

# Marian Catholic ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER 2020



## **“MR. MARIAN” – JACK MALARKEY – TO GET HIS DUE**

John P. “Jack” Malarkey has been a part of our Marian Catholic High School family for nearly eight decades. Beginning in the 1950s as a student and through his still-active life as a grandparent and volunteer at the Hometown school in the 2020s.

On November 2, in an absolute fitting testimony to the impact Malarkey has had on thousands of students who passed through the halls of the school – as well as their families – school officials announced plans to honor the man who many call “Mr. Marian.” Plans were announced to perpetuate his name in late spring with the dedication of the John P. ‘Jack’ Malarkey Gymnasium.

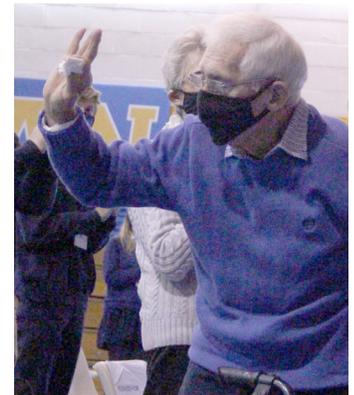
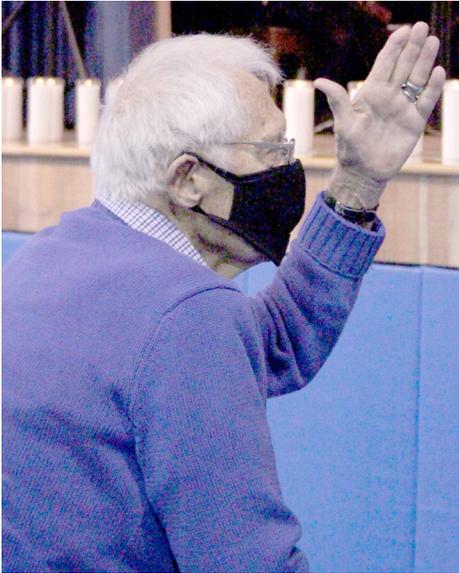
During a Mass held on the observance of All Souls Day – celebrated by the Rev. Gene Ritz, Class of 2000; the Rev. Brian Miller, school chaplain; and the Rev. Allen Hoffa, Head of School – Malarkey and his family were present as part of the Marian community’s observance to memorialize family members who have passed away this past year.

To his surprise, the day also offered the opportunity to publicly praise the former student, teacher, principal and coach by making the gymnasium dedication announcement.

Rev. Hoffa told the student body, faculty and a handful of guests of Marian Catholic’s plans, which include complete renovations with new bleachers, that will bear Malarkey’s name for posterity, along with the establishment of an endowed scholarship in his name.

The Tamaqua resident, whose 87th birthday was November 3, was showered with praises from by Father Hoffa and Stan Dakosty, longtime football coach and athletic director. His grandson, Johnny Malarkey, and Max Schwabe, president of the Student Council, unveiled one of two bronze plaques that will hang in the gymnasium after it is renovated. The plaque will serve notice to the Marian family and visitors for all eternity of the great commitment Mr. Malarkey has made to Marian Catholic High School.

*(continued)*



**“MR. MARIAN” – JACK MALARKEY – TO GET HIS DUE** *(continued)*

Father Hoffa said, “Catholic education has been shaping the minds, hearts and souls of young people in the United States for almost 250 years. The success of Catholic education has heavily depended on the dedication and sacrifice of extraordinary educators like Jack Malarkey.”

“Mr. Malarkey’s contributions to Marian Catholic, both seen and unseen, have built the foundation of our exceptional education and ensures that our family will be here for many years to come. I think it is fitting that the gymnasium, a space used for multiple purposes and by every Marian Catholic student, is dedicated to a man who gave his all to every facet of our school.”

Dakosty, who perhaps worked closest to Malarkey for the better part of 20 years, offered comments about his former boss, saying, “I wouldn’t be standing here today if it weren’t for the man we’re honoring today. Jack Malarkey’s influence on Marian Catholic High School and the Marian family has been incredible.”

“Jack is a genuine man. He was genuine when I first met him and he’s genuine now. The thing is this: there is no job too big or too small for him. One minute, he could be working on a budget, and the next minute, he’d be raking leaves or cooking bleenies.”

