

XAVIER

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2022

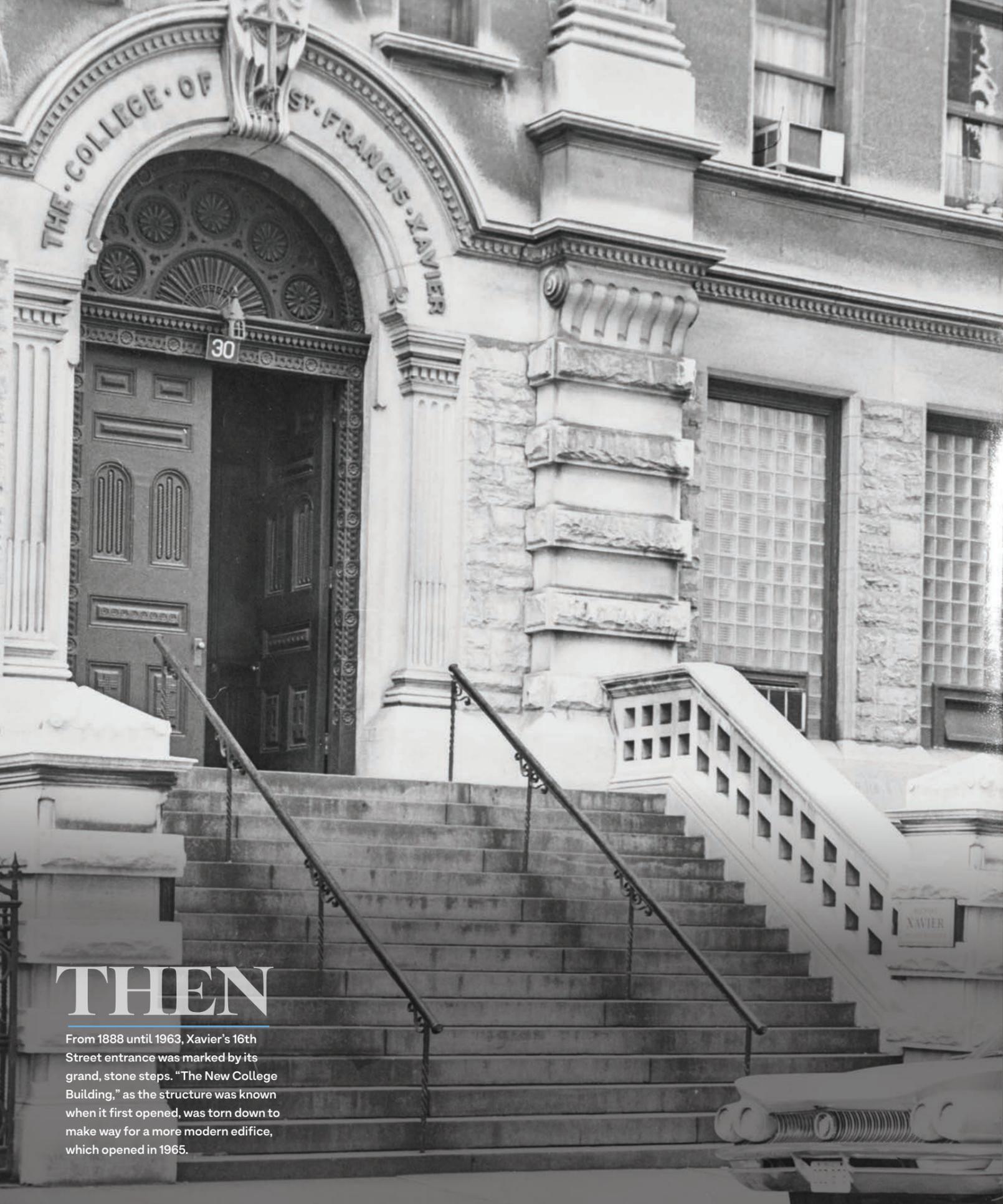
XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL



**175TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**



FALL 2022



THEN

From 1888 until 1963, Xavier's 16th Street entrance was marked by its grand, stone steps. "The New College Building," as the structure was known when it first opened, was torn down to make way for a more modern edifice, which opened in 1965.

contents

Fall 2022



A commemorative lapel pin marking the 175th anniversary

In This Issue

- 2. From the President
- 4. Onward to Glory: 175 Years of Xavier
- 22. 10 Xavier Traditions
- 30. 16th Street: A History
- 38. Pivotal Moments in Xavier History
- 46. Legendary Coaches
- 52. Sons of Xavier Remember
- 68. Crossword

Xavier's Mission

Founded in 1847, Xavier High School is an academically rigorous, Catholic, Jesuit, college preparatory school in New York City that educates intelligent, motivated young men of diverse backgrounds and means. Xavier teaches students to take responsibility for their lives, to lead with integrity, to act justly in service of others, to pursue excellence in every endeavor and to deepen their relationship with God. Ultimately, Xavier forms young men who will go forth to transform the world for God's greater glory.

On the Cover

Throughout Xavier's 175th anniversary year, alumni and friends donated and loaned photos, uniforms, medals, and other memorabilia to illustrate the impact of a Jesuit education on 16th Street. *Xavier at 175*, the exhibition that resulted, can be viewed on 1L through the spring.

XAVIER

FALL 2022

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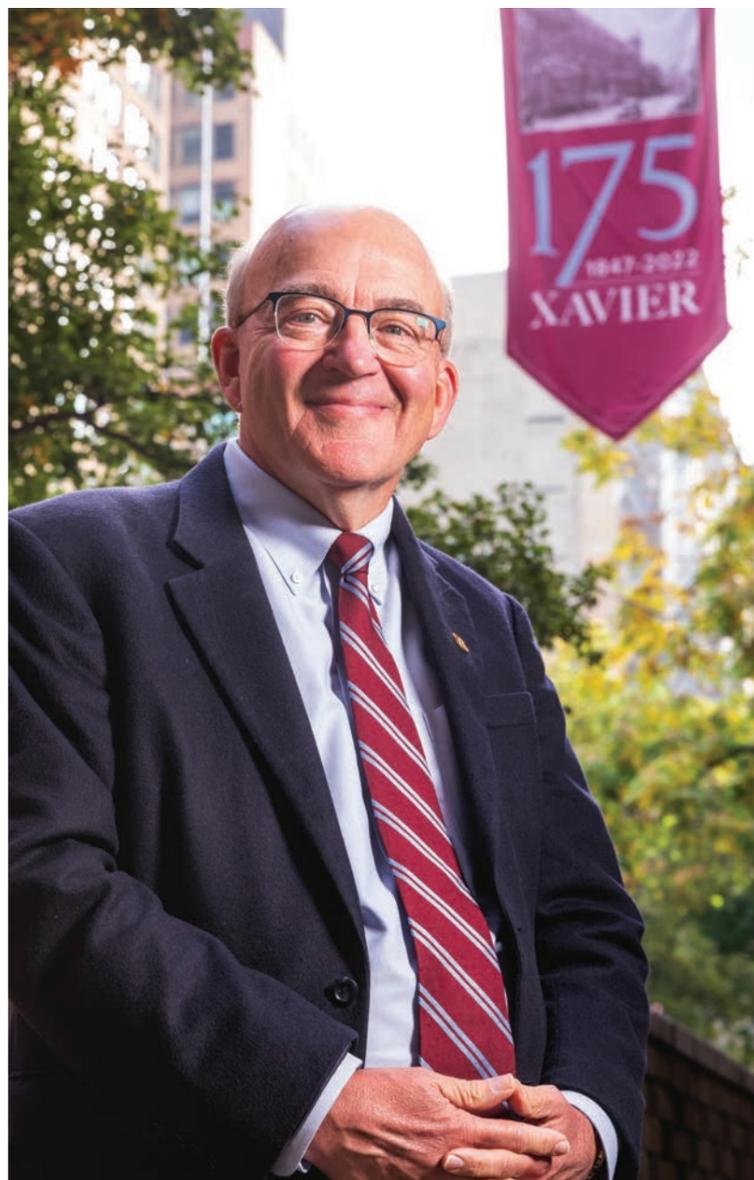
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A Vehicle for God's Grace

