

REGIS

FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF REGIS HIGH SCHOOL | WINTER 2023

REGIS HIGH SCHOOL



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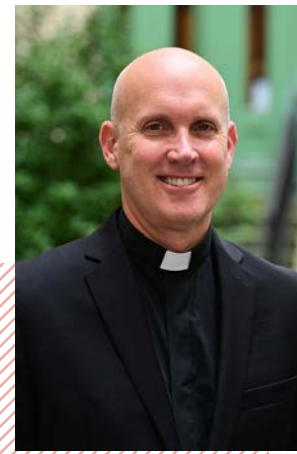
Some photographs for Regis publications are provided by Harisch Studios, Kai-Shan Kwek-Rupp '24, and the staff of The Regian, the school yearbook. Regis reserves the right to publish and edit all submissions.



Above: Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ, was officially installed as Regis High School's 25th president in September. Read more on p. 10.

On the Cover: The 84th Street entrance to Regis on a beautiful fall day

President's Report The Magis Mindset



While a Regis education is unique in many ways, it shares with other Jesuit secondary schools a similar mission and vision articulated most compellingly in the Profile of the Graduate at Graduation.

This Profile highlights five characteristics that Regis aims to develop in each graduate after his four-year student experience. Namely, through his Regis education, each young man becomes Open to Growth, Intellectually Proficient, Religious, Open to Others, and Committed to Doing Justice.

These characteristics are profoundly countercultural. They suggest that the goal of education is character development rather than an instrumental means to achieve admission to one's college of choice or career success. I was reminded of the first characteristic, Open to Growth, as I read a guest essay in the *New York Times* by theologian and college professor Jonathan Malesic.

Entitled "The Key to Success in College Is So Simple It's Almost Never Mentioned," Malesic argues that a "growth mindset" is the most important trait one brings to college. It describes this mindset as a "willingness to learn" — "the belief that your abilities are not fixed but can improve." Malesic identifies threats to this trait, including careerism and what he calls "knowingness." He goes on to write:

School isn't a quiz show; the first person to say the right answer doesn't deserve the greatest reward. Rather, school should cultivate students' curiosity and let them feel the thrill of finding something out. I would bet most teachers already share this outlook, but it's hard to encourage open-ended curiosity when schools are judged by standardized test scores, and it's hard to defeat narrow-minded careerism when the entire economy seemingly mandates it.

The author's examples are enlightening:

Knowingness is a danger especially for talented students who have been rewarded for always having the right answer. At the University of Pennsylvania, undergraduates complain that student clubs expect prospective members to have extensive knowledge of the club's area of interest. As a first-year student, Adrian Rafizadeh, told the campus newspaper, "If I can't get into the clubs that will help

educate me and foster that interest, then how do I even get started?"

Once, in a cafe near an elite liberal-arts college, I overheard a student lament to another, "I can't take a Russian history class. I don't know any Russian history!" Of course not. That's why you take the class.

The question for our faculty at Regis is how to best motivate, encourage, and reward students who demonstrate an openness to growth? How do we nudge our students to take risks in their pursuit of knowledge rather than chart a safer path that may lead to a good grade but doesn't necessarily stretch their thinking in meaningful ways?

This challenge was at the heart of a recent initiative to enhance the academic awards that Regis bestows on students at the end of each trimester. Typically these awards highlight students who receive Honors in each class—i.e., the highly coveted Honors Card. Through their work in the Threshold Lab — a process whereby faculty propose new strategic initiatives that advance Regis' mission — a group of teachers proposed that we supplement our awards with a new one, the Magis Award, given to students who most consistently demonstrate a growth mindset in their pursuit of learning.

As I move through my first year of service at Regis, the introduction of the Magis Award is one of many reasons why I find our mission and vision so attractive and purposeful. I'm proud of the ways in which our faculty innovate our practices to enhance our support of students — not simply so they may achieve the coveted outcome of admission to a top college or university, but to become better young men who, in the words of St. Ignatius Loyola, will set the world on fire, with love and faith, their work for justice, and a lifelong commitment to grow and learn.

Sincerely,

Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ
President

A Noble Call

THE 2023 REGIS ANNUAL FUND

Regis calls us to something greater.