“As a staff member, I’ve witnessed the leadership of a great man who gave many years of service to Marian Catholic and is still doing so today. His greatest tribute are the people who came out of this school...thousands of people fall into that category, and each of them have benefited from having Jack Malarkey being a part of their lives. He loves the school, he loves the kids, and he always brought that feeling to the people who worked for him.”

An event to honor Mr. Malarkey will be held in the spring. More information will be shared in future newsletters. Stay tuned for more details!

## ABOUT JOHN P. 'JACK' MALARKEY



Born on November 3, 1933, to the late Raphael and Ellen (McGroarty) Malarkey, he was raised in Coaldale with his older sister, Rose, and younger brother, Tom, both deceased.

He is married to the former Jane Stutzman of Tuscarora. The couple has three sons, John, '83, and

his wife, Kathy, of Jim Thorpe, parents of Ryan, '16, Rhiannon, '19, and Johnny, '21; Jim, '84, and his wife; Lisa, of Melrose, MA, parents of twins Jack and Emma; and Joe, '95, and his wife, Jan, of Coopersburg, parents of Donovan and Kieran.

Jack attended St. Jerome's High School from 1948-51, and was president of his class for two years. Since St. Jerome's did not have a football team, they combined efforts with Panther Valley Catholic, which is where Malarkey played in the 48-49-50 seasons. He was an end and linebacker and did so well, he was selected to play in the All Star game in November, 1950.

In basketball at St. Jerome's, he was a guard for four seasons, 1947-50. On the baseball diamond, he played in the Tamaqua American Legion program for two seasons (49-50). He played centerfield and led the team in batting with a .417 batting average in the 1950 campaign.

After graduating from St. Jerome's in 1950, Malarkey entered St. Charles Seminary, where he studied from 1952-57. The following year, he enrolled at East Stroudsburg State College, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in English and Social Studies in 1960. In 1968, he returned to the classroom to receive his certification in education administration, graduating in 1970 from Lehigh University.

He taught English and Social Studies at Marian Catholic from 1960-68 and was named vice principal in 1970, holding that

position until 1977 when he was named principal. He presided there through 1998 and then taught theology at Allentown Central Catholic High School for two years before retiring.

During his tenure at Marian Catholic, Malarkey was an assistant coach for the football, basketball, baseball, and track teams and was head football coach from 1965-69. Malarkey was also a PIAA football and basketball referee for over 35 years.

A lifelong parishioner of St. Jerome's Catholic Church, Tamaqua, he was a lector there for over 30 years, during which time he was also named one of the first Eucharistic Ministers in the Allentown Diocese. His service included delivering Holy Communion to shut-ins.

He currently serves as a member of the Marian Catholic Hall of Fame Committee and has been active in the Men of Marian for decades, having held its presidency and serving as its membership chairman. His volunteerism to Marian Catholic is unyielding as he has worked in concessions (food stands) at home football games and the annual Men of Marian Picnic.

For the latter event, he coordinates, cooks and serves food for 50 years.

Malarkey is an inductee in the Carbon County, Schuylkill and Carbon County Halls of Fame. He is also a past recipient of the Shamrock Award from the Panther Valley Irish-American Association.



## MARIAN CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

***We know our alumni are proud about the education they received at Marian Catholic!***

Join our Alumni Association today for a nominal membership fee of \$10 per year. In an era when Catholic schools are facing continuous challenges that have prompted many to close their doors, our alumni strive to be there for the next generation and for years to come. If each of us can do just a little, together we can do great things for our Alma Mater! Go [www.mariancatholic.org](http://www.mariancatholic.org) and click on "Alumni" and "Join" to become a member today!

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I sat in the soon-to-be-John P. "Jack" Malarkey Gymnasium at Marian Catholic High School on November 2, I couldn't help but think I was part of a crowd that was there to honor "greatness."

That's because that's the one word I believe best describes the man we all have come to know and love as "Mr. Marian."

Speaker after speaker that day sang the praises of one of the best human beings God put on this earth. I'm sure He feels the same way all of us do – that the role Jack Malarkey played in Catholic education in general, and Marian Catholic High School in specific, was nothing short of "great."

In the words of the Rev. Allen Hoffa, Head of School, Mr. Malarkey has been "an incredible part of the fabric of the Marian family. He is one of the great principals who helped form Catholic education in the Diocese."



Fr. Hoffa proceeded to accurately describe how fortunate thousands of people have been to have benefitted from Mr. Malarkey's presence at Marian, saying, "His contributions to Marian are a gift to us. He gave his blood, sweat and tears to help this building be what it is. He is part of the foundation of the Marian Catholic family."

