

REGIS

FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF REGIS HIGH SCHOOL | SUMMER 2019



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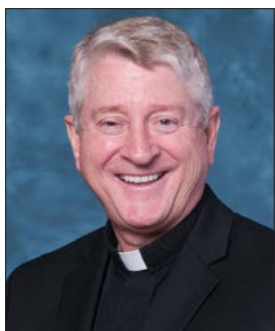


Above Mr. John Donodeo P'02, seen here running during "JD Day" in 2016, has retired after 37 years. Read more on page 14.

On the Cover Members of the Class of 2019 celebrate before receiving their Regis diplomas.

President's Report

Summer at Regis



As I write this column it is mid-summer. Summertime at Regis is delightful on so many levels. There is time to reflect on the year just concluded, time to plan for the year ahead, and time to get away and not think about school at all.

Yet at a school, there is something quite unnatural about summer. Walking the hallways on 84th Street can be haunting. There is the quiet that hangs in the air. As a large variety of summer construction plans are taking place, much of the building has a coat of dust on it as daily cleaning gives way to special projects. Classrooms and offices are empty, lights are off, and the air is still and heavy. The place is resting, but it just doesn't feel right without the energy of the students and faculty filling the place with life.

But this time does permit us to do a number of summer updates. The basement locker room will have a completely different feel by the end of August as new lockers, lights, flooring, and paint welcome students back. The Physics Lecture Hall, currently stripped of desks and old storage cabinets, awaits new seating, ceiling, lighting, boards, and air conditioning. Stairwells are getting painted, and the Science Project Room, which had a small fire in May, is being renovated as is the classroom below it, which had some water damage from the fire.

In a few weeks things will be cleaned up enough to allow REACH to return to the building from their camps at Fordham University and the University of Scranton, and by Labor Day, the building will sparkle and will welcome students and faculty back for a new year. Building and students rested and refreshed, and ready to start anew.

As has happened every year for 102 years, we said goodbye to our graduates in June and will welcome new students in August to begin the adventure of a Regis education. And as happens every year, we also said goodbye to several faculty and staff members, and we will welcome several new ones soon. As you will note in the pages that follow, longtime faculty member and coach John Donodeo retired after nearly 40 years at Regis, and after coaching over 100 seasons of track and cross country. Coach Donodeo exemplifies the commitment and dedication of men and women at Regis who make it the special place that so many of us call home.

While you will have to wait until the fall magazine for a full accounting of the fiscal year just finished, I can say with a genuine sense of gratitude that our community has once again responded with great generosity to the invitation to join us in the support of our Regis mission. While not setting a new record this year, the 2019 Annual Fund was the second best in the school's history. Moreover, the \$9 million raised surpassed our budgeted goal, and such support allows us to provide a tuition-free Catholic education to over 530 young, talented men, while also allowing us to care for our historic building and grow our endowment. Thank you.

Yes, these pages that follow recount a busy year just ended. A year with many successes, some challenges, but like the 104 years that preceded it, a year that changed the lives of our students. After such strenuous days, it is good to let the students and the building rest up during these days of summer.

I hope the days of your summer are not only restful for you, but are also richly blessed for you and your family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Daniel K. Lahart, SJ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'L'.

Daniel K. Lahart, SJ
President

The Office of Development

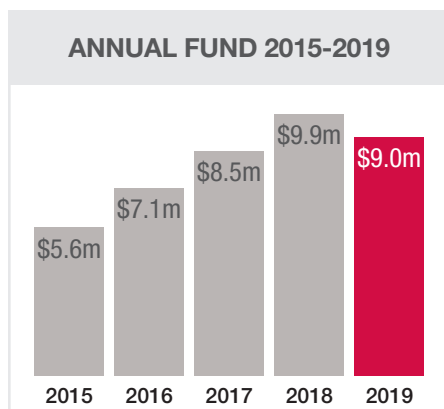
Living the Spirit of Generosity

2019 Giving by the Numbers

The theme of this year’s Annual Fund was *Live the Mission*. Throughout the year, from July 2018 through the end of June 2019, many generous members of the Regis community helped us do just that.

With your support, the 2019 Annual Fund reached and even surpassed its goal, raising \$9 million to help cover a majority of the \$15 million in operating expenses of Regis for the year, and continuing the recent trend over the past five years of robust Annual Fund returns. Continuing this trend is a testament to the overwhelming and sustained generosity of our alumni, families, and friends. Without charging tuition, our business model would seem nearly impossible — but for over 100 years our mission has lived on and formed thousands of *Men for Others*. For the fourth year in a row, we will be in a position to return funds to the endowment, shoring up the long-term financial health of Regis.

Final results of this year’s Annual Fund campaign will be detailed in this fall’s Annual Report. In the meantime, here are some highlights of what we accomplished together:



GIVING CAMPAIGNS

- **Giving Tuesday** in November and **Giving Weekend** over graduation weekend together raised \$1.85 million in gifts and matches from 2,000 gifts.
- The **Young Alumni Challenge** raised \$132,000 from the youngest sixteen alumni classes from March through June. Congratulations to the **Class of 2005**, who won the championship and overall participation!
- The current **students of Regis**, bringing back the beloved tradition of the Regis-Dominican Academy Walkathon, secured a total of nearly \$30,000 in donations from their families, friends, and neighbors.

REUNIONS

- In commemoration of their special anniversary years, last year’s reunion classes raised \$1.3 million to educate the current generation of *Men for Others*.
- The **Class of 1969**, in recognition of their 50th reunion, raised \$124,110 in gifts and pledges with 38% participation. The Class of 1969 more than quadrupled total giving from the prior year and also improved their participation by 19%.
- To celebrate their 40th reunion, the **Class of 1979** raised \$327,565 to create the Dr. John Tricamo scholarship.
- Members of the **Class of 1994** gave and pledged a combined \$210,000 for Regis,

beating the previous 25th Reunion record set by the Class of 1993.

