



The Padruan

Saint Anthony's High School
275 Wolf Hill Road • South Huntington, New York 11747 • 631.271.2020 • www.stanthonyshs.org

CLASS OF 2025 NEARS THE END

FINAL DAYS AT FRIARTOWN

Senior Writer and Editor-in-Chief:
Logan Taylor

As the school year comes to a close, we say goodbye to our parting seniors. Their final school day, May 16th, followed by their graduation ceremony on June 7th, marks the conclusion of their Saint Anthony's careers and the beginning of a new life chapter.

Many will be going on to college. Some will go to the military, some to trade school, others straight to jobs, and some to gap years; but no matter where they go, they will undoubtedly take with them all they have learned in values of resilience, charity, and dedication.

Saint Anthony's High School has always strived to point its students towards success. Through our vibrant Friar community, these Seniors, nearly full-fledged adults, have grown in understanding, gaining insight about themselves and the world around them. They have been molded to be models of exceptional character, strong in virtue and unwavering in faith. With such outstanding qualities, it is guaranteed that our Seniors will go on to change the world for the better.

In honor of their eminent graduation, Saint Anthony's organizes and hosts several fun events for the seniors every year; such as Senior Antics Night, the Senior Barbecue, senior sunrise, and of course, senior prom.

On the evening of April 28th, seniors gathered in the student center for a fun-filled night of games, snacks and bouncy houses. Senior Antics Night is essentially a carnival within Saint Anthony's, in which all the Seniors come together to participate in the rollicking thrill of amusement park attractions. Included among the set-up were a water slide and rock-climbing wall, a bouncy house, cornhole stations and Meltdown, the classic inflatable mechanism with rotating padded arms. For all involved, senior antics night was nothing short of joyous, and shall remain a fond memory for years to come.

The senior barbecue is an awesome time for seniors to relax, socialize, and enjoy delicious food, all while reflecting on memories they've made together. Set for the afternoon of May 22nd, a beautiful Spring day, Seniors will gather along the back lawn beside the student center. There, a large shaded tent will be propped up, complete with a wide array of fresh sum-

mer delicacies; like hot-dogs, hamburgers, short-ribs, watermelon, ice-cream and more. The Senior barbecue always serves as a wonderful way to further embolden the Friar community, as well as usher in the start of the summer season.

Senior Sunrise is a nostalgic tradition. It gives Seniors the unique opportunity on their final day to gather early on the football field and watch the sunrise over the Saint Anthony's campus one last time. It is a truly beautiful occasion which calls to mind both fond memories and new beginnings simultaneously. Without a doubt, senior sunrise is a powerful, heartfelt moment which will stay with our students forever.



Above all else, who could forget the senior prom? The king of all senior events! This lively dance, set for June 3rd at the Crest Hollow Country Club, brings seniors together for an epic night of music, food, excitement, and all out revelry. This year's prom, organized by Class President and salutatorian, Grace Nolan, is sure to be a roaring success. Seniors all around the school are raring to attend and cannot wait to commence with the festivities. It is guaranteed to be a joyous time; filled with loud laughter, epic DJ mixes, and crazy dance moves.

This year, our senior class maintained their streak of academic excellence. Academic honors such as Duns Scotus and St. Bonaventure were awarded in abundance at the year's beginning, a testament to the enduring academic devotion of our students.

Seniors also kept on with challenging academic coursework, enrolling in various advanced placement classes. These classes offer a rigorous workload with college-level material. Apt, as our seniors are transitioning towards higher education. Throughout May, AP exams were held in both the student center and the library. They were met with high attendance from both seniors and students across grade levels.

Seniors also achieved record-high averages, soaring well beyond 100 due to course weight. Without a doubt, our senior class has raised the bar and broken new ground academically.



These achievements are further reflected in the outstanding work of our Salutatorian and Valedictorian respectively. Both our Salutatorian, Grace Nolan, and our Valedictorian, Riley McKinley, have accomplished remarkable academic feats, ascending to the top two ranks within the senior class. Both are set to continue their education at esteemed institutions; Riley McKinley to Dartmouth, and Grace Nolan to the University of Florida. We are all eager to witness the mark they will make upon the world.

As we go on, it is important to reflect upon the legacy our senior class has created. They have achieved many great things, and will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact upon our school and Friar community. Their immense dedication for all aspects of our school has set an example for all who follow in their footsteps.

The journey from freshman year to the moment of senior graduation has been nothing short of transformative. Their time and experience has culminated in a student body which is thoroughly prepared to take on the world. As they walk across the graduation stage, they will carry with them not only the knowledge they have gathered, the skills they have learned, but more importantly, the discipline, dedication, and devotion required to be faithful friars throughout all of life.

Congratulations to the class of 2025! We look forward to all you may accomplish in the years to come. How you may change the world and shape the future; and just like you did with your time at St. Anthony's, enrich it bountifully. We have no doubt you will continue to make us proud and be fervent models of our Franciscan faith. Best of luck, and may your lives be filled with happiness, achievement and fulfillment. You did it!

Moderator:
Mr. Christopher Farrell, Dean of Admissions

Editor-in-Chief:
Logan Taylor, '25

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Brother David Anthony Migliorino, OSF
Principal

Brother Joshua DiMauro, OSF
Assistant Principal, Dean of Student Activities

News BRIEFS

NHS Blood Drive Saves Lives!

