

Notre Dame

HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 7 - 12

CRUSADER CONNECTION

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HOPE Sustains Us!

DURING the month of December and into the holiday season and then into 2021, our hearts are full of **HOPE**, the virtue that has four unique characteristics. Hope is always for the good and is positive, it is in the future, it is **POSSIBLE**, and is not yet assured.

Throughout these challenging times, we are finding ways to cling to the good and familiar even though we have to find new and reimagined ways to do so. Having to do "school" differently still brings us **HOPE** for the future for when we return to normalcy and togetherness because we know with great surety how wonderful Notre Dame truly is.

MAKING MERCY REAL! Every year for St. Nicholas Day, Campus Ministry organizes a visit from St. Nick and a team of spritely elves to leave candy treats in the shoes of ND students, faculty, and staff. This beloved tradition was done much differently in 2020 with parents bringing students to campus for a drive-by visit, all done with masks, gloves, and social distance. We found a way to still spread JOY!



BRINGING MERCY TO OTHERS!

BY SISTER MARY WALTER HICKEY, RSM
PRESIDENT EMERITA



In this extraordinary time of the COVID-19 pandemic, our lives are challenged in ways we could never imagine. Such sustained changes have altered the way we live and bring a feeling of uncertainty. However, we must never lose hope and in these days of Advent, we are called to bring the blessings of Mercy to others. We pray:

*May God use our hands to feed the hungry, to build community;
Our eyes to see the needs of others, to hear the cries that are carried
in the wind across oceans and desert lands and in our cities,
to speak with tenderness and love, to be Mercy here and now.*

During these days of Advent, we are mindful of the needs of others in our community who will receive our Mercy and Love at Christmas and even perhaps throughout the New Year. Please be thoughtful and generous as our school community celebrates our Mercifulness and reflects on how we share God's love with others.

Warm wishes for a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

THE BEST LIBRARIAN IN THE WORLD!

The Notre Dame community is extremely blessed with an amazing librarian & media specialist -- **Mrs. Susan Tanner, MLS**. She is always responsive to the needs of students, faculty, and staff and is extremely knowledgeable in many areas. In addition to her library duties, she also teaches Public Speaking and Junior High Technology and is the moderator of the MaryLeaf, ND's student newspaper. Mrs. Tanner also holds "Tea Time with Tech" sessions for faculty and staff to learn all kinds of technology programs and short-cuts to work more efficiently and effectively. Each attendee is rewarded with a cup of tea and even a scone or other snacks. However, she is most beloved in her role as Spirit Queen of ND as these photos attest. Even her "remote teaching background" is fun! Thank you Mrs. Tanner for bringing JOY & HOPE to us all!

NOTRE DAME



HOPE FINDS A WAY!

BY KAREN JENNINGS, INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Happy Advent! Every week during morning announcements, we've been preparing our hearts to make room for the Christ child. We've shared Advent reflections with all of the Sisters of Mercy schools. The Advent wreath has been a part of my family's Christmas preparations since I was in high school and I have been happy to light the candles and share the traditions with our students. The first candle, the Candle of Hope, is so timely for this pandemic of December. We are all struggling with hope, for school to reopen, for the COVID vaccine to become available, and for our family and loved ones to survive. The second candle, the Candle of Peace, lights our way as our country struggles for equity and respect for all people. The third candle, the Candle of Joy, reminds us of the joy that Christmas will bring. The Angel candle is the fourth candle and represents all the love of Christmas.

This Advent we continue the 65th year of Crusader Christmas, preparing Christmas baskets for families chosen by the Elmira school nurses. We've had to adapt how we collect our groceries and select and wrap our gifts, with a Google form to choose what our Crusaders will donate. We've had to submit an event plan to the Health Department to get approval for our packing and delivery procedures. We are uncertain if we can have our joy-filled Golden Mass at all, while we know it won't be possible for it to be celebrated in our traditional way. What remains the same is the incredible generosity of the Crusader community. This year, when the need is so profound, we are privileged to be able to share what we have with others who have less. If you'd like to help, contact our campus minister, Mrs. Marie McCaig, at [**mccaigm@notredamehighschool.com**](mailto:mccaigm@notredamehighschool.com).

A gift that our students have given me this Advent is to see how big their hearts are. They have shared their concerns for each other, for their teachers, and for their families as they watch each other struggle with pandemic worries and health issues. Student Council has come up with fun events to keep everyone's spirits up. Our students sit alone, in front of screens, trying to focus on academics without the reward of passing time, lunch, and most importantly being with their friends. But they haven't given up. They've kept the hope and applied and been accepted to colleges of their dreams. They've given virtual presentations to their peers, solved multi-step math problems, and performed in plays and skits. And they keep coming back, day after day.