Dear Parents, Friends and Sons of Xavier:

I am delighted to share with you the 175th Anniversary Commemorative Issue of *Xavier Magazine*. I do so with deep gratitude to Shawna Gallagher Vega who worked tirelessly to produce a magazine that fittingly celebrates our history, grounds our present and inspires our future. The contributors to this edition—Nick Barone '16, Ralph Dinielli, Dan Gatti, S.J. '59, Bob Grimes, S.J. '70, Mary Kinahan-Ockay, Eric Krebs '17, Zane Massey '96 P'22, Maggie Murphy Stockson, Tom O'Hara '69 P'04 '06, and Jim Tierney '68; our photographer Michael Marmora and all the unnamed photographers whose work is represented here; and our designer, Erbach Communications Group—were important collaborators in bringing this magazine to print. This magazine comes to you a few weeks after the opening of our 175th Anniversary Exhibition which was lovingly curated by Maggie Murphy Stockson and Evan Levy and made possible by hundreds of donations of Xavier memorabilia from our alumni and their families: memorabilia representing important parts of Xavier life for our donors and calling forth important memories from all who experience the exhibit. Throughout the anniversary year our archivist, Mary Kinahan-Ockay, has been an instrumental partner in helping us access, catalogue, appreciate and understand our history. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the important work done by my predecessors Ken Boller, S.J. and Dan Gatti, S.J. in establishing and developing our modern-day archives, and the benefaction of Milton Lewis '30 P'62 and his wife, Rita P'62, in making that possible during our 150th anniversary celebration. Important work has been done in recent years building on the work of the past 25 years.

The anniversary year has presented a wonderful opportunity to enter into Xavier's history—a history filled with stories, and with each of these stories lots of smiles and laughter. It has also presented an invitation to continue to document our history. It always brings a smile to my face when two alumni have totally different and often conflicting memories of the same event. I am sure as some read this magazine they will do so with raised eyebrows in spots thinking, "That's not how I remember it!" While stories are stories and memories often incomplete, Shawna, Nick, Maggie and Mary have worked diligently to fact-check and confirm what has made it to print. If you come upon things that are incomplete and have newspapers, programs, letters, magazines or photos that would add to our records, please share them with us.

When the time comes for your Xavier memorabilia to find a new home, we stand ready to receive it. When you have the time to put pen to paper I encourage you to share your stories and memories, however incomplete, of the people, places and events that shaped your time at Xavier and shaped your life beyond. Those reflections are ultimately gifts to the writer and the reader, and reminders of God's presence in our lives. One thing the anniversary has made clear is that caring for our legacy is an ongoing project in which we all share. Caring for that legacy will allow us to understand and celebrate our past, to live fully in the present and lead us into the future with courage and hope. We will count on your help as we continue to document our history.

I encourage you to share your stories and memories, however incomplete, of the people, places and events that shaped your time at Xavier and shaped your life beyond.

More than anything else, our journey through this anniversary year has been a powerful reminder of God's grace—of God's presence with us each and every day since our founding in 1847—and the movement of God's spirit in the lives of all those who have walked our halls and those who have made those walks possible. No one has captured this understanding for me better than the late Peter McCord '49 in his 50th reunion essay, "One Parting Shot (A Buzzer Beater?)." McCord writes:

Why was I so filled with joy in anticipation of seeing my classmates? Why did I feel so much love for them beyond any ability to express it, when I was with them? Why did I feel so confident that the essence of Xavier was still there, despite so many changes in a half-century of monumental change? Why was I so grateful for what I had received during those pivotal years in my life?

And so it came to me: Xavier more than any other place in my life to that point, introduced me to the world of grace...

It was the world of grace, a world of the consciousness filled with the presence of a loving God, whose love was unmerited, unconditional, unselfish, purely gratuitous. It was love for the sake of love. And that was what they were about and what they tried to communicate to us pubescent young men.

At our best, this is what Xavier has been about for 175 years, witnessing to the goodness of God, providing opportunities to young men and their teachers for the grace of God to enter into their lives and providing them with opportunities to respond to that grace. In his own way, Peter McCord captures what Gerard Manley Hopkins came to discover through his own struggles and pain. In "As Kingfishers Catch Fire," Hopkins writes:

I say more: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is—
Christ—for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.

May Xavier and her Sons always be a vehicle for God's grace, and act in God's eye what in God's eye they are, Christ—Christ playing in ten thousand places, lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his to the Father through the features of men's faces. There will be no better tribute to the past 175 years, or the next.

Happy Anniversary, Sons of Xavier. Keep marching.

Sincerely,

Jack Raslowsky
President



More than anything else, our journey through this anniversary year has been a powerful reminder of God's grace—of God's presence with us each and every day since our founding in 1847.





Here men are molded from generation to generation as if by a spirit that survives all persons and all circumstances. The things we have been most conscious of are our comradeships, our companionships, and an indefinable something that made the very words ‘16th Street’ words of enchantment recalling scenes and teachers we loved...You may fairly judge a school by the love men have for it—or the indifference. By this standard Xavier is the greatest school in the country.”

THOMAS CURRAN 1916 P’49

*New York Secretary of State
April 26, 1947*

The Founding

By SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA

In the summer of 1847, a 46-year-old Jesuit priest journeyed south from St. John’s College in Fordham, a village then several miles north of city limits, to establish a Jesuit college and church in New York City.

John Larkin, S.J. would recall the trip vividly in a sermon years later. According to *The College of St. Francis Xavier: A Memorial and a Retrospect, 1847-1897*, he remembered leaving Fordham with 50 cents in his pocket—just five cents of which remained after he paid his 25-cent fare and 20 cents more to transport his luggage. “But confidence in God stood him instead of riches, and divine providence did not disappoint him,” the book records.

Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, to Irish Catholic parents, John Larkin entered the priesthood in 1827 and the Society of Jesus 14 years later. In 1846, he arrived at St. John’s College (now Fordham University), where he became prefect of studies and professor of philosophy. Within a year, after negotiations with Bishop John Hughes, Fr. Clément Boulanger, S.J., Superior of the New York-Canada Mission of the Society of Jesus, sent Larkin to Lower Manhattan.

After he found lodging at a French church, Larkin set about locating a suitable home for his own church and school. He found a Protestant church for sale on Elizabeth and Walker (now Canal) Streets, and through a dash of the divine providence he trusted so completely, he met a Frenchman who gave him the \$5,000 he needed for a deposit.

The church’s basement was transformed into classroom space, and the School of the Holy Name of Jesus opened that fall with 120 students from New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City.

Disaster soon struck. On Saturday

evening, January 22, 1848, a fire raged through the church, the result of defective new furnaces. The church and school were destroyed.

