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Introduction

Education is process that a community uses to provide its children with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to become happy, healthy, and contributing adults who are good citizens and life-long learners. As such, a school cannot be limited to a building or a place. It is rather, a living, growing, changing and vibrant community that continually looks to the future. All schools are founded in response to the needs of the community and with a vision for the future. The success of a school depends upon its response to those needs and its ability to adapt to the needs of the community as that community changes and grows. Archbishop Boland, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark in the early fifties, looked at his growing diocese and saw a need to expand the opportunities for Catholic secondary education in the archdiocese, particularly in Bergen County. He undertook a major building program that would see the establishment of Bergen Catholic High School, Immaculate Heart Academy, St. Joseph Regional High School and Paramus Catholic High School within a ten-year period of time.

Bergen Catholic was the first of these new Catholic high schools and, from the day that it opened, it was a huge success. But what made it such a success? Was it the strong leadership of the founding faculty? Was it the invaluable support and involvement of those early parents? Was it the talent, dedication and achievements of those early students who first came to a Catholic high school with no name and no building? Was it the ability to successfully address the needs of the Catholic community of Bergen County? While all of these factors played a significant part in the early success of Bergen Catholic High School, they are only part of the story. The world of 1955 was radically different from the world of 2005, as it will be different from the world of 2055. The real story of Bergen Catholic High School is how it has grown over 50 years to meet those changing needs.

The central vision of Bergen Catholic High School has been to work with parents to create an environment in which young boys can become men. This education is about people teaching people. Many years ago, if you asked one of the Brothers what they taught you would invariably get the response “students.” This is, in reality, beneath all education. Knowledge can be found in books, lectures, libraries and even on the internet, but education is about people teaching people how to be successful, happy and caring people. Bergen Catholic has always been as concerned with what kind of men its alumni become as with what skills they possess or what subjects they have mastered. A Bergen

Catholic education is as much about values as it is about knowledge. At its very core, Bergen Catholic was founded to serve the educational needs of the Catholic Church. The driving force of a Bergen Catholic education is to provide students with an intellectual foundation for their Catholic faith and to provide them with an experience of a faith-based community. The second factor of a Bergen Catholic education is a demand for excellence in everything that we do. This expectation of excellence extends to academics, athletics and activities. The faculty and the parents expected their sons to discover and maximize all of their potential while they were at Bergen Catholic. This sometimes gets translated into striving to be the best in everything and, as a result, sometimes success in competition gets confused with excellence. They are not the same thing.

The third tenet of a Bergen Catholic education is based upon the tenet that God lovingly called each of us into existence with a purpose. That purpose is to build the Kingdom of God. God gifted each of us to fulfill that purpose. It is how we use our talents and gifts to fulfill that purpose that gives our lives meaning. Talents, gifts and intelligence have no virtue or value in and of themselves. They do not make any one person more important or more valuable than anyone else. It is what we do with them that gives them virtue and value. All Bergen Catholic students and alumni are expected to make a difference in the world around them. They are expected to contribute to society as member of the church and as citizens of their country and the world.

1

Blessed Edmund I. Rice

1762 – 1844

Founder of the Congregation of Christian Brothers

The story of Bergen Catholic begins over 200 years ago with the founding of the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Waterford, Ireland by Blessed Edmund Rice. Blessed Edmund Rice was the fourth of seven sons. He was born in Ireland at Westcourt, Callan, on June 10, 1762. Because of a long period of religious persecution in Ireland, Edmund was forced to seek his education at a “hedge school” in Callan. At the age of 17, he was apprenticed to his uncle, Michael Rice, who owned a growing export business in Waterford City. At 25, he married Mary Elliot. Two years later, while expecting a child, she died. Their daughter, who outlived Edmund, was an invalid all her life. In 1795, Edmund’s uncle died and Edmund succeeded him in his business. He was now a wealthy man and was noted for his charity to the poor, but he wanted to do more with his life. He became very concerned with the conditions of poverty and ignorance that surrounded him on the streets of Waterford.



Blessed Edmund Rice

After several years of prayer and reflection, he decided to dedicate his talents and resources to the education of the poor. In 1802, he opened his first school for poor boys in converted stables in New Street, Waterford. A year later, he moved to his permanent school at Mount Sion, Waterford. One of the unique characteristics of this new school was the addition of a bakery and a tailor shop so that Edmund could make certain that his students were clothed and fed.

In 1808, with some companions, he made his vows in the presence of Bishop Power in the Presentation Convent Chapel. In 1820, Pope Pius VII approved the new congregation, which was to spread to every continent of the world. Blessed Edmund Rice was elected the first Superior General. On the 29th of August, 1844, Edmund died in Mount Sion, Waterford, where his remains now repose in a beautiful mausoleum. Edmund was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II on October 6, 1996.

On August 29, 1906, the first Christian Brothers arrived in the United States to teach in All Saints Grammar School in Harlem, New York. They opened their first school, All Hallows Institute, in 1909 on 124th Street in New York City. Since 1906, the Brothers have established schools throughout North and South America. They first came to Bergen County in 1955.

PAST SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

PRINCIPALS

Br. Eugene D. McKenna, Founding Principal.....	1955-1962
Br. Alfred X. Keane, Principal	1962-1968
Br. James R. Kelly, Principal	1968-1974
Br. Gerard M. Gaffney, Principal	1974-1980
Br. James E. Roepke, Principal	1980-1986
Br. Lawrence A. Killelea, Principal.....	1986-1992
Br. Brian M. Walsh, Principal.....	1992-1993
Br. J. Gennaro Sullo, President/Principal	1993-1994
Dr. Joseph S. Fusco, Principal	1994-Present

PRESIDENTS

Br. J. Gennaro Sullo, President	1994-1999
Br. Lawrence T. Murphy, President	1999-Present

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In the beginning...

Bergen Catholic High School is situated in Oradell, New Jersey, the geographic center of Bergen County. It is 15 miles from the George Washington Bridge, but how did it get to be there? Bergen County was established in 1683 while the territory was called East Jersey. At the time, Bergen was one of only four counties in East Jersey. Its territory also included the current territory of Hudson County (formed in 1840) and portions of Passaic County (formed in 1837). It became known as Bergen County in 1709. The original inhabitants of Bergen County were primarily of Dutch origin. Through much of its early history, Bergen County saw the valleys of the Hackensack and Saddle Rivers and their adjacent hills dotted with many small, beautiful farms and neat cottages in the Dutch style. By about 1900, the population of Bergen County had grown to 78,441 inhabitants. Over the next 50 years, Bergen County would experience remarkable growth. The end of World War II and the use of the automobile made the American public much more mobile. There was a great population shift from the larger American cities to the suburbs. With the opening of the George Washington Bridge in 1931, Bergen County became one of the many suburban counties surrounding New York City that became the beneficiary of this population shift. In 1930, Bergen County had 364,977 residents, by 1950 the county had 539,139 residents and, by 1970, there were 780,255 residents.

This rapid growth in population put a great deal of pressure on local civic and church organizations to provide adequate services for this growing community. Cognizant of the pressing need for secondary education for the Catholic boys of Bergen County, His



Excellency, Archbishop Thomas A. Boland, Archbishop of Newark, contacted the Provincial of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers of Ireland regarding the possibility of having the Brothers undertake the staffing of a high school in Oradell, New Jersey.

The diocese owned a piece of property on the corner of Oradell and Forest Avenues that had been donated to them for the purpose of Catholic Education. This property was a farm that belonged to the Wientjes family, who came to Oradell in 1893. The Wientjes family lived on the farm until 1936. Their daughter had entered the Sisters of Charity, and the property became hers on the death of her mother. Sister Joseph Melita Wientjes wanted to see a school established on the property on which she had lived most of her life, so she deeded the Wientjes farm over to the Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. She wrote "It has been a very happy career for me. I spent 21 years teaching in the School of the Holy



Brother Peter L. Lawrence teaches while the construction goes on around him.

Trinity in Hackensack, among other places, before I came to Oradell to teach in St. Joseph's School here. Meanwhile, for years my father and mother lived on the farm on Forest and Oradell Avenues. My father died in 1927 and my mother passed away in 1936, and I, of course, inherited the farm. When that happened, I deeded the property over to the Archdiocese of Newark, as I had long planned to do, with the

stipulation that it must be used for the site of a Catholic school. This is how it came about that the old Wientjes farm, where the Indians used to hold their ceremonial dances long before the white men came, is now the ground on which Bergen Catholic High School has been constructed, a fact that makes me very happy indeed."

There is a statue of Our Lady that is dedicated to the memory of the Wientjes family in the garden between the school and the Brothers' monastery.

In discussion with Brother Arthur A. Loftus, the Provincial for the Congregation of Christian Brothers of Ireland, it was agreed that a school for 800 boys be financed and constructed by the Archdiocese of Newark on this eleven-and-one-half acre site. Upon completion of the building, the Brothers were to assume financial responsibility for the construction at 3.5 percent interest. The land and building were to be deeded to the Brothers upon the completion of these payments. This agreement was finally concluded in 2005. It was further agreed that, while the school was under construction, facilities were to be made available to the Brothers at Our Lady of the Visitation parish in Paramus. Three Brothers were to start teaching freshman classes in September 1955.

The following is the description of the Bergen Catholic building as it was envisioned in 1955. *The school building was to be a one-story structure built around a quadrangle. It was to contain 16 classrooms, general science, physics and chemistry labs, mechanical drawing room, typing room, library, faculty room, photography dark room, general office facilities and offices*

for the Athletic Director and publication editors. Off the east wing, a gymnasium-auditorium (97' by 87') to accommodate an audience of 2,000 people was designed. Locker room and shower facilities were provided for an entire student body of 800. Directly left and right of the stage were two soundproof dressing rooms at stage level and two above. These rooms were designed to provide band practice space. Adjacent to the gymnasium was a fully-equipped kitchen and steam cafeteria to serve 300-seated students.

A beautiful chapel, seating 80 people, joined the school to the Brothers' monastery. The monastery proper was a two-story structure consisting of rooms for 25 Brothers, a Community room and refectory. Situated over the garage and with a private entrance was a suite of rooms for the maids.

PAST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Bob Murray '59	1984-1986
Rich Leonard '63	1986-1988
Charlie Melli '60	1988-1990
Ted Noble '61.....	1990-1992
Pete Feniello '60	1992-1994
Bill Edwards '67.....	1994-1996
Craig Johnson '83	1996-1998
Jim Petrolino '62.....	1998-2000
Brian Langan '83.....	2000-2002
Larry Carpentier '83	2002-2004
Sandy Cerami '85	2004-2006

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Brother Eugene D. McKenna, C.F.C. Founding Principal

On July 30, 1955, it was announced by Brother Arthur A. Loftus that Brother Eugene David McKenna was to be the Principal and Superior of the new Brothers' School in New Jersey. Brother McKenna was about 35 years old at the time he came to Bergen Catholic. Before coming to Bergen Catholic, he had taught at Power Memorial Academy, Rice High School and Cardinal Hayes High School in New York City, before moving west to teach at Boys Central High School in Butte, Montana. He returned east in 1950 to spend five years teaching at Cardinal Farley Military Academy in Rhinecliff, New York. Brother Peter L. Lawrence and Brother Edward M. Tracey were named to join Brother McKenna as part of the founding community. These three men resided at All Hallows in the Bronx, New York, and commuted daily to Our Lady of the Visitation School in Paramus where, thanks to the generosity of Rt. Rev. John E. McHenry, four classrooms in his new school were placed at the disposal of the Brothers.

Since this Catholic high school-to-be had no building of its own, the Brothers had all of the books for the school year delivered to All Hallows in the Bronx. On Sunday, September 11, 1955, the Brothers loaded up their station wagon to transport the books to Paramus. They got no further than the front of the Bronx County Courthouse (that is about three blocks from All Hallows and two blocks east of Yankee Stadium.) when the axle in the

car broke because of all the weight! It took them the remainder of the day to find an alternate means of transportation and to finally transport the books to Paramus. Brother Lawrence spent most of the day sitting on the steps of the Bronx County Courthouse watching the broken car.

On Monday, September 12, 114 freshmen joined Brothers McKenna, Lawrence and Tracey on the top floor of Visitation Grammar School in Paramus to begin this new adventure. These pioneers and their parents chose this brand-new Catholic High School in Oradell conducted by the Congregation of the Christian Brothers of Ireland. This was a leap of faith something akin to



Br. Eugene D. McKenna

the acts of our early pioneers. They were coming to this new school that had no name, no building and was not even located in Oradell!

Since this was the initial year of the school, there were a number of “firsts” to be recorded. On October 6, the first Parent-Teacher meeting was held at Our Lady of the Visitation Auditorium. About 150 parents attended and made the acquaintance of the Brothers. Brothers Loftus and McKenna spoke to the parents about the new school building to be constructed in Oradell. The previous day, the sports program got under way with the formation of a cross-country team under the direction of Brother Tracey. About 30 boys turned out for the team. The first medals to be won by the school went to Arthur Prior '59 and Richard Harlow '59, who came in 5th- and 6th-places, respectively, in the Meet of Irish Christian Brothers held in Van Cortlandt Park on October 27.



Br. Peter L. Lawrence

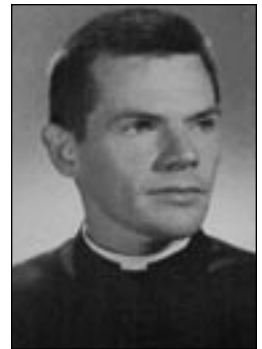
Also in the month of October, Mr. James Obrotka was added to the faculty in order to organize the music department of the school. After careful screening by Mr. Obrotka and Brother Lawrence, the music moderator, 48 “volunteers” signed up for the

Glee Club.

It was on October 28 that “Bergen Catholic High School” finally got its name. Brothers Loftus and McKenna went to see His Excellency, Archbishop Boland. Up to this time, the school was referred to as the “Christian Brothers High School.” Brother Loftus requested permission to name the school after His Excellency, but this request was declined. The Archbishop favored the name “Bergen Catholic High School,” since he felt that the school should be identified with the area that it was to serve. By means of a poll conducted in the classrooms, it was agreed that “Crusaders” was to be the school nickname, scarlet and gold the school colors and “Deus Vult” the school motto. In accord with this, a school emblem was drawn up incorporating a gold Crusaders cross on a scarlet field overlaid with a shield that pictured a Crusader’s head with the motto of the Crusades:

“Deus Vult.” Mr. Obrotka also took the time to compose the school alma mater. St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows was chosen as patron saint of Bergen Catholic High School. The statue of St. Gabriel was purchased with money raised by the first magazine drive. This statue stood at the center of the courtyard for almost 25 years. When the new library was built, it was moved behind the library.