On Friday, March 14th, the Student Center at Saint Anthony's transformed into a life-saving center as students and staff participated in the annual blood drive organized by the National Honor Society. The event aimed to collect enough blood to help local hospitals meet their ongoing needs. Weeks of preparation went into the event, with student volunteers hanging posters, making announcements, and encouraging classmates over social media to donate. Eligible students aged 17 and older were invited to participate, provided they met health and weight requirements.



On the day of the drive, the student center was lined with donation stations, and nurses and technicians guided donors through the process with professionalism and care. For many students, it was their first time donating blood, and the staff made them feel at ease with gentle instructions and post-donation snacks. The success of the blood drive not only emphasized the importance of donating blood but also fostered a sense of unity and civic responsibility among students. As the final donors left with bandages on their arms and smiles on their faces, the message was clear: even in high school, individuals can have a lasting impact through small but meaningful acts of service.

Junior Writer: Jordan Turansky

Multicultural Day

Multicultural Day was a vibrant celebration of the many cultures and traditions that make up our community. This exciting event invites students, families, and staff to come together and share the richness of their heritage through music, dance, traditional dress, and, most deliciously, food.

One of the highlights of Multicultural Day is the food sampling experience, where attendees have the chance to taste dishes from around the world. Tables are lined with homemade meals and treats representing countries across every continent—everything from spicy curries and savory dumplings to sweet pastries and rich stews. Students and families take pride in preparing and presenting their favorite traditional recipes, often passed down through generations.

In addition to the culinary experience, the day features cultural performances, flag displays, and colorful decorations that transform the school into a global celebration. Participants enjoy learning about one another's backgrounds in a joyful, respectful environment that fosters curiosity and connection.

Multicultural Day not only fills the hallways with the aromas and sounds of different cultures, but also promotes understanding, appreciation, and unity. It's a powerful reminder that while we may come from different places, we can always come together to share and celebrate what makes each culture special.

Senior Writer: Tatyana Poland

HOLY WEEK

SCHOLA LEADS SOLEMN RITES

Junior Writer: Anthony Caiazza

In the Catholic Church, the days leading up to Easter are filled with solemn rites to commemorate the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus. At Saint Anthony's, Holy Week organized by Brother Joshua and Mr. Farrell is unlike anything else. Each year, the Gregorian Schola leads these solemn rituals beginning with Palm Sunday, a day of celebration welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem. Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week and has a dual focus: the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the solemn beginning of His Passion. Mass begins with the blessing of the palms, after which the Schola processes into the chapel, handing the blessed palms to members of the congregation. The entrance antiphon "Hosanna Filio David" symbolizes Christ's entry as a King into Jerusalem.



The second service of Holy Week is Spy Wednesday. At Saint Anthony's, we follow the Tenebrae Service, which is a solemn service that reflects on the sorrow and betrayal that Christ endured, at the kiss of Judas and begins His entrance into the darkness of His suffering and death. A tri-

angular-shaped candleabra is set upon the Altar with 15 candles. Each time a psalm is sung, a candle is extinguished. After each candle is extinguished, a time of reflection is allowed. This time of reflection allows you to take a moment and reflect on how the light of Christ was gradually dimmed by betrayal, abandonment, and suffering. At the end of the service, when the final candle is extinguished, symbolizing the death of Christ, the congregation, slams the kneelers to represent the earthquake that happened when Jesus expired on the cross.

Holy Thursday is a deeply important Mass since this is the re-enactment of the time when the Eucharist was instituted by Christ himself. This was also the start of the priesthood when Jesus called upon the apostles to continue the sacred meal. At Saint Anthony's, the traditional washing of the feet takes place, with 12 underclassmen chosen to be the apostles. The priest acts as Jesus washing each "apostle's" feet following Christ's *mandatum*: "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:15).

Good Friday is a day full of mourning—the day Jesus is crucified. Each year, three Schola members are chosen to chant *The Passion of Christ* in English and Latin. Juniors Ruadhán Campion, Sean Brady, and Anthony Caiazza spent weeks preparing the sacred singing of the Gospel. Following this, the Cross is revered during the Adoration of the Cross and the ancient "Agnos o Theos" is chanted by the Junior and Senior Girls. To conclude the observance of Good Friday, the Schola and the

congregation perform the Stations of the Cross in the Student Center.



The final Service of Holy Week is the Easter Vigil—celebrating the Resurrection of Christ. This mass begun in total darkness, celebrates the renewal promised by the Resurrection. The procession begins at the fire, ablaze outside the chapel. The "Exsultet" chanted by Seniors Anthony Casimano, Cormac Terry and Christian Vedra is the official Easter Proclamation before the Paschal Candle lit from the fire, signifying the light of Christ. The organ plays again for the first time since Holy Thursday, the "Gloria", accompanied by hundreds of bells, rejoicing the Risen Christ. The congregation renews their baptismal vows during the Vigil allowing us to renew our commitment to our faith. A special part of Easter Vigil at Saint Anthony's includes the return of over a dozen Alumni who return to sing with the Choir. The Chapel is filled each day to capacity with family, alumni, faculty, and students, united in faith, bringing the school community together to reflect and rejoice on the promise of eternal life given in Christ's death and Resurrection.