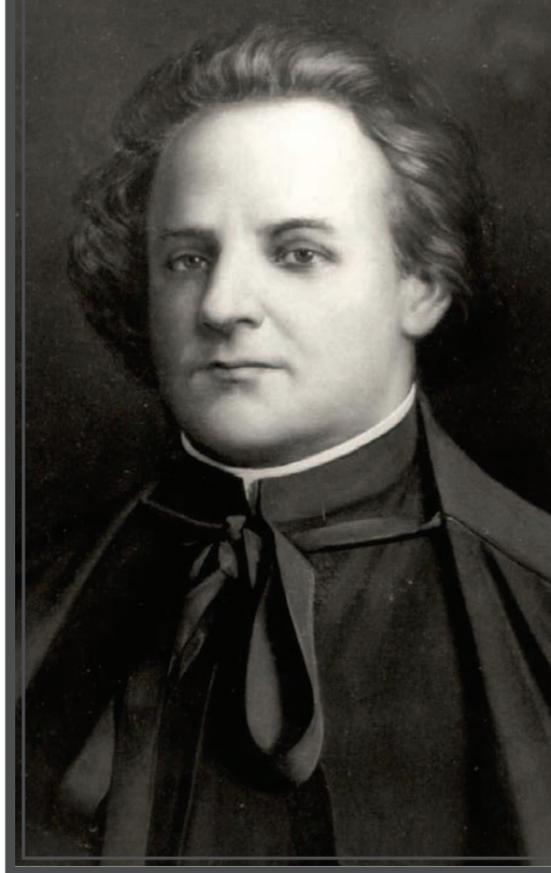
In the fire’s aftermath, Larkin came to symbolize what would become permanent elements of Xavier’s institutional character: courage and resilience. Boulanger rushed downtown and announced that all professors should return to St. John’s College with him, but Larkin remained resolute.

“The professors will teach their classes tomorrow,” he told Boulanger, “and the Fathers attend to their confessionals as usual.”

In the fire’s aftermath, Larkin came to symbolize what would become permanent elements of Xavier’s institutional character: courage and resilience.

Larkin was equally as courageous in his interactions with the intimidating Bishop Hughes. In an exchange recorded in *Ubiquitously Useful: The College of St. Francis Xavier, 1847-1912*, after Hughes refused Larkin’s request to take up a collection to replace his destroyed church and school, noting that collections for “private purposes and petty local interests” were not allowed, Larkin replied, “Pray, tell me what [do] you call a matter of public interest?” Hughes did not reply. Larkin took up his collection.

Classes resumed in temporary quarters in another church basement, this time on James Street. Four months later, the school moved to No. 77 Third Avenue,



where it remained until the school settled on 16th Street in November 1850.

Larkin’s time at Xavier’s helm was brief, but pivotal. He gave the school the boldness and sense of deep faith for which it has been known for 175 years.

In October 1849, Larkin resigned his post as Xavier’s president after receiving word from the Archbishop of Quebec that he was to be named Bishop of Toronto. Alarmed at this unwanted appointment, he received his superior’s permission to cross the Atlantic to implore Pope Pius IX for another way to serve. John Ryan, S.J. succeeded him as president of Xavier.

After successfully making his case, Larkin returned to New York in 1851 as the sixth president of St. John’s College—a position he held until 1854. His final years were spent ministering to parishioners at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, where he was able to witness the growth of the school he founded until his death, at age 57, in 1858.

Shawna Gallagher Vega is Xavier’s Director of Communications. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Boston College.

Milestone Moments

By SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA



50



100



150



175

1897

The College of St. Francis Xavier marked its 50th anniversary during a special Jubilee Week held from June 15-22. Events included Science and Philosopher's Nights in the College Theatre, Battalion Drill at the Ninth Regiment Armory, a Pontifical Military Mass in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Commencement at Carnegie Hall, and an alumni banquet at Delmonico's. The anniversary also inspired a book published by the Alumni Association, *The College of St. Francis Xavier: A Memorial and a Retrospect, 1847-1897*.

1922

Xavier celebrated its Diamond Jubilee from December 4-10. Mass was held each day, culminating in a Sunday service celebrated by Patrick Hayes, Archbishop of New York. Other jubilee events included an alumni reception and reunion in the College Theatre; Battalion Drill at the Ninth Coast Defense Command Armory; a Knights of Columbus celebration in the College Theatre; the performance of a play, *King Robert of Sicily*; and a closing banquet in the church refectory.

1947

Xavier marked its centennial with great fanfare. Congratulatory messages arrived from Pope Pius XII (written in his own hand), President Harry Truman, Francis Cardinal Spellman, and John Janssens, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus. A Centennial Communion Breakfast was held at the Hotel Commodore on March 23, followed by an official Centennial Week from April 20-27. Highlights included multiple liturgies, a Latin exhibition, the Centennial Banquet at the Hotel Astor (with more than 1,000 in attendance), and a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Cardinal Spellman.



125

1972

Throughout Xavier's 125th anniversary year, great men of the Church visited 16th Street—most notably Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and Terence Cardinal Cooke at a Mass of Thanksgiving on November 12; Walter Burghardt, S.J. '31 at the 125th anniversary dinner at the New York Hilton on December 2; and Avery Dulles, S.J., who later became the first American Jesuit cardinal, at an academic convocation on December 16. The 125th anniversary also marked the birth of the Xavier Hall of Fame, with a dedication and dinner held on October 28.

2022

Xavier's 175th anniversary celebrations began with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on December 3, 2021, with Timothy Cardinal Dolan presiding. A reception for faculty, trustees, and benefactors followed at the New York Athletic Club. Other anniversary events included the 175th Anniversary Conversation and Lecture Series, which welcomed notable speakers to campus, service at the New York Common Pantry, an archival exhibition, and a celebration of veterans. The festivities continue with Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier and a gala at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers on December 3, 2022. The 175th anniversary officially concludes on March 12, 2023, the anniversary of the canonizations of Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier.



75



From the earliest days of Xavier’s existence, students have endeavored to put the Xavier experience into words.

“In the early days on Third Avenue [Xavier’s home from May 1848 until November 1850] we had our own weekly paper, edited by Charley Carroll. It was no gorgeous magazine, but an ordinary sheet of foolscap paper, not printed, but written in the familiar hand of the editor,” Francis Harper, who entered Xavier at age 12 in 1847, recalled 50 years later. “It was called *The Frightful Times*.”

An impressive journalistic history began in earnest with the June 1883 founding of *The Xavier*, a student magazine. The *Review*, the school’s student newspaper, followed in 1937. Both publications made remarkable contributions to what we know of Xavier’s history and gave rise to other student publications such as the yearbook (formerly known as the *Evening Parade*) and *The Lexicon* (once known as *Original Energy*, then *The Literary Magazine* until it adopted its current name in 1995).

World War II-era issues of the *Review*, with their front-page reports of young alumni deaths and profound reflections about the immense responsibilities facing cadets after graduation, are particularly poignant. The Inquiring Reporter column asked students such questions as “What do you think of the policy of discontinuing Greek during the war?” and “How do you feel about being drafted?” The powerful Gold Star Issue of the *Review*, printed on March 9, 1945, honored Xavier’s fallen Sons. “Epitaphs, we know, are often sad and fraught with a finality that leaves no room for the hope of a resurrection,” the issue’s dedication page reads. “Ours, however, is indeed a joyous one. Humbly confident, we dip our pen deep in the ink of faith, and across the pages of Xavier’s history write: ‘Of such as our war dead is the Kingdom of Heaven.’”

Later that decade, as the world emerged from the horrors of global conflict, Xavier prepared to mark its 100th anniversary. John Kapp ’48 served as co-editor of the *Review* alongside Ben Dineen ’48 for the second half of that celebratory year. While Kapp enjoyed the festivities that marked 1947, he drew the greatest satisfaction from the production of what was then a twice-monthly newspaper.

“It was an important thing to do, and there was such a big push on extracurricular activities,” said Kapp, who noted that *Review* moderator Eugene Murray, S.J. challenged him and Dineen to create excellent journalism. “The newspaper provided that in spades. You could send people here, there, and everywhere.”

Every other Monday, Kapp, Dineen, and Murray would walk to a print shop in Greenwich Village to oversee printing of the *Review*—one of Kapp’s favorite memories. They would watch the shop’s owner as he sat at his linotype machine, creating headlines and captions. “His way of doing it and putting it together was the way the *Daily News* and *The New York Times* and the *Journal-American* did it,” Kapp said.