On March 15, 1956, construction of the new building was actually under way. The goal of the contractor was to have one wing of the building ready for occupancy by the following September. This was an absolute minimum requirement since, in addition to the original class of 114 students, 225 freshmen had enrolled for the following year’s freshman class.



Br. Edward M. Tracey

Meanwhile, thanks to the generosity of Monsignor John E. McHenry of Visitation Parish, class work was progressing smoothly at the temporary quarters in Paramus. A

school band, Glee Club and public speaking classes were formed and had made excellent progress.

While the contractor had assured the Brothers that nine classrooms would be ready for occupancy in early September, there was still a matter of temporary quarters for the Brothers.



Mr. James Obrotka

It was here that Father Thomas Curry, pastor of St. Joseph's in Oradell, came to the rescue. He offered the Brothers the use of what had formerly been the Sister's convent next to St. Joseph's Church. The good parents of the students held a "shower" for the Brothers on August 5 and thus secured all the linens, cutlery and utensils that would be needed. Furniture was purchased and a group of the parents put the residence in order for the accommodation of the seven Brothers who would be on the faculty in September.

The 1956-57 academic year was to be very memorable for all of the members of the Bergen Catholic community. Mr. John Courtney and Mr. Jim O'Connell joined the Bergen Catholic staff that year. Mr. O'Connell taught and coached track. He would eventually move on to Iona College, where he had a very distinguished career. Mr. Courtney had come from All Hallows in the Bronx, and he would spend his long career as a member of the Bergen Catholic faculty. He educated generations of young men

RECIPIENTS OF THE BROTHER EUGENE D. MCKENNA, C.F.C. ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

The Brother Eugene D. McKenna, CFC, Alumni Scholarship Award Presented Annually Since 1977 by the Bergen Catholic Alumni Association

- 1977..... Joseph E. Reynolds
- 1978..... Michael A. Isnardi
- 1979..... K. Sean Cooney
- 1980..... David K. Ficca
- 1981..... Thomas K. Ficca
- 1982..... Dante A. Implicito
- 1983..... Gerard C. Fallon, Jr.
..... Thomas H. Hanna, Jr.
- 1984..... John M. Driscoll, III
- 1985..... James H. Canton
- 1986..... Matthew J. Burke
- 1987..... Thomas S. Kearney
- 1988..... Rex B. Ruiz
..... Stuart J. Wells (Wegrzynowicz)
- 1989..... Roger W. Breslin, III
..... Richard J. Tandy, Jr.
- 1990..... Robert C. Bordone
- 1991..... Glen G. McGorty
..... James R. Meloro
- 1992..... Michael D. Bajakian
- 1993..... Mark T. DeRosa
- 1994..... Mark C. Bisanzo
- 1995..... Robert M. Tichio
- 1996..... Ryan D. Coyne
- 1997..... John Scafidi
- 1998..... Thomas M. Johnson, Jr.
- 1999..... Timothy V. Sullivan
- 2000..... James J. La Rocca
- 2001..... Joseph M. Palmeri
- 2002..... Markus H. Burns
- 2003..... Michael J. Scirocco
- 2004..... Michael S. Onischuk
- 2005..... Oswald F. Calvario

in his over thirty-year career.

The opening of school was delayed one week in order to give the contractors time to complete the wing destined for use. There were 225 members of the Class of '60 who joined the 114 sophomores as they moved into the building on Oradell Avenue. Only the north wing of the quadrangle, which consisted of rooms 1–10, was completed. The Brothers' residence was still not complete, so the Brothers were living in the former convent in St. Joseph's Parish.

School was scheduled to open on Monday, September 17 but, as of Friday, September 14, none of the desks had been delivered. After many frantic telephone calls, the company finally agreed to deliver the desks on Sunday morning. The Brothers, along with some of the fathers and students, came to the school on that morning in order to unload the truck. It had rained very heavily that weekend. As the truck backed up to the school, it slipped off the wooden plank path that had been used as a delivery entrance and sank axle deep in the mud. Once this gallant group of pioneers had unloaded the truck, they had to push it back on the path. As Brother McKenna was organizing these tasks, he was astonished to turn around and find Archbishop Boland smiling behind him!



Archbishop Boland laid the cornerstone on April 9, 1957

This was only the beginning of their challenges for the year. Students were attending classes as the building was being built around them. Very often, laborers would step out of a classroom so that a lesson could go on and would resume their work once the lesson was completed. Upon entering a room, students had to be on their guard to avoid getting wet paint on themselves. The normal scent of the school that year seemed to be that of wet paint.

One of the major crises during this first year was the lack of heat in the building. Brother McKenna purchased space heaters for all of the classrooms, and each night the Brothers would come back to school at about 9:30 P.M. in order to turn on the space heaters, so that the classrooms would be more comfortable in the morning. This made the classrooms tolerable, but there was no heat at all in the corridors or washrooms. This led

to significant increase in the number of students who became sick. Many parents became alarmed about the high rate of sickness among the students and, finally, His Excellency Archbishop Boland interceded with the Steamfitters Union to ensure adequate heating in the building.

Tuesday, April 9, 1957 was a milestone day in the history of Bergen Catholic. On that day, His Excellency Archbishop Boland laid the cornerstone and blessed the wing of the school that was in operation. Accompanying His Excellency were Monsignors Looney, Clark and McHenry and many priests from the adjoining parishes, as well as the Brother Provincial and the Consultors of the American Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers of Ireland. The music for the occasion was rendered by the school's Glee Club. After the blessing, a luncheon was served for the visiting clergy, guests and faculty.

The Glee Club and the band once again entertained the parents of the student body and the parents of the '57 freshmen. All who attended the concert held at Our Lady of the Visitation auditorium in Paramus were high in their praise of the splendid work being done in the music department. The 70 members of the Glee Club and the 40 band members were a credit to the instructor, their moderator and their school.

In athletics during that year, success and experience were gained in basketball, J.V. and freshman track, tennis and baseball. To the track team went the honor of winning the first trophy for the school, as well as over 100 medals for the competitors, while the baseball team went undefeated through the season. The Borough of Oradell very generously permitted these fledgling teams to use its athletic fields for practice and games. This generosity certainly made the Bergen Catholic community feel welcome in its new

hometown.

On October 26, 1957, His Excellency Archbishop Boland dedicated the completed school and Brothers' monastery. A large group of Monsignori, Priests, Brothers and Sisters, as well as about 2,000 parents and friends, attended the Dedication ceremony. The Bergen Catholic High School band and Glee Club entertained our guests. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the school and monastery were opened to the public for inspection. His Excellency Archbishop Boland, visiting Priests, the Brother Provincial and his Council, and Superiors of the local houses were guest of the community at a luncheon. In connection with the dedication, the Bergen Catholic High School Parents' Auxiliary published a beautiful Dedication Journal. The

RECIPIENTS OF THE BROTHER PETER L. LAWRENCE, C.F.C. ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

*The Brother Peter L. Lawrence, CFC, Alumni
Scholarship Award Presented Annually Since 1998
by the Bergen Catholic Alumni Association*

- 1998..... Richard B. Ardito
- 1999..... Thomas E. Oakley
- 2000..... James F. Tieng
- 2001..... Christopher McGee
- 2002..... Brian M. Keller (Kowalski)
- 2003..... Kenneth A. Sinkovitz
- 2004..... Stephen J. Kenny
- 2005..... Charles William Emala, Jr.

profit from the Journal (about \$15,000) went to the completion of a regulation-size football field and a five-lane cinder track.

Bergen Catholic High School continued to grow by leaps and bounds. By the time it completed its first four years, there were almost 1,200 students in a building that, at its very maximum, should have been able to accommodate only 800 students. By September 1960, this problem had become a crisis that needed to be addressed. Two strategies were immediately implemented. First, the entering ninth-grade students for the Class of 1964 went to school in split sessions. Second, a new classroom wing was built on the northeast corner of the quadrangle in July 1961, and this addition doubled the size of the school. The cafeteria also doubled in size. This expansion addressed the immediate need for classrooms and cafeteria space. Archbishop Boland dedicated this wing on Memorial Day, 1962. However, it did not address the need for more property and fields.

The first Bergen Catholic graduation was held on June 21, 1959 in the school gymnasium. Unfortunately, the gymnasium was not air conditioned at that time.

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Alphabetically)

**Denotes Current Board Members (2004-2005)*

Joseph L. Branciforte '64*	Br. Thomas E. Guihen, C.F.C.*	Charles R. Melli '60
Michael J. Breslin, AP	Pat Hanlon, FR*	Br. Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C., President*
Kieran E. Burke '75	John A. Hernandez, AP*	Robert K. Murray '59*
Ted A. Carnevale, AP	William F. Higgins '62	J. Ted Noble '61
Donald T. Casey, AP	Patricia A. Keenaghan, AP*	Br. Thomas S. O'Connor, C.F.C.
Br. John W. Casey, C.F.C.	Br. Lawrence A. Killelea, C.F.C.	Dominick P. Preziosi '67*
John J. Chimento '72*	Matteo W. LaMuraglia '70	Mario J. Procida '75
Wallace E.J. Collins, AP	Joseph Laureni '67	Sr. Dominica Rocchio, S.C.
Martin M. Coyne '93*	Br. Thomas R. Leto, C.F.C.	V. Timothy Rooney, AP*
Leonard J. Cullen, AP	Gerard P. Maron '87*	Nicholas G. Saingas, AP
Michael J. D'Amico '59	Michael A. Maron '77	William P. Schuber, FR*
Thomas P. Ference, AP*	Dianne Martin, AP	James P. Sheehan '59
Peg Ficca, AP	Anthony Matarazzo, AP*	Msgr. Robert T. Sheeran '63
David R. Ficca, AP	Joan H. McBride Omsberg, AP	John R. Smith, FR*
Br. James A. Finnegan, C.F.C.*	Howard McGovern, AP	Br. J. Gennaro Sullo, C.F.C.
Patrick J. Finnegan '65	Br. Howard A. McKenzie, C.F.C.	Br. J. Matthew Walderman, C.F.C.
Sr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.*	William D. McLaughlin, AP	Robert F. Wells '72
Dr. Joseph S. Fusco, Principal*	Sheila O. Melli, AP	

4

Brother Alfred X. Keane, C.F.C. - Principal 1962 – 1968



Br. Alfred X. Keane

Brother Alfred X. Keane became the second principal of Bergen Catholic in 1962. Brother Keane grew up on the Upper West Side in New York City and attended Power Memorial Academy. Before coming to Bergen Catholic, he taught at Iona Grammar School and Iona Prep. He also taught at Cantwell High School in Los Angeles and at Cardinal Hayes in New York City. He then spent three years at Brother Rice High School in Chicago before coming to Bergen Catholic.

Most of the “firsts” had already been accomplished by the time he arrived. Brother McKenna had moved on to Brother Rice High School in Detroit, Brother Lawrence had been transferred to Monsignor Farrell on Staten



Mr. William Rollins



The school's original library

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Alphabetically with year of induction

Douglas Avella.....	2000	Rev. Michael Hansen.....	1994	George & Amy Newman.....	2000
Joseph Azelby.....	1995	Angela Hickey.....	1996	J. Ted Noble.....	1996
Carl Barisich.....	1990	Robert Hoehl.....	2000	James O'Brien.....	1994
Albert Barton.....	1998	Robert Holuba.....	1993	Michael O'Brien.....	1992
Hugh Beattie.....	1991	Dante Implicito.....	2004	Peter O'Dea.....	2002
William Belluzzi.....	2004	Thomas Irwin.....	1995	James O'Grady.....	2002
Remo Biagioni.....	1995	James (Jake) Jacobsen.....	1992	James Obrotka.....	1991
Peter Blaser.....	1991	Anthony Karcich.....	1992	James Oleske.....	1990
Michael Breslin, Jr.....	1992	Br. Alfred X. Keane, C.F.C.....	1994	Robert Papa.....	1995
Kieran Burke.....	1993	Br. James R. Kelly, C.F.C.....	2002	Joseph Patterson.....	1996
Br. Martin P. Burns, C.F.C.....	1993	Robert Lally.....	1992	James Petrolino.....	2004
Donald Casey.....	2002	Br. Peter L. Lawrence, C.F.C.....	1990	Rev. Adrian Piotrowski, O.S.C.....	1992
Paul Casey.....	1994	Richard Leonard.....	1998	Joseph Pizzurro.....	1993
Charles Casserly.....	1991	William Leonard.....	1992	Arthur Prior.....	1991
John (Jack) Chimento.....	1992	Victor Liggio.....	1990	John Puzio.....	1996
Matthew Clark.....	1995	Charles (Bill) Madden.....	1990	William Rabadan.....	1991
Joseph Cody.....	2002	William Mahon.....	1991	Anthony Rocchio.....	2004
Joseph Colletta.....	1996	John Malone.....	1992	William Rollins.....	1990
Thomas Connelly.....	2000	Michael Maron.....	2004	Dennis Rossi.....	2000
Michael Conway.....	1996	Ralph Martin.....	1998	Nicholas Saingas.....	1998
John Courtney.....	1990	Richard Massey.....	1998	James Sansevero.....	1995
Francis Courtney.....	1993	John Mazziotta.....	1990	Rev. Msgr. Robert T. Sheeran.....	1998
Joseph Delli Carri.....	1998	William McCarthy.....	2004	Frank Sherlock.....	1993
Norman Dermody.....	1990	Howard McGovern.....	1994	Edward Skiba.....	1996
John Direnzo.....	2002	James McGovern.....	1993	James Sok.....	1991
Edward DiTolla.....	1996	John McGovern.....	2002	J. David Stack.....	1991
Christopher Donfield.....	1990	Robert McGovern.....	2000	Fred Stengel.....	2000
William Edwards.....	2000	Therese McGovern.....	1994	Robert Stevenson.....	1990
David Faherty.....	1991	Pierre McGuire.....	1994	Vincent Sweatlock.....	1995
John Fairclough.....	2004	Br. Eugene D. McKenna, C.F.C.....	1990	Vincent Tabano.....	1990
Peter Feniello.....	2002	Robert McNamee.....	1998	Carmela Toscano.....	1993
Peg & Dave Ficca.....	2004	Daniel Mecca.....	2002	Samuel Toscano, Jr.....	1995
Patrick Finnegan.....	2000	Gary Miller.....	2004	Edward Tracey.....	2000
Thomas Fuchs.....	1994	Br. Patrick S. Moffett, C.F.C.....	1991	Roy Turci.....	1995
Br. Gerard M. Gaffney, C.F.C.....	2004	Br. John H. Mostyn, C.F.C.....	1990	Gerard Turro.....	1996
Br. John L. Gilchrist, C.F.C.....	1998	James Moye.....	1993	Christian Unger.....	1998
Ethel Gilles.....	1993	George Mulhauser.....	2000	Br. James B. Walsh, C.F.C.....	1992
Gerald Goldee.....	2000	Harry Murphy.....	1993	James P. Ward.....	1991
John Hammel.....	1991	Robert Murray.....	1991		



The east wing was added in 1962.

