

A Newsletter for Catholic High Schools
in the Archdiocese of New York



Our Lady of Lourdes High School
Poughkeepsie, New York
Respect Life Club



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK
Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

Volume 20
April 2025

THE SCOOP

A Newsletter for Catholic High Schools
in the Archdiocese of New York

The Office of Secondary Schools serves forty-two high schools with over 21,000 students within the Archdiocese of New York including The Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, Westchester, and Upper Counties.

Linda Doughtry
Associate Superintendent
of Secondary Schools

Carmen Leon
Secondary Schools Administrator

To learn more about Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of New York, visit:

catholicschoolsnny.org/secondary

COVER PHOTO

Our Lady of Lourdes High School Respect Life Club Attends March for Life

The Our Lady of Lourdes High School Respect Life Club had an incredible experience attending the March for Life in Washington D.C on Friday, January 24, 2025.

The school's dedicated students, faculty and supporters stood together in solidarity to advocate for the sanctity of life, spreading a powerful message of love, hope and respect for all.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*
ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

Welsh Catholic School Delegation Visits Archdiocese of New York to Explore Faith-Based Education



A delegation from St. Joseph's Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre in Port Talbot, Wales, recently visited several high schools within the Archdiocese of New York to explore Catholic education in the United States.

As part of their visit, students from St. Joseph's toured Cardinal Spellman High School. At the same time, school administrators visited Loyola School in Manhattan, Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, and Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains.

The visit aimed to strengthen ties between Catholic schools in Wales and the United States, encouraging best practices in faith formation and academic excellence.

Administrators from St. Joseph's are now considering how to incorporate the insights gained from the trip into their own educational framework.

Catholic High Schools Pray, Give, and Celebrate Achievements...



Mount Students Give the Gift of Blood to Help Save Lives.

In the United States, someone needs blood every two seconds, and students at The Mount stepped up to the plate to help save lives. Mount St. Michael Academy teamed up with the New York Blood Center to host a Life-Saving Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Over 45 units of blood were collected from 63 donors including 50 students. The event is one of many activities our Campus Ministry Office and Student Council sponsor to allow students to serve our community.

Braving Below Freezing Temperatures, Students at Maria Regina Joined the Annual Box City Campaign to Help Unsheltered Homeless

During the 12 hours of solidarity with the homeless, the Marie Regina students participated in hourly prayers for the highly at-risk population who have been especially challenged during one of the coldest winters. In addition, Rudyard Whyte, board president of Midnight Run based in Dobbs Ferry, addressed the students and gave them an overview about the region's homeless population.

The students raised funds that will be used for future breakfast runs and to make a donation to Midnight Run. In the 21 prior BOX City campaigns that the renowned all-girls Catholic high school held, a total of about \$50,000 was raised to help the homeless in Westchester communities and New York City.





St. Catharine Academy

Founder of Women's Empowerment Organization Starts Mentorship Program at St. Catharine Academy



Dr. Xellex Z. Rivera, founder of #iAmSHE, a women’s empowerment organization, is kicking off a mentorship program at St. Catharine Academy. “We girls, we need each other,” Dr. X (as she is known) told the St. Catharine Academy assembly. “In subconscious ways society pits us against each other. . . . You need to understand that you need the person next to you.”

Explaining what SHE stands for in her organization, Dr. X pointed to Sisterhood, Healing and Empowerment. She said the concept grew out of her initial image of a caterpillar which begins life meandering and often bumping into things because of poor vision, then goes into a cocoon to heal and emerges a beautiful butterfly.

Her mentorship is meant to give young women these same skills of learning to trust in one another, healing and empowerment. The program will also provide the girls with mentors. Dr. X says mentors have played a key role in her life and she believes they will guide the girls to find their paths as well. SCA is launching a mentor program with students on the high school level. As the program expands, it will also include middle schoolers.

Notre Dame School Accepted Student’s Night

On February 6th, Notre Dame celebrated the Class of 2029 during Accepted Students' Night! The incoming class and their families enjoyed mingling with fellow admits, teachers, and current students while also taking photos at a backdrop, enjoying cookies, and purchasing ND sweatshirts.



Salesian Spirit Week Celebrates Don Bosco’s Legacy

Salesian High School recently wrapped up an engaging Spirit Week, featuring competitions across all grades, including academics, games, and penny wars. Funds raised during the penny wars were donated to Bishop Mora Salesian High School in Los Angeles to assist families affected by the wildfires.