The young men who commute from every corner of the metropolitan area receive more than a world-class education at 55 East 84th Street. Over four years, Regians are molded into men of character and conscience – Men for Others. Blessed with the unique gift of a Regis education, Regis alumni are called to use their talents in service of the common good as leaders in their communities and professions.

This charge is handed down year after year thanks to the generosity of alumni, families, and friends. For all who believe deeply in the transformative power of the Regis mission, another call is clear: to ensure that this opportunity endures for current and future generations. We invite you to make this life-changing experience possible with a gift to the 2023 Annual Fund: *A Noble Call*.



A donation to the Annual Fund is a gift for the present that ensures our future.

The Annual Fund is the lifeblood of Regis. Thousands of donations each year fund everything from the salaries of our exceptional faculty to the preservation and improvement of our landmark building. Last year, your contributions to the most successful Annual Fund in Regis history financed nearly 65% of the school's costs.

By covering the majority of the school's operating expenses each year, Annual Fund donors forge a lasting impact. Robust Annual Fund performance allows Regis to make responsible 4% yearly withdrawals from the endowment. This in turn allows the endowment to grow, safeguarding the school's financial future.

Called to Grow. Called to Excel. Called to Love. Called to Believe. Called to Serve. Called to Be Generous.

If you believe in the enduring power of the Regis mission, answer the call today with a gift to the 2023 Annual Fund: *A Noble Call*.

Your support is essential. Visit regis.org/give today.



"The call to be great hearted, to have the noble heart and to dare the hero's part, is very much the spirit of Regis High School, an idea and an institution born out of vision and generosity."

The late Rev. Joseph A. O'Hare, SJ '48, the 20th President of Regis High School



News & Notes

FOR EXPANDED COVERAGE OF THESE AND OTHER NEWS STORIES, VISIT [NEWS.REGIS.ORG](https://news.regis.org)



Regis Senior Earns Prestigious Academic Honors

Over the past several months, Aidan Gouley '23 has earned two prestigious academic distinctions for scholarly work he has completed outside of the Regis classroom. The Concord Review, the only quarterly journal in the world that publishes the work of high school students, will feature a paper written by Gouley in its upcoming Winter issue. Last summer, a different paper crafted by Gouley earned first prize in the highly competitive 2022 John Sexton Essay Contest.

Gouley's article for The Concord Review focused on the economic consequences of the Suez Crisis on Great Britain. He wrote his History term paper in his junior year on the same topic and expanded and refined it over the summer with the encouragement of Ms. Gena Reisig, the chair of the History Department, before submitting it to the Concord Review for consideration.

"The Concord Review is truly unique as the only history journal to publish the academic work of high school students. It is remarkable in its commitment to encouraging students to engage with - and write long form research papers about - critical historical and social issues, and is a unique outlet for intellectual expression," Gouley said. "My passion for history drove me to do the necessary research and writing to publish on an era-defining issue, and I am incredibly fortunate to have my work included in The Concord Review."

In August, Gouley also was awarded the first prize in the highly competitive 2022 John Sexton Essay Contest, during a ceremony held at the Brooklyn

Society for Ethical Culture. Gouley is now spending his senior year at Regis as a John Sexton scholar. John Sexton, previously the President of New York University for 13 years, founded the John Sexton Scholars Program in 2020 to, "promote awareness of current international crises involving conflict and displaced peoples, especially those with little media attention," and, "to provide substantive professional and academic opportunities to the next generation of change makers."

Each year, the program organizes an essay competition - open to all high school students in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut - to select the next contingent of Sexton Scholars. This year, contestants were tasked with drafting a 500-word policy recommendation concerning the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar as well as broader climate-driven mass migrations around the world. A panel of highly regarded scholars and foreign affairs experts selected this year's winners. Eight contestants were invited to become Sexton Scholars, and among them, the top three submissions were ranked on their individual merit. Gouley's submission was awarded first place.

Regis Returns to Bear Mountain

On Friday, September 23, the Regis community returned to Bear Mountain for the first time in three years. At 8:30 a.m., students and faculty loaded up onto buses and began the hour-long drive north, towards a beautiful reprieve from the academic rigor of the typical school day.