Island and Brother Clark became the founding Principal of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, New York. Brother Keane was joined, however, by many able Brothers and lay teachers who carried on the tradition of the founders. Mr. John Mazziotta became the varsity football and basketball coach. Mr. Bill Rollins and Mr. Chris Donfield, along with Mr. Don Viggiano and Mr. Tom Irwin, joined the staff. Brothers Lips, Gleason, Walsh, and Shannon were all now part of the staff.

When Brother Keane became principal, Bergen Catholic was an established school in Bergen County. While it was still the “new kid on the block,” most of the major construction on the school was completed. Bergen Catholic had been designed to educate about 800 students. The

demand for Catholic education continued to grow, however. Throughout the 1960’s, Bergen Catholic generally had over 1,000 students in the building every year. In 1963, with the departure of Brother Gaffney to Iona College, Mr. Rollins became the Senior Guidance Counselor and the Director of Guidance. He would hold that position until his retirement in 1998. Brother Connolly came to Bergen Catholic in 1963 after serving as the Principal of Sacred Heart Grammar School in Manhattan for six years. In 1964, Brother Keane appointed Brother Connolly as the Dean of Students. As 1965 began,



Mr. Christopher Donfield

Bergen Catholic was traumatized by the sudden death of Brother Malachy Kelly. As Bergen Catholic approached its tenth anniversary, it was no longer a “no-name” school with no building. The Parents’ Clubs held a dinner dance at the Neptune Ballroom in Paramus on January 22, 1966 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of Bergen Catholic High School.

5

Brother James R. Kelly, C.F.C. - Principal 1968 – 1974



Br. James R. Kelly

Brother James R. Kelly came to Bergen Catholic from Power Memorial Academy in New York City. He was a World War II veteran who joined the Brothers after the war. He spent his first two years teaching in St. John's, Newfoundland, before returning to the United States to teach at All Hallows High School in the Bronx, Essex Catholic in Newark, Palma High School in Salinas, California and, finally, Power Memorial Academy. Brother Kelly had already been the Vice Principal at Essex Catholic prior to coming to Bergen Catholic.

Brother Lawrence returned to Bergen Catholic in 1970. With the support of Brother Kelly, he began what came to be known as the "Senior Program." This program was, in a sense, a "school within a school." It was held in the second semester of the year (beginning in 1972) and was designed to give seniors a better approximation of a college schedule and workload. It also enabled seniors to take many courses for which they would receive college credit. Nine of the 23 courses were accredited by either St. Peter's College in Jersey City or by Iona College. Brother Lawrence would direct this program into the late 1980's, when it was replaced.

On December 17, 1970, Sister Joseph Melita Wientjes of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth died at St. Anne's Villa in Convent Station, New Jersey at the age of 85.

On January 24, 1971, the Mothers' and Fathers' Clubs held a surprise party for Brother Vaughan on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary as a Brother. The Presidents of these clubs, Mr. Joseph Azzolino and Mrs. John Rice, presented him with a color television set and stand as an anniversary gift.

In September 1971, Mr. Vic Liggio became the Dean of Students and Brother Peter P. Krebs became the Athletic Director. Brother Edward T. Beyer began the Intramural Football program.



Mr. Victor Liggio

“FIRST IN MERIT” RECIPIENTS

1959.....	Robert A. Rutledge
1960.....	Francis J. Healy
1961.....	Edwin L. Keel
1962.....	Matthew J. Bradley
1963.....	Richard P. Kennedy
1964.....	William C. Walsh
1965.....	Michael J. Monahan
1966.....	James N. Ciampo
1967.....	Donald T. Jacques
1968.....	Richard F. Collier
1969.....	Michael K. Curry
1970.....	William R. Stein
1971.....	Brian A. Kremen
1972.....	Eugene T. Murphy
1973.....	John C. Connolly
1974.....	Richard P. Asbury
1975.....	Kieran E. Burke
1976.....	Christopher M. LaRocca
1977.....	Peter T. Sheridan
.....	Paul J. Singer
1978.....	Michael A. Isnardi
1979.....	Joseph P. Ferrie
1980.....	Robert J. Micera
1981.....	William P. Desmond

Brother Kelly added a golden retriever named “Tawny” to the Bergen Catholic community.

Father Adrian Piotrowski replaced Father Herman D’Souza as the school chaplain in September 1972.

On March 30, 1973, thieves brazenly broke into the school safe by demolishing its back wall. After this happened twice, Brother Kelly taped the combination to the safe with a note asking any future burglars to try the combination before destroying the wall!





Br. James H. Vaughan

Other milestones were reached in 1974 when Brother Gleeson celebrated his 83rd birthday and Brother Shannon celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a Brother. The school play was “Fiddler on the Roof,” while the prom theme was “The Roaring 20’s.”

“FIRST IN MERIT” RECIPIENTS

1982.....	James G. Hoff
1983.....	Mark J. Pare
1984.....	John H. Reuter
1985.....	Christopher J. Tranchetti
1986.....	John R. Wollen
1987.....	Patrick J. Ferry
1988.....	Mark Farag
1989.....	Amir B. Benham
1990.....	Robert C. Bordone
.....	Kenny H. Goldstein
1991.....	Jason M. Wejnert
1992.....	Jeff C. Settembrino
1993.....	David M. Deramo
1994.....	Mark C. Bisanzo
1995.....	Christopher M. Burke
1996.....	Donald P. Casey
1997.....	Satya N. Rao
1998.....	Thomas M. Johnson
1999.....	John H. Norton
2000.....	James F. Tieng
2001.....	Steven R. Ohle
2002.....	Sami William Mardam-Bey
2003.....	Mark Leroy Marada
2004.....	Peter Injoon Yi
2005.....	Charles Dominic Dougherty

6

Brother Gerard M. Gaffney, C.F.C. - Principal 1974 – 1980

Brother Gerard M. Gaffney came to Bergen Catholic for the second time in 1974 as its fourth Principal. He had taught at Bergen Catholic for two years in the early 1960's, before moving on to Iona Prep. Before coming to Bergen Catholic he had taught in Newfoundland, Canada from 1957 until 1961. He had been teaching at Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island when he was appointed Principal of Bergen Catholic High School. Brother Gaffney developed the honors program for academically-gifted students at Bergen Catholic. This program, with some modification, still exists today. Introductory Physical Science came into the curriculum during this time. Its addition was an attempt on the part of science teachers to change the way general science was taught. The course was designed to teach students the principles of science by performing the experiments themselves and drawing conclusions from them. This addition necessitated the building of two Introductory Physical Science laboratories. Brother Gaffney also expanded the National Honor Society Program to include the foreign language programs.

The school suffered a great loss when Brother Patrick A. Gleeson passed away at Holy Name Hospital on December 19, 1974. Brother Gleeson spent over 15 years teaching and living at Bergen Catholic. He was a former Principal of All Hallows High School and a former Provincial of the North American Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He decided that he had been teaching a very long time when he once asked a freshman in one of his Latin classes whether he might have taught his father at All Hallows. The freshman



Br. Gerard M. Gaffney



Br. Patrick A. Gleeson

responded that Brother had taught his *grandfather*, not his father!

Crusader Stadium became a reality in 1977 when Brother Gaffney invested almost \$60,000 for the new football bleachers and foundation.

In 1975, the new I.P.S. lab was installed and all of the lockers in the school were painted. The spring musical was "Hello Dolly" and the prom theme was "A Night in Paris."

In the fall of 1976, the Drama Club presented "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

On February 3, 1978, the *Bergen Record* published an article on Bergen Catholic in which it stated "*Mention Bergen Catholic and most people will think sports - championship basketball or track teams. Or maybe scholarships - 99 percent of its graduates go on to college.*"

But the 1,100-student high school in Oradell, conducted by the Christian Brothers, is in business primarily to help boys grow in their faith."

On June 10, 1979, the Class of '59 held a reunion at the school. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Adrian, Fr. Hugh O'Donnell and Father Michael Hansen '59. The keynote speaker that night was Brother Mark Clark, one of the first Brothers to come to Bergen Catholic. He spoke about giving thanks to God for the "miracle of Bergen Catholic."

The 1979-80 school year marked the 25th Anniversary of Bergen Catholic High School.



Crusader Stadium was born in 1977.

FAMILIES WITH MOST SONS EDUCATED AT B.C.

MCGOVERN, HOWARD AND TERRY

1.	Thomas	1974
2.	John H.	1976
3.	William E.	1981
4.	James D.	1983
5.	Robert P.	1985
6.	Michael F.	1988
7.	David M.	1990

MCKEARNEY, LAWRENCE AND MARGARET

1.	Thomas L.	1977
2.	Dennis L.	1978
3.	Kevin P.	1983
4.	Gerard	1985
5.	Vincent	1987
6.	Brian	1990
7.	Edward D.	1992

MCPARTLAND, JOSEPH

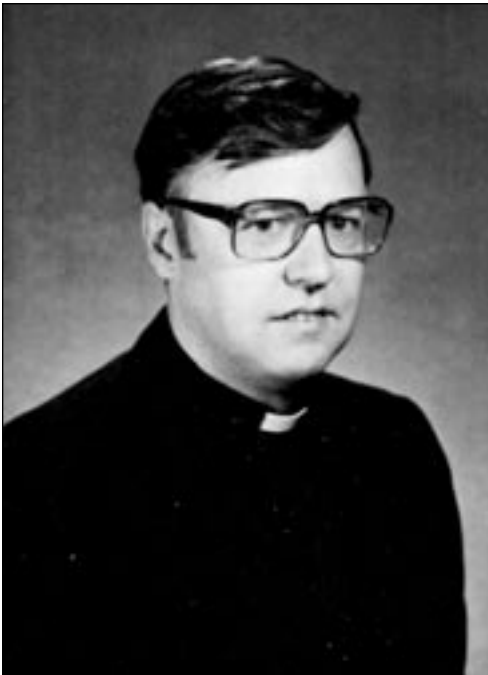
1.	Joseph F.	1968
2.	John M.	1969
3.	Brian	1973
4.	James	1975
5.	Liam C.	1977
6.	Brendan A.	1978
7.	Denis P.	1986

7

Brother James E. Roepke, C.F.C. - Principal 1980 – 1986

When Brother James E. Roepke came to Bergen Catholic, he was already an experienced administrator and had already taught at B.C. during the 1974-75 academic year. He had been a Principal for 12 years before coming to Bergen Catholic. He had served six years as Principal of All Hallows High School in the Bronx and six years at Notre Dame – Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, New York.

One of his primary concerns was the inadequacy of the school library. For an institution committed to academic excellence, the research facilities at Bergen Catholic were insufficient. He decided to take half of the courtyard and build a brand-new library facility. The new addition would triple the amount of library space and add several faculty



Br. James E. Roepke

conference rooms. The new state-of-the-art library was dedicated in 1984 to Brother Joseph S. Smith, who had spent almost 20 years at Bergen Catholic as a teacher of French and as the Head Librarian. It was during Brother Roepke's term that Bergen Catholic entered the "Age of Technology." He purchased the first computers for the school and introduced computer programming into the curriculum.

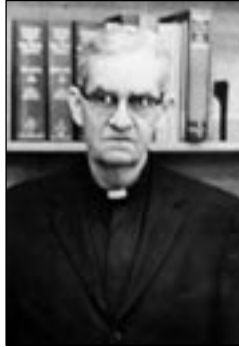
On April 18, 1981, Brother Jerome A. Shannon passed away while walking in the parking lot. Brother Shannon had come to Bergen Catholic in 1956 and had spent 25 years as a member of the Bergen Catholic community.

Mr. Vic Liggio passed away during the 1985-86 school year. Mr. Liggio was a Power Memorial graduate who began teaching at Bergen Catholic in 1965. He

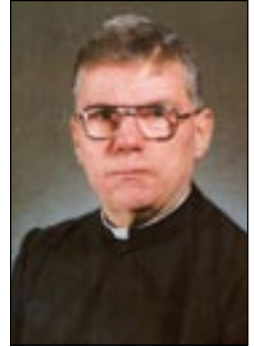
held many different positions here at B.C. and coached many sports. Whatever he did, he did well! John Courtney also passed away during the spring of 1986. John was a member of the founding community of Bergen Catholic. He was a graduate of Power Memorial and, before coming to Bergen Catholic in 1956, he taught at All Hallows. John was a very holy man. He was the founder of Crusaders for Christian Action and encouraged students throughout his life to get involved in Christian service. John was not only an excellent teacher, he was also a gentle and kindly man who had a great influence on the young men at Bergen Catholic for 30 years.



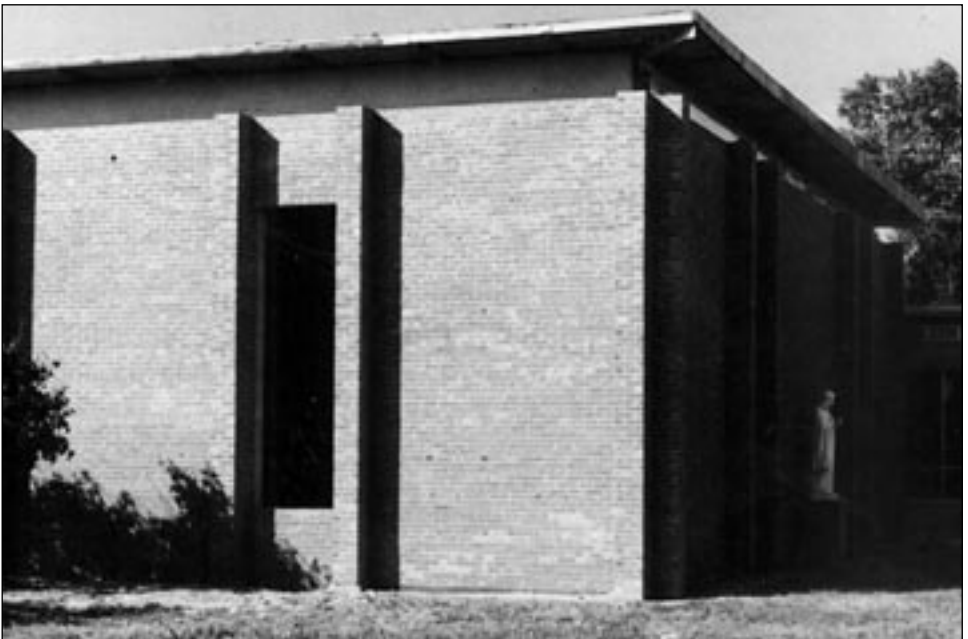
Mr. John Courtney



Br. Jerome A. Shannon



Br. Joseph S. Smith



The Brother Joseph S. Smith Library was constructed in 1984.