To celebrate our drama students and our 65th Anniversary, our drama department has given the entire Crusader community the gift of *It's a Wonderful Life*. We thank all of our supporters by sharing our gift of the play, streamed free of charge throughout the Christmas season, by accessing the YouTube link on the [**Notre Dame Facebook page**](#). Please join us, enjoy the play, and ring a Christmas bell to help more angels get their wings.

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HOPE FINDS A WAY, continued...

We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us." I see these words of Catherine McAuley lived out every day at Notre Dame High School, by every single member of the Crusader community. I am awed to be part of this incredible family and am honored to speak for everyone when I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas, and a New Year full of God's blessings.

ALUMNI IN ACTION!

We enjoyed hearing from **Denis Maloney, Class of 1963** who sent his band photo from his days at Notre Dame and then one from the present showing a day at work in Los Angeles, California.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

BY MARIE MCCAIG, CAMPUS MINISTER
THEOLOGY FACULTY



*Kudos to alumna
Alivia Clark'16
(right)
who was featured
on the cover of the
St. John Fisher
College magazine!*

#BeGaspar

#BeMelchior

#BeBalthazar



We need shoppers. We need sharers.
We need your help. Be gift bearers!

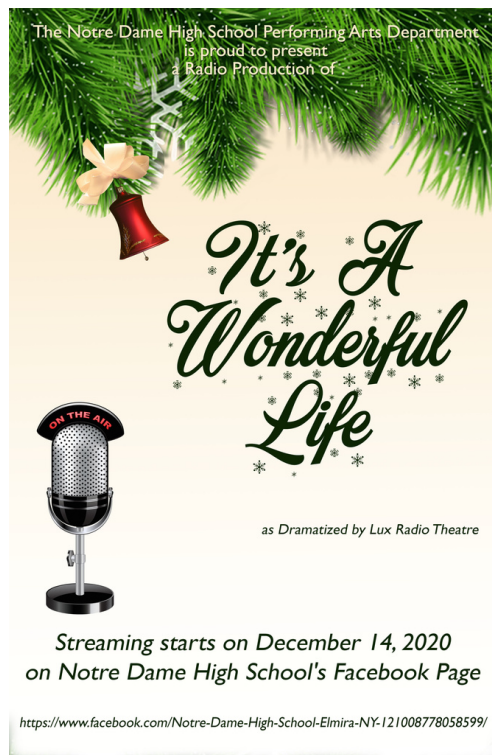
Please contact Mrs. McCaig at
mccaigm@notredamehighschool.com
if you can help this holiday season!

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni, please send us accounts of your lives so we can feature you in our ALUMNI IN ACTION column each month of the CRUSADER CONNECTION newsletter. Please send information to Katie Lilley'97, Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations at lilleyk@notredamehighschool.com.

A Special 65th Anniversary Gift to the Community!

Enjoy a holiday classic from the comfort & safety of your own home all season long!



The ND Performing Arts Department proudly presents

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the performance is online and can be viewed at any time. Enjoy seeing our Crusader thespians perform a holiday classic as an "old time radio show!"

To enjoy the "wonderful" performance click [here](#).

Merry Christmas!

IN THE CRUSADER CLASSROOMS

Spanish 3 Haikus

The haiku is a Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.

Senora Liriano's Spanish III class wrote haikus en Espanol! Excelente!

Naturaleza
Es muy silencioso
Estoy tranquilo

Nature
Is very, very silent
I am calm

-Ian Fink

En el teatro
los actores me canta
Yo estoy feliz

In the theatre
The actors sing to me
I am happy

-Isabella Hazelton

La playa llama
El agua azul verde
Arena y sol
The beach calls
The blue green water
Sand and sun

- Saviano Waters

Chinese National Honor Society Hosts Podcasts

Students learning Mandarin are putting their skills to work in unique and engaging ways! Chinese National Honor Society students host podcasts on topics of interest. **To enjoy the podcast click HERE.**



STUDENT

Spotlight!



NOTRE DAME

Art Department Publishes Weekly ART MAGAZINE

Each week the ND Art Department publishes an art magazine to showcase students' work in each of the art classes.



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE

Section 4 Character Counts Winners

FOUR SENIORS RECEIVE SECTION IV CHARACTER COUNTS AWARDS

Notre Dame is so proud of seniors (l to r) **Renata Russo, Nick Murray, Alex Welliver, and Gino DeLeone** who were acknowledged by NYS Athletics Section IV CHARACTER COUNTS Awards!

#crusaderpride

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