SPRING CONCERT WEEKEND

CHORUS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS BRING DOWN THE HOUSE

Freshman Writer: Ashley Caiazza

Saint Anthony's High School rang with music and celebration this spring as students from the Chorus, Band, and Orchestra took the stage for a series of unforgettable performances. These performances showcased all the students' hard work and dedication to these programs run by the Music Department. Tickets were sold out, packing the auditorium with viewers. The energy of all the concerts was fervent, with various interactive music pieces and patriotic attire that made each performance jubilant. The weekend was a perfect reflection of the talent, passion, and school spirit that Saint Anthony's students bring to their music programs.



The chorus gave an unforgettable performance, with 600 students harmonizing beautifully through a variety of songs, some even sung in Latin. The pieces were made even more engaging with creative props and costume changes, including wigs, hats, and accessories that kept the audience entertained. Many of the songs

were emotional, especially for the Seniors performing in their final concert at Saint Anthony's. During the middle of the Choral Concert, the Bagpipe Band energizing the crowd before the chorus returned for a show-stopper, performing a medley from *The Greatest Showman*. The Boys Chorus and Girls Chorus each performed solo songs, complete with wigs and sunglasses that brought plenty of laughs from the audience. Throughout the concert, the Chorus also performed fun choreography, with each song having its own unique dance moves.

One of the most memorable moments was during the song *Africa*, when the chorus recreated sounds of rain, thunder, and lightning that shocked the crowd. The concert ended with a powerful display of patriotism as the curtains parted to reveal an American Flag during a rendition of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* wrapping up the night filled with spirited voices.

Saturday evening, the Instrumental ensembles of the Music Department performed an elaborate and entertaining program to a packed auditorium. The audience was entranced by the music, especially during the interactive parts that kept everyone focused on the performance. One of the best moments was when they played *Blue Sky Horizon*, which was upbeat and full of energy. They also performed *Wonka* from the movie *Willy Wonka*, which brought a fun and playful feel to the evening. Another highlight was *Harry's Wondrous World*, a fast and difficult piece that showed the

skills and talent of the student performers.

The Orchestra and Symphonic Bands, gave an incredible performance that had the entire auditorium cheering. One of the most thrilling pieces was *Jupiter*, which was full of energy and built up the excitement in the room. They also played *Clair de Lune*, a slow and graceful piece that was calming and showcased the talented the musicians. A medley from *Wicked*, was a big crowd favorite, especially with the percussion adding an extra layer of fun and energy.



The spring concert series at Saint Anthony's High School was a powerful showcase of talent, dedication, and school spirit. Each performance, from the chorus's energetic numbers to the band's melodious harmonies and the orchestra's intricate compositions, demonstrated the incredible hard work that the students and their teachers put into the music program. The sold-out audience left the auditorium buzzing with excitement, already looking forward to next year's Christmas Concert.

SPRING ART SHOW

STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR CREATIONS

Sophomore Writer: Amelia Reich-Hale

The Saint Anthony's High School Spring Art Show was just as successful as the winter art show which was all the way back in January. It took place on Friday, May 9 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm and on Saturday, May 10 from 1:30 to 3:00 downstairs in the art department in the hallways. This art show was open to the public including all students, families and friends. This is the last art show until next school year.

The Art Show transformed the downstairs art hallways into an incredible and creative exhibit. From Studio in Art to Ceramics to Portfolio Prep Honors there was so much to see! The entire art department involving teachers and students worked incredibly hard to set up and to make this art show to happen.



Walking around the art show you could see the many types of creations that were made. The classes that were present in the art show were Portfolio Prep Honors, Digital Media Content Creation, Drawing and

Painting Honors, Ceramics, Digital Illustration and Design, Studio in Art and Studio in Media. The two AP Art classes that were also involved were AP 2-D Art and Design and AP Art History.



In Portfolio Prep Honors, students showcased their Ism projects, their Linoleum Block Prints and even some of their self portraits. An Ism project is a creative exploration of one of the many artist movements from over decades. For example impressionism and surrealism. Each student chooses which ism they would like to use and they use their imagination to create it themselves. A Linoleum Block Print is a tricky but fun type of work to do. First you have to design your image and next you carve it into your block. After that is finished, you paint over the carved design with black ink and you finish it by printing it onto paper. Portfolio Prep is a really fun class to take especially if you are interested in a more advanced art.

Over in Ceramics, you could see the amazing bowls and cups that each student

in the ceramics class had worked on. Each piece had been painted on and glazed to perfection. Ceramics is a very delicate and unique kind of art. It involves a lot of patience and hand building techniques as well. Once you learn how to do it, ceramics can be a lot of fun.

By the Studio in Art section, there were even more incredible artworks, some including bamboo ink drawings and flower sketches. The bamboo ink drawings are such a fun thing to do. It requires specific brushstrokes that you learn in the class. This also requires patience in the techniques. The brushstrokes are important to be correct in order to be able to create the delicate leaves and stems.



The Spring Art show brought the school art community together to appreciate the arts. Each artwork brought life to the art and helped everyone see the meaning of art. We are all super excited to see what next year's art shows bring.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

For each issue, the Paduan sits down with one of our esteemed Faculty Members to introduce them to our school community. If you have a teacher recommendation, please write to paduan@stanthonyshs.org



Mrs. Deborah Fahey

Paduan: How many years have you been teaching at St. Anthony's for?