Allowed to roam free, students enjoyed a variety of recreational activities in the cool, fall air, including basketball, Spikeball, and a hike up to the top of Bear Mountain. Nate Croce '23, Jack Stappenbeck '23, and Chris Kim '24 also helped to organize an inaugural two-hand touch football tournament for Catalyst, Regis' Christian Service club. Funds raised were donated to St. Aloysius Gonzaga, a Jesuit high school in Kibera, the largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya, serving children who have lost one or both of their parents to HIV/AIDS.

"The first ever Kibera Football Tournament was a huge success. Thirty-one teams competed and helped raise \$1,550," Stappenbeck said. "I feel the competition embodies Regians' spirit of generosity, as well as their fierce competitiveness. Hopefully, the tournament becomes an annual tradition of Bear Mountain Day, and the Kibera Committee can replicate this success for years to come."

Rounding out the day, the annual Senior vs. Faculty Softball game drew large crowds and cheers for either side. Phenomenal pitching and defensive performances from the faculty left the team up 8-3 going into the 8th inning, but with the substitution of several Varsity Baseball players in the last two innings, the seniors scored seven unanswered runs, winning this matchup for the first time in over seven years.



Regis Attends Ignatian Family Teach-In For Justice

On Saturday, October 22, a delegation of Regis students, faculty, and staff traveled to Washington, DC to take part in the 2022 Ignatian Family Teach-In For Justice (IFTJ). Hosting over 2,000 participants from schools, churches, and other institutions across the Jesuit network, the three-day conference invited members of the greater Ignatian family to come together to engage with and actively challenge unjust structures facing our larger world.

This year's teach-in was guided by the theme "Rooted and Renewing," drawn from the conference's original commitment to inspiring a lived faith marked by the pursuit of justice. With the circumstances of our world changing and our resources to combat them developing, we as Catholics must intentionally renew our responsibilities, reflecting together on the work done so far and preparing ourselves to continue to promote change. As Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, "each new generation must take up the struggles and attainments of past generations while setting its sights even higher. This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice, and solidarity, is not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day."

Led by Director of Social Justice Initiatives Mr. Owen Smith, the Regis delegation was comprised of 17 students across grade levels and three faculty/staff members. Throughout the weekend, the group learned about pressing social justice issues from a variety of educational and civic leaders, including author Olga Segura, climate activist Bill McKibben, and Executive Director for Truth and Healing at Red Cloud Indian School Maka Black Elk. "Students and staff grappled with a wide range of topics within the Catholic faith through speeches, breakout sessions, prayer, and song," shared Mr. Smith. "Students

were able to tap into issues of justice that are important to them and consider new perspectives and ideas. The Regians also loved interacting with students from other schools from across the country and growing in fellowship with their Regis peers.”

Attendees followed these larger conversations by breaking out into small group sessions, which three Regians had the opportunity to organize. Jack Flanigan '23 led a discussion on the prevalence of mental health concerns in schools, and Julius Dorsey '23 and Jeremiah Alonso '23 presented on how to facilitate schoolwide conversations pertaining to identity, diversity, and race.

“Social justice is essential to the formation of every Regian, and I had the privilege of sharing those values with students attending Jesuit institutions from all over the country,” Dorsey said. “My presentation gave me the opportunity to share my social justice work to a national audience, which inspires me to go further. I am grateful to have met many like-minded individuals who are willing to go above and beyond in their commitment to serving others.”

Mr. Christopher Febles Authors *Richie the Caseworker*

In November, College Guidance Counselor Mr. Christopher Febles released his debut novel, *Richie the Caseworker*. Shaped by his own experiences and career in social work, the book tells the story of a newly graduated, home-grown, Yankees-obsessed Yonkers resident as he dives headfirst into his first adult career as a social worker at a homeless shelter.