Stan Dakosty, who because he has worked closer to Mr. Malarkey than anyone, was asked to speak at the event, and he too knocked one out of the park in his comments, saying the leadership role Mr. Malarkey provided at Marian was like no other. He said, "You don't know where you're going

until you realize where you came from. The leadership Mr. Malarkey has provided us is something special. We follow leaders. People won't follow you unless they believe in you."

Addressing Mr. Malarkey, he said, "People believe in you. It is because of you, we've all felt the spirit of loyalty, and an intensity of alumni, around this school. We love you." He closed, "When I think of Mr. Malarkey, I tell myself, 'I want to be like him.' Then I realize, I can't. Because there's only one."

Sr. Bernard Agnes, I.H.M., who succeeded Mr. Malarkey as principal in the 1998-99 school year, would have loved to be present for the announcement of the dedication of Marian's gymnasium to her predecessor.

Now a teacher at the Allentown Diocese Kolbe Academy, a Christ-centered school for high school students in recovery from substance addiction in Bethlehem, her schedule prohibited her presence, but she weighed in perfectly on the honor being bestowed upon "Mr. Marian."

She recalled her teaching days at Marian under Malarkey's leadership, then related the role he played during the transition in which she became his successor.

She said, "I am thrilled that Jack is being accorded this honor. He certainly deserves it. Jack Malarkey's contribution to Marian goes without saying. He has been a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal from its foundation and has been the leading reason for its success.

"He was there from the beginning – encouraging, leading and doing everything in his power to ensure the school's success (even doing the grunt work on the roof and at the sewer plant).

"I have always been inspired by him, and when the community asked me to return to Marian, I was thrilled as I would be working for him again. Much to my dismay, he announced his retirement shortly after I returned.

"When I was asked to apply for the principal's position, I did so knowing that he would always be there to support me in any way possible. When I was blessed to be appointed principal, Jack was always available with advice when I asked. He never gave me direction unless asked, so I had the freedom to do things my way, but I knew I had his support. It made for a smooth transition as we both loved Marian High School and that was the most important part.

"We all say, 'We are Marian' but Jack Malarkey is the heart and soul of Marian."



Joe Arieta '64, second from left, presents Educational Heroes Safety Campaign information to Head of School Rev. Allen Hoffa, left. Marian is one of 700 schools from across the nation that was awarded health and safety kits to help keep teachers and students safe during the pandemic.

## '64 GRAD HELPS KEEP TEACHERS & STUDENTS SAFE

Joe Arieta, Class of 1964, is yet another example of how Marian graduates help Marian Catholic students.

The Arieta family has been a longtime supporter of Marian Catholic High School, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, they stepped up earlier this school year, taking advantage of a True Value Foundation campaign to assist his Alma Mater.

Joe and his wife Patricia, who operate a True Value store in Nesquehoning, helped Marian become one of 700 schools from across the nation that were awarded health and safety kits from the foundation to help keep students and teachers safe. The kits include hand sanitizer, KN-95 masks, and hand soap – aimed to help educators and staff who are caring for our students.

Thanks to Joe and Patricia, and the True Value Foundation, Marian is able to keep its teachers and students safe.

## IN MEMORIAM

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of the following Marian Catholic High School alumnae:

**Marie E. Lehotta:** 91, Tamaqua, Sept. 11, 2020. Graduated from St. Jerome's High School. Mother of Donna (Stephen) Wilson, '72, and the late Joan Ann Wheaton.

**Celeste A. Billett:** 57, formerly of McAdoo, Sept. 1, 2020. Graduated in 1980 from Marian Catholic High School. Sister of Louise Buber and Thomas Billett.

**Kenneth J. Huber:** Palmerton, formerly of Jim Thorpe, Sept. 19, 2020. Graduated in 1969 Marian Catholic High School. Brother of Eileen Cossman, '71, and husband William (Rocky), and Thomas Huber, '75.

**Glenn E. Derkosh:** 66, Jim Thorpe, Sept. 22, 2020. Graduated in 1972 from Marian High School. Brother of Christine, wife of Joseph Stehle, and Bernice, wife of Vincent Sweeney.