Mrs. Fahey: 27 years.

Paduan: What made you start teaching here?

Mrs. Fahey: Mr. Nuccio told me there was a job opening here, which I took because I used to work at Jamaica high school, in Queens, and it was a very long drive there from Commack everyday, which I didn't like.

Paduan: Why do you enjoy teaching global history over any other history class?

Mrs. Fahey: I like being able to teach freshmen. I like that everything is new to them. They don't feel jaded by being in high school.

Paduan: What do you like so much about teaching in a Catholic school?

Mrs. Fahey: I like that I can talk about God and put his teachings into global history. Also, I think it gives kids a better foundation and we do better at making kids like and know themselves.

Paduan: How was St. Anthony's different now from when you started?

Mrs. Fahey: Well there are a lot less

religious people (brothers and sisters) in the faculty. The building is larger now and the school is much more diverse, it has so much more to offer. We have theater, bagpipes... nobody even thought of this stuff back then. Now, there are people who come to St. Anthony's just for theater or business. We did have clubs then, but if you took a yearbook from '98, there would be around half as many clubs as there are now, and a lot less staff. The faculty had to grow with the student body.



Paduan: So then when did the student body really grow?

Mrs. Fahey: Around Covid, I would say was the biggest jump. We were doing everything right that the public schools weren't, we did everything parents wanted to see, and we invested a lot of money into that. Also Brother David helped a lot to increase enrollment. I mean, who doesn't like him? Parents love him, and he genuinely wants to see the students and faculty do well and be happy. He made my last few years so wonderful and I will always be indebted to him.

Paduan: As this is the last year before you retire, do you have any favorite memories from St. Anthony's you'd be willing to share?

Mrs. Fahey: Well I met my husband here. I made great friends, and it's nice to work with teachers who were my students. I would say there are around 10-12 teachers in this building right now who I taught in their freshman year.

Paduan: Do you have any final message?

Mrs. Fahey: Not only are students Friars forever, teachers are too, so I'll be taking 27 years of Friartown with me when I retire.



RELAY FOR LIFE

SAINT ANTHONY'S COMMUNITY UNITES FOR THE CAUSE

Sophomore Writer: Nicholas Tonno

The First Annual Relay for Life was held on March 23 at Saint Anthony's to help raise money in the fight for a cure for cancer. The day began with an Opening Mass celebrated by Fr. John Crozier, establishing a hopeful and prayerful atmosphere for what was going to be a spirited and exciting day. The Mothers Guild later hosted a delicious breakfast, bringing the participants together in preparation for the day.

The relay began with a survivor lap, a touching experience to acknowledge those who have battled cancer. Alyssa Moskowitz, a graduate of 2019, spoke about the battle of beating stage 4 cancer, her heart-wrenching story touching everyone who heard it with her courage and spirit. Throughout the day, the students and parents engaged in various activities, particularly highlighting cancer research and spreading awareness.



Hailey Allen, the Senior who spearheaded The Relay for Life at St. Anthony's, was on hand leading the successful day. When asked her motive for inaugurating

the relay at Saint Anthony's, Allen stated: "I started Relay for Life because cancer is not just a word in my family—it's a reality we have lived with for as long as I can remember. Nearly everyone in my family has faced it in some way, and watching my mom grow up with that shadow of cancer over her, and then seeing it affect so many others I love, made me realize how deeply this disease affects not just individuals but entire families. It's personal. It's painful. But Relay gives me hope. It's a way for me to fight back, to honor the strength and courage of my family, and to stand alongside others who understand. Every step I take is for them, and for a future where no one else has to grow up watching cancer take so much from them."



The Relay for Life at Saint Anthony's raised over \$33,000 for cancer research — an outstanding achievement. Relay provided a heartfelt opportunity for the St. Anthony's community to come together in solidarity, proving that they are committed to finding a cure, supporting those battling the disease and comforting the countless families affected by cancer.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

For each issue, the Paduan sits down with one of our dedicated Staff Members to introduce them to our school community. If you have a staff recommendation, please write to paduan@stanthonyshs.org



Mrs. Jill Riemer

Paduan: How long have you been working at St. Anthony's?

Mrs. Riemer: I have been at St. Anthony's for 10 years as the Assistant to the Deans and Transportation Coordinator.

Paduan: What's your favorite part about St. Anthony's?

Mrs. Riemer: My favorite part of St. Anthony's is the faculty and staff. I have worked in several places and the people here are, by far, the kindest and most thoughtful people. They truly care about their co-workers and the students. I tell anybody who asks me that St. Anthony's is the Disneyland of work environments.

Paduan: How has St. Anthony's influenced your life?

Mrs. Riemer: St. Anthony's has influenced my life in many ways but the most significant is understanding the challenges our students face and offering the best support and comfort I can. I am immersed in observing how our students navigate what they know is right in their heart and what outside influences are pushing them to do. This has made me change the way I communicate with them. I try to talk on a more personal level. I use my childrens' experiences to help them see another perspective. I have come to love the students here like they are my own, as crazy as that sounds.

Paduan: What is your most memorable moment at St. Anthony's?