After receiving his Master’s degree in Social Work from Fordham University, Mr. Febles went on to work in the social services field from the early 90s until he began his Regis career in 2008. Reflecting on how his own education could not have prepared him for the challenges of working with the underserved, he sought to share a similar story through literature, creating a titular character who likewise finds himself overwhelmed by the demanding nature of the job. While the idea for *Richie the Caseworker* was hatched about 15 years ago, the writing of the book began as a passion project during the COVID-19 pandemic. “There’s only so much Mario Kart and Minecraft you can play,” Mr. Febles joked.



The novel has garnered great praise, described by New York Times bestselling author Joe Drape as “a coming of age story beautifully told.” A Q&A video with insights from Mr. Febles on the book can be found at regis.org/news. *Richie the Caseworker* is available on Amazon.



John D’Emilio ’66 Shares Memoir With Regis

On Wednesday, October 19, John D’Emilio ’66 met with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to discuss his life and career as a leading historian of LGBTQ+ history. D’Emilio, considered a pioneering researcher in the field, also shared excerpts from his recent memoir, which chronicles his life growing up as a gay, Italian-American Catholic.

D’Emilio is Professor Emeritus of History & Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Chicago Illinois. After graduating from Regis, he received both a Bachelor’s degree and Ph.D. from Columbia University, and went on to author several groundbreaking works exploring the history and politics of sexual identity. In 2003, D’Emilio and Estelle Freedman’s book, *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*, was cited by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which declared state sodomy laws unconstitutional. He would later earn numerous accolades for his contributions to the field, and was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2005.

In July, D’Emilio released his memoir, *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties*, which shares his experiences from growing up in the Bronx to navigating the social and political developments of the late 60s.

“I didn’t start with the intention of writing a memoir,” D’Emilio said. “I had heart surgery in 2004, I’m lying in the hospital wondering if I’ll be there tomorrow, and found myself flooded with memories of my early life, emotionally powerful. And after recovery, in my spare time, I found myself writing up different ones, just for my own satisfaction and enjoyment.”

D’Emilio’s visit began with a conversation about his approach to writing in English teacher Mr. Chris Rose’s *The Art of the Personal Essay* elective, where seniors have been analyzing the memoir over the past two weeks. After school,

he spoke with Prism, Regis’ LGBTQ+ & Allies club, about his career and time at 84th St, and closed out the evening with a discussion with Open, Regis’ affinity group for LGBTQ+ alumni.

D’Emilio’s memoir is available for purchase on Amazon.

Regians Explore Engineering at Long Island Startup

For many Regis students, the first foray into the professional world can come quite early in their academic careers. This was no doubt true for Nate Croce ’23, Dimitri Mignano ’25, and Brian Witanowski ’24, who each participated in an intensive, two-week High School Summer STEM program earlier this summer at Innoveering, a Long Island-based aerospace and defense technology company. The program, which was organized by Regis alumnus Chris Mignano ’17, represented a unique opportunity for STEM and engineering-oriented students to practically apply their skills.

Founded in 2012, Innoveering serves the defense, aerospace, and energy technology sectors, having been awarded a number of major contracts. The company served as an ideal training site for the Regians, whose interests span from wind-tunnel technology to plasma driven shock tubes.

The students were first identified as a good fit for the program through their participation in Regis’ Science Research Project (SRP) course, in which all three are currently undertaking engineering-related study. An elective course that Regians can enroll in during their sophomore, junior, and senior years, SRP affords motivated students – those prepared to conduct scientific research independently – the opportunity to pursue focused research and to be trained in an advanced level of scientific inquiry.

“All three of them expressed a lot of great interest,” said Mignano, a full-time employee at Innoveering who planned this summer’s inaugural High School program. Mignano approached Mr. Frank Barona and Mr. Xavier Simon ’05 – teachers in the Science Department who advise SRP enrollees – who then recommended qualified candidates. The students’ background in SRP laid the foundation for the work they would perform at Innoveering.

The two-week training program was broken down into two phases: the first week primarily covered mechanics and coding instruction for the students, and the second week encompassed a capstone project each student could undertake independently and present to the company at the program’s conclusion. Speaking to the inspiration behind the program’s model, Mignano said, “We wanted participants to come out of it learning new things and with something tangible... at the end of it that they could bring with them to interviews or back to [Regis] to present.”