- The **Class of 2009** raised an impressive \$39,000 from nearly 49% participation.

PARENT GIVING

- The **parents of the Class of 2019** raised over \$575,000 to honor their sons’ graduation and establish a scholarship in their honor. This marks a new record for the Senior Parent Gift, exceeding the prior record by more than \$50,000.
- In March, **current parents** and attendees of the Parents Club Auction raised over \$220,000 for this year’s Auction Challenge project, which will renovate the Physics Lecture Hall and locker room.

We are so grateful for the many reasons and ways our community has helped us *Live the Mission*. Every gift matters and helps keep the life-changing opportunity of a Regis education alive. Thank you for your support!

Endowment Giving

In fiscal year 2019, Regis received bequests totaling more than \$500,000 from 10 benefactors who generously chose to remember the school in their estate plans. Their final gifts to Regis go directly to the Regis endowment to create a legacy of philanthropy. For more information, visit regisgift.org.



Thank You!

The 2019 Annual Fund met and exceeded its goal for the year! More than 5,000 members of the Regis family came together to raise \$9 million to benefit today's *Men for Others* and keep alive the opportunity of a tuition-free Jesuit education.

The life-changing mission of Regis would not be possible without the remarkable generosity of our alumni, families, and friends. Thank you!

REGIS HIGH SCHOOL

THE 2019 ANNUAL FUND

LIVE THE MISSION

News & Notes

For expanded coverage of these and other news stories, visit news.regis.org

The New Yorker Chronicles Sciutto's Debate Prep Session with the Hearn



Jim Sciutto '88, CNN's chief national-security correspondent, stopped by the Hearn Room on May 15 to help team members prepare for the upcoming National Speech and Debate Association championship tournament. A standout performer on the Hearn in his day, Sciutto joined Mr. Eric DiMichele and a group of seniors in talking through the various resolutions they would argue at nationals, from the need for government control of social media during times of national emergency to the value of a bipartisan unity ticket in the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Documenting the visit in its June 10 & 17 print edition, *The New Yorker* wrote that the Regians "sounded like an Aaron Sorkin fantasy of what teen-agers sound like: fact-touting, earnest, quippy." At the end of the visit, Sciutto gave each student a signed copy of *The Shadow War*, his new book documenting "secret operations to defeat America" by Russia and China.

The preparation paid off, as Regis finished among the top eight teams in the World Schools Debate category at the national tournament.

Mr. Anselme Honored with Ignatian Educator Award

As the student body roared with approval, Mr. Andre Anselme accepted the Patricia Hannon Ignatian Educator Award during a school-wide assembly on May 9. Anselme has been a member of Regis' History Department since 1984.

Named in honor of the late Mrs. Patricia Hannon — who not only shared her knowledge and passion for chemistry with countless students over her 23-year career, but also touched just as many hearts in the process — the Ignatian Educator Award recognizes a faculty member whose dedication to his or her students fosters a learning environment that is the model of Ignatian pedagogy.

"It is a very singular honor," Anselme said. "To me, it is incumbent upon me to conduct myself in a professional manner befitting the award. Because the nominating and selecting process relies heavily on the faculty and academic committee, respectively, I consider the award 'peer recognition.' Finally, I feel a sense of validation that my work over the years, both inside and outside the classroom, is recognition worthy."



Dr. Anthony Fauci '58 Visits Regis



Dr. Anthony Fauci '58, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, returned to Regis on May 9 to share details of his groundbreaking work and reflect on his time at the school. In his position since 1984, Fauci oversees research efforts to prevent, diagnose, and treat established infectious diseases as well as emerging ones.

Fauci met with a group of Regis students considering careers in science and medicine. He answered questions from the students on a range of topics, from his involvement in the fight against the AIDS epidemic to attempts to combat the spread of Ebola.

"They're just incredibly bright kids," Fauci said after visiting with the Regians.

That evening, Regis President Fr. Daniel K. Lahart, SJ, hosted a conversation with Fauci at the President's Dinner, an annual reception for the school's most generous benefactors. Fauci fascinated the audience with details of his work with the last six presidents and spoke on a variety of public health issues. He also fondly reminisced about his long commute from the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn, his stint as captain of the basketball team, and the rigorous academic challenges he experienced at Regis.

"I'm multiple, multiple decades out of Regis, and I've been to some seriously good institutions, and I've been involved in a lot of academic things," Dr. Fauci said. "And I can say absolutely honestly that Regis High School is the best educational period that I could ever possibly imagine having."

Fauci said that when he thinks about the experiences and places that influenced him, Regis tops the list. "It is just absolutely the core of how I conduct myself," he said. "It really started right here."

A recording of Dr. Fauci's conversation with Fr. Lahart is available on the Regis website.

Sophomore Golfer Captures State Title

After a long hiatus, the Regis High School Golf team returned to action in 2019 and made school history. Christian Garcia De La Jara '21 shot an impressive 77 on June 3 at James Baird Golf Course in Pleasant Valley to win the state tournament by one stroke.

"The experience was thrilling," the sophomore said. "This was a first for me, and the entire time I was ecstatic about the possibility of winning. I had a feeling I was going to end up high in the standings, but people just kept coming in, and my score held up."

Assistant Athletic Director Sal Annunziata, who coached the team and will serve as Athletic Director beginning in the fall, raved about Garcia De La Jara's improvement during his first season in high school competition.