8

Brother Lawrence A. Killelea, C.F.C. - Principal 1986 – 1992

Brother Lawrence A. Killelea was also a very experienced administrator when he arrived at Bergen Catholic. He had already served as Principal of Power Memorial Academy and Rice High School in New York City for six years each.

Brother Killelea was the Principal who established the Board of Directors at Bergen Catholic. The Congregation of Christian Brothers had recognized that most Brothers were educated

as professional teachers and/or administrators. Their area of expertise was education. They also recognized that there was an enormous wealth of knowledge in the experience and expertise of the alumni, parents and friends of all of their schools. It was to that end that they established Boards of Directors to work with the school administration to create policies and plans that would best serve the school community.

Brother Killelea also reorganized the entire Athletic Program. He established Parents' organizations to work with most of the major sports and invited the parents to become involved in the fundraising and promotion of these sports. One of the outgrowths of this reorganization was the building of the *Brother Eugene D. McKenna Weight Training Center* next to the football field.

Sadly, Brothers Smith and Vaughan died in August 1988.



Br. Lawrence A. Killelea

NUMBER OF GRADUATES BY CLASS YEAR

CLASS OF	NUMBER OF GRADUATES
1959	111
1960	200
1961	201
1962	187
1963	191
1964	281
1965	202
1966	222
1967	227
1968	191
1969	224
1970	219
1971	177
1972	237
1973	248
1974	191
1975	235
1976	227
1977	234
1978	216
1979	250
1980	242
1981	252
1982	254

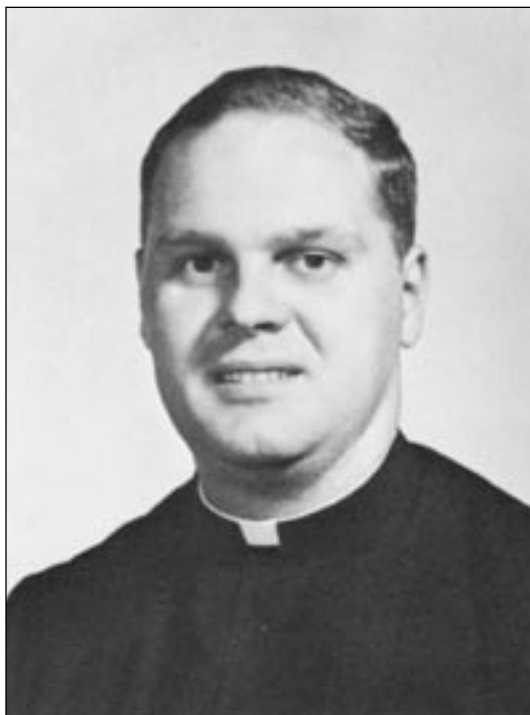
CLASS OF	NUMBER OF GRADUATES
1983	270
1984	265
1985	223
1986	245
1987	260
1988	241
1989	212
1990	179
1991	210
1992	224
1993	205
1994	208
1995	192
1996	223
1997	235
1998	193
1999	189
2000	190
2001	173
2002	165
2003	190
2004	188
2005	208*
TOTALS	10,107

9

Brother Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C. Principal 1992 – 1993

Brother Brian M. Walsh returned to Bergen Catholic in 1992 as Principal. He had taught Biology at Bergen Catholic from 1966 until 1972. After leaving Bergen Catholic in 1972, he served as Principal of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, New York and Notre Dame – Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, New York. He also served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Rochester.

His term as Principal of Bergen Catholic was short lived. After his first year at Bergen Catholic, he was elected by the Brothers to serve on the Provincial Council of the Eastern American Province. Since then, he was elected to serve as the last Provincial of the Eastern American Province and is now serving on the Leadership team of the new North American Province.



Br. Brian M. Walsh

ACADEMIC TITLES

MOCK TRIAL

County.....	1985, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002
No. Region	1985, 1989, 1991, 2000
State.....	1985, 1989, 1991, 2000
National	1991

FORENSICS

1991	Seven team members in State Tournament
1992	Three team members in State Tournament
1993	One team member in State Tournament
1994	Six team members in State Tournament
1995	Seven team members in State Tournament
1996	Five team members in State Tournament
2001	Seven team members in State Tournament, 5th place in Declamation

QUIZ BOWL

No. New Jersey Champions.....	1991, 1992
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CATHOLIC H.S. MATH LEAGUE

League	2000
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YEARBOOK

Showcase Award.....	1999, 2000, 2001
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10

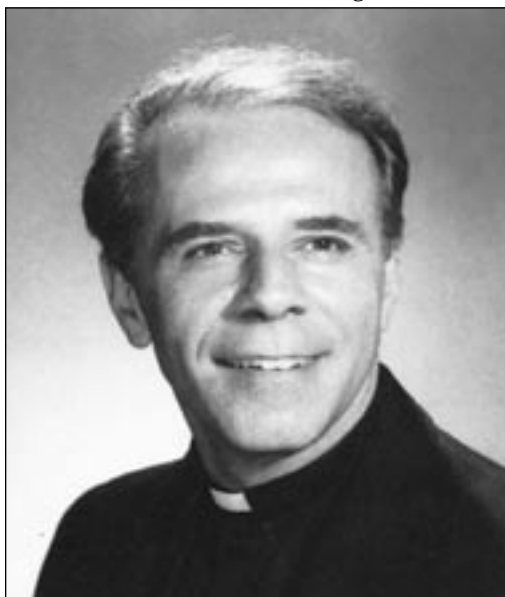
Brother John G. Sullo, C.F.C. - Principal 1993 – 1994

Brother John G. Sullo returned for the third time to Bergen Catholic in 1993 as Principal. He had taught foreign languages at Bergen Catholic and was the Department Chairperson in the early 1970's, and served again at Bergen Catholic High School for the 1986-87 academic year. He had also taught at Notre Dame – Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady, New York and Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island. He spent six years working in Florida, two of them as part of the founding community at Tampa Catholic High School and four as Principal and Superior at Archbishop Curley - Notre Dame High School in Miami. During his one year as Principal, Brother Sullo established the Campus Ministry Program at Bergen Catholic under the direction of Father James White, B.C.'s Chaplain.

One of Brother Sullo's first tasks was to reorganize the leadership structure of Bergen Catholic. Up until 1994, the Principal was the Chief Executive Officer of Bergen Catholic. The Congregation of Christian Brothers and the Board of Directors decided that this structure was no longer adequate for the needs of Bergen Catholic or for the Congregation. They decided to create the Office of President, who would serve as the Chief Executive Officer, and the Office of Principal, who would serve as the Chief Operating Officer.

Simply put, the Principal would run the school, dealing with all academic matters such as faculty, students, scheduling and discipline. The President would deal primarily with public relations, vision, finances, planning and development.

While the Principal deals with the day-to-day operation of the school, the



Br. John G. Sullo

President deals with the future of Bergen Catholic and the direction in which it must travel.

Brother Sullo was named the first President of Bergen Catholic and initiated a search to hire the first lay Principal of Bergen Catholic. Sister Dominica Rocchio, the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Newark and a member of the Bergen Catholic Board of Directors, chaired this search committee. After an extensive search and an intensive interview process, the search committee recommended Dr. Joseph S. Fusco as its candidate as Principal. The Board of Trustees of Bergen Catholic subsequently appointed Dr. Fusco as Principal.

Brother John G. Sullo, C.F.C. – President 1994 – 1999

When Brother Sullo became President, he immediately addressed some of the many needs of the school. He created a campaign to build a new locker room for the school. The locker room had remained the same since the construction of the school in 1956. The locker room had been planned for a smaller school and much smaller athletic program. It was imperative that the school address this need. Brother Sullo also replaced all of the windows in the building and resurfaced the parking lot.

The Bergen Catholic campus is comparatively small. This has placed a great deal of pressure on its only athletic field, which was used as the football, soccer and lacrosse field. It was impossible to maintain any field that must meet so many demands. In spite of the valiant efforts of maintenance staffs, parents, coaches and faculty members, the field wore out very quickly each year. One of the main problems with the field was that it had a poor



FieldTurf™ was installed on the BC football field in 1998.

drainage system.

Brother Sullo addressed this problem by approving the installation of an artificial field surface in the fall of 1998. Bergen Catholic became a leader in this type of venture and overnight, what had been one of the worst fields in Bergen County, became the best.

In 1997, Brother Sullo established the office of the Director of Admissions and appointed Mr. Joe Haemmerle '86 to fill this position. Mr. Haemmerle also serves as the varsity lacrosse coach and assistant varsity football coach.

An architect's rendering of the new locker room facility that was eventually built in 1995.



BERGEN CATHOLIC H.S.

VARSITY COACHES TENURES

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

Br. Edward Tracey	1958-63
Br. Gerald M. King	1963-66
Mr. Ralph Pinto	1966-67
Br. David Villecco	1967-68
Mr. Bob Stevenson	1968-70
Br. Peter Krebbs	1970-79
Br. Matt Sinnott	1979-81
Br. John Crowley	1981-83
Mr. Tom Fuchs	1983-87
Br. Thomas Jensen	1987-88
Mr. John Puzio	1988-91
Mrs. Angela Hickey	1991-2002
Mr. John Puzio	2002-

BASEBALL

Mr. Vic Liggio	1959-72
Mr. Vince Otskey	1973
Mr. Norm Dermody	1974-79
Mr. Gerry Goldee	1980
Mr. Al Barton	1981-94
Mr. Joe Dionisio	1995-2000
Mr. John Picarello	2001-

BASKETBALL

Br. Edward Tracey	1957-58
Mr. John Mazziotta	1958-66
Mr. Chris Donfield	1966-2000
Mr. Joe Dionisio	2000-

BOWLING

Br. Harold Weigand	1959-63
Mr. Tom Irwin	1963-2005
Mr. Larry Fierro	2005-

CROSS COUNTRY

Mr. John Bell	1958-60
Mr. Jim Sok	1961-66
Mr. Dave Faherty	1967-80
Mr. Tom Fuchs	1981-95
Mr. Al Naimo	1996-

FOOTBALL

Mr. John Mazziotta	1958-60
Mr. Ralph Pinto	1961-62
Mr. Keith Krayner	1963-65
Mr. Bob Norton	1966-68
Mr. Don Viggiano	1969-73
Mr. Tony Karcich	1974-82
Mr. Mario Picinich	1983-85
Mr. Bill Roca	1986-87
Mr. Fred Stengel	1988-

GOLF

Mr. John A. Attas	1959
Mr. Sal Montagna	1960-62
Mr. Ralph Pinto	1963-66
Br. David Villecco	1967-68
Br. Martin Burns	1969
Mr. Bill Rollins	1970-73
Br. Robert Gontcharuk	1974-78
Mr. Tony Karcich	1979-82
Mr. Jim Jacobsen	1983-

HOCKEY

Br. Vincent G. McNally	1967-68
Mr. Bob Norton	1967-68
Mr. Vic Liggio	1968-69
Br. Angelo A. Castellano	1969-72
No Team	1972-74
Br. Tom Kent	1974-77
Mr. John DeCarlo	1977-85
Mr. T. Pecoraro	1985-88
Mr. John Ruckdeschel	1988-89
Mr. Darren Amerkanian	1989-93
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Horan	1993-98
Mr. Dan May	1998-2004
Mr. Michael Good	2004-05
Mr. Dan May	2005-

BERGEN CATHOLIC H.S.

VARSIITY COACHES TENURES

INDOOR TRACK

Mr. John Bell	1956-60
Mr. Jim Sok	1960-67
Mr. Dave Faherty	1967-78
Mr. Tom Fuchs	1978-99
Mr. Al Naimo	1984-

LACROSSE

Mr. Joe Haemmerle	1995-
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OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. John Bell	1958-60
Mr. Jim Sok	1961-66
Mr. Dave Faherty	1967-78
Mr. Tom Fuchs	1979-99
Mr. Al Naimo	1984-

SOCCER

Br. Vincent G. McNally	1967
Mr. Goldsmith	1967
Br. Martin Burns	1968
Br. Kevin Cawley	1969-75
Mr. Nick DeJager	1976
Mr. Hugh Beattie	1977-94
Mr. Jim McGirr	1995-2000
Mr. Christopher Tully	2000-2001
Mr. Jonathan Gray	2002-03
Mr. Mark Edge	2004-

SWIMMING

Br. James van Koolbergen	1980-82
Mr. John Puzio	1982-2002
Mr. Scott Gismond	2002-

TENNIS

Br. Walter Leader	1959
Br. Joseph Clark	1960-61
Capt. Allen Covi	1962-64
Br. Robert P. Walsh	1965
Br. Patrick McPadden	1966
Br. James G. Glos	1967
No Tennis	1968-69
Br. Richard Grondin	1970-71
Br. John Sullo	1972-74
Mr. Bill Belluzzi	1975-82
Mr. John Puzio	1983-2003
Mr. Scott Gismond	2004-

WRESTLING

Mr. John Dizenzo	1975-98
Mr. Dave Bell	1998-

11

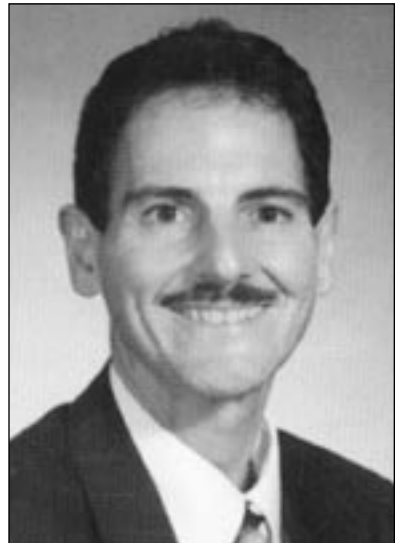
Dr. Joseph S. Fusco - Principal 1994 –

Dr. Joseph S. Fusco came to Bergen Catholic after serving as Principal at John Coleman High School in Kingston, New York. Prior to that, he served as the Vice Principal at Cathedral High School for Girls in New York City.