The biggest treat came after printing was complete, when Murray and the shop’s owner would take Kapp and Dineen to dinner. “That was such a special thing,” Kapp said.

Nearly three decades later, the *Review* gave *Today in New York* anchor Michael Gargiulo ’77 his start in journalism. Like Kapp, he still recalls the intricacies of producing a newspaper before the digital age.

“As the assistant managing editor, one of my jobs was to arrange the typesetting. In those pre-digital times, we had to space out each line so that it ended in the same place on a page,” he said. “It was like a big puzzle. You had to ‘space out’ the spaces, so you didn’t have a big gap in any one line, but if you added wrong, you had to start all over again. That’s something Xavier journalists of today don’t have to worry about.”

Since Gargiulo’s first assignment covering Xavier dances, he has ascended the ranks of American journalism, winning an Emmy Award for his reporting from Iraq and Kuwait and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, along with his colleagues at NBC 4 New York, for their coverage of the coronavirus pandemic.

“I joined the *Review* because I enjoyed writing. I found out quickly that working on a newspaper involved hard work, creativity, and discipline. Fr. Lux was our advisor and he ran things as strictly as any newsroom I have ever worked in, and we weren’t even getting paid!” Gargiulo said. “It showed me, though, that journalism could be the front seat to events far and near, and that stories we reported could not just bring a reaction, but could also have an impact and make change possible.”

In recent decades, Xavier alumni publications have also flourished. What began as special alumni editions or sections of *The Xavier* and the *Review* became the *Sons of Xavier Alumnews* (featuring news about Xavier and class notes about alumni) in October 1956. In the spring of 2011, the *Alumnews* gave way to a revitalized *Xavier Magazine*—this very publication—which now publishes twice a year and boasts a readership of nearly 20,000 alumni, parents, and friends around the world. Rounding out Xavier’s print publications is the *Annual Report*, which tells the story of the school’s donors and their impact—and, like the magazine, maintains Xavier’s history for generations to come.



PAGES OF XAVIER’S HISTORY

By SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA



Linda Salvati

Grace Lamour P'82

Kim Smith

TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

By MAGGIE MURPHY STOCKSON

“I was well positioned to take on this role because of the great work that has been done by women at Xavier for decades,” Xavier’s headmaster, Kim Smith, remarked shortly after assuming her historic role.

As we celebrate Xavier’s 175th anniversary, we wanted to take a deeper look at three trailblazing women, including Smith, who have helped form young men on 16th Street—each taking on a critical role in the institution and forging a path for others to follow.

MS. SALVATI’S BOYS

The October 6, 1954 edition of the *Review* announced the arrival of a new librarian, Linda Salvati, in an article about faculty changes. With experience at St. Jean Baptiste and the Delehanty Institute, Salvati replaced Mrs. Hemmings, who had worked in the library for less than a year. For the next 33 years, Salvati introduced generations of Xavier men to research methods, great literature, and the opera.

“I was a member of Linda Salvati’s library staff in my freshman and sophomore years. The library staff members were ‘Ms. Salvati’s boys,’ and she cared very much for each of us,” recalled Colonel Tom Brouillard, USA (Ret.) ’74. “She would point us in the right direction in finding resources for study and research, listen to the stresses of our acclimating to Xavier, and quietly let us know that there really were no such things as elevator and pool passes at Xavier! When I fondly recall the many people I knew and loved at Xavier, Linda Salvati is among the most cherished.”

When Xavier posted a social media tribute to Salvati during Women’s History Month earlier this year, comments poured in. Dr. Michael Entrup ’75 said that as a doctor and scientist, he can now see that she helped plant the seeds of investigation and research: “She was one of my most important teachers who never gave me a grade for anything.”

Several alumni remembered that Salvati provided a welcoming oasis from the daily demands of life at Xavier. “She had a special gift for displaying her genuine interest and caring for each of us,” said Henry Smith ’74. “It was palpable and undeniable.”

Dr. Thomas Forlenza ’69 and three classmates often gathered on the floor of Salvati’s office during lunch; she would play operas on her phonograph and explain the opera to them. “We called ourselves the Coffee Klatch,” he recalled with a chuckle.

GRACE AND GRACE

“She was indeed Grace and grace, so aptly named by her parents,” Jack Replogle, S.J. ’51 said of his friend and colleague Grace Lamour P’82, Xavier’s first full-time female teacher, during her 2012 funeral.

Lamour joined the science department in the fall of 1969 and went on to a remarkable 38-year career at Xavier, chairing the science department for 16 years and implementing a number of clubs and organizations including the Medical Science Club, the Science Journal, and the New York State Science Honor Society, where she served on the Board of Governors. Months after her death, she was posthumously inducted into the Xavier Hall of Fame.

Countless alumni recall her tireless devotion to her students, to her family, and to science. Dr. Minal Patel ’88 P’23 said that as his freshman homeroom teacher, Lamour greeted him warmly every morning and “made a frightened 12-year-old feel at home at Xavier.”

A lifelong New Yorker, Lamour graduated from Finch College and went on to work at the Rockefeller Institute and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center before marrying her husband, Hank P’82, and having three children, Jacqueline, Hank ’82, and Tiffany.

Dr. Jacqueline Lamour explained that her mother “treated all the Xavier boys like they were her own, and she always especially looked out for those who were struggling.”

Xavier was a family affair for the Lamours. Jacqueline fondly recalled running through the hallways with her siblings as young children. While Hank was a student, Jacqueline and Tiffany performed in school productions and served as cheerleaders, coached by their mother. Jacqueline went on to join her mother on the faculty from

1985 until 1987.

Patel and former director of admissions Jason Ramsden ’86 both remembered Lamour’s office as a popular gathering place. “Grace’s office was at the end of B building adjacent to the bio lab, and you could always find her office overflowing with students hanging out during lunch and free periods,” Ramsden said. “When the mood struck—which was often—we would use the bio lab to play soda can hockey and the noise level would rival that of Madison Square Garden during a Rangers game. And despite the noise and commotion, Grace never interrupted us and allowed us to play because she understood that as young men, play and competition were just as important as our academics.”

THE 55TH HEADMASTER

Kim Smith began her tenure as Xavier’s 55th headmaster in July 2021, bringing decades of experience as a teacher and administrator at Jesuit institutions with her. Most recently, she served as academic vice principal at Boston College High School.

When asked what drew her to Jesuit education, she responded thoughtfully: “I am drawn to places that make God’s love manifest in the world—places that make that love present and tangible.”

Her exposure to the Jesuit network began at a young age. In the 1980s, her father—a Georgetown alumnus—introduced her to the joys of watching Patrick Ewing play for the Hoyas and head coach John Thompson, a fierce advocate for racial justice. “I didn’t know then why my dad admired Thompson,” she said, “but it moved me.”

Longtime friend and former colleague Dennis Baker, S.J. said Smith “is truly a person of faith and a person of the Church, and working alongside someone like that is exciting.” He saluted Smith’s sense of humor and ability “to take a long and wide perspective on things, which is something we want to encourage in our students.”

In just over a year, Smith has made her mark at Xavier, greeting students each morning—rain or shine—at the 16th Street entrance, walking the halls, and re-introducing daily Mass (thanks to the partnership of the Xavier Jesuit community). She is often seen cheering for the Knights on the sidelines of a game, offering words of encouragement, or tackling a project with faculty members in her office, glasses perched on her head.

Reflecting on Xavier’s history fills Smith with excitement for the future. “Sitting at our desks are individuals who will help us solve the climate crisis, cure cancer, write poems that move people, and help solve the ecclesiastical challenges of our Church,” she said. “This is an exciting responsibility.”

Maggie Murphy Stockson is Xavier’s Vice President for Planning and Principal Giving. She is a graduate of Georgetown University, New York University, and Fordham University.