Mrs. Riemer: My most memorable moment is a very hard question because I have quite a few, but one of the best things to happen to me was meeting Ashley Nimmo. We started on the same day together and she has become like family to me. I have a lot of people who are extremely important to me, but she is now my family.

NHS INDUCTION

HUNDREDS WELCOMED TO HONOR SOCIETY

Sophomore Writer: Nicholas Tonno

On the evening of May 14th, the Brother Robert Gabriel / Alvernian Chapter of NHS welcomed their newest members during a memorable induction. It was a beautiful night, with proud parents and edified teachers alike. This event didn't just welcome the new members, but also marked the new beginning of a National Honors Society chapter. The night began with a greeting by Mr. Washington, welcoming students and parents to the induction. He explained the significance of our society rooted both in Franciscan tradition as it is named after Mount Alvernia in Italy where Saint Francis received the stigmata and after Brother Robert Gabriel, the former Academic Dean who was the Moderator of NHS for over 25 years! The induction also was a passing of the torch from the current board to the next selected board. It was an emotional event not just for the new Inductees but for the board. This marked the end of their NHS board positions which came with a great deal of emotions for the seniors.

This year also inaugurated a new position added to the Executive Board. Zachary Dannhauser will fulfill the role of Alumni Liaison for the 2025-26 School year. Zach will work in conjunction with Ms. Creighton to coordinate alumni events throughout the year, helping build a bridge between past and present students. His appointment to this role is a sign of the chapter's commitment to not only honoring its traditions but also looking forward to strengthening the sense of community among past and present members. This new position creates new opportunities for the school and past Friars to interact.



In speaking with Francesca Manetta, the NHS President for the 2024-2025 school year, she shared how her position on the NHS board position had impacted her own experience as a senior. Francesca spoke about how the NHS provided her with a platform to show her leadership skills, develop meaningful connections with others, and give back to her school and community. "Working with the National Honor Society members and the board has taught me so many lessons. From working collaboratively with others, to being able to learn how to take criticism and build on it, it's truly been a privilege to work with so many people. I've been able to witness firsthand how much impact you can have on others through simple tasks. We often

take things for granted and overlook the true purpose of them, many of our events mean so much to those who attend and it's been such an eye opener to realize that." stated Manetta. Her words perfectly represented the spirit of NHS, which goes beyond the academic achievements to have a sense of responsibility and service that will stay with students long after graduation.

Joseph Carvalheira, the NHS Vice President also imparted his overall experience leading the National Honor Society. "The National Honor Society at St. Anthony's consists of highly academic students that also possess the qualities of leadership, service, scholarship, and character. The NHS is one of the main highlights of what makes St. Anthony's a proud school because of its students that are meant to be role models and servant leaders." Carvalheira's words truly encapsulate the overall message of the induction ceremony in a few sentences.



After calling each of the inductees to the stage to receive their certificate and NHS pin, the newly received members stood and recited their pledge to uphold the values of the National Honor Society. In his address, Brother David Anthony, Principal of Saint Anthony's reminded the students that it was service above all that sets them apart. Brother David drew parallels with the "new experience" and "added burden" of being a NHS Member with the newly elected Pope Leo XIV. He stated that "Just as the world will look to Pope Leo for his example, I will look to you for your example" in setting the tone for the school.

One of the highlights of the night was the Presentations of the San Damiano Medallion and the Deus Et Omnia Medallion, which highlighted the dedicated staff and faculty of St. Anthony's who have given their lives to teaching for 15 and 25 years. This year's San Damiano Medallion recipients were Mrs. Jacuch, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Minucci, Mr. Roecklein, and Mr. Robert Wilcox. The twenty-five year Deus Meus Et Omnia Medallion was given to Mr. Kevin Adler, the school treasurer for his loyal service and devotion to St. Anthony's.

The night was a beautiful reflection of what the NHS stands for, and it was a reminder of the enduring legacy of those who serve with dedication and heart. The memories of this evening will stay with both the inductees and the faculty, as they continue their journey at St. Anthony's and beyond.

“CONSIDER YOURSELF AT HOME!”

SPRING MUSICAL, OLIVER!, DAZZLES AUDIENCE!

Senior Writer: Tatyana Poland

In a stunning showcase of talent, dedication, and heart, Saint Anthony's High School brought the beloved musical *Oliver!* to the stage this past March, delivering a performance that left audiences both entertained and deeply moved. Based on Charles Dickens' classic novel *Oliver Twist*, the production was a vibrant blend of powerful acting, unforgettable songs, and dynamic staging.

The musical follows the journey of young *Oliver Twist*, an orphan navigating the harsh streets of 19th-century London, in search of family, love, and a place to belong. Under the skilled direction of the school's theater department, the cast and crew turned this timeless story into a truly memorable theatrical event.

At the heart of the performance was Julie Anne Karcher, whose portrayal of *Oliver* captured the innocence and quiet determination of the character. With wide-eyed sincerity and a clear, expressive voice, Karcher won the audience over from her very first scene. Her rendition of “Where Is Love?” was a particularly moving moment, showcasing her ability to convey deep emotion with both vulnerability and strength.