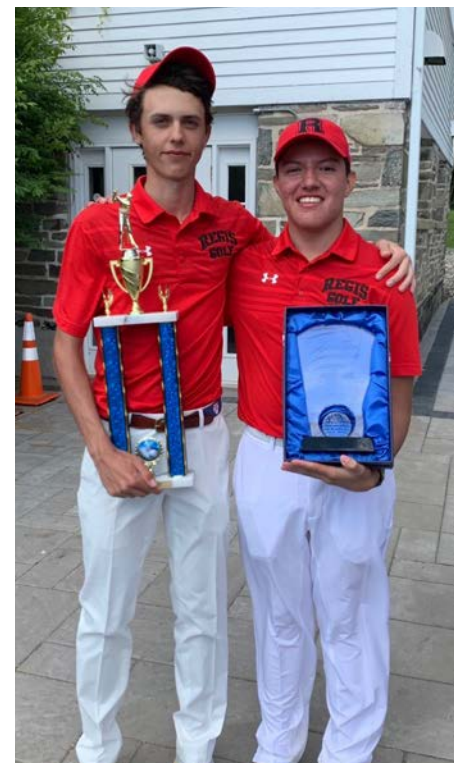
"Christian has put so much time and effort into perfecting his craft," Annunziata said. "It's so great to see it all come to fruition for him. To go out and shoot a 77 as a sophomore in the tough conditions of

James Baird State Park, it goes to show you what he is truly capable of. I'm very proud of him."

Garcia De La Jara wasn't the only Regian who was impressive at the state tournament. Classmate George Roessler '21, who excelled throughout the season, shot an 81 and won a five-person playoff to finish fourth.

The squad compiled a stellar 11-3 record during the regular season. With just one graduating senior, Alex Lee '19, on the team, the rest of the roster is poised to return for the 2020 campaign next spring.

"From hitting golf balls into the nets of the lower gym to a state championship, it has been great to see the quick development of our golf program," Annunziata said. "I can't say enough about the character and selflessness of the eight golfers on our team, who have put themselves on the map. We look forward to building off of this year and continuing to get better. Regis Golf is here to stay."



Roessler, left, and Garcia De La Jara celebrate after the state championship tournament.

Walkathon Return a Success



After a nine-year hiatus, the Regis High School/Dominican Academy Walkathon made a successful comeback on May 3. The student bodies of the two schools enthusiastically walked the streets of New York together before returning to Regis for a fun-filled afternoon.

Once a staple of the Regis experience, the Walkathon was resurrected after student leaders read about it in past editions of *The Regian* and learned more from faculty members. While Regians enjoyed the walk down Park Avenue, across 60th Street, and north on Fifth Avenue, they also chased down an ambitious goal. The student organizers had challenged their peers to raise \$25,000 for the school through the Walkathon. The student body embraced the initiative and easily outpaced their goal, bringing in more than \$29,000 for the school.

“I am extremely grateful for the student efforts for the fundraising,” Regis President Fr. Daniel K. Lahart, SJ, said. “Together they raised the full cost of a student’s year here at Regis. I am, once again, very proud of our students.”

In all, 584 alumni, parents, and friends of Regis sponsored students in the Walkathon, with all donations benefiting the Annual Fund.

“I am immensely proud of the enthusiasm from the student body in both fundraising and organizing the event,” said Student Government President Duncan Barcelona ’19. “We initially doubted the possibility of bringing back the Walkathon this year, but with the determination and motivation of numerous members of the student body, we were able to revive the storied tradition, and hopefully it will become an annual event for years to come.”

Alumnus Tapped to Lead REACH



Doug Eickman ’05 this summer became the new Director of the REACH Program. Eickman previously had served as the Dean of Mathematics for REACH and a member of Regis’ Mathematics Department since returning to his alma mater in 2010.

“I’m excited for the opportunity to recruit and work with students and families from underserved communities on a full-time basis!” Eickman said. “REACH is an incredible, transformative opportunity for our young men, and I’m looking forward to the challenge of helping the program live up to its mission even more fully — to better prepare our students for success at Regis and in our Jesuit partner schools, to offer more support to our graduates in high school and college, and to continue to inspire our alumni to live lives of faith, scholarship, and service.”

The REACH Program was founded in 2002 to prepare Catholic, middle-school aged boys from families with significant financial need to earn scholarships to Regis, as well as other top Catholic high schools in New York City.

Mario Powell, SJ Named Sixth President of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep



Fr. Mario Powell, SJ, who served Regis for four years as the Director of the REACH Program, was recently named the sixth president of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep. BJP is a Nativity-model middle school serving low-income families in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn.

“Stories and Storytellers” Event Showcases Regis Authors



A large crowd of students, alumni, families, and friends gathered in the Regis auditorium on June 4 to hear from four Regians who have found success in the literary world. Hosted by Regians in Media and Entertainment and Noble Hearts Films, a production company founded by a group of Regis alumni, the “Stories and Storytellers” panel discussion featured noted authors Ed Conlon ’83, Phil Klay ’01, and Matthew Thomas ’93 as well as literary manager and producer Eddie Gamara ’90. A full recording of the spirited discussion, which was deftly moderated by Joe Mauceri ’04, is available at regis.org/livestream.

John Francis Regis Day Focuses on Women’s Issues

In 2019, John Francis Regis Day encouraged Regis students to reflect on the experience of women in America. For the second year in a row, the Regis community studied a chosen social justice topic throughout the course of the whole school year. The effort culminated on May 8th with a day devoted to exploring the theme: “Do you see me? The experience of the 51%.”

The entire student body participated, listening to presentations and taking part in small group discussions. Dr. Amy Uelmen, the Special Advisor to the Dean and Lecturer at Georgetown Law School, served as the keynote speaker, while a group of students from Marymount and Major Justine Davie, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, also led sessions.

With Gratitude to Departing Faculty & Staff

A number of faculty and staff members left Regis at the end of the academic year to retire or pursue other professional opportunities. We are so grateful for their dedicated service.