The week highlighted the Salesian spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm, reflecting the values Don Bosco advocated. Gratitude for Bishop Joseph A. Espaillet for leading the Mass, which added special significance to the celebrations. Don Bosco's mission of nurturing good Christians and honest citizens remains central to the commitment to the Salesian community.





Congratulations to the Annual Legal Career Day Winners!

For the past five years, the Association of Legal Administrators, New York City Chapter (ALANYC) has proudly hosted Legal Career Day, an annual event designed to introduce high school students to the vast array of careers within the legal industry.

This initiative, a collaboration between ALANYC and the Archdiocese of New York Superintendent of Schools Office of Secondary Schools, has become a cornerstone of our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I), providing students from diverse backgrounds with exposure to legal careers they may not have otherwise considered.

Each November, six accomplished legal professionals—including Managing Partners, CFOs, CIOs, HR Directors, Marketing Directors, and Directors of Administration—engage with students in an interactive Zoom session.

These professionals share their personal career journeys, insights into their roles, and advice on how students can prepare for careers in law, business, and administration.

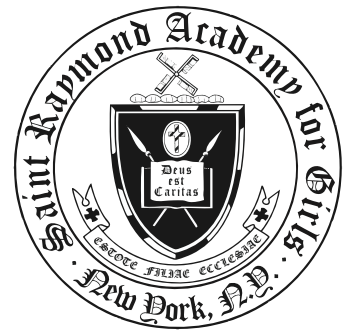
Over the years, Legal Career Day has grown significantly, with participation from 13 to 15 Catholic high schools each year, drawing an audience of 100 to 140 students eager to learn about the industry.



Photo 1: Left to right from Notre Dame Academy – Meaghan O’Brian (principal), 1st place winner Leann Lambert (senior), John Connolly (LDI Connect), Donna Bellocchio (teacher)

Photo 2: Left to right from St. Joseph Hill Academy – Elizabeth Esposito (principal), Sr. Mary Coffelt (president) 2nd place winner Sophia Ni (sophomore), 3rd place winner Deanna Hamanjian (senior), John Connolly (LDI Connect)

St. Raymond Academy Official Members of the Corporate Communications Pipeline Program



The Academy is officially a member of the Corporate Communications Pipeline Program, a partnership with Fordham Gabelli Business School:

"The mission of the Corporate Communications Program is to provide NYC high schools with access to a rigorous business curriculum at the Gabelli School of Business. This will be achieved by empowering GBS students to coach corporate pitch proposals for community student teams. We are committed to stimulating academic, cultural, and social growth among all of our student participants."



Cristo Rey New York Hosts College and Career Night Panel

Cristo Rey New York High School hosted a College and Career Night panel, featuring Corporate Work Study partners and alumni sharing insights from their educational and professional journeys. Alumni exemplified the school's mission of being "professionals for others" by mentoring current students. The panel covered choosing majors, balancing academics with personal life, and key skills for success in college and careers. This event provided students with valuable guidance as they prepare for their futures."

Generation Life Visits Msgr. Scanlan HS

Generation Life's, Anthony Yetzer, did a powerful presentation which students at Msgr. Scanlan were fully engaged in.

Generation Life Missionaries came to New York in February to visit parishes and schools offering pro-life, chastity, and dating with dignity talks.



Stepinac Varsity Basketball Secures Third Straight CHSAA "AA" City Championship in Overtime Thriller

History has been made once again! The Stepinac High School Varsity Basketball Team clinched its third consecutive CHSAA "AA" Intersectional (City) Championship with a dramatic 63-61 overtime victory over St. Raymond at Fordham University on Sunday, March 9.