Aubrey Gulle delivered a powerhouse performance as *Nancy*, a complex character torn between loyalty and the desire for a better life. Gulle's stage presence was commanding, and her vocal performance during “As Long As He Needs Me” earned thunderous applause. Her portrayal was

rich with emotion, making *Nancy's* tragic arc all the more impactful.

Justin Wiener's performance as *Fagin* was equally compelling. He brought a thought-provoking depth to the role of the aging thief who leads a gang of child pickpockets. Rather than playing *Fagin* as a simple villain, Wiener infused the character with layers of charm, cunning, and internal conflict. His interpretation encouraged the audience to reflect on the difficult circumstances that shape people's choices, making his scenes both engaging and meaningful.



One of the show's many highlights was the ensemble performance of *Fagin's* gang. The cast members filled the stage with boundless energy and rhythm, especially during big numbers like “Consider Yourself” and “I'd Do Anything.” Their choreography was crisp and well-coordinated, and their enthusiasm was infectious. The chemistry among the group made the gang feel like a believable, tight-knit unit, adding authenticity and vitality to every scene

they appeared in.

The production also stood out for its impressive technical elements. Set designers transformed the stage into a gritty, atmospheric version of London, with intricate details that helped bring each location to life—from the bleak workhouse to the colorful chaos of *Fagin's* lair. Costume design was equally strong, capturing the era while distinguishing each character's personality and status.

Backstage, a dedicated crew ensured that every scene change, lighting cue, and sound effect contributed smoothly to the storytelling. Their behind-the-scenes efforts were crucial in creating a seamless experience for the audience.

The success of *Oliver!* was a testament to the hard work and collaboration of the entire Saint Anthony's community. Faculty advisors, parent volunteers, and student leaders all contributed to making the production a triumph. For many seniors involved, this was a final chance to perform on the school's stage—and they certainly made it count.

Audience members praised the production for its professionalism and emotional impact. “I was blown away by the level of talent,” one parent shared. “You could feel how much love and effort went into every aspect of the show.”

In the end, Saint Anthony's High School's production of *Oliver!* was more than just a school musical—it was a celebration of storytelling, student artistry, and the power of theater to connect, inspire, and move an audience.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sede Vacante & Sedes Sapientiae

The last time the Church found itself in the unique period known as *Sede Vacante*—the “vacant seat”—following the death of Pope Francis, a current Saint Anthony's student would have been just a child. The absence of a Holy Father was felt in many ways throughout the more than two-week interregnum—from Masses and memorials to the omission of the words “Francis our Pope” from the Eucharistic Prayer, for the first time since March 13, 2013.

Amid this period of absence, Saint Anthony's High School students took part in a cherished tradition that occurs every May in the Church's calendar: the May Crowning of Mary. In a moment defined by absence, we celebrated presence—the presence of Mary as Queen and Mother. Queen of Heaven and Earth. Mother of Jesus and the Church.



The timing of our school's May Crowning was not only providential but also deeply

symbolic. It occurred during *Sede Vacante* and fell on May 1st—the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. While it may seem that Saint Joseph was overshadowed on his own feast day, it was fitting to honor his earthly spouse and their shared vocation as the parents of Jesus.

The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker was instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as a Christian response to International Workers' Day—a celebration that often emphasized human achievement while neglecting the divine source of all labor. By highlighting the example of Saint Joseph, the Church reminds us that our daily work should be ordered toward building the Kingdom of God, already present among us. In this context, the crowning of Mary on that day was entirely appropriate. The crown she wears is not a symbol of earthly power or splendor but a sign of her heavenly dominion alongside her Son, Jesus Christ.

In my office at Saint Anthony's stands one of my favorite depictions of Mary: Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. The Latin title, *Sedes Sapientiae*, is inscribed at the base of the statue. Mary stands serene, wearing a simple crown and cradling the Christ Child in her arms. Her maternal embrace becomes the “seat” upon which incarnate Wisdom rests. That Christ is depicted as a child reveals not only His tenderness but also the vulnerability of divine wisdom. Children are not independent; they rely entirely on their parents. In the same way,

the Church—Christ's Body—experiences vulnerability. The death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo serve as reminders of our fragility and dependence. Yet even in this, we are not abandoned. We are accompanied on the journey.

The *Sede Vacante* is now over. We rejoice that the Lord has given us Pope Leo to shepherd and guide His Church. Our May Crowning during the interregnum reminds us that some seats will never be empty: Christ, the King of the Universe, and Mary, our Queen, Mother, and Seat of Wisdom.

Father John Crozier



In addition to his role as Chaplain at Saint Anthony's, Father Crozier serves as the Chaplain of Hofstra University and diocesan Director of Vocations.

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Junior Writer: Jordan Turansky

The atmosphere at Saint Anthony's High School was filled with joy and warmth Saturday evening, April 5th, as the school hosted its much-anticipated annual Father-Daughter Dance in the beautifully decorated cafeteria. Twinkling fairy lights hung from the ceiling, and a soft glow from the retro decorations cast a magical ambiance over the room, transforming the familiar space into an elegant dance hall.



