016. It’s a privilege to be part of your graduation and to join in tonight’s celebration.

At the outset, I recall one of the many lessons I carry with me from Mr. U’s classes: the importance of opening with your thesis. I want to begin with a simple piece of advice for you, Class of 2016: Your destiny lies before you. Choose wisely. To explain what that means, I’ll start with a brief story about where those words come from and why I think of them from time to time, when I find myself at a crossroads in life. Then, I’ll tell you why I’m confident Holy Family has given you many tools that will help you to wisely choose a destiny for yourself.

As I thought about what to say tonight, I kept returning to how grateful I felt for having graduated from Holy Family. I thought about how much I learned inside and outside the classroom over the course of four years. But I also felt grateful that I attended Holy Family at all.

You see, when I was in eighth grade, I didn’t want to come to Holy Family. I had grown up in Chaska and had always attended the Chaska schools. The thought of going to what was then a relatively unknown school out in Victoria was disorienting. I struggled to see why a smaller school would give me more opportunities than everything I knew would be available elsewhere.

Fortunately, my parents are far wiser than I am. Though they left the choice to me, they also made it clear they thought Holy Family would be best. They brought me to an open house, and I visited for a shadow day. Everyone I met seemed nice, and it was clearly a perfectly good school.

But my hesitation remained, and I grappled with a dilemma: go where I was comfortable, or take a risk and go to a place where people who fought for my best interests thought I would have a better experience.

While I wrestled with my indecision, our family went out for dinner one night at Leeann Chin. After I finished my meal, I broke open a fortune cookie and read my fortune: Your destiny lies before you. Choose wisely.

As if I weren’t already struggling enough with the normal anxiety that comes with the thought of changing schools—now, destiny was involved. This was serious.

When using a word like “destiny,” it’s easy to think in terms of the big, pivotal decisions that we make in life: Where should I go to high school? Where should I go to college? Whom should I marry? Destiny, though, is also something that we build by making small decisions every day that have a substantial impact over a lifetime.

Class of 2016, now more than ever your destiny is in your own hands. You, more than anyone else, must now be the primary advocates for yourselves.

You’ve spent your entire life with people, such as your parents and your teachers here, who advocate for you and focus on your best interests. However, many people won’t be quite so invested in seeing you succeed. You’ll have professors who care more about their research than whether you learn anything in their class. You’ll have bosses who care only whether you improve the company’s bottom line. You must make sure that you continue to have opportunities to grow as you face these situations.

Your destiny being in your own hands also means that you have a newfound responsibility for the consequences of your decisions. You’re going to enjoy the freedom, flexibility, and opportunities that this new responsibility brings. Believe me, if you like late-start days once a month now, just wait until you build a schedule with nothing but afternoon classes. But if you build that schedule, how do you use your morning? Do you sleep until noon and arrive for class without bothering to read? Or do you use your morning to work a campus job and finish your reading assignments? It’s up to you to choose wisely.

Wisdom, though, takes time to develop and is something we learn only through the trial and error of experience. But that is where your time at Holy Family enters the picture. Recently, I read an essay by a professor who has taught at some of our nation’s top universities. He lamented that the college students he encounters exhibit a “pervasive ignorance of western and American history, civilization, politics, art and literature.” He argued that this “systemic ignorance” was not a failing but a “crowning achievement” of America’s educational system. By the time I finished reading, all I could think was, “Well, it’s a good thing they got it so wrong at Holy Family.”

When you leave Holy Family, you bring with you what I’ve found to be an uncommon education. It’s special not just because you
read classic literary works from the United States and around the world. It’s not just because you read primary historical and political documents. And it’s not even just because you’ve studied the institution of the Catholic Church and its sacramental presence in our world.

What makes Holy Family unique is the way that you’re challenged to think about all of those things together. As freshmen, you start with “In the beginning” and then work through the history of human civilization. You read great texts from each era and understand not just what's happened over the millennia but also what people have thought and said during that time.

As juniors, you study America in the same manner, learning not just facts but themes: the tension between the individual and the state that precipitated and animates our great constitutional experiment; the experience of our Catholic forebears and the ugly nativism they overcame; and our shared quest for that amorphous American dream in this land “commensurate [with our] capacity for wonder.”