Mr. Tomasz Otlowski '09
Language Department
4 Years

Mr. Vincent Peterson
Fine Arts Department
4 Years

Fr. Mario Powell, SJ
REACH Program Director
4 Years

Mr. Michael Allocca '81
Theology Department
3 Years

Mr. Carlos Angeles
REACH Program
2 Years

Mr. Ermanno Morelli
Dean of Students
1 Year

Mr. Jonalex Asperti
IT Support Specialist
1 Year

Mr. Luis Gomez '14
Admissions Associate
1 Year

Mr. John White '14
Pastoral Associate
1 Year

Mr. Sebastian Dilones '14
Alumnus Mentor
1 Year

Mr. Gordon Farley '14
Alumnus Mentor
1 Year



Mr. John Donodeo P'02
Phys. Ed. Department
37 Years



Mr. Joseph Quinn '04
English Department
8 Years



Mr. Don Allison
Vice President, Finance
12 Years



Mr. Thomas A. Hein '99
Dir. of Communications
8 Years



Ms. Kathryn Humora
Science Department
9 Years



Fr. Mark Lane, CO
Dir. of Campus Ministry
5 Years

CLASS OF 2019

College Destinations

Ave Maria University
Thomas Vincent Gilmore

Bard College
Antonio James Martinez

Baruch College
Marc Anthony Cruz

Binghamton University
Michael Arthur Evans
Donal George
Stanley Grullon
Devon Chidubem Umeozor

Boston College
Patrick John Flood
Liam Robert McDonough
John Philip Mendizabal
Sean Patrick Yung

Boston University
Matthew Adrian Gomez

Bowdoin College
Matthew Regus Perez
Paolo Antonio Russo

Brown University
Jacob Stephen Kaiserman
Morgan Francis McCordick
Owen Michael Ryan
Daniel Smith Tully

California Institute of Technology
Michael McAlarney Valverde

Colgate University
August Alfred Girardi
Allen Abracosa Quizon

College of the Holy Cross
Andrew Joseph Chin
John Matthew Conlon
Justin C. Hudson
Brett Thomas McCarron
Jesus Alexander Mendez

Columbia University
Logan Thomas Boyce
Philip Barrett Healy
Aleksandr Petukhov

Cornell University
John Edwin Colie
Marco Daniel Deicas
Sean Michael McCabe
Felipe Santamaria
Nathaniel Joseph Wood

**CUNY School of Medicine/
Sophie Davis Biomedical
Education Program**
Augustin James Abreu

Davidson College
Aidan Drew Glynn
Matthew Robert Kluge

Emory University
Alexander Young Kim

Fairfield University
Brian Michael Polito

Fordham University
Phineas James Donohue
William Rene Hernandez
Faris A. Madi
Christian Alexander Morales
William Walter Murphy
Robert Alexander Schier
Miguel Antonio Sutedjo

George Washington University
Christopher James Finkelstein

Georgetown University
Terence Michael Coyne
Jack Fitzhenry Daly
Wilkin Junior De Los Santos
Robert Anthony Fanciullo
Colin Edward Hall
Ralph J. Lamberti
Michael Mazzariello II
Liam Howe Nicholson
Finn Flanagan O'Malley
Daniel Hunter Wolfe

Hamilton College
Brendan Kevin Wiseman

Harvard University
Alexander Misup Lee

Haverford College
Hikaru David Jitsukawa

Johns Hopkins University
Kyle Tyler Kampta
Daniel Schouten Lewis
Nicholas Angelo Guarnieri
Lombardi
Carlos Daniel Tenreiro-Braschi

LeMoyné College
Nicholas Joseph Carinci

Loyola Marymount University
Ryan Bradford Meade

Loyola University Maryland
David Gregory Garcia
Nolan McKenna Morgan
Jason High Remy

Macauley Honors College
Chris S. Dyjak
Rafael Joseph Garcia
Brian Austin Hernandez-Armenta

Morehouse College
Jalen Isaiah Ellis

New York University
Carlo Miguel Bueno
Andre Simon Cartano
Moises Espinal
Sebastian Lorcan Jamshahi

Northeastern University
Richard Zachary DeCurtis
Peter Matthew Doran

Northern Arizona University
Connor Douglas MacSpadden

Northwestern University
Nathan Colby LoPinto
Cole Donovan Mader
Oliver Marcell

Princeton University
James Paul Chambers McGibbon

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ryan Sangjoon Lee

Rice University
Joseph Murphy O'Neill

Rochester Institute of Technology
Joel Marcel Clyne
Kenneth Pearse Rossi

Saint Joseph's University
Daniel Braeden Phelan
Luca Andrea Trigiani

Saint Louis University
Brian Gregory Golinski

Sarah Lawrence College
Matthew Henry Trapasso

The New School
Christian G. Boolbol

Trinity College Dublin
Colin McKeown Adamo

Tufts University
Gregory John Terry

U.S. Air Force Academy
Dylan Luke Gomez

University at Buffalo of the State University of NY
Tyler Jacob Graham
Ethan Perez

University of California, Berkeley
Duncan Christopher Barcelona

University of Chicago
William Theodore Eastwick
Avery Immanuel Rosado

University of Connecticut
Brendan Thomas Tuite

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Raymund Namwon Lee

University of Notre Dame
George William Bednar
Timothy James DeMaro
Shand Kelly Stephens

University of Richmond
Gregorio Cambiasso
Nicholas Patrick Roberson

University of Scranton
Gabriel Gómez-Tirado

University of Southern California
Robert Hopkins Macdonald
Christopher Jude Tronolone

University of St. Andrews
Harry Hendy Brett-Butcher

University of Virginia
John Patrick Carey
Miles Andrés Crosby

U.S. Naval Academy
James Patrick Corrigan

Vanderbilt University
Enrique Manuel Abreu-Ramos
Robert Thomas DeSena

Vassar College
Timothy Sheehan Nguyen

Villanova University
Shane Phillip Harris
Memphis Pedro Peralta

Washington and Lee University
John Theron Westlake Abrams

Washington University St. Louis
Ronald Jose Lucas

Williams College
Kevin Patrick Ryan
Jonathan William Singleton
Avery Gene Trinidad

Yale University
Jack Gordon Delaney
Andrew Jerome Vittoria



Ignatian Spirituality

The Fourth Day

By Rev. Mark J. Lane, CO
Director of Campus Ministry

Fr. Mark Lane, who has offered his spiritual guidance in this space in several previous issues, left Regis this summer after five years helping Regians grow in their faith. As one of his final acts at the school, Fr. Lane offered the benediction at Graduation on June 1. With deep gratitude for his service to Regis, we share Fr. Lane's benediction in its entirety below.