**Vincent Shickora:** 87, Tresckow, Sept. 29, 2020. Father of Marian graduates, including Vincent, '74, and his wife, Lorriane, Jacqueline Beishline, '76, and her husband, Walter, Bruce Shickora, 76, and his wife, Terri, '76, Joyce Seitz, '78, and her husband, Scott, Richard and Mary Lynn Hartz, '80, and her husband, Bert.

**Debbie L. Ryan:** 62, Tamaqua, Oct. 2, 2020. Wife of Phillip M. Ryan III and mother of James A. "Jamie" Ryan, '03, and his wife Anastasia, Phillip Michael Ryan, IV, '07, and John T. "Jack," '10.

**Roy J. Heintzelman:** 66, Coaldale, Oct. 4, 2020. Graduated in 1972 from Marian Catholic High School. Brother of Robert, '75, Mary, '78, wife of Steve Kruzik, and Linda, '73, wife of Phillip Balliet.

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Association

kevin@mariancatholic.org, and we will be happy to share the great news about our Marian family members.

Keep up on all school news by visiting our school's website at [mariancatholic.org](http://mariancatholic.org). **We look forward to hearing from you!**

Whether it's a job promotion, family addition, honors or special occasion – we invite you to share it with us. We will gladly post it on our Facebook page for our followers, and would include any request in our upcoming newsletters. Email us at [alumni@mariancatholic.org](mailto:alumni@mariancatholic.org) or send it directly to the Advancement Office,

## UNDERCLASS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Marian Catholic High School's 2019-2020 Underclassmen Academic Award Winners who were recognized on Oct. 16, 2020:

Highest Average in Honors Theology I, Rebecca Boyle.  
Highest Average in College Prep Theology I, Alise Heisey.  
Highest Average in Honors Theology II, Lauren Reaman.  
Highest Average in College Prep Theology II, Chloe Hiles.  
Highest Average in Honors Theology III, Haley Curnow.  
Highest Average in College Prep Theology III, Christina Walko.  
Highest Average in Honors English I, Addison Pan.  
Highest Average in College Prep English I, Joseph Walko.  
Most Improved in English I, Consuelo Barcenas.  
Highest Average in Honors English II, Maura Kelly.  
Highest Average in College Prep English II, Chloe Hiles.  
Most Improved in English II, Hannah Shimko.  
Highest Average in Honors English III, Desiree Milosh.  
Highest Average in College Prep English III, Maxwell Schwabe.  
Most Improved in English III, Kevin Earley.  
Highest Average in French II, Grace Curnow.  
Highest Average in College Prep French II, Ashlyn Klitsch.  
Highest Average in Honors French III, Christina Walko.  
Highest Average in College Prep French III, Karina Barcenas.  
Inducted into the National French Honor Society,  
Grace Curnow, Maura Kelly and Ashlyn Klitsch.  
Highest Average in Honors Spanish I, Angela Pan.  
Highest Average in College Prep Spanish I, Gabrielle Dagostin.  
Highest Average in Honors Spanish II, Lauren Reaman.  
Highest Average in College Prep Spanish II, Alyse Blasko.  
Highest Average in Honors Spanish III, Gavin Vercusky.  
Highest Average in College Prep Spanish III, John Malarkey.  
Highest Average in Language & Cultures, Noah Frask.  
Inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society in 2020,  
Abigail Artz, Rhiannon Dempsey, Olivia Erickson, Isabella Genao, Isabella Lesante, Alexandra Martinez, Nathalie Nunez,  
Walter Pavlik III, Lauren Reaman and Kelly Sullivan.  
Highest Average in College Prep Algebra I CP,  
Gabrielle Dagostin.  
Most Improved in Algebra I, Nicholas Memis.  
Highest Average in Honors Algebra II, Rebecca Boyle.