The program’s capstone portion gave the three Regians an opportunity to delve further into their SRP projects, and to discover their research’s professional applications. Croce and Witanowski, who have both worked on wind tunnels as part of their research, used the capstone to apply computational fluid dynamic modeling (CFD) to wind tunnel technology – a process that is essential to the current demands of the aerospace industry. Dimitri Mignano ’25, who will begin his SRP project this fall, pursued a capstone in acoustic particle levitation, which similarly has applications for his intended research in plasma driven shock tubes.

For the students, the program was pivotal in the development of their budding scientific endeavors. “The Innoveering High School Program was a great experience that combined classroom concepts with collaborative and hands-on projects,” Croce remarked. “The program provided me with all of the necessary resources to complete my projects but also challenged me to explore different thought processes to create innovative solutions.”



REV. CHRISTOPHER J. DEVRON, SJ

— *Missioned As* —

25TH REGIS PRESIDENT

On Friday, September 9, the Regis community reunited on 84th Street to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit, begin the 2022-23 academic year, and usher in a new era of leadership at the school. In front of hundreds of students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, trustees, and friends at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ, was missioned and installed as the 25th President of Regis High School.

The Very Rev. Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ, Provincial for the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus, served as principal celebrant. Fr. O'Keefe and Board of Trustees Chair Mr. Tony DiNovi '80 spoke from the altar as they officially entrusted Fr. Devron with Regis' sacred, noble mission.

"I now invest you with the office of President, and bestow upon you the Presidential Chain of Office, which signifies your leadership," Mr. DiNovi said. "Together, we, as the entire school community, ratify your selection and offer you our prayers, support, and very best wishes."

"We pray that you are guided in your work by the principles of the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, and the core values of Catholic and Jesuit education, which includes an integral commitment to the service of faith and the promotion of justice.," Fr. O'Keefe added. "We pray that your care of the school's students, faculty, staff, parents, trustees, alumni, and friends may be in imitation of Christ the Teacher, whose own selfless love models the vision of Saint Ignatius of Loyola: 'Love shows itself in deeds and not merely in words.' May you keep the Catholic and Jesuit identity of Regis High School alive and vibrant."

In his homily, Fr. Devron reflected on the larger purpose of this Mass as a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit, bestowed on each of us as part of God's creation. "This day, and for the rest of this year, may you and I allow this Spirit into our heart to transform us, to change us, to make us men and women that God most wants us to be: men and women for others, who dedicate their lives to God's greater glory."

Fr. Devron and Fr. O'Keefe were joined on the altar by History Teacher Rev. Arthur C. Bender, SJ, '67, Director of Mission and Identity Rev. James Ferus, SJ, and a number of fellow Jesuits: Rev. William Bergen, SJ, '49; Rev. James Carr, SJ; Rev. Kenneth Gavin, SJ; Rev. Thomas Massaro, SJ '79; Rev. Mario Powell, SJ; and Rev. Dennis Yesalonia, SJ.

Members of the student body offered up their many talents throughout the Mass, serving as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, altar servers, ushers, cantors, musicians, and gift bearers. Students and faculty delivered the Prayers of the Faithful in a variety of languages, representing the diversity of the Regis community.

Fr. Devron, who previously served Regis as the founding director of the REACH Program from 2001 through 2006, returns to 84th Street with 16 years of highly successful experience shepherding Jesuit high schools. For the past nine years, he served as president of Fordham Preparatory School, where he oversaw a period of dynamic growth. Prior to Fordham Prep, Fr. Devron was the founding president of Christ the King Jesuit College Prep, a Cristo Rey high school on the West Side of Chicago focused on providing a quality Catholic education for families that otherwise could not afford private school. He served on the Regis Board of Trustees from 2014 to 2020.

Fr. Devron grew up in Palatine, Illinois and graduated in 1989 from the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in philosophy and government. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1991 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2001. Fr. Devron holds a Master's in Philosophy from Loyola University Chicago as well as a Master's in Divinity from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. He also earned a Master's in Theology in African American spirituality through coursework at the Harvard Divinity School and the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans.

A full recording of the Mass is available at regis.org/news.