Starting with the Class of 1994, a requirement for promotion and graduation from B.C. was a commitment to Christian service. Students were now required to perform a minimum of 100 hours of community service in order to graduate.

The re-establishment of the music program at Bergen Catholic High School occurred in 1996 with the creation of the Choral Group under the direction of Mr. Michael Powers and the Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Peter Furlan.

In 1998, Mr. William Rollins retired as the Director of Guidance after 37 years of service. He served under every Principal in Bergen Catholic's



Dr. Joseph S. Fusco



William Rollins Guidance Center was dedicated in 2005

history. The school's Guidance Center was dedicated in his honor on March 2, 2005.

In 1998, Mr. Chris Donfield won his 600th game as the varsity basketball coach. Mr. Donfield began teaching English at Bergen Catholic in 1962. He later joined the Guidance Department. He took over the varsity basketball coaching position from Mr. John Mazziotta in 1966.



The Jazz Ensemble was created in 1996



Mr. Thomas Irwin retired after teaching for 35 years. He was also the bowling coach.

In 1999, Mr. Thomas Irwin retired after teaching 35 years at Bergen Catholic. Mr. Irwin taught History as well as coaching baseball and bowling. As the Bergen Catholic bowling coach, he earned 14 N.N.J.I.L. titles, eight B.C.C.A. awards and one N.J.S.I.A.A. State Championship. Mr. Irwin is probably most famous as a Driver Education teacher who, along with Mr. Don Viggiano, has given generations of young Crusaders their first experience behind the wheel of a car. Along with Mr. Irwin, Mrs. Angela Hickey also retired in 1999. Mrs. Hickey was the first woman Athletic Director at Bergen Catholic.

During the 2000–01 academic year, Bergen Catholic mourned the death of two members of the faculty: Mr. John Brady (who had served as a teacher, counselor and coach at Bergen Catholic for almost ten years) and Mr. Richard D’Orazio (who began his tenure at B.C. in 1975). Mr. D’Orazio was a brilliant language teacher who organized trips to Europe for students on a regular basis. He also served as the Chairperson of the Language Department for many years.



Br. Lawrence T. Murphy

Brother Lawrence T. Murphy, C.F.C.
- President
1999 –

Brother Lawrence T. Murphy came to Bergen Catholic after serving as Principal, and later as President, for nine years at All Hallows High School. He also served as the Director of Development for the Eastern American Province of the

Congregation of Christian Brothers.

During the 2001–02 academic year, the Congregation of Christian Brothers throughout the North and South America conducted a survey to determine what exactly were the Essential Elements of a Christian Brother education. They worked to identify those common characteristics of all Christian Brothers schools, whether they were located in South America, Hawaii, Chicago or New Jersey. They also sought to identify those elements that made a Christian Brothers school distinct from other public and Catholic schools. To this end, they surveyed parents, teachers, students, alumni, administrators and board members in order to ascertain what they perceived as the important characteristics of a Christian Brothers' school.

In July 2002, representatives from these schools held an international conference to determine these essential elements. This document was published in September 2002.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A CHRISTIAN BROTHER EDUCATION

September, 2000

PREAMBLE

Blessed Edmund Rice was given the grace to respond to the call of Jesus by identifying with Christ in the poor. His example evoked a deep awareness of God's loving presence in all with whom he came in contact. He awakened within them a consciousness of their dignity as children of God. He invited his followers to share his gospel insight, and empowered them to reach out to the needy, especially the materially poor.

*The life of Blessed Edmund Rice – businessman, husband, father, widower, religious brother, teacher and founder - challenges all involved in Christian Brother education to live and teach gospel values in today's world. His charism inspires the **Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education:***

“Edmund Rice was moved by the Holy Spirit to open his whole heart to Christ present and appealing to him in the poor (1984 General Chapter).”

ELEMENTS

In ministry begun by Jesus Christ and inspired by the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, a Christian Brother education . . .

Evangelizes youth within the mission of the Church.

- A Christian Brother education proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- The Gospel message of Jesus permeates the curriculum, the activities, and all other aspects of a Christian Brother education.

Proclaims and witnesses to its Catholic identity.

- A Christian Brother education gives priority to religious formation through formal religious instruction and through opportunities for faith development and service by means of liturgies, retreats, vocation awareness, daily prayer, and other programs.

- A Christian Brother education joins in the sacramental life of the Church, witnesses to faith life through the prominent use of signs and symbols, fosters devotion to Mary, and is in union with the Church through commitment to service and formation of community.
- Catholic identity permeates all endeavors of Christian Brother education: all classes and activities, procedures and policies, services and programs.
- All staff involved in Christian Brother education give daily witness to their integral role in the community's faith formation.

Stands in solidarity with those marginalized by poverty and injustice.

- The policies, the structures, and the climate of a Christian Brother education witness and promote concern for the disadvantaged.
- A Christian Brother education includes advocacy and education for peace and justice, care for the earth, and global awareness. It prepares students to work toward the creation of a just society.
- A Christian Brother education actively encourages ministries that work with and for the poor and marginalized.
- Education and support for mission areas at home and abroad characterize Christian Brother education.
- A Christian Brother education establishes tuition and scholarship policies that open its education to the poor.

Fosters and invigorates a community of faith.

- A Christian Brother education witnesses and celebrates Gospel values.
- A Christian Brother education provides a disciplined, safe atmosphere in which students are free to grow and take responsibility for their own learning and for the life of the community.
- Caring, compassionate relationships characterize a Christian Brother educational community.

Celebrates the value and dignity of each person and nurtures the development of the whole person.

- A Christian Brother education values the diversity of the human family and seeks to reflect local diversity in its student population and professional staff.
- Strong programs of personal, professional, and pastoral care are integral to a Christian Brother education.
- A Christian Brother education embraces human fragility and welcomes God's healing.
- A Christian Brother education values co-curricular activities, special events, and other programs that are important to students' complete education.
- A Christian Brother education strives to provide just remuneration for its staff.

Calls for collaboration and shared responsibility in its mission.

- A Christian Brother education empowers all members of the community to

- share responsibility in the shaping of its mission.
- A Christian Brother education collaborates with parents, the primary educators.
 - A Christian Brother education fosters collaboration on local, regional, and international levels to address common concerns and to celebrate a common heritage.
 - A Christian Brother education encourages a deeper understanding and living of the charism of Blessed Edmund.
 - A Christian Brother Education promotes active participation in governance by boards and diocesan officials.

Pursues excellence in all its endeavors.

- Strong academic curriculum, high expectations, and a quest for excellence characterize a Christian Brother education.
- A Christian Brother education develops a curriculum that promotes the harmonious growth of the whole person, fosters the development of higher-order thinking, and prepares its students for life-long learning.

During the 2003-04 academic year, Bergen Catholic High School was visited by an international team of educators in order to evaluate its success in implementing these Essential Elements. In its final report, the team stated that the pursuit of excellence in all its endeavors *“is a genuine strength of the school. It is readily seen and demonstrated. Some parts of your community may take this aspect for granted. Administration and staff should take pride in the level of excellence demonstrated in academics, athletics, extracurriculars, faith development and service. This ability to sustain such high levels over time in all areas is most impressive.”*

The team also challenged the Bergen Catholic community by stating *“Your success in experiential learning projects is commendable. We encourage you to expand the scope and involvement in service by exploring new opportunities for working directly with the marginalized.”*

In November 2002, Brother Peter L. Lawrence passed away. Brother Lawrence was one of the three founding Brothers of Bergen Catholic High School. He taught History and Latin at B.C. from 1955 until 1961. He returned to Bergen Catholic in 1971 and spent the remainder of his life here. He was the founder of the Bergen Catholic Music and Drama programs, as well as the founder and first Moderator of the Alumni Association. Brother Lawrence was also the Director of the Senior Program for its entire history.

Brother Lawrence had suffered a series of strokes over the last few years and had been residing at the Brother’s care facility in New Rochelle, New York in 2002. He returned to Bergen Catholic High School on Saturday, November 9, 2002 for the annual Mass and Communion Breakfast for the Deceased Alumni of Bergen Catholic. He passed away in his sleep the following Tuesday.

Brother Lawrence was a passionate lover of the arts, whether it was visual, musical or drama. He was the first Moderator for the Senior Prom and student dances, and was

deeply involved in the parents' productions of Showtime and all students' plays and concerts. He, with the support of Brother McKenna, recruited Bob Murray '59 to create the Alumni Association.

The wrestling program began at Bergen Catholic in 1973. Because of the limited space available for this program, it had to use the cafeteria for its practice area. This cut down on the space available in the cafeteria, since the wrestling mats were stacked around the walls during the day and then rolled out on the floor at the end of the day. This meant that the wrestlers had to clean the cafeteria floor every day, or practice over crushed french fries and spilled ketchup. This also meant that most of students ate lunch each day while surrounded by wrestling mats. In order to address this problem, the Board of Directors decided upon a two-phase plan. The Board decided to demolish the *Brother Eugene D. McKenna Weight Training Center* and build a new two-story structure. The first floor would

be a new weight-training center that would double the size of its predecessor, and the second floor would become a new wrestling practice facility. The state-of-the-art *Nicholas G. Saingas Training Center* was dedicated in October, 2003.

Once this project was completed and the wrestlers were moved into the new facility, the cafeteria renovation began. This new, centrally-air conditioned Crusader Hall can be partitioned into three separate meeting rooms. It has an entirely-new kitchen and serving area. When it is finally completed, it will have a portable stage and a state-of-the-art audiovisual system.



The Nicholas G. Saingas Training Center was completed in October, 2003.





Crusader Hall, the school's new cafeteria, was completed in 2005.

12

Faculty

In its 50-year history, over 400 men and women have been part of the staff of Bergen Catholic High School. Some of them have been here for a very short period of time, while some of them have spent their entire careers as part of the Bergen Catholic family. There are lots of trivial questions you can ask about the faculty. Such as “How many different Brothers Walsh have taught at Bergen Catholic?” The answer is five, and two of them were actually related! Or, “How many Brothers Roepke taught at Bergen Catholic at the same time?” and, of course, the answer is two. One of them was the Principal, however. The first women teachers at Bergen Catholic were Ms. Mary Iorio and Mrs. M. McCafferty, both of whom arrived in 1970. The Dean of the faculty is Mr. Christopher J. Donfield, who is now beginning his forty-fourth year at Bergen Catholic.

Pro Multis Annis Award Winner

(Forty years of service to Bergen Catholic High School)

+Mr. Christopher J. Donfield

Bene Merenti Award Winners

(Thirty years of service to Bergen Catholic High School)

+Br. Edward T. Beyer, C.F.C.

+Mr. John Direnzo

+Mr. Christopher J. Donfield

+Mr. Charles Flynn

+Mr. Thomas Fuchs

+Mr. H. Scott Gismond

+Mr. Thomas Irwin

Br. Peter L. Lawrence, C.F.C.

Mr. James Obrotka

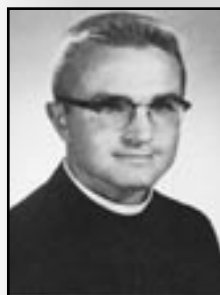
Mr. William Rollins

Br. James B. Walsh, C.F.C.

+Mr. Donald J. Viggiano



Mr. Charles Flynn



Br. John L. Gilchrist, C.F.C.

Pro Operis Award Winners

(Twenty years of service to Bergen Catholic High School)



Mr. Gerald Goldee



Br. Thomas E Guihen, C.F.C.



Mrs. Angela Hickey



Br. Thomas J. Jensen, C.F.C.

- Mr. Dominick Albamonte
+Br. Edward T. Beyer, C.F.C.
Br. Martin P. Burns, C.F.C.
Mrs. Kathleen Chapman
Mr. John Courtney
+Mrs. Angela Detoro
+Mr. John Direnzo
+Mr. Christopher J. Donfield
Mr. Richard D'Orazio
+Mr. Charles Flynn
+Mr. Thomas Fuchs
*Br. E. G. Gaffney, C.F.C.
Br. John L. Gilchrist, C.F.C.
Mrs. Ethel Gilles
+Mr. H. Scott Gismond
+Mr. Gerald Goldee
+Mr. James Horner
Mrs. Angela Hickey
+Mr. Thomas Irwin
+Br. Thomas J. Jensen, C.F.C.
*Br. Alfred X. Keane, C.F.C.
*Br. James R. Kelly, C.F.C.
*Br. L. A. Killelea, C.F.C.
Br. Peter L. Lawrence, C.F.C.
Mr. Victor Liggio

Br. J.J. McPartland, C.F.C.

Mr. Harry J. Monahan

Mr. Harry Murphy

Mr. James Obrotka

+Mr. John Pawlyk

Fr. Adrian C. Piotrowski, O.S.C.

+Mr. John Puzio

*Br. James E. Roepke, C.F.C.

Mr. William Rollins

Br. Jerome A. Shannon, C.F.C.

Br. Joseph S. Smith, C.F.C.

**Br. John G. Sullo, C.F.C.

Mr. Vincent Tabano

Br. James H. Vaughan, C.F.C.

+Mr. Donald Viggiano

*Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C.

Br. James B. Walsh, C.F.C.

****Awarded by Virtue of the Office of Principal
**Awarded by Virtue of the Office of President
+ Member of the 2005 – 06 Bergen Catholic High
School faculty.***

Corona Laurea

*(For twenty years of service to Bergen Catholic High School
as a coach)*

+Mr. James M. Jacobsen – Golf



Mr. Harry Murphy



Mr. Donald Viggiano



Br. J.B. Walsh, C.F.C.



Br. Martin P. Burns, C.F.C.

BROTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT BERGEN CATHOLIC

Br. James John Adams, C.F.C.

Br. Daniel Adams, C.F.C.

Br. Arthur Antosca, C.F.C.

Br. Aloysius J. Barry, C.F.C.

Br. Kevin J. Barry, C.F.C.

Br. John J. Barwin, C.F.C.

Br. Michael I. Bennett, C.F.C.

Br. Richard D. Berryman, C.F.C.

Br. Edward T. Beyer, C.F.C.

Br. A. Black, C.F.C.

Br. Edward B. Boyle, C.F.C.

Br. Michael Herman Bradley, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Gerald L. Brooker, C.F.C.

Br. John A. Brosnan, C.F.C.

Br. Martin P. Burns, C.F.C.

Br. Angelo A. Castellano, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. G. Castellanos, C.F.C.

Br. John W. Casey, C.F.C.