A Historic First

THE STORY OF XAVIER'S FIRST BLACK STUDENT, HUDSON J. OLIVER '34 By JIM TIERNEY '68



Hudson J. Oliver '34 was a historic first at Xavier. As far as our records can tell, he became the first Black student to graduate from Xavier. Without speculating what his personal experience was like, we can confidently say it was singular in nature. Oliver was not only the first Black student; he would be the only Black in the Regiment, the only Black on the track team, and the only Black on class sports teams. He would also be the only Black student at school social events. For some perspective, there were no Black undergraduates at the nearby Jesuit colleges, Fordham University and St. Peter's College, at that time.

Some pertinent background: Oliver's dad, Dr. Hudson J. "Huddy" Oliver, Jr. P'34, was a prominent Harlem physician. As a young man he was considered the finest Black basketball player prior to the 1910s, according to the Black Fives Foundation. Some time after graduating from Howard Medical School, Dr. Oliver joined the United States Army Reserve Corps, and he served in France as an Army doctor during World War I. Dr. Oliver was also a convert to Catholicism. Reportedly, he did not want a secular education for his son. Xavier, with its Catholic, Jesuit, and military traditions, would certainly have been of interest to the Oliver family.

As Hudson Oliver prepared to graduate from Xavier, he applied to Fordham University. According to Raymond A. Schroth, S.J. in *Fordham: A History and Memoir*, Oliver had competitive grades compared to his peers, but he was not admitted and no reason was given. John LaFarge, S.J., editor of *America* and founder of the Catholic Interracial Council in 1934, was angered by Fordham's decision not to accept Oliver, believing it was based on the color of his skin. LaFarge arranged a meeting between the Jesuit Provincial at the time, James McCormick, S.J., and Oliver's parents. The outcome of the meeting was that Oliver was accepted by St. Peter's College in Jersey City, where he became their first Black undergraduate. (The first Black undergraduate enrolled by Fordham is believed to be Matthew Adams, a pre-med student who graduated in 1947.)

At St. Peter's, Oliver was a member of the Sodality and the Mendel Society, and he was also a runner and high jumper on the track

team. He played basketball as a freshman and sophomore, and as a junior served as chairman of the Interracial Committee. According to *African American Doctors of World War I* by Douglas Fisher and Joann Buckley, Dr. Oliver was active in the Catholic Church and president of the Catholic Interracial Guild at that time. In 1939, when the younger Oliver was a senior on the track team at St. Peter's, he was barred from participating in a track meet at Catholic University on account of his race. Catholic University had a rule "prohibiting Negro and white athletes from taking part in the same meets in Washington, D.C." This sad exclusion was reported on March 19, 1939 in a headline story on page 1 of the *New York Age*, a prominent Black newspaper of the day: "Catholic University Bars Dr. Oliver's Son from D.C. Track Meet." Racism in athletics was still prevalent in the nation's capital.

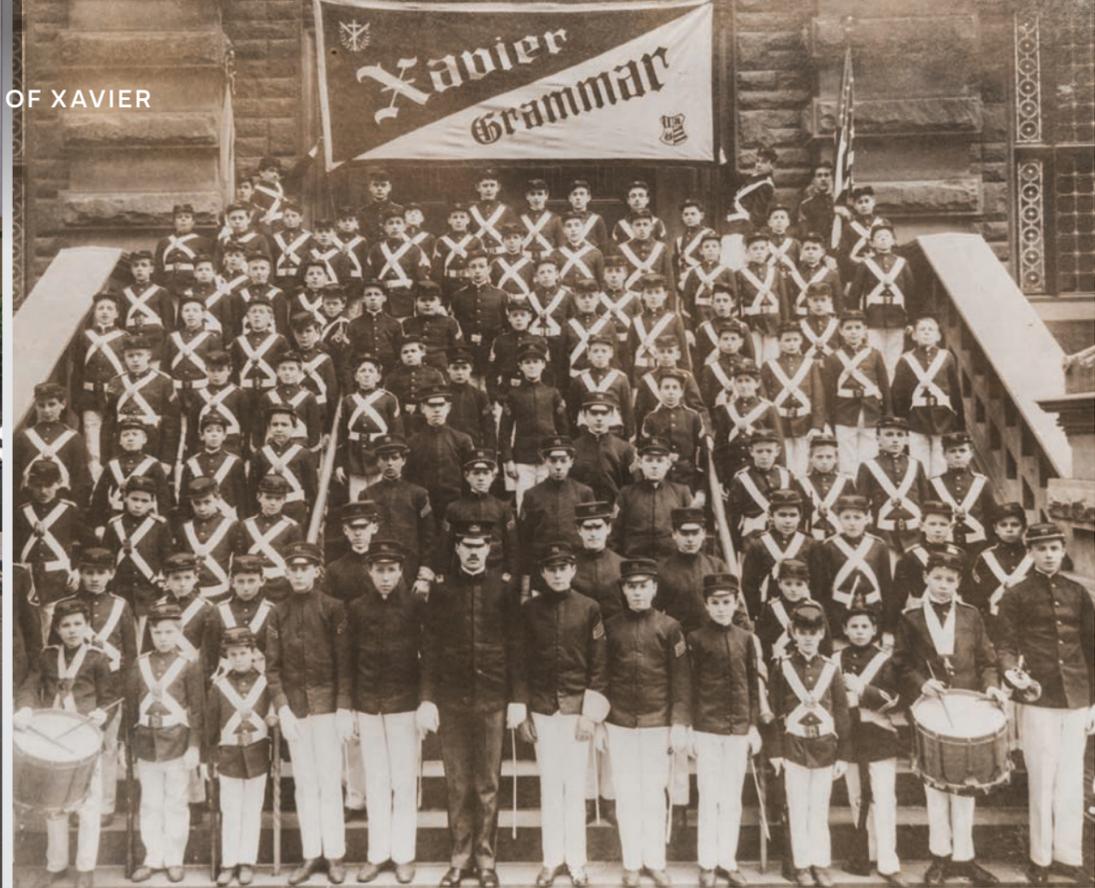
Brighter news concerning Oliver's time at St. Peter's is contained in his graduation biography in the 1939 edition of the school's yearbook, the *Peacock Pie*: "Going, therefore, he teaches all nations the way of harmony. Outside the Interracial sessions, a high jumper. He trims the stick neater than his mustache, setting school records at every leap. The probability is that his taut muscles grew out of his incessant drill back in Xavier days. And of all our Xavierites, he alone retains the military bearing."



Hudson J. Oliver, third from left in the back row, on the St. Peter's College track team.

Hudson Oliver later served his country as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he worked in the automotive industry as a production control clerk in the Detroit, Michigan area. He was married to Betty Gillem Oliver. Hudson died in 1992, aged 74, and is buried in Holly, Michigan. Betty Oliver died in 2015, aged 90. According to Betty Oliver's online obituary, she was preceded in death by her husband Hudson "Bud" Oliver, son Mark Oliver, and daughter Sandra Meyers. There were two surviving grandchildren and a great-grandson who was serving in the U.S. Army at that time.

Jim Tierney is a graduate of St. Peter's College (now University) and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He spent 25 years as an FBI agent and supervisor in New York City, followed by a career as an executive in the physical security industry. He now works as a security consultant.



THE REGIMENT

By DANIEL J. GATTI, S.J. '59

In this article I will touch upon three things, hopefully of interest to all Xavier students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends: the history of the Regiment, personal reflections on Xavier's military program, and institutional perspectives.

HISTORY

The military presence at Xavier has a long, proud, and valued history. Xavier was barely 40 years old when its youngest students were performing military drill. In those days there were no physical education classes in schools.