Summer Trips Expand Regians' Horizons

An integral aspect of student formation on 84th St., experiential learning has for many years allowed Regians to explore the world around them, engaging with and learning from communities both local and global as a supplement to their work in the classroom. While travel restrictions and other obstacles have prevented such cultural, historical, and religious exposure from taking place over the past three years, several students, faculty, and staff were eager to revive this aspect of Regian education through a variety of travel experiences this summer. Through an exploration of ancient civilizations, foreign language and cultural exchange, and service immersion, students gained a larger perspective on our world, and with it a greater sense of their roles and responsibilities within it.

A group of Latin students visited Rome to take part in a four-day tour conducted by the Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study. Joined by members of the Class of 2021 who had their trip canceled earlier in the pandemic, the Regians explored many of the city's ancient ruins and renowned sites, including St. Peter's Basilica, the Via Sacra, the Colosseum, and the location of Marc Antony's eulogy of Julius Caesar. Adding to the week, Fr. Anthony SooHoo, SJ, '93 met with the group during their stay, leading the students on exclusive tours of St. Ignatius Loyola's private quarters and the Church of the Gesu. "Rome is the world's greatest classroom. To see how excited the students were to learn about Christian iconography and papal history inside the most beautiful places of Christendom made the trip so worthwhile," Language Department Chair Mr. David Bonagura '99 reflected on the value of the trip for the Regians. "We teachers try to bring the best features of the world to the classroom, but it is seeing these features where they were meant to be is the greatest way to inspire wonder and wisdom, the goals of a liberal arts education."



Just a few countries away, two other sets of students participated in foreign language exchange programs in Berlin and Madrid. Hosted by Canisius-Kolleg, a Jesuit high school in the city, Regis German students honed their speaking skills and were shown around the city by their peers, visiting Brandenburg Gate, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Reichstag Building, and preserved sections of Berlin Wall. In Spain, Regians went on a sightseeing tour of el Museo Nacional del Prado, Palacio Real de Madrid, and El Retiro Park, all while practicing their Spanish with native speakers. High schoolers from Regis' host school, el Colegio Nuestra Señora Del Recuerdo, are set to visit New York City in September to immerse themselves in American life. "It was interesting to immerse myself in another culture with such an intricate history," shared Jonah Kennedy '24, who took part in the Berlin program. "Learning about the atrocities of the Holocaust, the divisions brought on by the Berlin Wall, and the intricate beauty of the historic castles created an experience I'll never forget."



Experiential learning also took place closer to home, with several students hitting the road to West Virginia for two service immersion projects. The first group, spending their week in the town of Wheeling, learned about the history and culture of Appalachia and how issues of environmental degradation, rural poverty, and the housing crisis have impacted the region. Regians quickly got to work helping to remove invasive species from nearby forests, served meals at the Greater Wheeling Soup Kitchen, and assisted at a community garden that employs the blind and visually impaired. In a written



reflection on the last day of the project, Callum Reilly '24 shared openly about what he gained from the experience. "This new connection with the people of West Virginia that I have formed makes me care more about their struggles and makes advocacy for these groups easier," he said. "My experiences with the people of Appalachia have made me realize that many in my own community endure similar problems. Ending my time in Wheeling, I feel inspired to take the perspective I have gained and address issues in my area."

The following week, another group embarked to the rural Colcord to partner with the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW), a Christian-based organization that builds and assigns work teams to complete a variety of projects for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents. The team from 84th St. helped construct a 50 ft. access ramp for an elderly woman, who due to a contractor shortage and interruptions from the pandemic had been on the waiting list for 3 years. After completing the build, the students learned about the coal industry on a mine tour and discussed issues of recent flooding in the region.



Rounding out the summer, a team of Regians ventured west to Nogales, Arizona to learn from community members and migrants about the struggles at the U.S. - Mexico border. Splitting their time in both countries, the 8 students volunteered with the Kino Border Initiative, a humanitarian aid organization that seeks to promote solidarity and just immigration practices through binational education, policy reform, and direct engagement with migrants. The group learned firsthand about the violence and adverse conditions that have caused many to seek asylum in America, and how far hospitality, compassion, and being present with the marginalized go in creating a better world. "The main lesson she shared was her belief that migrating is just a process and should not define a person," recalled Peter Zuccarello '23 of Bernie, a local social worker who met with the Regians to share her story of involvement with Kino and Mexican immigration. "The migrants have talents and special abilities and they should not be looked down upon because of this hard time in their lives."