Alongside the lessons learned in those classes, the high expectations set for you here help you develop the moral center necessary to act with wisdom as you make hard decisions. Taken together, you’ll find, in a wonderfully imperfect way, those lessons and expectations have blessed you with the wealth of human experience and put it at your disposal. Going forward, you can carry that knowledge with you and let it inform the decisions you make, both big and small. Trial and error is much easier when you have a head start.

Thus, Class of 2016, I return to my charge to you: Your destiny lies before you. Choose wisely.
LI PROJECTS

Leadership Institute senior projects focused on education, awareness, outreach and impact.

Leadership Institute senior group projects are opportunities for Holy Family seniors to demonstrate profound care for others by creating their own leadership roles in the school community and the world at large. The goal of the projects is to provide opportunities for seniors to implement skills and methods of leadership learned from the previous three years of Leadership Institute curriculum instruction.

Groups present ideas and topics for approval by Senior Leadership Institute instructors. The groups work as teams to develop their projects from concept through execution.

After completing projects and service, the teams are asked to reflect on what they have learned in the process. Students identify areas where the application of individual strengths improved outcomes and when better planning or time management might have enriched their experiences and those they served or educated.

Mr. Livermore’s LI group held a Hunger Awareness Banquet at St. Victoria’s Catholic Church on February 13. The goal of the banquet was to raise awareness about global poverty and food insecurity.

Upon entering the banquet hall, guests received tickets placing them into a low, middle, or high economic class. Students served guests meals proportional to the economic classes they were assigned.

The event featured a keynote speaker from Feed My Starving Children, Jason Gehlen. The event was free of charge but donations to defray costs were accepted and any additional funds given to Feed My Starving Children.

On reflection, the group felt they had grown in event coordination skills, the delegation of work based on individual strengths, and knowledge of global class differentiation.

Mr. Schlepp’s group organized an experiential initiative. Their goal was to build student community by offering social experiences outside of school offerings. Activities included exercise classes, meditation opportunities, a Holy Family film festival, documentary viewings, and sledding events.

Mr. Dols’ LI group chose to create a middle school mentorship program. The goals of the program were to bridge the gap between Holy Family and Catholic middle schools, to be positive role models for their students, lead them to discover more about their faith, and create a comfortable environment for middle school students to ask questions.

Initially working with St. Victoria Faith Formation 7th and 8th grade students and Our Lady of the Lake middle school students, the group hoped to lay the groundwork for continuing the program in the future. The program template will allow future HF seniors to have the program up and running quickly as a new school year begins. A binder of materials, contact names, and instructions was created and left with Mr. Rutz in the guidance office.

Mr. Dwyer’s LI group worked with Special Olympics Minnesota to host a basketball tournament in the Holy Family gym. Their first goal was to provide an opportunity and positive atmosphere for Special Olympic athletes to compete and have fun. They also partnered in the Special Olympics Word to End the Word campaign, an anti-bullying campaign that asks people to end the use of the R-word (“retard” or “retarded”).

Group members volunteered as helpers, referees, and scorekeepers. Holy Family students were encouraged to attend the games during their lunch/BTC times to cheer on the 77 athletes playing in the tournament. Our students responded and lined the railings above to celebrate and root for the participants.
After researching the topic of Alzheimer’s disease, Mr. Brown’s group decided this was a topic impacting everyone, either due to a loved one’s diagnosis or the demand and economic consequences for our country’s healthcare system.

They invited Deborah Richman, director of education and outreach at Alzheimer’s Association, to present at Convocation. Ms. Richman educated students about the progression and symptoms of the disease, and ways to interact and help loved ones diagnosed with the disease and their caregivers. She also explained the impact the disease is expected to have on the economy as baby boomers age.

Emphasizing the need for an increase in research funding as well as in scientists interested in working toward a cure, Ms. Richman said, “Maybe one of you will discover the cure or a more successful treatment!”