Br. Kevin G. Cawley, C.F.C.

Br. John B. Chaney, C.F.C.

Br. Dennis C. Clancy, C.F.C.

Br. Joseph Mark Clark, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Richard Luke Connelly, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Gerard P. Crean, C.F.C.

Br. John P. Crowley, C.F.C.

Br. James Xavier Curran, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Joseph A. Cussen, C.F.C.

Br. Theodore Edmund Dausch, C.F.C.

Br. Francis Ambrose Deady, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Michael Delaney, C.F.C.

Br. E. Sean DiFiglia, C.F.C.

Br. John E. Dornbos, C.F.C.

Br. Michael B. Duff, C.F.C.

Br. John Dennis Dugan, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Edward I. Duggan, C.F.C.

Br. John D. Dunne, C.F.C.

Br. Thomas F. Feerick, C.F.C.

Br. S. Anthony Ferro, C.F.C.

Br. James A. Finnegan, C.F.C.

Br. F. Kevin Fish, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. T. Cuthbert Ford, C.F.C.

Br. Gerard M. Gaffney, C.F.C.

Br. Francis A. Gammara, C.F.C.

Br. John L. Gilchrist, C.F.C.

Br. Patrick Austin Gleeson, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. James Glos, C.F.C.

Br. Robert T. Gontcharuk, C.F.C.

Br. Charles B. Grogan, C.F.C.

Br. Richard K. Grondin, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas Eugene Guihen, C.F.C.

Br. Edward B. Haggerty, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. J. Malachy Hallinan, C.F.C. (RIP)

BROTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT BERGEN CATHOLIC

Br. John C. Handron, C.F.C.

Br. John J. Hayes, C.F.C.

Br. Ronald A. Howe, C.F.C.

Br. Gerald J. Iacullo, C.F.C.

Br. Charles Borromeo Irwin, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas J. Jensen, C.F.C.

Br. Alfred Xavier Keane, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. John Malachy Kelly, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. John Ambrose Kelly, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas E. Kelly, C.F.C.

Br. James R. Kelly, C.F.C.

Br. F. M. Kennedy, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas J. Kent, C.F.C.

Br. Lawrence A. Killelea, C.F.C.

Br. Gerald M. King, C.F.C.

Br. John M. Klein, C.F.C.

Br. Peter P. Krebbs, C.F.C.

Br. Peter L. Lawrence, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Walter Augustine Leader, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Patrick C. Leavy, C.F.C.

Br. Michael Augustine Lee, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas R. Leto, C.F.C.

Br. Anton J. Lips, C.F.C.

Br. A. A. Loftus, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Edward Thomas Lopez, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Michael D. Lucas, C.F.C.

Br. M. Lyons, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Timothy R. Madden, C.F.C.

Br. Matthew Maistre, C.F.C.

Br. Victor W. Martin, C.F.C.

Br. Anthony R. Mastromarino, C.F.C.

Br. Michael S. Mc Elhatton, C.F.C.

Br. James P. Mc Gerald, C.F.C.

Br. Peter H. Mc Kernan, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Patrick G. Mc Padden, C.F.C.

Br. Daniel F. McCulloch, C.F.C.

Br. Edmund M. McEnroe, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Eugene David McKenna, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Howard A. McKenzie, C.F.C.

Br. V. Gregory McNally, C.F.C.

Br. John Joachim McPartland, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. James B. Moffett, C.F.C.

Br. E. M. Muller, C.F.C.

Br. Eugene Pius Mulvaney, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Lawrence Thomas Murphy, C.F.C.

Br. Richard Eugene Nardi, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Thomas S. O'Connor, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. John Justin O'Connor, C.F.C.

Br. William E. O'Connor, C.F.C.

Br. Timothy J. O'Sullivan, C.F.C.

Br. John L. O'Sullivan, C.F.C.

Br. Edward Bernard Olwell, C.F.C. (RIP)

BROTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT BERGEN CATHOLIC

Br. Kirk Phelps, C.F.C.

Br. Robert Post, C.F.C.

Br. Robert J. Roepke, C.F.C.

Br. James E. Roepke, C.F.C.

Br. Andrew P. Ryan, C.F.C.

Br. Francis Paul Sassone, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. John P. Seibert, C.F.C.

Br. Jerome Alexius Shannon, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. William D. Shaw, C.F.C.

Br. James T. Shemanski, C.F.C.

Br. Michael Sheridan, C.F.C.

Br. Matthew DePaul Sinnott, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Joseph Sebastian Smith, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. H. Mark Staniecki, C.F.C.

Br. William M. Stoldt, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. A. Patrick Sullivan, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. J. Gennaro Sullo, C.F.C.

Br. Michael Termini, C.F.C.

Br. Edward M. Tracey, C.F.C.

Br. James A. van Koolbergen, C.F.C.

Br. James Hubert Vaughan, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. Richard J. Venable, C.F.C.

Br. Raymond J. Vercruysse, C.F.C.

Br. David A. Villecco, C.F.C.

Br. William C. Vollmer, C.F.C.

Br. J. Matthew Walderman, C.F.C.

Br. Gerald M. Waldron, C.F.C.

Br. James B. Walsh, C.F.C.

Br. Robert P. Walsh, C.F.C. (RIP)

Br. John F. Walsh, C.F.C.

Br. Donald D. Walsh, C.F.C.

Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C.

Br. Michael Wawrzynski, C.F.C.

Br. Harold A. Weigand, C.F.C.

Br. Arthur A. Williams, C.F.C.

Br. Robert Wilson, C.F.C.

Br. Peter E. Zawot, C.F.C.

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Academics

Bergen Catholic, from its very inception, was a college preparatory high school. The curriculum was designed to enable young men to attend the colleges of their choice, and it was a very demanding curriculum. Religion, English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Foreign Language and Science have formed the basis of a Bergen Catholic education. Typing was a very common subject in the early years of Bergen Catholic but, by the middle of the 1980's, it was replaced by Computer Science. Bergen Catholic has traditionally been at the cutting edge of technology. Brother Roepke was the first Principal to introduce computers into the curriculum and Brother Killelea replaced the language laboratory with a state-of-the-art Computer Science laboratory. This laboratory has been upgraded many times over the last 20 years, and a second laboratory was added in the late 1990's.



Due to the generosity of our Alumni Mothers' Club, the library was also computerized. The Alumni Mothers' Club has made the library one of its favorite projects since its foundation, and it has continually supported the modernization and improvement of the library.

In 2002, Bergen Catholic took a major step in the area of technology. Computers have become an integral communication tool over the last 20 years. They are a resource for instantaneous global communication. Information can be researched and mastered from any computer in the world. The visual and audio graphics make this information easily and readily available and radically change the way students can learn and can create reports and presentations. Bergen Catholic decided that this technology will change the way that students learn and how teachers

teach. In order to address these innovations, Bergen Catholic became a wireless campus as of September 2002. By September 2003, all students entering Bergen Catholic High School were equipped with a Laptop computer as part of their basic equipment. By September 2007, all students will have a Laptop computer.



This change could very well make some of our computer laboratories obsolete, but these laboratories will adapt to meet the continuing demands of technology and communication. It is impossible to project what education will look like 50 years from now but, for the present, Bergen Catholic is committed to two fundamental ideals. They are technology and internationalism. Bergen Catholic will continue to stay at the cutting edge of technology and the use of technology as a learning tool. Bergen Catholic will also strive to provide its students with a sense of their position in a global community. As young Americans growing up in the Northern New Jersey area, they live at what may very well be the center of our global community. These young men will be the leaders of our global village in the decades to come. It is imperative that they understand their position in the world, and the forces that impact that position throughout the world.

When we review the first 50 years of our history, we can be very proud of the achievements of our students and faculty. While the figures are not precise, we can probably conclude that, out of our over 10,000 alumni, approximately one-third of them received some sort of monetary award to attend college. These students shared in almost 6,500 of these awards totaling more than 120 million dollars. Over this 50-year period, Bergen Catholic has produced over 145 National Merit Finalists and over 700 National Merit Commended Students. Since the state of New Jersey began its scholarship program, 340 Bergen Catholic graduates have earned these scholarships. Over the last 23 years, the average S.A.T. scores for Bergen Catholic graduates have been 528 in English and 565 in Mathematics (See chart below). The S.A.T.'s were re-centered in 1998 in order to make 500 the average mark. These scores are consistently above both the national and the state averages. The very first National Merit Finalist may very well have been Francis J. Healy from the Class of 1960. He was the only finalist from a Catholic High School in Bergen County in 1960.



Francis Healy '60 was the first National Merit Scholar.

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Activities

All activities are defined as extracurricular. Extracurricular activities exist in order to support and enhance the overall school community. Some activities exist because they are integral to the mission and philosophy of the school, and others exist because of the interests and talents of a particular group of students or a faculty member. All activities are outgrowths of the everyday curriculum and should provide students with the ability to develop and apply the knowledge and skills that they are learning on a daily basis.



CCA Blood Donors

Over the first 50 years of Bergen Catholic's history, the school activities demonstrate both the ability to remain constant and the ability to change. Some activities have existed from the foundation of the school, while others have come and gone and still others have come, gone and returned. It is no surprise that activities like the Student Government, the Yearbook, the Newspaper and the Literary Magazine have endured all 50 years. It might be surprising to some that the Chess Club and the Crusaders for Christian Action also

fit into this category. Crusaders for Christian Action actually began under the title of the Sodality and was founded by Mr. John Courtney. Its purpose was to provide students with the means to provide Christian service to the larger community. From almost the very beginning, B.C. students were involved with the children from St. Agatha's Home in Rockland County. Other groups, like Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Peer Tutoring, S.A.D.D., the Red and Gold Club and Big Brothers, have expanded upon this theme, but Crusaders for Christian Action has been the most enduring organization.

Activities involving students participating in the school prayer and liturgical life have also been in existence from the beginning.



Mr. James Horner '64



James Obrotka directs the B.C. band (top) and leads it in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The earliest of these participants were those who worked as altar servers and folk group members who sang at all of the liturgies. Over the years, these activities changed and grew to include our Eucharistic Ministers, our Choral Group and our Peer Ministers. The Peer Ministers conduct the retreat programs for all classes at Bergen Catholic today.

Activities involving drama and music have existed since the beginning of the school. The Marching Band, the Stage Band and the Glee Club were some of the very first activities to exist at Bergen Catholic, and they received very strong support from the student body. For many years during the 1960's, the Bergen Catholic Marching Band led the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue in New York City. It also participated in many local parades in New York and New Jersey. Somewhere in the mid-1970's, the Marching

Band ceased to be an activity, but the Stage Band continued to provide concerts right up through the mid-1980's. The Glee Club seemed to disappear at about the same time as the Marching Band, but both of these activities returned to the scene in the mid-1990's with the creation of the Jazz Band (under the direction of Mr. Peter Furlan) and the Choral Group (under the guidance of Mr. Michael Powers).

In 1999, Bergen Catholic went through its evaluation by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. As part of this accreditation process, the faculty and administration committed themselves to accomplish three goals. They were to reintroduce the performing arts (music and drama) into the school curricular and extracurricular programs, to introduce visual arts into the curriculum, and to use the latest advancements in technology throughout the curriculum.

From the very beginning of Bergen Catholic High School, drama productions played a very significant role in the B.C. community. The student body put on two separate productions each year. It generally performed a drama or a comedy in the fall and a musical in the spring. "Julius Caesar" was the first play produced on the Bergen Catholic stage, with Mr. Vic Liggio directing it. In the early 1970's, the Stage Crew (under the direction of Brother Richard Grondin) took on a life of its own and became its own activity. They were the students who designed and built the sets for all of the drama productions.

The parents also put on their own play each year, entitled "Showtime." The purpose of Showtime was to raise money in order to create a fund that would provide tuition assistance to students who could not pay their tuition because of the deaths of one of their



Showtime

parents. Showtime continued from the beginning of the school right through the late 1980's. The first production of Showtime took place on February 12 and 13, 1960.

It is difficult to mention these early drama productions without mentioning the Tabano and Maloney families. Vince Tabano and

Florie Maloney worked in the design and construction of all of the sets and decorations for all of the drama productions and for the students' and parents' dances and proms. They also prepared all of the meals for these events. These wonderful parents made great contributions to the Bergen Catholic family long after their sons had graduated.

Drama was re-established at Bergen Catholic around the year 2001 with the creation of the Drama Department under the direction of Mr. Frank DiCocco.



Drama Club



The Glee Club

Under his direction, the performing arts are once again part of the Bergen Catholic program. Students have performed in several plays and concerts, and activities like the “B.C. Idol” have added to this program.

Thanks to donations from Mrs. Dierdre Fortune, the wife of Robert Fortune from the Class of 1966, Bergen Catholic was able to create a visual arts classroom and to introduce the visual arts into the curriculum. Robert was killed in the Pan Am 103 plane crash over Lockerbie, Scotland on December 21, 1988. He was one of our first victims of terrorism.

The Mothers’ Club and Fathers’ Club were both established at the founding of the school. These clubs sponsored card parties, fashion shows, dances, communion breakfasts, and retreats. The first Parents’ Raffle and Dance was held on April 7, 1956 and raised \$4,500. The first Father-Son Communion Breakfast was held at Koenig’s Restaurant on April 28, 1957.

By 1957, the Parents’ Clubs also established Bingo as a fund-raising activity. Bingo was held almost every Tuesday night from 1957 until 2004. The Bergen Catholic family is very indebted to all of those hundreds of parents who worked faithfully at Bingo to help fund their sons’ education. Special recognition is due particularly to Vinny Sweatlock, Jim Sansevero and Phil Lilgeberg. These three men joined the Bergen Catholic community in 1968 and 1969 and directed the Bergen Catholic Bingo until it closed in 2004. It is hard to find parents who did more for generations of Bergen students than these three men!

Of course, no school would be complete without its dances and proms. The first Senior Prom was held on May 8, 1959 in the school gymnasium. The tradition of having the prom in the gymnasium would last for almost 20 years. The students, parents and faculty worked tirelessly to elaborately decorate the gym. It would be barely recognizable as a gymnasium when you entered it. Many of these decorations were the work of Mr. Vince Tabano. This is a tradition that is still maintained as part of the Freshman-Sophomore Semi-Formal Dinner Dance that is held annually in the gym. Many of the early proms also had the tradition of not beginning until 10:00 P.M., with dinner served at 1:00 A.M. They generally would not end until early the next morning. Brother Lawrence was in charge of these early proms. Eventually, the Junior and Senior Proms were moved off of the property and scheduled for more traditional hours. But, their legacy lives on in the form of the Freshman-Sophomore Semi-Formal that is held every spring in Hoehl Gymnasium.