A warning: The actual blessing part of this benediction is going to go very, very quickly, so stay awake. But I will need a little time to set it up, so please stay with me.

I presume part of the reason I was asked to do this benediction is because, like you, my formal time at Regis is at an end. But I also presume that I have been asked because I am a priest. Giving blessings is part of the job description.

As a newly ordained priest, a long time ago and far away, I was humbled by people who would bring me things to bless. Who was I to do this? I was particularly uncomfortable when people would try to kiss my hands when I knew full well that I was and remain a sinner. What is so special about these hands? I was so uncomfortable that at the end of Mass when the priest gives the blessing, I would say, "May almighty God bless us," instead of the prescribed, "May almighty God bless you."

Although life continues to remind me I am an all-too-flawed human being, I have also come to learn that it is not all about me. God chooses the weak as well as the strong, the young as well as

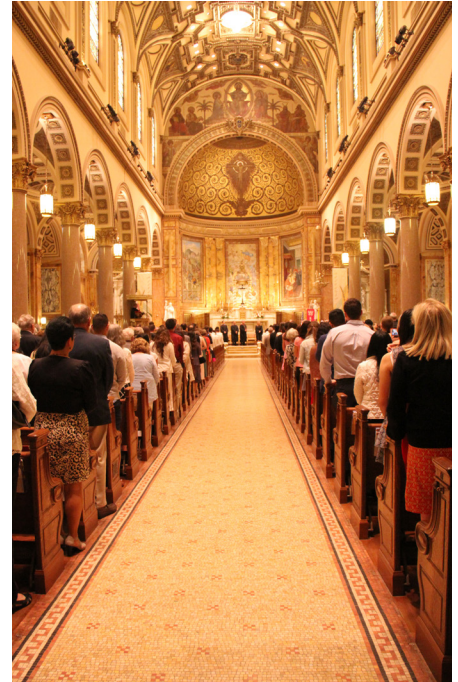
the old, the saint as much as the sinner. God can and does impart blessings in all manner of ways and by all manner of people.

And so, Regis Class of 2019, the blessing which it is my honor and privilege to bestow on you in a minute is a timely reminder of all the blessings you have received from the hands of others over these past four years.

To be blessed means to be made holy — to be consecrated. And you have been blessed again and again in many ways by many people: In the classroom. In the chapel. In the field. In the cafeteria. In song, and in speech and debate, and in listening on the subway and on the sidewalk. You have been consecrated by teachers and classmates; by priests and maintenance staff; by parents, grandparents, family, and friends. Your four years here have consecrated you. They have made you holy. Gentlemen, you have been blessed.

If I can leave you with one small piece of advice from many years of imparting blessings, it is this: You are a blessing. Not because you are worthy of it. Not because you earned it or deserve it, but because you allow yourself to be a channel of grace for yourself and for others. And you will be that means of grace if you humbly and gratefully accept the blessings of where you are. They may not always be easy circumstances or situations. They may not always be easy people. They may not always be what you want, and you may often be called to great courage and indeed sacrifice. But if you are always present to wherever you are, and you embrace it with generosity and gratitude, you will be a blessing.

Feel this place. Feel this moment.
Feel the person that you are and are



becoming. Feel and be aware of the people around you and with you. Feel the God who is always with you in each and every moment. When you know that you are indeed blessed, then you can become a blessing for others.

Gentlemen, I ask you to look at your hands. What is special about them? Gentlemen, I suggest to you that you have the power to bless. That you have the power to heal, to console, to caress, indeed to bless.

You are blessed, the Class of 2019, so that you can go out from here and be a blessing in a world that so keenly needs you. So finally, here is the blessing I impart on behalf of all gathered here to support you: Regis graduating Class of 2019 — just a reminder the appropriate response is a confident "Amen" — I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

East Meets West

Regis Student and Teacher Bring Latin to China



Top: Mr. David Bonagura '99 brings Latin verbs to life: "lace pilam ad me!"
Middle: Francis Wang '20 proclaims the benefits of studying Latin in Shanghai.
Bottom: Bonagura and Wang on stage with students at Chengdu Foreign Language School.

In 1582, Father Matteo Ricci, SJ, became the first missionary to bring Christianity to mainland China. Over 400 years later, two Regians set out for China and its secondary schools as missionaries of the Latin language.

Fengyuan (Francis) Wang '20, inspired by his love for Latin, conceived and coordinated "Western Classics Lectures in China" to inspire Chinese secondary schools to offer Latin in their curricula. To help showcase the West's classical language, Wang invited Regis Latin teacher Mr. David Bonagura '99 to assist him in this brand new endeavor.

Visiting four schools in three cities from June 24-26, 2019, Wang began each presentation recounting his own study abroad experience. Born and raised in China, Wang came to the United States at age 11 with limited facility in English to begin his studies at the Fessenden School in Massachusetts. Wang persevered through a difficult adjustment period to have a wonderful career at Fessenden. Before matriculating at Regis, Wang detailed his experiences in a book entitled *The Zeal in Youth*, which has sold widely in China.