The event, organized by the Fathers' Guild and supported by many students, welcomed dozens of guests—fathers and their daughters dressed in their finest, beaming with excitement. The evening began with Holy Mass in the Chapel where the importance of family and tradition in building a supportive school community was emphasized. After Mass, the girls and their fathers entered the “Saint Anthony's Ballroom” as the music started, played by a local DJ who mixed classic hits with

popular favorites. The dance floor quickly filled with smiling faces and spinning dresses of those in attendance. A gourmet catered dinner was enjoyed by all in attendance. There were also many prizes that the girls in attendance had a chance to win throughout the evening.

Laughter echoed around the cafeteria as fathers attempted dance moves to keep up with their daughters, many of whom had been practicing routines for weeks. The bond between generations was evident in every shared step and hug, with many dads holding back tears of pride and love as they watched their daughters glow with happiness. A photo booth in one corner of the cafeteria and professional photography captured candid memories, while a dessert table offered cupcakes, cookies, and ice cream that proved especially popular with younger guests.

Midway through the night, a special slow dance was announced, and the lights dimmed for a few quiet minutes as each pair took the floor for a more emotional moment, swaying to a heartfelt song that brought some attendees to tears. The event wasn't just for biological fathers—stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and mentors were also in attendance, showing the school's commitment to inclusiveness and celebrating all kinds of family relationships.

Volunteers handed out small trendy make-up sets as guests departed, a token to remember the special evening. Teach-

ers and administrators praised the night's success, noting how the event helped strengthen ties between families and the school community. In a time when life often feels busy and disconnected, the Father-Daughter Dance offered a rare chance to slow down, connect, and create cherished memories that would last a lifetime.



A special thanks to the Fathers' Guild for maintaining such a treasured part of the Saint Anthony's school tradition. The success of the evening was not measured just by the number of attendees, but by the smiles, embraces, and tears that filled the room. As the final song played and guests began to leave, the lingering sense of love, gratitude, and connection was unmistakable. For the Dads and the Friar Daughters present, it was more than just a dance—it was a night of celebration, tradition, and meaningful moments between generations that they would carry with them forever.

CHALLENGER CARNIVAL

A FUN-FILLED DAY WITH A MEANINGFUL CAUSE

Junior Writer: Chloe Nuccio

In April, St. Anthony's High School hosted one of its most heartwarming and exciting events of the year: the Challenger Carnival. Organized in partnership with Challenger Athletics, this special carnival was designed for children with special needs, and it brought together students, families, and volunteers for a day filled with joy, excitement, and lasting memories.

The event took place in the St. Anthony's Student Center, which was transformed into a colorful carnival. Fun decorations, upbeat music, and smiling volunteers created an atmosphere of excitement from the moment kids arrived. The entire space buzzed with energy, laughter, and kindness. The goal of the day was simple but powerful: to create an inclusive space where every child, regardless of ability, could enjoy themselves and feel truly celebrated.

One of the biggest highlights of the carnival was the inflatable bounce houses. Kids lined up eagerly for their turn to jump and play in the bouncy houses and go down the giant slide. It was a joy to watch them bounce with never-ending energy as their faces lit up with happiness and pure excitement. Another fan favorite was the collection of carnival games. Stations like obstacle courses, soccer, arts

and crafts tables, and face paint stations were thoughtfully adapted to be accessible to all children, and every participant was encouraged to join in the fun. Volunteers made sure no one felt left out, helping each child play and celebrating with big smiles, high-fives, and supportive cheers. The arts and crafts tables gave kids a chance to get creative and take home a special keepsake they made themselves.



Outside, a petting zoo captured the attention of guests of all ages. Animals like chickens, goats, rabbits, and even a friendly pony were brought in for the children to meet and interact with. Watching a child's eyes widen in wonder as they watched the chickens or laughed at a goat was a moment that reminded everyone of the joys of connection with animals and with each other. Music added even more life to the event, thanks to the amazing DJ who kept spirits high all day long. Kids danced to their favorite songs, with some forming

dance circles and others showing off their best moves in front of cheering crowds. Even parents and volunteers couldn't help but join in, adding to the joyful atmosphere that filled the air from start to finish.

What made the Challenger Carnival truly special was its spirit of inclusion. Every detail, from the layout of the event to the attitude of the volunteers, reflected the deep commitment of St. Anthony's to make each child feel welcomed, loved, and valued. Their dedication helped ensure that every child had the chance to fully participate and enjoy the day! More than just a day of fun, the Challenger Carnival was a powerful reminder of the importance of community. Families connected with one another, children made new friends, and everyone left with big smiles and full hearts. It was obvious that the event wasn't just about games and music—it was about creating a space where every child could feel safe, included, and celebrated for who they are.

As the month of April came to a close, the smiles, laughter, and joyful moments from the Challenger Carnival stayed in our hearts. It was a beautiful reminder that when St. Anthony's comes together with kindness and compassion, we create happiness. The Challenger Carnival was a day no one will forget—and we're already looking forward to the next one next year!

HABEMUS PAPAM!

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH RECEIVES ITS FIRST POPE FROM THE USA

Sophomore Writer: Nicholas Tonno

On April 21st, the world bid farewell to the Holy Father Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina. His papacy was praised for his efforts to bring the church closer. He not only made a lasting impression but grew the church and created a more loving atmosphere for the church. He died at 88 as the first Jesuit Pope from the Americas, the first non-European Pope in over 1,000 years, and left a profound legacy. Pope Francis passed away peacefully at the Vatican's Domus Sanctae Marthae residence. News of his passing brought waves of grief and prayerful remembrance from Catholics and non-Catholics around the world.