There were many other clubs that came and went over the years, depending on the interests and support of students and the faculty. Clubs like the Fishing Club, the Bicycle Club, the Coin Club, Dungeons and Dragons, cheerleaders, the Photography Club, the Radio Club, the Sign Club, the Sports Activity Committee, the Booster Club, the Hangman’s Club and the Rocket Club were only some of the many clubs that appeared and disappeared over the first 50 years.

There is also another category of activities that are actually extramural in nature. In the beginning of the school, the most popular of these were the Oratory and Debate Clubs. These activities were later renamed Forensics. From the very beginning, Bergen Catholic students were



The first BC prom was held in 1959.



Bingo was a weekly event until its conclusion in 2004.

very representative in these activities, and some of them even earned national recognition. Activities that would follow were the Math Team, the Quiz Bowl Team, the Chess Team and the Moot Court Team. The most popular team in this category presently is the Mock Trial Team. This team began in 1982 and, in 1991, won the National Championship! Over the last ten years, it has regularly won the Bergen County championship and has regularly contended for the State championship (which it won in 2000).

The last category of activities are those that deal with either politics or business. This category consists of clubs like Amnesty International, Birthright, Current Events Club, the Stock Market Club, Asian Culture Club and the Political Interest Club.

One of the most popular activities during most of Bergen Catholic's history has been the intramural sports program. The program truly came into its own after 1969, when Brother Beyer came to Bergen Catholic from Essex Catholic. The most popular program has



The Intramural sports program has grown in popularity throughout the years.

traditionally been the intramural basketball program, but intramurals have also been run in bowling, volleyball, football, hockey and golf. Some of the basketball finals have filled the stands with fans over the years.

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Sports

Excellence in academics has always been a hallmark of Bergen Catholic High School. Over its 50-year history, the athletic program has grown and developed to address the needs and the interests of the students. The program's first team was its cross country squad, the basketball team followed and, in April 1957, the baseball, golf and tennis teams began. The very first home varsity football game was held against Cardinal Farley Military Academy on October 11, 1958, with the Crusaders going down to defeat, 14-0. One week later, Tony Mandile '59 would become the first B.C. player to score a touchdown, the first six points out of almost 11,000 that have been scored in the program's storied history. The team concluded that season by beating Don Bosco Prep on Thanksgiving Day, 14-0. Bowling, indoor track and spring track were all very early sports at Bergen Catholic. The first annual Father-Son Sports Award Dinner was held in the spring of 1958. These Sports-Award dinners were a regular fixture at Bergen Catholic for a number of years in the early history of the school.

A look back at each of the individual programs shows that most of them have enjoyed an extraordinary amount of success.

The cross country program has prospered over the years, winning a total of 14 Bergen County championships (including 12 during the 1968-85 period under the tutelage of Mr. Dave Faherty '63 and Mr. Tom Fuchs). During the 1970's, the program also produced a couple of State Championships to go along with seven County titles (making B.C. the unofficial "Team of the Decade" in that sport).

By its third year of existence (under well-respected coach Mr. John Mazziotta), the basketball team had won its first league title (with 13 others to follow). Mr. Mazziotta laid the foundation for a solid program, putting together an overall record of 116-64 in his eight seasons at the helm. He turned the reigns over to Mr. Christopher Donfield in 1966, and the rest, as they say, is history!



The Yankees' Yogi Berra (3rd from left) attended one of the first Father-Son Sports Award Dinners.

The lovable “C.J.” guided the program to a stellar 648-220 record over the next 34 years, making him the all-time winningest boys basketball coach in Bergen County history. He led the Crusaders to six Bergen County Jamboree titles, seven Parochial “A” North championships, and two State Parochial “A” crowns. C.J. produced winning records



Chris “C.J.” Donfield



Br. Edward T. Beyer, C.F.C.

in every season except his second, and led the team to 18 seasons of 20-or-more wins (including 17 in a 24-season span between 1974 and 1998). He also led the Crusaders to the Jamboree Championship Game a total of 13 times (including nine times in a 12-year span ending in 1997). The captain of his first Jamboree championship team, Mr. Joe Dionisio '77, took over the program in 2000 and promptly won two County, two Parochial “A” North, and one State Parochial “A” championship(s) in

his first three years behind the bench. In all, B.C. varsity basketball teams have posted an all-time record of 858-346 (.713) during the program’s 48-year history. In addition, Crusaders’ freshman teams have also won 13 County titles (most of them under Brother Edward T. Beyer), and the junior varsity squad flourished under the guidance of Brother Thomas J. Jensen. Eight different players reached the 1,000-point scoring mark in the program’s rich history (in order of total points: *2003-04 National College*



Joe Dionisio '77

Freshman of the Year Sean Banks '03, Mark Jerz '99, Mike Pedone '89, George Dennerlein '76, Joe Sandberg '03, Jim Moye '74, Joe Colletta '77 and Robin James '91), while several others became local “legends” by starring during the Jamboree (including Jack Chimento '72, Jim Ward '78, Rob McNamee '80, Ed Golden '83, Matt O'Reilly '86 and Roger Breslin '89).

Brother Harold Weigand helped



Jack Chimento '72

start the bowling program, and coached the varsity team for four years. In 1963, Mr. Thomas Irwin took over the reigns, and still holds that position to this day! The affable mentor has won a total of 25 different titles during his career, most of them occurring over the last two decades. The team has claimed 14 of the last 18 N.N.J.I.L. titles, and has won a total of eight County championships since 1993! Each of the last three B.C. bowling teams have finished their seasons in the *Star-Ledger's* "Top 10." Three-time *All-State* star Tad Jones '99 became known as the premier bowler in New Jersey during his career at B.C.

The indoor track program has not had the opportunity to accumulate as many team honors, mostly due to the nature of its schedule. However, under the guidance of veteran coaches Mr. Fuchs and Mr. Al Naimo, the program has brought home five County championships since 1991 behind the efforts of runners such as J.R. Meloro '91, Jonathan Relay '99 and Ken Sinkovitz '03, and shot putters Shaun McGregor '96 and Jim Fischer '98.



Mr. Tom Irwin coached the bowling team for 42 years!



Mr. Tom Fuchs

Messrs. Fuchs and Naimo, among others, also guided a strong outdoor track program that has represented the school well over the years. Crusaders' squads have won six league titles since 1986, and have earned a total of 12 County championships overall (seven between 1963-76 and five others since 1991). Over the last 15 seasons, the program has accumulated a stellar 95-18 record in dual meet competition.

Its success has not just occurred in recent seasons, either. In fact, this program created the first "splash" as far as putting the school's

name in the athletic spotlight. Many of B.C.'s early students will fondly recall the legendary story of Jack Mostyn '59 running the fastest 100-yard dash for a high school student on May 16, 1959 in Englewood! That season, the team also brought home the school's first-ever State championship (followed by another four years later).

Baseball is another sport that has enjoyed lots of success over the years and, like outdoor track, helped put the school in the headlines with sensational performances by one of its members.



Jack Mostyn '59



Mark DeRosa '93



Jim Burt '99

Fireballer Roy Turci '60 was in the news early and often in 1960 when he threw three no-hitters for the Crusaders! After winning its first State Parochial "A" title in 1968, the program went into a bit of a slide, before enjoying a resurgence in the mid-1980's under Mr. Al Barton (under whom the team won Sectional crowns in 1985 and 1987) and, later on in the 1990's, under Mr. Dionisio '77 and Mr. John Picarello. Over the last 19 years, B.C.'s baseball teams have won 76% of their games, posting a superb combined record of 407-128-3. During this period, five Crusaders' squads have won 26-or-more games in a season (1991, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2004), and a couple of them flirted with a #1 State ranking, as well. The 1999 team won the program's first County championship behind the outstanding play of current New York Mets' farmhand Jim Burt '99, knocking off nationally-ranked St. Joseph Regional twice (including the County title game). One year earlier, Burt and Ryan Bittner '98 became possibly the most productive run-producing combos in Bergen County history when they drove in more than 100 combined runs. Bittner's total of 60 RBI is a County record that stands today. Future Division III *All-American* Paul Bumbaco '92 excelled during his three-year varsity career, regularly batting over .400 and compiling a sterling 20-1 record as a pitcher. Mark DeRosa '93,

currently a Texas Rangers' utility infielder, is the first Crusaders' player to reach the major leagues. He signed with the Rangers last winter after spending parts of seven seasons in the majors with the Atlanta Braves.

Our golf program grew from humble beginnings (despite the heroics of Joe Patterson '60, who became the first person to win an individual State Championship for Bergen Catholic when he claimed the golf title in his senior year) to become one of the true "monsters" in New Jersey scholastic sports history. After producing but one title in the program's first 20 years, the Crusaders grew into an elite powerhouse in 1979 (coinciding with the arrival of Mr. Tony Karcich, who had already established himself as a superb football coach by that time) and reached even more glorious heights under Mr. Jim Jacobsen '66, who took over in 1983. Beginning



Mr. Jim Jacobsen '66

in 1979, the golfers have compiled exactly **100** major team championships in a 27-season span, including 43 league titles (competing simultaneously in the N.N.J.I.L. and Bergen County Golf League), 12 District crowns, 25 Bergen County championships, and 20 Parochial “A” (both North and State) crowns! “Jake,” with lots of help from long-time assistant Brother Martin P. Burns, has compiled career numbers that are absolutely staggering (in addition to all the titles that his squads have won). His overall career winning percentage of .974, based on an overall record of 716-19-1, is almost unfathomable. It is almost certain that there is **NO** New Jersey

scholastic coach with a career record as impressive as that! The great B.C. tradition began with the arrival of still-active professional golfers (and *All-Americans*-to-be) Jim McGovern '83 and Rich Massey '86, and includes stars such as four-time *All-State* selection Martin Catalioto '01 and three-time *All-Stater* Eugene Smith '97.

Tennis was one of the few sports at Bergen Catholic that did not enjoy at least some moderate level of success during its early years. The program went through nine coaches over its first 22 years of existence and did not win any meaningful titles, but that changed when Mr. John Puzio took over in 1983. In the 21 seasons that followed, the Crusaders created a “racket” of their own by winning no fewer than 23 titles, including nine N.N.J.I.L. championships, four County crowns, six Parochial “A” North championships, and four State Parochial “A” titles. The program’s success has continued under Mr. Scott Gismond, whose two consecutive league titles extended the program’s streak in that category to seven.



Jim McGovern '83



Mr. John Puzio



Mr. Scott Gismond

It was in 1965 that Bergen Catholic filed an application to join the Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League. Brother Alfred X. Keane, the Principal at the time, and his administration reviewed the entire athletic program. The program consisted of a half dozen-or-so varsity sports and equally as many junior varsity and freshman programs. They were seeking a way to provide fair and meaningful competition for all of these teams without having students traveling all over New Jersey. The administration believed that all activities, whether they were athletic or social, were secondary to the academic expectations put upon the students. It felt that it was in the best interests of our entire program to seek fair and meaningful competition at the local level. These were the reasons that the school applied to the N.N.J.I.L. This struggle would continue until 1976, when Bergen Catholic would file a lawsuit against the league. This suit would not be settled until 1982, when Bergen Catholic and the other northern New Jersey Catholic schools were finally admitted into the N.N.J.I.L. After 14 years of applications, rejections, lawsuits and counter suits, and

ATHLETIC TITLES

BASEBALL

League	TCCC 1959 1963 1967 NNJCF 1968 NNJIL 1985 1988 1989 1991 1992 1995 1997 1998 1999 2000 2004
No. Par. A	1968 1985 1987
County	1999
State	1968

BASKETBALL

League	TCCC 1960 1961 1963 1964 1965 NNJIL 1983 1985 1993 1994 1995 1998 2001 2002 2003
No. Par. A	1978 1979 1985 1988 1989 1994 1995 2002 2003
County	1977 1983 1986 1989 1991 1992 1994 2001 2003
State	1978 1994 2002

BOWLING

League	CHSBL 1960 1961 1962 TCCC 1967 NNJIL 1988 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2002 2003
County	1993 1994 1996 1997 1998 1999 2003 2005
Section	2003
State	1998

CROSS-COUNTRY

League	TCCC 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 NNJCF 1966 1968 1970 NJCTC 1972 1973 1974 NNJIL 1982 1983 1985 1990 1993
County	1963 1968 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1976 1977 1980 1981 1983 1985 1990
State	1970 1977

ATHLETIC TITLES

FOOTBALL

League	TCCC 1964 1965 NNJCF 1966 1967 NNJIL 1982 1987 1991 1992 1994 1995 1997 1998
County	1965 1966 1980 1981 1982 1991 1992 1998
State	1963 1965 1966 1979 1980 1982 1986 1991 1992 1993 1995 1996 1998 1999 2001 2004

GOLF

League	BCGL 1969 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 2004 2005 NNJIL 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 2004 2005
Districts	1979 1980 1982 1983 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1991 1992 1993
Par. A	1995 2003 2004 2005
County	1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 2004 2005
State (Parochial)	1980 1982 1983 1988 1989 1991 1995 2001 2005
State (Overall)	1980 1982 1983 1988 1989 1991 1995

HOCKEY

League	BCHSL 1975 (Reg) 1978 (PO) 1980 (Reg/PO) 1981 (Reg/PO) NJIHL 1993 1995 2002 (Reg) 2003 (PO) 2004 (PO)
County	1978 1980 1981 2001 2002 2003 2004
State (Parochial)	2001 2003
State (Overall)	2001 2003

ATHLETIC TITLES

INDOOR TRACK

League	NJCTC 1964 1974 NNJIL 1994 1995 1996
County	1986 1991 1994 1995 1996 2002
State	1963 1964 1976

LACROSSE

League	CSLT 1999 NNJIL 2002 2003 2004 2005
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OUTDOOR TRACK

League	NJCTC 1963 1974 NNJIL 1986 1990 1991 1994 1995 1996
County	1963 1964 1966 1971 1972 1973 1976 1978 1991 1995 1996 2001
State	1959 1963

SOCCER

League	NNJIL 1984 1989 1997
County	1985 1999
No. Par. A	1975 1985 1987 1988 1999
State	1975 1985 1987 1999

ATHLETIC TITLES

SWIMMING

League	NNJIL 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 NNJISL 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1991 1993 1994
No. Sec. 1-2	
No. Sec. 1	1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002
N. Div. A	1987 1988 1989 1990
No. Par. A	2001

TENNIS

League	NNJIL 1983 1984 1985 1994 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005
County	1983 1984 1997 1999
No. Par. A	1984 1985 1987 1988 1997 1999
State	1984 1985 1997 1999

WRESTLING

League	NNJIL 1990 1991 1992 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005
Districts	1982 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005
County	1991 1992 1994 1995 1996 1997 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005
No. Par. A	1990 1991 1992 1994 1995 1996 2002 2003 2004 2005
Par.A State	1991 1994 1995 2002 2003

ALL-SPORTS BANNER

League	NNJIL 1985 1986 1987 1988 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 <i>(All-Sports banner concept ended after 1999-2000 school year).</i>
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The 1965 football team produced the program's first undefeated season.

hearings and appeals, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association finally granted the Catholic schools the right to participate in the N.N.J.I.L. in January 1982. This would become effective in September 1982. The original N.N.J.I.L.-

Bergen Division consisted of B.C., Bergenfield, Don Bosco Prep, Fair Lawn, Hackensack, Paramus, Paramus Catholic, Ridgewood, St. Joseph Regional and Teaneck. The original Essex-Passaic Division consisted of Belleville, Bloomfield, Clifton, Montclair, Nutley, Passaic, Passaic Valley, Paterson Eastside and Paterson Kennedy. Three schools would soon leave the league (Bergenfield, Fair Lawn and Passaic Valley), but Barringer H.S. of Newark would be added in 1989 to form the 17-school league that exists to this day (albeit in a different format).