At Regis, Latin quickly became Wang's favorite subject, which he has pursued eagerly outside the classroom through two trips to Rome, participation in a spoken Latin conference in New York City, and working as a research assistant for a classics professor at Stanford University. Through these experiences he also realized that his peers in China, for whom Latin is completely unknown, could come to learn and appreciate Western culture by studying Latin.

"After several years studying in the U.S., I acquired a strong desire to play some role in connecting the west to the east," Wang said. "Teaching Latin in China to children who otherwise would have no chance to know Latin is only a small step, but each one contributes to the greater goal, which is to connect

cultures and people on other sides of the world. My belief is that the more we know each other, the less misunderstanding will exist between countries."

The hundreds of students and parents who heard Wang's presentations had to be surprised when he introduced them to his favorite subject. He briefly explained what Latin is and where it came from, and made some connections to Latin that his audiences would know: Julius Caesar, the *Veritas*

"To see Chinese students and parents genuinely interested in the Latin language, and responding eagerly to the Latin that they saw acted out in front of them, was another sign of Latin's enduring, immortal character."

insignia of Harvard University, and Vivo electronics. He then introduced Bonagura for demonstration lessons on the Latin language.

Using the spoken Latin techniques that he has developed in the Regis classroom, Bonagura selected "*discipuli conscripti*" from the audience to demonstrate briefly the nature of Latin imperatives, Latin nouns in the nominative and accusative cases, and Latin counting. The students and parents laughed as they watched the *conscripti* respond

to Bonagura's Latin speaking, which was accompanied by a full range of gestures to clarify meaning. In exercises of "learning by doing," the audiences encountered the Latin verbs for walk, run, sit, stand, stop, and throw. This last verb they learned by throwing a ball on the stage: "*Iace pilam ad me!*"

At two schools, the principal was pulled from the audience to participate in the final demonstration: pulling ten coins from a *sacculus*, or bag. "*Unus nummus e sacculo! Duo nummi! Tres nummi!*"

Bonagura relished this unique teaching experience. "To see Chinese students and parents genuinely interested in the Latin language, and responding eagerly to the Latin that they saw acted out in front of them, was another sign of Latin's enduring, immortal character," he reflected. "Their excitement also testifies to the value of teaching Latin as a living language rather than as one solely to be read from a page."

The presentations were a big success. Student enthusiasm for Latin was palpable, and two schools, the Beijing Royal School and Chengdu Foreign Language School, are now exploring the possibility of offering Latin in the immediate future. A few parents also expressed interest in having their sons apply to Regis!

Wang hopes to return to China next summer to help the schools he visited lay the groundwork for establishing their own Latin programs and to promote Latin at a few new ones. Both Wang and Bonagura were humbled to walk a similar path to Father Ricci, about whom they were reading during their travels between cities.

"Ricci's genius was to present Christianity in a way that the Chinese could understand," Bonagura said. "Our goal was to present Latin in the same manner. If students in China can learn Latin, they can then come to learn the heart of Western Civilization, of which Christianity is an integral part."



What a Run!

Mr. John Donodeo P'02
retires from Regis after 37
years as a teacher and coach.

John Donodeo was nervous. Walking into Regis High School on his first day in 1982, the new physical education teacher felt “intellectually defensive,” acutely aware of the lofty academic reputation belonging to the school’s faculty and students.

A friendly face approached, but his greeting only made it worse.

“Welcome to my school,” Fred Donodeo ’84, then a junior, playfully told his older brother.

Looking back decades later, it’s a story — like many others — that John Donodeo can’t wait to tell. “So I wasn’t even top Donodeo!” he exclaims. “Let alone feeling comfortable.”

The nervousness didn’t seem to last very long. For 37 years, Mr. Donodeo, with his endless energy and unbridled enthusiasm, helped define the Regis experience for class after class of gifted Catholic young men. The fast-talking teacher and ebullient coach retired this

June, leaving behind a legion of grateful and amused former pupils.

A native of Astoria, Queens, Donodeo grew up in a loud, boisterous family. He starred on the cross country and track teams at Mater Christi High School, which he pointedly chooses not to call by its current name, St. John’s Prep. After majoring in physical education at Manhattan College, Donodeo taught and coached for five years at the McBurney School on the West Side before moving across Central Park.

Donodeo arrived at Regis on a mission: He wanted to ensure that the physical education program earned the respect of the school community. “I knew that would be an extra-special challenge in this place,” he says. “It’s a place of intellectual prowess.”

He accomplished that, along with his close friend and longtime fellow physical education teacher Kevin Cullen, by introducing a variety of interesting, often lesser-known sports. Not content simply



Mr. Donodeo’s headshot in the 1983 yearbook, his first year on the faculty at Regis.

to roll out a basketball or break the class into two teams for dodgeball, Donodeo had his students playing European Handball and Pickleball, which fittingly was the chosen activity for his final class on May 23. Once a year, he would lug out equipment from the closet outside

the lower gym and set up gymnastics stations, insisting that each student attempt to master the parallel bars.

And then there's tchoukball, a game Donodeo discovered 15 years ago at a national conference for physical education teachers. An unfamiliar observer can watch for 30 minutes and still have virtually no understanding of the rules. But Regians took to it, and it has become a beloved tradition for the school's recent graduates. "Tchoukball is a game made for the students of Regis because you don't have to play any defense," Donodeo quips.

Donodeo took these sports seriously, and he wanted his students to follow suit. But

he also knew how to make each session fun, whether through his extremely spirited officiating or his signature quirks. He'd often excitedly begin by introducing his vocabulary word of the day. When students didn't pay attention or mouthed off during class, he'd loudly and eagerly brand them "jabronis."

For many Regis graduates, the most lasting image of Donodeo is at the Central Park Reservoir, urging freshmen to pick up the pace or risk having to redo the mile run. Of course, his love for running and his time logged at the reservoir extended well beyond physical education class. Donodeo began coaching cross country and track at Regis in 1982 and continued to do so

full-time through the end of the 2016-17 school year. His many successes earned him a spot in the CHSAA Hall of Fame.