Military drill was the physical education of its day. By the end of the 19th century two battalions had been formed, consisting of students of grammar school age and high school age, along with a smaller number of first-year college students. Thomas Campbell, S.J. of the Class of 1866, Xavier's 11th president, was a strong supporter of the military program. It's interesting to note that prior to coming to Xavier, as president of Fordham (1885-1888), he organized the entire college into military companies, convinced that a discipline of this sort would produce even better results among the students than the old system of making all order depend upon their prefects.

One of several outstanding Xavier instructors of military science was Captain John Drum, USA. It was reported that Drum had remarkable success with student cadets: their public drills in spacious armories and their appearance in the parades on Decoration Day, and notably in the parade of April 27, 1897, on

the occasion of the dedication of Grant's monument, elicited universal applause for their instructor, as well as for themselves. The military was clearly a sphere in which Xavier students demonstrated not only patriotism, but leadership. In 1935 Xavier's Regiment was formally organized and recognized as an Army JROTC program. In the fall of 1971 participation in the program was made optional. Since then, the program has continued to form students into young men and has maintained its proud traditions.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

The summer 2019 edition of *Xavier Magazine* was dedicated to reflections on the Regiment. Among many insightful personal reflections from alumni are the following:

"For me, Xavier and its Regiment were a single entity, inextricably linked, that shaped the character of my life."

"...the Xavier Regiment is an intrinsic part of Xavier's unique identity beyond its Catholic, Jesuit, and NYC traditions."

"I joined the Regiment due to my desire for discipline, camaraderie, and membership in a winning organization. All of the cadets were motivated to make Xavier's JROTC program the best in the country."

A great motivator towards excellence was Major Ron Grandel, USA, Xavier's Senior Army Instructor from 1987 until 2004. His motto, "Exceed the standard...Excel!" bore fruit in repeated Gold Star Unit recognition by the U.S. Army. For well over a century, Xavier's military program has shaped the lives of young men with similarly high expectations. Parents and teachers know that when their expectations are communicated to young people, they will respond. As Aristotle put it centuries ago, "They are hopeful... Their lives are filled with expectation...They are more brave than persons of other ages...They are high-minded...And they choose



to do what is noble rather than what is expedient...Such then is the character of the young.”

INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

A common note in the experiences of countless alumni is that Xavier, and specifically the Regiment, taught them much more than its academic subjects; it taught them discipline, leadership, service, and teamwork. Yes, discipline was imposed from without, but discipline is a life lesson, meant to be acquired and lived each day as self-discipline.

Early on in freshman year, students who join the JROTC program recite together, with their families present, the JROTC Cadet Creed, which reads: “I am an Army Junior ROTC Cadet. I will always conduct myself to bring credit to my family, country, school, and the Corps of Cadets. I am loyal and patriotic. I am the future of the United States of America. I do not lie, cheat, or steal and will always be accountable for my actions and deeds. I will always practice good citizenship and patriotism. I will work hard to improve my mind and strengthen my body. I will seek the mantle of leadership and stand prepared to uphold the

Constitution and the American way of life. May God grant me the strength to always live by this creed.”

I think all would agree that such a creed sets a good example for all of us, and when lived by Xavier’s Regiment, bodes well for the future of our country.

One final personal note: to put it simply, I loved being a Xavier student in the late 1950s and in my freshman year having both of my brothers as upperclassmen. I loved the Regiment and the military program. Yes, I learned to disassemble and reassemble an M-1 rifle, how to properly wear the uniform, how to read a map, and how to shine my shoes and brass insignia, but more importantly, I learned how to take orders and give orders, how to lead and how to serve, how to plan and organize, how to be true to myself and responsible for others, to be proud of my country and grateful for all who have served our nation in the military. May God continue to bless this great place of learning life lessons, Xavier High School. Sons of Xavier, keep marching!

A graduate of Fordham University and Woodstock College, Daniel J. Gatti, S.J. served as Xavier’s 32nd president from 1997 to 2009.

A common note in the experiences of countless alumni is that Xavier, and specifically the Regiment, taught them much more than its academic subjects; it taught them discipline, leadership, service, and teamwork.

CADET COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT



- 1916 Sylvester Dineen
- 1917 William McAuliffe
- 1918 William Cobb
- 1919 John Buckley
- 1920 Francis Herlihy
- 1921 Thomas Cannon
- 1922 J. Carroll McDonald
Andrew Conneen
- 1923 James Dillon
- 1924 Alfred Barrett
- 1925 Thomas Doyle
- 1926 Andrew Westhead
- 1927 William White
Edward Keenan
- 1928 Willard Bingham Cox
Thomas Regan
- 1929 Albert de Roode
Leo Larkin
- 1930 Walter Ronheim
Bernard Moynahan
- 1931 John Hennessy
Paul Seufer
- 1932 Robert Dobson
Wilbur Keegan
- 1933 James Kane
John Bergmann
- 1934 George Rahilly
Thomas O’Keefe
- 1935 Howard McCaffrey
John Warren
- 1936 Harold Felter
- 1937 George Kimmerling
- 1938 Louis Trampusch
- 1939 Thomas Doyle
Thomas Walsh
- 1940 Henry Uhrig
- 1941 Raymond Joseph McGuinness, Jr.
- 1942 Kenneth Fischer
- 1943 Robert Vilece
Thomas Doyle
- 1944 Donald Connolly
Robert Geiringer
- 1945 John McDonald
Thomas Gassert
- 1946 Donald McPadden
Thomas Ryan
- 1947 Patrick McGowan
- 1948 Frederick Schumacher
- 1949 Joseph Reilly
- 1950 James Patane
- 1951 Donald Kelly
- 1952 Walter Reid
- 1953 Edward Jewusiak
- 1954 Joseph Simone
- 1955 James Hanigan
- 1956 Peter Devers
- 1957 Thomas Donnelly
- 1958 Anthony McNulty
- 1959 James Riordan
- 1960 Philip Lacovara
- 1961 John Piderit
- 1962 James Faulkner
- 1963 Vincent Rocco
- 1964 Michael Catalano
- 1965 Brian Kiely
- 1966 Brian Phelan
- 1967 Joseph Garvey
- 1968 Louis Saco
- 1969 Ward Neville
- 1970 Charles Brown
- 1971 Robert Meissner
- 1972 Thomas Healey
- 1973 Michael Montelongo
- 1974 Guillermo Bautista, Jr.
- 1975 John Muller
- 1976 Michael Smith
- 1977 Anthony Listrom
- 1978 Peter McGovern
- 1979 Kevin Milne
- 1980 John McGuire
- 1981 Phillip McCaffery
- 1982 Bob McCarthy
- 1983 Nicholas DePalma
- 1984 Carl Schmitt
- 1985 John Pucciarelli
- 1986 Anthony Gonzalez
- 1987 Stephen White
- 1988 Pascal St. Gerard
- 1989 Norman Garcia
- 1990 Douglas LeVien
- 1991 Peter Garcia
- 1992 James Sullivan
- 1993 Bernard Harrington
- 1994 Michael Avalos
- 1995 Geoffrey Cole
- 1996 Timothy Sommella
- 1997 Michael Dixon
- 1998 Brian Johnson
- 1999 Jeffrey Alcoser
- 2000 Timothy Williamson
- 2001 Liam Brennan
- 2002 Michael Kirkman
- 2003 Anthony Ciaffone
- 2004 Michael Cherif
- 2005 Jonathan Carbajal
- 2006 Michael Catanzaro
- 2007 Michael Chiaia
- 2008 Carlos Galetti
- 2009 Edwin Flores
- 2010 Kevin Taub
- 2011 Michael Connors
- 2012 Gregory Watch
- 2013 Bryan Laboy
- 2014 Benjamin Heni
- 2015 Kevin Moncrief
- 2016 Justin DeoPaul
- 2017 Ted Colter
- 2018 Taylor Kramer
- 2019 Matthew DuBois
- 2020 Ted Badea
- 2021 Matthew Hazar
- 2022 Giuseppe Quatela
- 2023 Matthew Lane

From 1915-21, cadet colonels were known as lieutenant colonels or majors. Multiple graduations were held in certain years, hence the multiple cadet colonels.