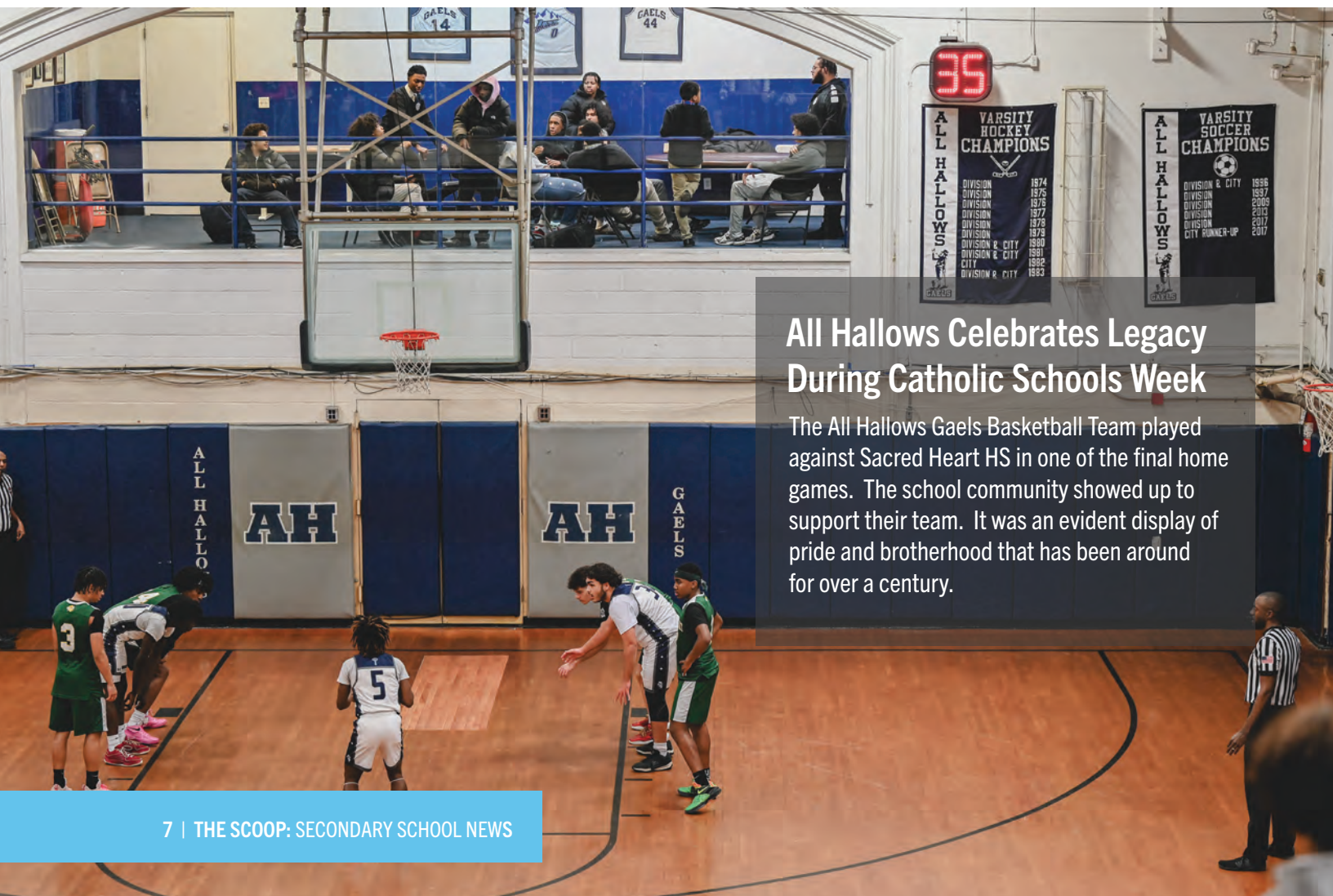
With the win, Stepinac becomes the first team to three-peat since Christ the King achieved the feat from 2013 to 2015 and only the fifth team in CHSAA history to win three consecutive "AA" City Championships. The program also cements its place among the CHSAA's elite, becoming just the ninth school to win five or more "AA" city titles.

Albertus Magnus Junior Initiates Project Called "Letters of Love"

JohnCarlo Mandara '26 initiated a project called Letters of Love, an outreach to senior citizens, veterans, and the homebound. He led Albertus students to create over 200 Valentine's Day cards with a thoughtfully written greeting included in each card.

JohnCarlo then delivered and visited with elders residing at Dowling Gardens and Thorpe Village in Sparkill.





All Hallows Celebrates Legacy During Catholic Schools Week

The All Hallows Gaels Basketball Team played against Sacred Heart HS in one of the final home games. The school community showed up to support their team. It was an evident display of pride and brotherhood that has been around for over a century.



St. Vincent Ferrer High School Varsity Cheer Team Makes it to the Nationals

St. Vincent Ferrer High School made Ferrer history to be the first team to ever advance to the **UCA Nationals** in Orlando, Florida.

Competing on the national stage against some of the best teams in the country was a monumental achievement for our Varsity Cheer Team. The competition was fierce, and while the results may not have reflected the team's full potential, the experience was invaluable.

The athletes displayed resilience, teamwork, and school spirit. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our administration, coaches, families, friends, and the entire Ferrer community. Their encouragement and belief in our athletes helped make this milestone a reality. This historic moment not only marks a new chapter for Ferrer Cheer but also paves the way for future teams to dream big and push boundaries.