It was also in 1965 that the Crusaders' football team celebrated its first undefeated season. In January 1966, Brother Tracey presented the *Brother Tracey Trophy* to the team captains. This was to be an annual trophy upon which the names of the most outstanding players would be inscribed. *The Holy Cross Club of New York* also awarded *The Crusader* trophy to Bergen Catholic High School. This trophy went to the outstanding Catholic High School football team in the Metropolitan area. The program also produced a perfect 9-0 record the following season, as well, and won its third State Championship in four years.



Mr. Tony Karcich

The football program would continue to grow and prosper, until it attained its current status as both a state and national power. The arrival of Mr. Tony Karcich in 1974 helped start the program's meteoric rise.



Mike Morgan '84

Currently the all-time winningest coach in Bergen County football history, Mr. Karcich guided nine B.C. teams to a combined record of 72-20-3 and a total of three State Championships, including an 11-0 season in 1982 after which the squad earned its first national ranking (#10). Tailback Mike Morgan '84 earned All-American honors after his 174-point season (a school record that stands to this

day), missing out on the state scoring title by just one point.

After a short-but-successful run by Mr. Bill Roca (a State title in 1986 and a school-record nine shutouts the following year), the Crusaders took another step forward with the hiring of Mr. Fred Stengel. The Crusaders would go on to post an outstanding 155-32 over the next 17 years under Coach Stengel, winning a total of nine State Championships along the way. Three of his teams finished with perfect records and final national rankings (#11 in 1991, #13 in 1992 and #9 in 1998), while six others would earn national mention at some point during their seasons.

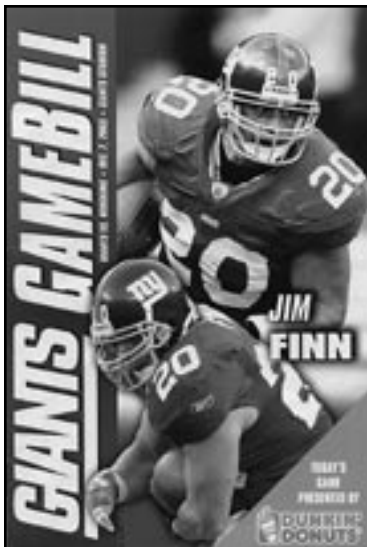


Mr. Fred Stengel

The team would enjoy an unprecedented run after which it laid claim to the title "Team of the 1990's." For the period 1990-99, the Crusaders accumulated state-high totals of 99 wins and seven state titles, and a state-low total of only 10 losses. The program's success would continue in the first decade of the new millennium, with two more State titles (2001 and 2004) and four straight 10-win seasons. Two-time *All-Staters* Joe Sandberg '03 (who became the school's all-time leading rusher and scorer) and Brian Cushing '04 (a *First-Team All-American* honoree who is vying for a starting position at two-time defending national champion U.S.C. this fall) were just two of the many superb players who have worn the B.C.



Joe Sandberg '03



Jim Finn '95

uniform during this time.

All told, the program has accumulated an all-time 47-year record of 345-119-12 (a .737 winning percentage), with totals of 16 State Championships and seven undefeated seasons. The program has also established itself as the premier performer in State Playoff history, with the New Jersey all-time record of 56 post-season contests played and record-tying totals of 41 wins and 28 post-season appearances. Current NFL players Jim Finn '95 (New York Giants) and Rich Scanlon '99 (Kansas City Chiefs) are just two of seven B.C. alumni who have played at that level (along with Carl Barisich '69, Bob Lally '70, Joe Azelby '80, Rob McGovern '85 and Eric Lane '92), while Charles Casserly '67 (Houston Texans' Senior Vice President and General Manager), Mike Bajakian '92 (Chicago Bears' Assistant Coach) and



Alecko Eskandarian '00

Tom Polifroni '99 (New York Giants' Pro Personnel Assistant) have made it to the "big time" in other ways.

As Bergen Catholic began its second decade, it began to expand its sports program. Soccer was added as a club sport (led by Moderator Brother Vincent McNally) in 1967, and became a varsity sport in 1973 under the guidance of Brother Kevin Cawley. Amazingly, the program won a State Parochial "A" title in its third season, but did not win another championship until nine years later. However, the Crusaders went on a run from 1985-99, during which they won 12 different championships (including Bergen County titles in 1985 and 1999). During that run, the Crusaders won three other State Parochial "A" titles (1985, 1987 and 1999). The late-1990's Crusaders were especially exciting, led by Alecko Eskandarian '00 (the all-time leading scorer in Bergen

Catholic soccer history). The son of former Iranian national team and New York Cosmos' star player Andranik Eskandarian scored a school-record 154 goals during his career for the Crusaders and earned the *2000 Gatorade National High School Player of the Year* award. He moved on to the University of Virginia, where he won the prestigious *Hermann Award* (equivalent to college football's *Heisman Award*) and *Soccer America's 2002 College Men's Player of the Year* award. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America's *All-American* selection was then drafted as the #1 pick overall in the Major League Soccer draft by D.C. United in January, 2003. He capped off his second season with D.C. United by being named *Most Valuable Player* of the MLS Championship match. At the same time, Randi Patterson '03 was earning major accolades of his own as he was named as a *First-Team All-American* by the National Soccer Coaches of America. He had scored a State-leading total of 39 goals for B.C. as a junior in 2001.

Hockey also began as a club sport during the 1967-68 school year. The squad played "pick-up" games against several schools at all times of the day and night, usually at the now-defunct Low Tor Ice Center in Garnerville, New York. After "disappearing" for a couple of years, the program reorganized in 1974-75 and shocked the "experts" by winning the Bergen County High School League regular-season championship that season. After reaching the finals in each of the next two seasons before losing, the 1977-78 Crusaders stunned heavily-favored Paramus Catholic to win their first overall title, led by the escapades of defenseman Pierre McGuire '79. McGuire would go on to earn two Stanley Cups rings as a scout for the Pittsburgh Penguins and would eventually coach the Hartford Whalers. Today, he is one of the most highly-regarded hockey analysts in Canada. After two



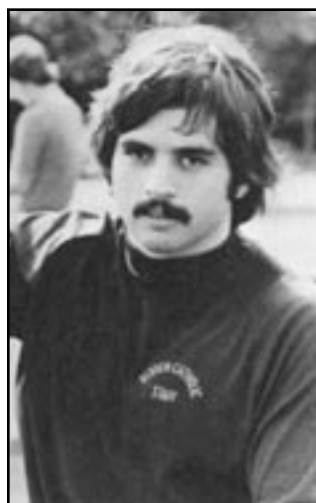
Pierre McGuire '79

more B.C.H.S.L. titles in 1980 and 1981, the Crusaders “slipped” a bit for a few years, before the goal-scoring antics of Paul Giblin and J.J. Picinic (each of whom led the State in scoring with more than 70 goals apiece) returned the program to prominence in the early-to-mid 1990’s. The program’s status was elevated when it was promoted to the elite Gordon Conference soon thereafter, paving the way for a pair of State Championship victories within a three-year period at the Meadowlands Arena. In 2001, a “hat trick” by *All-State* forward Matt Radoslovich '01 (who would go on to enjoy a solid career at Boston University) sparked the Crusaders to an 8-1 win over Clifton before more than 5,000 fans in East Rutherford. Two years later, the *All-State* trio of forwards Anthony Randazzo '04 and John Goffredo and defenseman Jason May '03 led the Crusaders to a stunning 21-1-2 record and yet another crown.



Paul Giblin

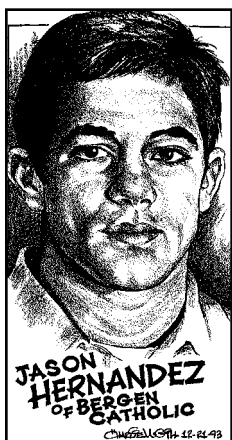
In 1973, Mr. John Drenzo began a wrestling club that, two years later, would lead to the formation of our state-ranked varsity wrestling program. The school cafeteria doubled as our wrestling practice room after school (until November 2003). This fact never deterred John or the wrestlers from committing themselves to this excellent program. While it took a few years to get the program “off the ground” (or “off the mat” in this case), it would soon reach prominence on both the County and State levels. The team won its tournament-record sixth straight Bergen County Coaches Association Christmas Tournament title last December, and has claimed 12 of the last 14 championships in that event. By the end of February, the program had won the District 7 championship for the 16th year in a row, just one week after winning the Non-Public (formerly “Parochial”) “A” North title for the fourth consecutive year, and for the 10th time since 1990. During this period, the program also won five State Parochial “A” titles. The team also claimed its fifth



Mr. John Drenzo

consecutive N.N.J.I.L. Division crown (giving it 13 titles in 16 seasons) under seventh-year Head Coach Dave Bell. Jason Hernandez '94 and Jim Finn '95 each won individual State titles during their senior seasons, while all-time Bergen County wins leader Bryan Nunziato '04 placed in the “Top Four” of his respective weight classes in each of his four seasons as a Crusader.

As the decade of the 1980’s rolled around, the increasing popularity of swimming warranted its creation as a varsity sport. The first B.C. team hit the water in December 1980 under the guidance of Brother James A. van Koolbergen. Two years later, current Athletic Director Mr. John Puzio took over the program for an incredible 20-year run that would yield a total of 54



championships! During this time, the program launched a 22-year N.N.J.I.L. championship streak that lives to this day, and also won 16 straight titles (1983-98) in the old Northern New Jersey Interscholastic Swimming League. The program also won seven North Jersey, Section 1 crowns in a row, beginning in 1996. Olympic prospect and current Ohio State star Gary Grant '03 is just one of the several superb swimmers to proudly represent our school.



Mr. Joe Haemmerle '86

The arrival of a new varsity program was marked on March 8, 1995, when lacrosse debuted at Bergen Catholic. The varsity team won its first game, 6-1, against Indian Hills on April 5 under the program's only Head Coach to-date, Mr. Joe Haemmerle '86. Unlike many of the State's new hockey programs that currently get placed in "newcomer" divisions at their formation, our lacrosse team did not enjoy that luxury during its infancy. It was "fed to the wolves" right off the bat, ending up in one of the State's "elite" divisions. Still, the program has grown and has reeled off the last four N.N.J.I.L. Division "C" crowns by dominating local Parochial rivals Don Bosco Prep (six wins in a row over the Ironmen), Paramus Catholic (4-0 all-time record) and St. Joseph Regional (10-2 all-time, including five blowout wins in a row). All-time leading scorer and future University of Notre Dame star Frank Matarazzo '01 was one of the players that helped put the program on the map.

The sports program has continually grown over the last 50 years. As Bergen Catholic celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it sponsors 33 different teams within 14 different interscholastic programs. Well over 400 student-athletes compete in these programs. All of these programs are highly regarded on both the county and state levels, and some of them have been nationally ranked. In May 2005, *Sports Illustrated* listed its most selective rankings based on overall excellence. Of the more than 38,000 high schools in the U.S., only 50 of them made *SI's* list honoring schools with the nation's top athletic programs. Its criteria emphasized all-around excellence during the last 10 years and included state titles won and college athletes produced. Bergen Catholic was named the top athletic school in New Jersey! *Sports Illustrated* wrote, "*The Crusaders are best known for their football program - they've won six state crowns in the last decade - but are also strong in wrestling, baseball and swimming.*"

As successful as our overall sports program has been, it has been especially gratifying to note how many of our athletes have excelled in the classroom and on the playing field. A quick look back at some of last year's teams tells the real story about our **student-athletes!** More than one-half of the upperclassmen on last fall's varsity football team (28-of-54) were members of the National Honor Society. In three different sports, *every one* of the team's senior members was an NHS inductee: lacrosse (7 student-athletes), swimming (5) and tennis (3). Ten of the 12 senior baseball players earned induction into the NHS, while three other sports boasted similar numbers percentage-wise: basketball (3-of-4), golf (3-of-4) and ice hockey (3-of-5). Therein lies the real **success story** of our sports program!

16

The Future

What will the future bring to Bergen Catholic High School? The realities of our future lie in the dreams and necessities of today. Bergen Catholic will expand and improve its facilities and plant, so that it can continue to provide strong spiritual, academic, social and athletic programs. It will also work to establish a solid financial endowment, so that it can continue to educate a socially, geographically, ethnically and economically-diverse student population and continue to attract and retain a strong faculty.

Bergen Catholic is also committed to remaining on the cutting edge of technology and the forefront of education, so that we can continue to educate young men who have a deep understanding of their position in the world as global citizens and who, more importantly, have the skills to be life-long learners.

In 1955, the United States was involved in an intense cold war and arms race that pitted the Capitalism of the West against the Communism of the East. The players may have changed, but the intensity remains the same today. Our future leaders must understand a much wider array of cultures and ideologies. They must be able to work with men and women from many different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Our students must be prepared to provide leadership on an international, national and local level. In order to do this, Bergen Catholic must continue to expand the opportunities of our students to communicate with, and understand people from, all over the world. Technology has vastly improved our ability to do this.

Education is about people. Education is about children becoming adults. Education is about adults interacting with children. Education is about ideas, values and understanding. Education is about thinking. Education is about the future.