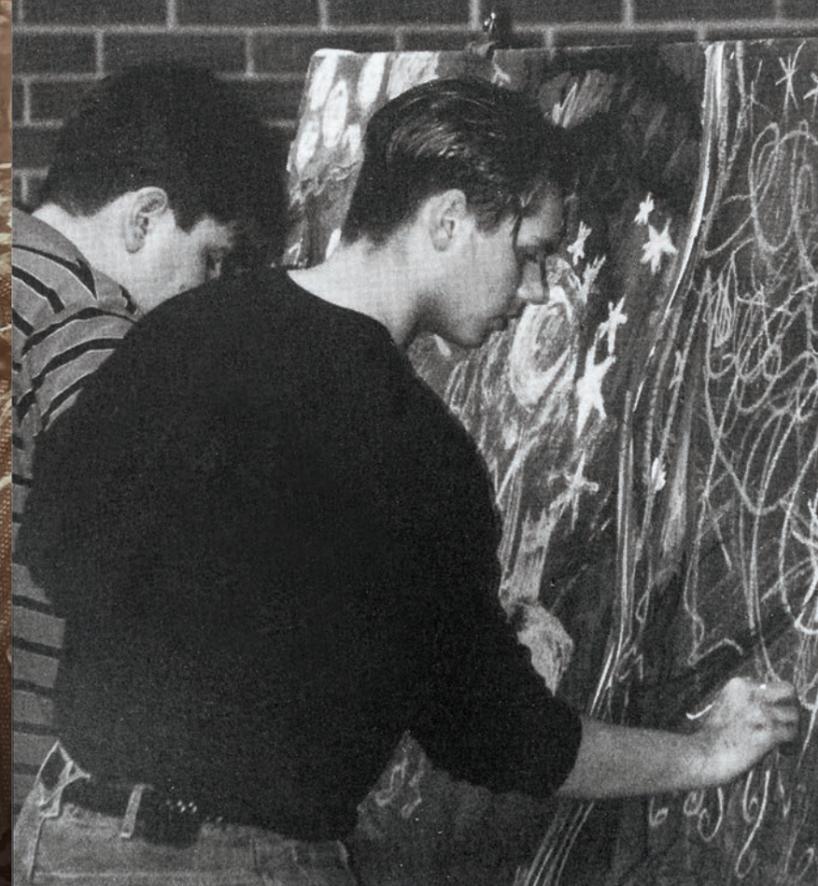
A December 1905 performance of *In the Fool's Bauble*, an original production.

The Arts

By NICK BARONE '16



The Glee Club performs during the 1959-60 school year.



Students at the 1998 Festival of the Arts.



The Xavier Dramatics Society performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2018.

Creativity and innovation have always been encouraged on 16th Street, a fact made evident throughout Xavier's long history.

In 1886, when construction began on Xavier's new college building, pride of place was given to a two-story, 700-seat theatre. With the construction of the theatre came spectacular dramatic productions, including myriad Latin plays, with some boasting original music. Plays were presented to members of the Xavier community, members of the clergy, and other honored guests.

An early 1890s Xavier production, Plautus's *The Two Captives* (*Duo Captivi*), was one of the school's most notable, repeated by popular demand in both English and Latin. *The New York Times* reviewed the production on page 2 of the October 13, 1893 edition, noting that "during the performance the students were repeatedly applauded for the high order of dramatic talent they displayed and their thorough mastery of Latin. The musical setting of the piece and the stage scenery were excellent." Students performed the play again at the Chicago World's Fair the following week.

Drama continued to bring Xavier renown at the turn of the 20th century, particularly under the direction of John McCarthy, S.J. The theatre also played home to lively debates, many open to the public. In 1922, drama and the arts played a central role in the school's 75th anniversary celebrations; at a Xavier benefit uptown, Ethel Barrymore and Will Rogers numbered among the performers.

Xavier's musical prowess grew throughout Xavier's second century with the formation of a military band in 1917 followed by the likes of a Glee Club, a choir, and an orchestra. A particular highlight came in 1957, when conductor Vincent La Selva began using Xavier's theatre for free musical performances. Band alumni of the era remember La Selva giving generously of his time to further their musical talents.

The arts—and appreciation of them—flourished with the creation of the fine arts department in the mid-1970s. Brian Moroney, one of the department's co-founders, is credited with introducing a generation of students to concerts, plays, and operas. With some awe, alumni remember meeting luminaries such as Leonard Bernstein and Tennessee Williams after those performances.

In 1991, fine arts teacher Denise Iacovone created Xavier's Festival of the Arts, a showcase of students' artistic ability and creativity. In the three decades since, attendees have seen the Blue Night Band and the Xavier Dramatics Society perform for the

masses. The festival continues to shine a spotlight on all of Xavier's arts offerings today.

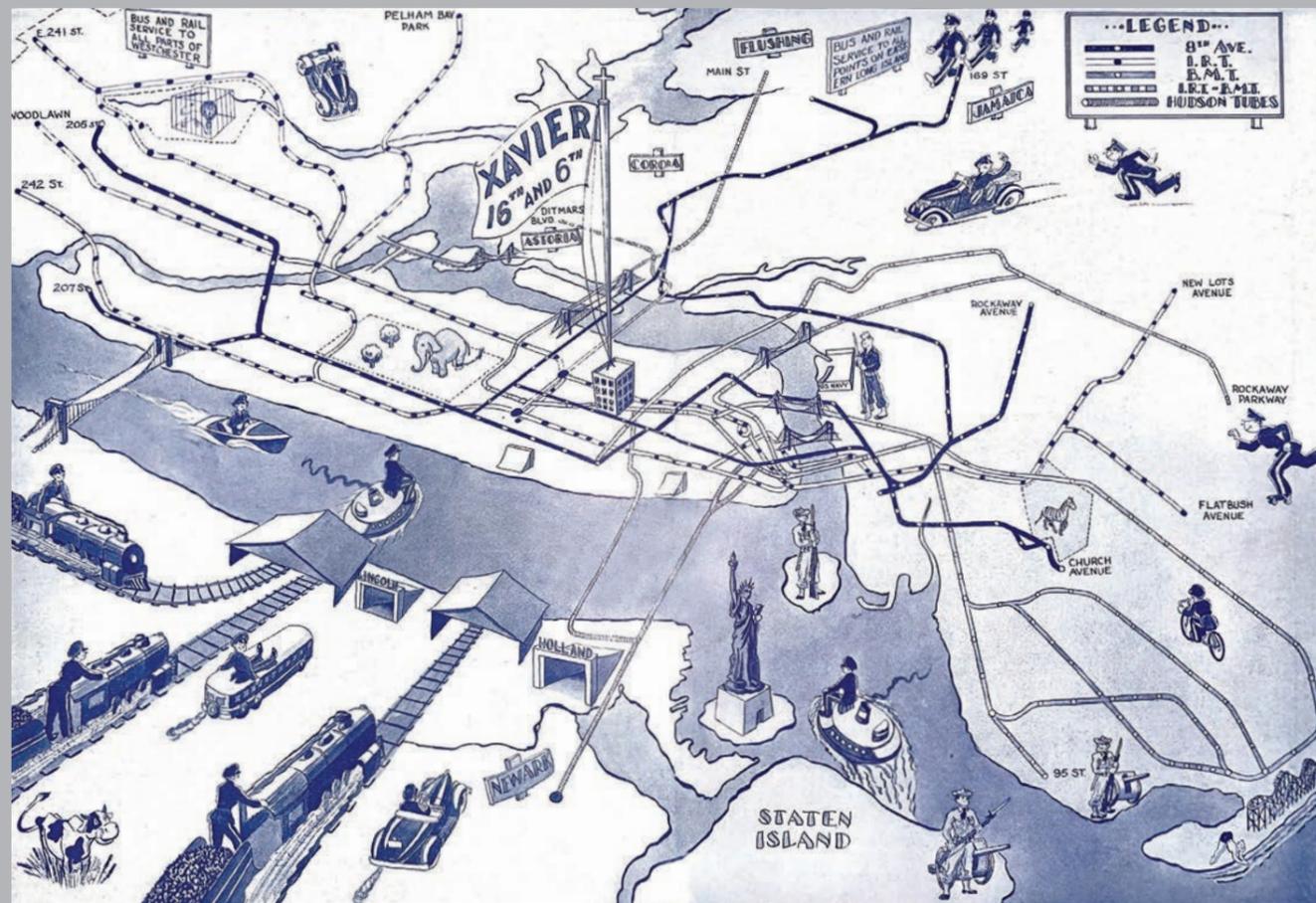
In 2010, Mike Chiafulio P'23, who now serves as Xavier's computer science and technology department chair, created the school's very first Student Film Festival. The introduction of a Xavier filmmaking elective allowed students to create art in the form of entertaining, high-quality cinema.