Students came to the conclusion the best hope for the future is a cure. Rather than raise funds, they decided to focus on educating Holy Family faculty and students, volunteering at a local memory care facility, and sparking an interest or passion in a Holy Family student to be the possible future researcher to find the cure.

Dr. Pottebaum’s LI group selected mental health awareness as the focus of their project. Their goals were to educate the Holy Family community about signs and symptoms of mental illness, provide resources for students, clear up misconceptions surrounding mental health issues, and increase empathy for others.

They created “the elephant in the room posters” to encourage conversation about mental health concerns, compiled resources for students to access via their MySchool accounts, regularly shared information about mental health topics during Convocation announcements, and handed out bracelets to represent the numbers of students living with mental health challenges each day.

During their final presentation, the group commented, “We learned it is possible to impact people’s lives by regular, simple service.”

Mrs. Bosch’s LI group took on the quest of providing career information to the student body. They invited WCCO reporter and alumna Kate Raddatz ’06, HF parent and attorney Barb Brekke, and HF parent and Minnesota Twins president, Dave St. Peter to speak at three Convocations during Career Week.

The speakers shared their journeys to discover their vocations, gave advice on what habits create success, and explained what they believe makes a good employee for a company. Question and answer time was available at the end of each presentation.

Mr. Unverzagt’s LI group selected Mary’s Place, a transitional apartment complex for homeless families with children. The group worked on a two-prong effort to provide service to this organization. The first was to create a documentary about Mary’s place and the second was to volunteer on Sundays for several months to work with the children living at Mary’s Place. Each Sunday they would work with approximately 30-50 children and soon came to discover what the children needed most was someone to play with them and give them attention. This gave parents a break from caretaking or time to attend educational programming offered at Mary’s Place.

SOLES 4 SOULS

Mr. Witchger’s LI group partnered with the Soles4Souls organization’s, “Have a heart, give a sole” shoe drive campaign to collect shoes door-to-door and from area parishes. Since 2006, Soles4Souls has collected and distributed 26 million pairs of shoes to those in need in 127 countries around the world and all 50 states in the U.S. The group surpassed their 100 pair goal with a total of 158 pairs collected.

Mr. Unverzagt’s LI group had a desire to work for the benefit of teens in the local community. The group selected a local homeless shelter and teen counseling program, Bridge for Youth’s Hope House, a six-bed emergency youth shelter, in Chanhassen.

They collected personal items and clothing including 337 pairs of socks.
Building on a strong tradition of excellence and success in athletics, winter and spring athletes earned trips to the MSHSL state tournaments.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL FIRST TRIP**

Fire Girls Basketball has made it to the section championship three times in the last five years. This year ended a little differently.

Under the direction of coach Ellen Thompson, the Fire defeated the #4 state ranked and #1 section seed Annandale Cardinals in overtime to earn the program’s first trip to the MSHSL Girls Basketball Class AA State Tournament.

Although the team’s state tournament presence was cut short by eventual state champion, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Coach Thompson looks forward to future success with talented returning players who gained invaluable post-season experience.

Fire basketball sends senior Molly Smith to Division 1 women’s basketball at Marist College. This season Molly joined the school’s 1000-point club, ending the season with a career total of 1317 points.

**BOYS GOLF STATE RUNNER-UP**

Fire Boys Golf won the Section 5AA tournament with an impressive team score of 601 to send the team to the state tournament at Pebble Creek Golf Course.

Following an overnight weather delay, the team returned on the second day of the state tournament to post a final tournament score of 604 and finish in second place.

Senior Alex Wilson brought home the boys individual second place medal with a two-round score of 145 and sophomore Lincoln Cizek finished in 8th place with 149.

**CLAY TARGET 8TH IN STATE**

Fire Clay Target finished 8th at the MSHCTL Class AAAA State Tournament. Dan Consoer and Drew Swanson qualified for the MSHSL State Trap Shooting Tournament by maintaining an overall season average in the top 100 (of 10,000) throughout the state.

**STATE CHAMPION AND MORE!**

Fire Track and Field brought nine athletes to the State Class AA meet: Joe Esenther (800m Run), Nate Atkinson (Long Jump), Allie Bodin (800m Run), Emily Willenbring (Long Jump), Maria Eastman (3200m Run), Kendra Franck, Megan Beulke, Maria Eastman, and Allie Bodin and alternates, Ellie Marschall and Abby Ernst (Girls 4x800m Relay).