Highest Average in Junior College Prep Algebra II,  
Caleb Chakan.  
Highest Average in Freshman College Prep Algebra II,  
Isaac Ferrera.  
Most Improved in Algebra II, Luke Jordan.  
Highest Average in Honors Geometry, Walter Pavlik.  
Highest Average in College Prep Geometry, Alyse Blasko.  
Highest Average in Geometry, John Milosh.  
Most Improved in Geometry, Alexandra Martinez.  
Highest Average in Honors Pre-Calculus, Haley Curnow.  
Highest Average in College Prep Pre-Calculus, Alivia Karchner.  
Most Improved in Pre-Calculus, Gabriella Greek.  
Highest Average in Honors Physical Science, Walter Pavlik.  
Highest Average in College Prep Physical Science,  
Alyse Blasko.  
Highest Average in Honors Biology, Rebecca Boyle.  
Highest Average in College Prep Biology, Tevin Walsh.  
Highest Average in Honors Chemistry, Haley Curnow.  
Highest Average in College Prep Chemistry, Caleb Chakan.  
Highest Average in Chemistry, Jessica Dagostin.  
2020 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Winners,  
1st place in Chemistry, Benjamin Artz; 1st place in Chemistry,  
Vincent Pan; 1st place in Biology, Maxwell Schwabe; 1st place  
in Behavioral Psychology, Angela Pan.  
Highest Average in Honors American Cultures, Rebecca Boyle.  
Highest Average in College Prep American Cultures,  
Tevin Walsh.  
Highest Average in Honors World Cultures, Lauren Reaman.  
Highest Average in College Prep World Cultures, Alyse Blasko.  
Highest Average in Honors 20th Century America,  
Christina Walko.  
Highest Average in College Prep 20th Century America,  
Ean Chelak.  
Perfect Attendance, Consuelo Barcenas, Karina Barcenas  
(3 years), Eliza Bauder, Rebecca Boyle, Owen Brady, Rhiannon  
Brady, Emily Breslin, Rebecca Dzurainin (3 years), Alexis Felin,  
Emily Kayes, Joshua Kuzmitsky,  
John Malarkey, Will Nyer, Addison Pan, Vincent Pan (3 years),  
Walter Pavlik and Elizabeth Snerr.

## CLASS OF 1971 REUNION

The reunion will be at Ron Blickley's home at 156 Bernhard Road, Tamaqua, PA. 18252 on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Any classmates wanting information should email [mhscolts1971@gmail.com](mailto:mhscolts1971@gmail.com) and/or join the Marian High School Class of 1971 FB page. All future correspondence regarding the reunion will be via email or FB.

## SEARCH IS UNDERWAY FOR NEXT HEAD OF SCHOOL

Marian Catholic High School has begun the process of seeking an individual to assume the position of Head of School. The successful candidate will be appointed to and delegated authority by the Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, and will report to the Board of Directors and Chancellor of Education.

The Head of School will act as the chief executive, operating, and advancement officer for the school, while being responsible for the integration of faith and culture within the school, successful academic programs, and robust student affairs programs.

He/she coordinates and manages the program of supervision, observation and evaluation of the faculty, instructional programs, and the guidance and counseling program.

Additionally, the Head of School bears ultimate responsibility for the external affairs of the school to include ensuring sufficient resources, sound fiscal management, long-term financial stability, and plant improvements through direct oversight of business affairs, plant operations, and advancement programs.

The Head of School ensures the successful day-to-day

operation of the school as accomplished through effective delegation of responsibilities to the administrators, faculty, coaches, and staff.

The candidates Marian seeks will understand their role in fostering a vibrant Catholic school culture and have experience leading academically rigorous curriculums and co-curricular activities.

Additionally, the successful candidate will have demonstrated capacity and comfort in addressing the challenges facing most Catholic schools, specifically in mission-critical areas related to business, finance, enrollment management, and advancement initiatives.

A Principal K-12 certification, as well as a minimum of five years teaching and five years of administration experience, preferably in a Catholic college preparatory environment, is required.

For more information, contact Michael Furey, Class of 1983, Partner, [mikefurey@partnersinmission.com](mailto:mikefurey@partnersinmission.com), Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC 124 Sycamore Drive Westwood, MA 02090 Office: (877) 738-4810 Mobile: (570) 730-2655 [www.partnersinmissionslss.com](http://www.partnersinmissionslss.com).

## DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN REDIRECT YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS TO MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs provide tax credits to eligible individuals and businesses contributing to the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation (EPSF).

**HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?** You can keep Pennsylvania state taxes in your community. If you own a business or are a Pennsylvania taxpayer, you can help build a brighter future for deserving students at Marian Catholic High School by participating in this amazing program.

Individual or business contributions are used by the Foundation to provide tuition assistance in the form of scholarships. EPSF provides financial assistance to families at Marian Catholic High School to help cover the cost of tuition.

To learn more about how you can participate in this program, contact Kristine Evina, Director of Advancement, at [advancement@mariancatholicshs.org](mailto:advancement@mariancatholicshs.org) or call 570-467-3335 x.2219.



[WWW.MARIANCATHOLICHS.ORG](http://WWW.MARIANCATHOLICHS.ORG)



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