When reflecting on his impact, his former runners don't point to the race victories. Kieran Darcy '96, now an ESPN sportswriter, penned an article in 2009 on his former cross country coach. "I was the sixth best runner on a seven-man team, but he treated me like an Olympic prospect," Darcy wrote. "He stalked the course at Van Cortlandt, barking at me just as much as the guys who were way out ahead of me."

To outsiders, Donodeo's constant, exuberant urging on of his runners during competitions — he was "like a



Clockwise from left: (1) Mr. Donodeo leading a physical education class. (2) The teacher surrounded by students. (3) Longtime friends and colleagues Mr. Donodeo and Mr. Cullen in their office.

wild man out there,” as one alumnus put it — might have seemed excessive. His guys knew better. More than anything, their coach wanted them to give it their all, and he gave them his all at all times to set the tone.

As with physical education class, he also knew how to lighten the mood and relished opportunities to poke fun at his brainy athletes. On the first truly cold day in the fall, when one runner inevitably would show up to cross country practice in shorts and a t-shirt, the coach was always ready. His routine, according to the memory of Ron Romano '16, went something like this: “What are you doing? You look like you’re in the Bahamas! You should be drinking a piña colada!”

Donodeo’s athletes, some of whom ran all three seasons — cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track — for four years grew close to their coach, and many have stayed in regular contact with him. “He was a father figure to a lot of people,” says James Langstine '97. “He was always there for you.”

That familial bond was on full display on Sunday, May 22, 2016 when a huge crowd turned out for “JD Day.” To honor his 100th season as coach (three seasons per school year since 1982), the team captains and school administrators held a Mass and reception at Regis, and Donodeo led the large group of current and former runners, along with faculty and parents, on a jog through Central Park. Before the run began, the group surprised him by unveiling a paved stone on the bridge that leads to the reservoir with an engraving commemorating his milestone.

It meant a lot, and Donodeo still stops by his stone when out for runs. “I always check to see to make sure there’s no bird remains on it,” he says earnestly.

JD Day is a special memory for the coach on a number of fronts. Most meaningfully, his beloved wife Myrna,



Top: The Donodeo family in the Regis Chapel on JD Day.

Bottom: Mr. Donodeo poses with students after teaching his final class at Regis.

who was in between chemotherapy treatments in her long battle with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, was able to attend. Sadly, she passed away eight months later.

Myrna’s death partially influenced her husband’s decision to retire. Rest assured, though, that Donodeo is planning for an active retirement. He’ll spend more time with his children, John '02 and Laura, a former Regis guidance counselor. He has a long list of desired travel experiences: hiking in Glacier National Park, walking across the Golden Gate Bridge, and traveling to Antarctica to “hang out with the penguins,” to name just a few. He’ll volunteer multiple days per week, tutoring at St. Ignatius School in the Bronx and, in honor of Myrna, visiting pediatric cancer patients at Morgan

Stanley Pediatric Hospital. “I hope this place has taught me to be more of a man for others,” Donodeo says.

He’ll remain a familiar face around Regis, as well, attending occasional events and visiting friends. Donodeo knows that a large part of him will miss it when the school year begins in September, but he’s excited for the next phase of his life and proud of his accomplishments at the school.

“I’ve loved what I’ve done here,” he says. “And I hope that that has shown.”

It has. And generations of Regians — even his brother Fred — can agree on one other fact: Regis High School is John Donodeo’s school, too, and its students, faculty and staff, and alumni have all been better for it.

— IN MEMORIAM —

John L. Connelly

Mr. John Connelly '56 P'90'99 passed away on April 16 in Norwalk, Connecticut. Connelly, the longest serving faculty member in school history and a revered icon for generations of alumni, educated Regis students for 52 years.

Mr. Connelly first arrived at Regis for his freshman year in the fall of 1952. He earned his undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a Master's degree from Fordham University. In 1981, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Georgetown University.

At Regis, Mr. Connelly taught mathematics, European history, economics, classical political thought, and epistemology. His students admired his vast knowledge, his deep faith, and his quick wit. Mr. Connelly was the recipient of the 2015 Deo et Patriae Award, and a scholarship in support of REACH is named in his honor.

Mr. Connelly is survived by Susan, his beloved wife of nearly 50 years, and his sons, Jamie '90 and Michael '99.

The Regis High School community will forever be grateful to Mr. Connelly for the wisdom and friendship he shared.



By *Brian FitzGerald '94*

When I began my own career in the classroom, I could have found no better exemplar for how and why to teach than John Connelly. Four years after I graduated from Regis, back at the school as a teacher, I was blessed to become one of John's colleagues, and over the next decade he became not only a mentor but a friend. At the start, though, I was simply an apprentice fortunate enough to have found an acknowledged master, and I lost no opportunity to learn from him.

In the first month of my very first year, I sat in on a weekly morning reading group which John led, a group whose initiative came from a few students seeking greater understanding of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and of how to unify mind and heart. The

young men had been wise enough to discern that Mr. Connelly was the teacher to lead them. The first piece he assigned to the group that year — and indeed at the beginning of every year — was Étienne Gilson's "The Intelligence in the Service of Christ the King." No title more apt could be found for John's own career at Regis.

Re-reading the essay after John's funeral this spring, I recognized that what he wanted his students to see was also what he himself spent his years at Regis trying to live out: one could indeed — and should indeed — serve Christ with one's intelligence, but one must do so by first aiming at something else. "Piety never dispenses with technique," Gilson writes. If you want to serve God with your academic gifts, you must commit yourself

to cultivating them. If you want to build a building for the glory of God, you first need to know geometry, and if you want to teach for the glory of God, you must master your craft. To be a good servant of God, John became a great teacher.