Senior Allie Bodin finished as the Class AA State Champion in the 800 m Run with a personal best and near a school-record time at 2:13.67 seconds, and a Holy Family track and field program record of seven All-State medals.

Senior Joe Esenther set a new school record in the 800 m Run, placing third overall in 1:57.27 seconds, and breaking the long-standing school record.

Kendra Franck, Megan Beulke, Maria Eastman, and Allie Bodin finished with an All-State 4x800m Relay 5th place.

Current girls long jump school record holder, Emily Willenbring captured her third All-State finish, in the Long Jump competition at 16 ft. 5 in., for 7th place.

**MR. HOCKEY FINALIST**

WILL GARIN

**MS. LACROSSE MINNESOTA**

MEGAN MENZUBER

**STATE 800-M RUN CHAMPION**

ALLIE BODIN
Winter and Spring Conference, Section, and State Recognition

**BASEBALL**
- All-Conference
  - Michael Jensen ’17
  - Spencer Stewart-Hester ’16
- All-Conference Honorable Mention
  - Zach Cureo ’16
  - Jack Gamache ’16

**BOYS BASKETBALL**
- All-Conference
  - Spencer Stewart-Hester ’16
- All-Conference Honorable Mention
  - Aaron Nowak ’16
  - Nolan Wright ’16

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**
- All-Conference
  - Molly Smith ’16
- All-Conference Honorable Mention
  - Brooke Bowlin ’17

**CLAY TARGET**
- State Qualifiers
  - Dan Consoer ’17
  - Drew Swanson ’17

**DANCE**
- All-Conference
  - Rachel Gullemette ’18
  - Maggie McGlynn ’18

**BOYS TENNIS**
- All-Conference
  - Rob Bremer ’16
  - Dan Cornelison ’16
  - Tommy Lentz ’16
  - Jacob Sandefur ’17

**TRACK AND FIELD**
- All-Conference
  - Allie Bodin ’16 (800m Run - WCC record)
  - All-Conference Honorable Mention
  - Nate Atkinson ’16
  - Maria Eastman ’16
  - Joe Esenther ’16
  - Maggie Mahota ’18
  - Sam Scattarella ’16
  - Emily Willenbring ’17
- State Qualifiers
  - Nate Atkinson ’16 (Long Jump)
  - Allie Bodin ’16, Megan Beulke ’18, Maria Eastman ’16, & Kendra Franck ’17 (4x800m Run)
  - Allie Bodin ’16 (800m Run)
  - Joe Esenther ’16 (800m Run)
  - Emily Willenbring ’17 (Long Jump)
- All-State
  - Allie Bodin ’16 (800m Run)
  - Megan Beulke ’18, Allie Bodin ’16, Maria Eastman ’16 and Kendra Franck ’17 (4 x 800)
  - Joe Esenther ’16 (800m Run)
  - Emily Willenbringing ’17 (Long Jump)

**FOOTBALL**
- East Central South District Special Awards
  - Max Bergmann ’16 - Most Valuable Defensive Back Award
  - Dan Cornelison ’16 - Most Valuable Special Teams Award

**TEAM ALL-STATE ACADEMIC HONORS**
- (Winter and Spring Sports)
  - Nordic Ski Boys - Gold Award
  - Nordic Ski Girls - Gold Award
  - Dance - Academic Award
  - Track and Field Boys - Silver Award
  - Track and Field Girls - Gold Award

**INDIVIDUAL ALL-STATE ACADEMIC HONORS**
- (Winter and Spring Sports)
  - Allie Bodin - Girls Hockey & Lacrosse
  - Zyler Niece - Track and Field
  - Alexis Pricco - Track and Field
  - Betty Requet - Baseball
  - Molly Smith - Basketball
  - Emma Tessis - Track and Field
  - Emily Willenbring - Track and Field
  - Evelyn Willenbring - Track and Field

**SENIOR ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**

Female Athlete
- Allie Bodin

Male Athlete
- Will Garin
2004

PETER W. MITCHELL earned his Master of Fine Arts in lighting design from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Design for Stage & Film. This summer, he is the lighting supervisor at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival in Cooperstown, NY as well as lighting designer for their youth opera premiere of Wilde Tales.