"Regis returning to our immersive and cultural roots is what makes our community special," remarked Campus Minister Mr. Edwin Ortiz, who organized the student programs in West Virginia and Arizona/Mexico. "Our students continue to live out their openness to growth via the many communities we have joined this summer. It reflects well on our interconnectedness and ability to truly value the lives of our brothers and sisters throughout the world."



Inaugural REACH Class Honored With 2022 Deo et Patriae Award

On Thursday, November 3, the REACH Class of 2005 was honored with the 2022 Deo et Patriae Award. The inaugural class of the program, this group of 29 men was recognized in front of friends and fellow alumni of REACH and Regis for its courage and dedication, which paved the way for hundreds of future REACH students.



Hosted at the New York Athletic Club, the Deo et Patriae Reception & Celebration serves as a formal recognition of all those who have given to the Annual Fund at the Order of the Owl level or above during the previous fiscal year. The evening's eponymous award is presented to a person or persons who have served Regis and the community in a distinguished capacity during the course of their lives.

"I am confident that the example set by the founding REACH class will continue to not just live on but thrive on for many, many years to come," shared Jake Maskara '23 (REACH '19) as part of the evening's remarks. "Words cannot express my thankfulness for the trailblazing, founding REACH class for providing my classmates and me with the opportunity to be in REACH. I can't imagine my life without REACH."

While REACH has changed the trajectories of hundreds of Catholic boys' lives over the past 20 years, the program began as a radical experiment that, while boasting a noble mission, had no proven track record. In 2002, the first REACH class and their parents took a tremendous leap of faith, dedicating their summers to rigorous academic work at the University of Scranton and continued classes on Saturdays throughout their middle school years. Over the course of the program, these students forged an enduring culture of leadership and service for REACH, and through their successes in high school, college, and their professional lives, these inaugural alumni served as the first testaments to the power of the program. Without the pioneering spirit, courage, and resilience of these first REACH students, the program would not have grown into the remarkable success it is today. Nearly 600 young men have followed in their footsteps since, growing as Catholic leaders committed to faith, scholarship, and service.

After opportunities to eat, drink, and socialize, the program began with a singing of the Alma Mater by current Regis students, followed by opening remarks and prayers from Vice President for Development Mr. James Kennedy '02 and History Teacher Fr. Arthur C. Bender, SJ '67, respectively. Mr. Doug Eickman '05, REACH Program Director, then approached the podium to recognize this year's honorees, as well as to introduce Mr. Stephen Sanchez (REACH '05), who offered remarks on behalf of his classmates.

"I have to say it's truly an honor and a blessing to be able to speak in front of you all on behalf of my brothers from the REACH Class of 2005," said Sanchez. "I want to start by saying 'Thank You.' There're a lot of supporters that are here that were with us since the inception of REACH, when it was just an idea, so I want to thank those that helped begin this journey for us, this opportunity that we were able to have. I want to thank those that joined in at any part during that journey. It's really, really important for us to be able to see this program grow and expand the way that it has. And I also want to thank any current and former REACH staff that have been part of that journey as well."

The evening concluded with Maskara's remarks, followed by words of appreciation to the class from President Fr. Christopher J. Devron, SJ. "Without being able to rely on the precedent of any outcome, you and your families brought only your faith and a strong desire to seek extraordinary opportunities that would allow your God-given talents and gifts to grow and to flourish," reflected Fr. Devron. "These aspirations and your generous response to this opportunity, your determination to commit to the principles of the REACH Program, created an extraordinary multiplier effect that we've just heard about. They helped develop a new path for dozens of young men throughout metropolitan New York City to grow and to achieve excellence, and in turn, to serve their communities as Men for Others dedicating their lives to God's greater glory."

A video recording of the 2022 Deo et Patriae Reception & Celebration can be viewed at regis.org/news.





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Rev. Arthur Bender, SJ, '66 sharing his wisdom with Regians this fall.