Mastering his craft meant for John not just an attention to method but a comprehensive grasp of his subject matter. He was learned in many areas — he began his teaching career as a mathematician, and was revered by his students for his command of philosophy and theology — but his true love was history. In the capaciousness of that subject the entire font of human experience — he found space for the play of his mind.

John told me once that his goal in teaching history was to "diminish

ignorance.” This diminishment was not a negative goal: it was instead a great affirmation of Creation, for it meant in reality the opening of eyes to truth, like the polishing of a diamond, and in that exercise John shone.

I do not know at what point in his career John acquired the reputation for being “the smartest teacher at Regis,” but this eminence was well-established by the time I entered as a freshman in 1990. Students with questions on any topic would turn to John for the clarity of an answer or the resolution of a dispute. One of my own classmates tried to stump him with the question that plagued the Reformation — “Mr. Connelly, are we justified by faith or by works?” — and found him ready with an answer that might have saved centuries of upheaval: “We are justified by Jesus Christ.”

John could use his piercing intellect to devastating effect when confronted with mediocre efforts by his students. One written comment of his on an assignment had achieved legendary status among the faculty: a boy discovered at the end of his essay what looked to be the glowing praise of an impressed teacher — “Incredible!” — only to see beneath it a firmly scripted ‘F’.

But John also recognized that Regis students more often than not would rise to the challenge, that indeed the challenge was essential to their education. For years, he ran a special section of his freshman Medieval History course that was essentially “off the books,” not subject to the usual array of lectures and quizzes on textbook readings, but rather something akin to a great-books seminar, where he could assign Boethius, St. Benedict, and Chaucer. What most delighted him was that these fourteen-year-olds would select themselves for this section after he gave the whole class a deliberately exaggerated and foreboding speech at the beginning of term, declaring that the special section would be extremely hard, the most work

they had in any course: “And still they signed up!”

The devotion and enthusiasm of such young men gave him hope, gave him the energy to keep teaching. But surely the reverse was also true, that the obvious joy he took in teaching history drew students to him. I once came across him in the Regis foyer mischievously trying to abscond with one of the large ornamental chairs there for a re-enactment of a feudal ceremony with his freshmen.

John was constantly hoping to spark enthusiasm for learning. One of the reasons he taught his famous senior elective Classical Political Thought was simply to introduce young men to Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas. I know numerous alumni who still possess the texts they

bought for that course and who look upon them as their entrance into a lifelong love of wisdom.

In his later years especially, John taught as much by example as by word. Many a young Regian came to cherish him for not being wholly of this time. The typewriter and fountain pen he continued to use, his straw hats and fedoras (with Hapsburg medallion firmly ensconced in one), his vast store of memorized Cole Porter lyrics — these were not mere antiquarian accoutrements. Instead, they revealed him as the representative of another age who, along with his charm, grace, and wit, showed students another way of being in the world, as a Christian gentleman.

He was also an embodiment of Regis’ memory and as such offered glimpses of a tradition stretching back in time. A man who first began teaching when faculty members at the school wore academic robes in the classroom, John was faithful to what he himself had learned there as a schoolboy, and he transmitted many classroom experiences: the outlining of essays before beginning



Left: John Connelly’s graduation photo in the 1956 yearbook. Below: John and Susan at the 2015 Deo et Patriae reception, where John was recognized for his decades of service to Regis.



to write exams, the index card to summarize readings, the black-and white marble notebook to be filled with notes on one side of the page only. Till his last days as a teacher, John wore on his lapel the Guard of Honor pin he first put on as a student over 55 years earlier. The Guard itself had been established in 1917 for Regians pledging to attend Mass and receive Communion several times a week. It no longer existed at the school, except in John's presence for Mass every morning in the chapel. During my time at Regis, John's was also one of the few classes to begin with a prayer, students on their feet, as had been widely the case in his day.

John's devotion to his Regis formation was bound up with his commitment to the faith which had been strengthened there by the Jesuits. The constancy of that faith sustained his love for his wife and family and for his Church. It also sustained his work: John's piety never dispensed with the technique of his craft, but that piety was at the same time the indispensable foundation of his whole life of learning and teaching. Many of John's students recognized this and turned to him not just for intellectual satisfaction but also for guidance and help in matters of faith. He was a symbol of stability for those in confusion, struggling to find their path to God or trying to understand how to harmonize faith and reason.

One of John's favorite philosophers, Josef Pieper, once wrote, "love of truth and love of men — only the two together constitute a teacher." John did love his students, "the lads," both for who they were and for what they could be. Those who grew closest to him became over the years a part of his life beyond Regis. He was constantly meeting groups of alumni for dinners or attending their weddings or ordinations. He followed the course of their lives with paternal fondness. He also, assuredly, spent numerous evenings on his knees praying for them. He was

the fixed center point for a vast network of generations of men who bore his imprint in some way.

Whenever the subject of his potential retirement came up, John would tell me with a laugh that he wanted to pass from this life in a classroom, the chalk in his hand describing half of a perfect parabolic arc down across the blackboard as he fell. (John never lost his early mathematical tendencies.) He recognized how his body was beginning to fail him, how memories were harder to retrieve. But he could think of no conclusion more fitting for a teacher.

And almost as soon as he hung up his Regis robes, he found himself back in a classroom, in a small Catholic school near his home in Norwalk, teaching Religion to eighth-graders. He loved it. And was nearly granted his wish.

Unto the very end, he was a teacher *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*. We shall not look upon his like again.

Brian FitzGerald '94, the Academic Dean at Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts, taught English and History at Regis from 1998-2008.

Clockwise from top left: (1) Mr. Connelly works on his typewriter. (2) The legendary teacher speaks at a retirement ceremony in 2015. (3) Mr. Connelly instructing his pupils.





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