2006

MICHELLE (PICKLE) BROWN was promoted to Occupational Therapy Coordinator for the Minnesota Autism Center, the largest provider of autism treatment services in the Upper Midwest.

2008

PATRISHA WILSON was promoted on June 1, 2016 to lieutenant of the United States Navy.

2010

COLLIN ATKINSON graduated in May from Creighton University’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

SHRUTI IYER graduated in May from the University of Minnesota with a Master of Science in medical device innovation. Shruti is employed by Medtronic as a software engineer.

2011

HENRY ERDMAN graduated with honors in May 2015 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Film and Graphic Design. He currently works in Los Angeles as an art director at a Hollywood ad agency designing movie posters. His first finished piece was the Tarzan IMAX poster (pictured below) and he is currently working on campaigns for Star Wars and many others.

CAITLIN PINICK graduated summa cum laude in June 2015 from Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science in Entertainment and Arts Management. She has been on scholarship as the general management apprentice with the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

PAUL SEIFERT graduated summa cum laude from Marquette University in May with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering. He is employed as a project development engineer with Gautheir Biomedical in Grafton, WI.

2012

AUSTIN BALM graduated in May from St. John’s University with a degree in global business leadership. Austin is employed with Forester's Financial as a financial sales representative. Pictured below with his sister, Maddie ’14.

HANNAH FLOM graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts, Political Communication, from George Washington University. She is employed as an assistant video editor at Bully Pulpit Interactive. While attending George Washington University, she was an intern at the White House and for the political talk show, Meet the Press. (Pictured below)

ASHLEY HANSON graduated in May from the University of St. Thomas with a Bachelor of Science in health promotion. She is employed as an operations analyst at Healthy Savings.

Please email alumni college and career updates as well as name or address changes to communications@hfchs.org.
BRIAN KUBISIAK graduated in May from CalTech with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering and a minor in computer science. He is employed by Dolby Labs.

CARLY IVERSEN graduated in May from St. Louis University with a nursing degree. Carly is employed as a nurse in the NICU in a hospital in St. Louis.

TOM LARSON graduated in May from Hamline University with a Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry degree and has been accepted into Mayo’s Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics graduate program. Tom returned to Holy Family in May to speak to AP Biology and AP Chemistry students about his research, future career plans and answer questions about careers in science and research. (Pictured below)

LAUREN LAVELLE graduated in May from the University of St. Thomas with a Bachelor of Arts, Marketing Management.

SARAH MANNING graduated in May from Miami University with a B.A. in International Studies, a B.A. in Comparative Religion and three minors in History, Spanish, and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. In August she will be moving to Washington DC to pursue a M.A. in Security Studies through Georgetown University’s Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service with a focus in terrorism and substate violence.

EMILY PEARSON graduated in May from Miami University with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology, pre-medical/pre-medical studies. This fall she will continue her education at Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine.

HAYLEY PODERGOIS graduated cum laude in May from the College of St. Benedict with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Haley is employed as a clinical recruiter in the scientific division of Aerotek Staffing.

BRIAN RADICK graduated in May from the St. John’s University with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Leadership with a minor in Asian studies. He is employed as a proposal coordinator at Open Systems International.

MAGGIE RENFRO graduated in May from the Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She is employed as an associate recruiter at Signature Consultants.

ERIN RYAN MOSELY graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the College of St. Benedict. She will be working with AmeriCorps St. Louis.

JON RICHELSEN graduated in May from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. Jon is employed by Amazon Robotics.

LUCAS SMITH graduated in May from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in American studies. He is employed as an operational risks associate at Wells Fargo.

KRISTA STANOCH graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics and a Certificate in Global Health. She is moving to Washington D.C. to serve as an Anti-Hunger VISTA volunteer for D.C. Hunger Solutions. Krista hopes to pursue a masters in public health in the near future.