Throughout his 12 years as Pope, he truly embodied his papal name-Francis, after St. Francis of Assisi, The saint of peace, simplicity and care for creation. His priorities to live as simply as Francis were clear from day one. He chose to decline the papal palace and chose to live in the guest house instead. In addition he emphasized service over ceremony. Francis' most notable papal fiat was Laudato Si', a groundbreaking call for a change in environmental action, and Fratelli Tutti, which stressed for global fraternity and solidarity. As Pope Francis aged he was met with many challenges with his health and mobility but this did not stop him from completing his papal duties.



Pope Francis during his final appearance one day before his death imparting the "Urbi et Orbi" Easter Blessing from the loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica.

The Funeral held for Pope Francis was in St. Peter's Square on April 26th. His funeral attended by over 250,000 mourners and broadcasted to millions was deeply emotional. Leaders from across the globe- from presidents to other religious leaders-watched on in solidarity for the Pope. The world gathered to honor the Pope of the people. The one we call Francis.

As part of the school's remembrance of Pope Francis, Brother Joshua had honorary banners placed on both the front and rear breezeway during the *Novemediales* or the nine-day period of mourning following the death of the Pontiff. The banners were a stoic reminder each day that the Church had lost its worldly leader. Within those nine days, Masses were held throughout the world in observance of the Holy Father's passing and the same was done here at Saint Anthony's on Friday, May 2. As a school we gathered for Mass with Father John Crozier, our Chaplain to prayerfully remember the life of Pope Francis.

At his funeral, the Dean of the College of Cardinals remarked: "Francesco non cercò la grandezza, ma la grandezza lo seguì. Era la voce della Chiesa nel deserto, una

chiamata all'amore, a perdonare, a servire" which can be translated to "Francis did not seek greatness, but greatness followed him. He was the Church's voice in the wilderness—a call to love, to forgive, to serve." Pope Francis, as opposed to many of his predecessors who were laid to rest in the Vatican Grottoes beneath St. Peter's Basilica, was interred in a very simple tomb in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, the location chosen by Francis himself. His tomb is near to the Marian image of Salus Populi Romani, which the Holy Father visited before and after each of his Apostolic Pilgrimages.



The final resting place of the late Pope Francis.

Following his funeral, the College of Cardinals gathered 133 voting members under the age of 80 in the Sistine chapel to elect a new Pope. The conclave began on May 7th and went until May 8th. On May 8th, white smoke emerged from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, joyful cries echoed throughout St. Peter's Square. Cardinal Dominique Mamberti stepped out onto the central balcony and announced: "Habemus Papam!" (We have a Pope!).



Cardinalis Robertum Franciscum qui sibi nomen imposuit Leonem XIV.

The newly elected pope was Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, born in Chicago and educated in many years of missionary work in Peru. Choosing the name Pope Leo XIV was in honor of Pope Leo XIII, who championed workers' rights and social justice in the late 19th century. By this choice, Pope Leo XIV indicated his will-

ingness to stand with the poor and speak up on salient social issues for the Church.

On the 18th of May, Pope Leo XIV created a solemn but joyful atmosphere, with an attendance of over 200,000 people, including notable leaders such as the U.S. Vice President JD Vance and the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskiy. During the ceremony, Pope Leo was presented with the Fisherman's Ring and the pallium, specifying his new office as head of the Catholic Church. His homily stressed peace, compassion, and unity, calling on the world to advance the mission of love and service initiated by Pope Francis.

In the weeks following his election, Pope Leo XIV has not wasted time in addressing great global issues. He has put out calls for ending violence in Ukraine and throughout the East, on caring for the environment, and on the plight of refugees and those in need. From his initial addresses and acts, it seems that he would carry forth the legacy of Pope Francis even as he brings his unique view to the forefront of the Church's future.

The memory of Pope Francis remains strong. His legacy demands humility, a sense of justice, and mercy from many people. The Church, under Pope Leo XIV, now looks forward with hope and faith as well as with a renewed determination to serve all people in love.

The celebration at our school, led by Brother David, was an amazing display of the excitement as well as the importance of the Pope's election. Fox 5 was there to cover the event as students and faculty gathered in the lunchroom, where the large TVs broadcasted the livestreams for everyone to witness this very historic moment.



Brother David and Brother Joshua gather with Faculty and Students in the Cafeteria awaiting the announcement of the new Pope.

As Cardinal Dominique Mamberti's voice rang through the room, "Habemus Papam!" — the students erupted into applause and cheers. The excitement was outstanding, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was revealed as Pope Leo XIV. For many students, it was the first time they witnessed the Pope's announcement in addition to feeling the weight of such an important event in the Church. The students proudly chanted "USA!" similarly to the Olympics, when Pope Leo XIV was announced as the first Pope from the United States. It was a special moment for the school, reminding everyone of the Pope's influence globally. The celebration didn't just mark the new Pope's election; it was a chance for students to connect with each other and reflect on the power of faith and service in today's world. On May 18, Pope Leo was formally inaugurated at a Mass of Installation in St. Peter's Square. As the newly installed golden and white banners over the breezeway proclaim, Viva il Papa! Long Live the Pope!