Preston HS Recognizes Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In recognition of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Preston High School hosted Special Agent Richard Stepien from the Department of Homeland Security to present to the student body.

He shared what to look out for, how to get help and overall safety tips. Preston also welcomed representatives from Lifeway Network to discuss ways we can help and heard from a survivor of trafficking herself!

Working to end human trafficking has been a mission of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, the founding order of Preston High School, for many years.

Ursuline's Isabella Vembenil '25 among the Nation's Top Teen Scientists

Senior Isabella Vembenil '25 is among the top 300 scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2025, the only Catholic school student in Westchester County to receive this prestigious recognition. Supported by Ursuline's Science Research and Computer Science faculty, Vembenil's project aims to predict risk levels and improve palliative care referrals for heart failure patients. Vembenil plans to pursue economics, computer science, and pre-med in college and hope to someday redefine what is possible at the intersection of technology and medicine. Her recognition highlights her exceptional talent, curiosity, and dedication to scientific research.



Iona Prep Launches New Options Program

Iona Prep is proud to announce the inaugural year of the Options Program, a specialized Catholic education opportunity for high school students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities.

This inclusive four-year program offers small class instruction in core subjects like English, Math, and Life Skills, alongside theology, physical education, and lunch with peers, supported by dedicated peer mentors.

Graduates will earn a Skills and Achievement Certificate, preparing them for Life Skills college programs or vocational training.

Applications open soon for September 2025 enrollment! Students must be 14-15 years old to apply.

For more information, contact Kim Cinguina (kcinguina@ionaprep.org) or Danielle Mazzariello (dmazzariello@ionaprep.org).



FACULTY

KIMBERLY CINGUINA
Co-Director of Academic Support Services

DANIELLE MAZZARIELLO
Co-Director of Academic Support Services and Options Program Teacher

MISSION

The primary focus of the Iona Preparatory School is to nurture and empower young men by teaching faith, building community, serving others, and pursuing excellence. Iona Prep accepts students with the academic potential to succeed in a rigorous college prep program, and who are willing to challenge themselves in a variety of academic and extracurricular pursuits.

The Options Program is designed with the belief that all young men, including those with mild to moderate disabilities should have the option of an Iona Preparatory education. Its purpose is to meet the needs of a unique set of learners in an effort to embrace the spirit of the Iona Prep man: heart, mind, body, and soul. The focus of the program is to provide academic, social, and spiritual growth for each student in order for them to be successful and independent adults in the future.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A challenging curriculum, a welcoming community, a caring and dedicated faculty, and the building of life-long friendships are hallmarks of Iona Prep.

The mission of the program is to prepare students for life after high school. There are many choices for students upon completion of the Options Program. Throughout the student's four years in the program, they will work on a Life Skills curriculum with the goal of becoming independent and productive members of our community.

We recognize the importance of setting students up for a successful transition into adulthood, including preparation for independent living and job training.

The curriculum of the Options Program is centered on developing the students' skills in English and Mathematics. Our faculty conducts these classes in a smaller setting where they use a variety of hands-on activities, cooperative learning, and interactive technologies to meet each student's needs.

Cardinal Spellman's Swim Team Competes at the A Championships

Cardinal Spellman Girls' Swim Team members competed at the A Championships in February, securing an impressive 2nd-place finish in the Tier 2 division!



St. Raymond Seniors Set Two New, Historic Basketball Records

St. Raymond seniors, and varsity basketball team members, Tai Turnage and Brandon Stores, Jr. have shattered long standing records this season. Brandon Stores set a new, historic bar for all-time career points by reaching the 2,000-point threshold. While, Tai Turnage has become the second highest scorer in St. Raymond's storied history. Tai surpassed Isaiah Washington's (Class of 2017) record of 1,410 points. Now standing as the top two scorers in St. Raymond's history, Brandon and Tai both reached their accomplishments during this seasons CHSAA "AA" Intersectional Semi-Finals Playoff Game.





Hail Glorious Saint Patrick!

Scenes from the 264th New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, captured from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary for Education and Faith Formation, joined His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, along with Bishop Edmund Whalen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, to greet parade marchers — including many proud students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of New York.





Secondary Schools throughout the archdiocese offer rigorous, high-quality academics in an environment formed by the faith and values of the Catholic Church.

THE SCOOP

A Newsletter for Catholic High Schools
in the Archdiocese of New York

Superintendent of Schools Office
Archdiocese of New York

1011 First Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10022

www.CatholicSchoolsNY.org/secondary