TED STEWART-HESTER graduated in May from St. Louis University. He will attend medical school at the Des Moines School of Osteopathic Medicine.

BRANDON WILSON graduated from Hamline University in May with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies and a minor in digital media arts. He is employed as an account coordinator at C.H. Robinson.

ALEX MASON, a senior at the University of St. Thomas, is the co-host of Kingdom Connections with Shelly and Alex, airing weekly on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. and Monday’s at 9:30 p.m. on Metro Cable Network Channel 6.

EMMA PROUDFIT, a senior at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, studied abroad in Guatemala during the Spring 2016 semester.

The 2016 recipient of the David Lano Memorial Scholarship was Natalie Johnson. The scholarship presented to Natalie during Convocation by David’s mother, Sam Lano, and teachers Mr. Case Unverzagt and Mr. Tim Reilly is a memorial scholarship established in 2013 in memory of David Lano ’04, who passed away unexpectedly from natural causes. The recipient is recognized for leadership skills, a commitment to service and a strong faith life.
Nick Heithoff attends Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Minnetonka with his parents, Rob and Beth Heithoff. He will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

What is the greatest lesson you learned in high school? I learned many lessons throughout high school, but the greatest lesson I learned is that you need to become responsible for yourself. In order to get everything out of high school, you need to have yourself taken care of first. I’ve learned that once you have control of yourself, it opens up many more opportunities where you can help others.

Name one thing you are proud of accomplishing in high school. One thing I am proud of accomplishing in high school was being a student-athlete and being involved in different things. For example, there was a day of the year where I took a couple tests, played the guitar in front of the school and played a basketball game that night, and I felt accomplished because I was able to share my talents with others. I believe that is a very important thing to do.

If you could have an audience with Pope Francis, what would you discuss with him? I would talk to him about how humble he is. He avoids receiving special treatment because he wants to be treated no greater than anybody else, and I am inspired by that. I would want to discuss his views on equality because he is known for his acceptance of all people, which is something that I want promote as well.

Describe the most significant faith experience you have had during high school. My most significant faith experience in high school was praying with Father Bob White before every football game. Our entire team would take a knee and join hands as father would say a prayer over us right before we would go out and play a game. He reminded us that adversity in football prepares us for challenges we will face later in life.

What book did you read in high school that most changed the way you think? The book that most changed the way I think was “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Its lesson reminded me that it is always important to be honest, and it is important to be modest as well.

Who is a spiritual role model for your Catholic faith? A spiritual role model for my Catholic faith is Pope Francis. Of course, everybody’s Catholic role model should be the pope, but mine is Pope Francis because of who he is. His background and ethics align exactly with what I see my faith as.

What can the Catholic Church do to keep you and other young adults engaged in the life of the Church? The Catholic Church can preach toward serving others more than it already does. It is important to be involved in your individual parishes, but it is also important to be aware of those around you in need, and giving your time to help the poor is very rewarding and can keep young adults engaged.

If you could have a conversation with a historical figure, who would it be and why? If I could have a conversation with a historical figure, it would probably be Jesus. It would be this because I want to know how I should act, and I’m just curious to see what his attitude was like.

If you could go back in time five years, what advice would you give yourself? I would tell myself to know that everything will be OK. I’ve learned that stressing out about stuff isn’t necessary because it will all have to get done at some point, and also stressing out about homework and sports makes you forget about what is really important in life. One busy night shouldn’t make you forget about how much you love your family and your faith.

What are the top three things that you hope to accomplish in your life? The top three things I want to accomplish in life are raising a happy family, having a job that helps protect future generations and the environment, and I want to travel to many places to be able to experience all the beauty that God has given us.
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ALEXANDER MYTNIK
JENA OCONITRILLO
JORGE OCONITRILLO

*Department Chair
Thirty-one seniors received their Honor Society gold laurels for meeting the requirements for honor society all four years of high school. Thirty-three students earned their laurels for one year of membership and 34 new members were inducted into the honor society. Honor society members must maintain a 3.445 GPA, adhere to the student handbook, and complete 20 hours of community service each semester.