The Festival of the Arts and the Student Film Festival remain two of the most highly anticipated events on the school calendar.

The arts at Xavier took another leap forward in 2016 with the opening of Fernandez-Duminuco Hall, a six-story, 33,000-square foot addition featuring a state-of-the-art music suite, recording studio, and multipurpose performance space with a custom-built stage, theater curtains, and professional sound and lighting systems. That December, the Xavier Dramatics Society christened the space with a production of *Our Town*, which played to standing-room-only crowds.

At the time of this magazine's publishing, Xavier prepares to unveil yet another addition—a refined 5L corridor with revitalized art studios and classrooms that will benefit today's students and honor our school's proud artistic history.

Nick Barone is Xavier's Assistant Director of Communications. He is a graduate of the University of Scranton.



EVOLUTION OF THE COMMUTE

By NICK BARONE '16



Above: An illustrated map of the Xavier commute drawn in honor of the school's 100th anniversary. Below: A digital representation of student zip codes and commutes in 2022.



Students on the subway during the 1959-60 school year.



Students exiting the Union Square subway in 2022.

The daily commute is one of the most essential parts of a New Yorker's experience, and especially so for Sons of Xavier.

For 175 years, students have trekked from across New York City, Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey to arrive at Xavier before the morning bell (and for the last several decades, to avoid walking the JUG line). To this day, the average Xavier student's commute takes 55 minutes.

"As a freshman, I commuted to Xavier from New Jersey. My travel time did not exceed many of my classmates' thanks to a bus that originated in Staten Island, which I boarded in Bayonne and exited at Seventh Avenue and 14th Street in New York City," Dr. Tom O'Brien '49 said. "During my sophomore year, my father moved his dental practice to Asbury Park, New Jersey. I chose to continue my education at Xavier, so my commute shifted to the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which was followed by the Jersey City Ferry to Liberty Street, and then the D Train to the Sixth Avenue and West 15th Street station. I had to be in by 8:30 a.m. or else I'd get JUG. No weather excuses allowed."

Like O'Brien, generations of Sons proudly relate stories of their often arduous commutes—a testament to how highly they valued their Xavier education. Tens of thousands of students have spent their early mornings on subways, buses, Metro-North, LIRR, the Staten Island Ferry, in cars, or walking down city streets, developing the street smarts for which Sons of Xavier are known.

"Just being in the heart of New York City was exciting," said Deacon Francis Orlando '66. "Walking across Fifth Avenue every morning gave me a sense of being part of the greatest city in the world."

Many alumni developed a keen sense of time management traveling to and from Xavier, using their commutes to prepare for the long day of academics ahead—and in some cases, to finish last-minute homework.

For Dr. Robert Posteraro '65, who spent his mornings and afternoons on the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, it was time well spent. "The 7:23 a.m. from Larchmont to Grand Central—40 minutes of review time. The 3:25 p.m. from Grand Central to Larchmont—40 minutes of homework. Five days a week, nine months a year, four years."

To this day, the average Xavier student's commute takes 55 minutes.

"I managed to do a lot of homework and studying on New York's public transportation system through the years," added Ed O'Callaghan '87 P'17 '20. "I found the surroundings helped to focus the mind on the work and paid dividends in developing best practices of 'mind your own business'—a critical skill for all NYC commuters!"

Ultimately, for many, the commute became one of the most memorable parts of their Xavier experience.

"I'm a Manhattan guy, so I love the city and enjoy being anywhere around 16th Street," Michael Barbieri '80 P'10 told *Xavier Magazine*. "But as soon as you walked up or down 16th Street to Xavier it was just a special feeling and still is, some 40-plus years later."

100

XAVIER

By NICK BARONE '16

For much of the past 175 years, Xavier's institutional memory has centered in large part on its entrenched traditions. Some are rooted in Jesuit education, while others are uniquely Xavier—but all have contributed to the deep allegiance Sons of Xavier feel toward their classmates and their alma mater.



TRADITIONS



2017

1. Mass of the Holy Spirit

Every young Son of Xavier marks the new school year at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, a Jesuit educational tradition since 1548. At the beginning of each academic year, Jesuit schools and institutions around the world gather to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance and wisdom.

Xavier’s version of the Mass includes the commissioning of two students—the Cadet Colonel of the Regiment and the Student Leadership Council President—who will lead their fellow Sons throughout the academic year.

In the October 1, 1943 edition of the *Review*, cadets reflected on growing closer to God and experiencing the Mass of the Holy Spirit before being called to war and entering the great battle of their lives: “A triduum of prayer, consultation, and thought has brought the Xavier Regiment singly and collectively closer

to God. This critical year, which saw so many of our comrades and several of our classmates called to arms, has deepened and broadened the channel to God from his earthly protectorate.”

This important tradition has continued throughout the years, even during the COVID-19 pandemic when social distancing requirements made it impossible for the entire student body to gather in the Church of St. Francis Xavier. A virtual Mass in 2020 and a hybrid Mass in 2021 brought the community together and closer to God in a time of loss and suffering.

“At the Mass of the Holy Spirit, everyone is asked to pray for everyone, including themselves, so the coming academic year might be a success, that the year might be a year of loving—loving how to learn, how to live with our differences, how to respect the creation that lives side by side with us,” said former faculty member and Xavier Hall of Famer Jack Replogle, S.J. ’51.

2. Retreats

Retreats have been central to the formation of Xavier students since the school’s first days. As early as October 1855, records indicate a four-day, in-school retreat was held at Xavier. Later records show annual student retreats were run for full class years, typically at the beginning of the school year to coincide with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. In more recent history, retreats have been introduced for specific class years—some required, like the freshman Via Dei retreat and sophomore Montserrat retreat, and some optional, like the junior Kairos and senior Magis retreats. Xavier has also held silent retreats focused on individual prayer and wilderness retreats that emphasize living simply and finding God in nature.

“While there have been plenty of changes and adaptations, I think the retreat program at Xavier has always remained rooted in Ignatian spirituality, offering different channels through which students can learn more about themselves as individuals, as members of the Church, and as members of the Xavier community,” said religion teacher Greg Stelzer ’11, who wrote a history of Xavier retreats in the spring 2020 edition of *Xavier Magazine*. “From my experience as a student, the retreats truly opened me to a newer understanding

of recognizing God’s love and presence in my life. Now, as a faculty member, I have been grateful for the opportunity to lead retreats and service experiences for our students and to see Campus Ministry’s continued success and growth. I hope students will continue to take advantage of Xavier’s many faith-based opportunities.”



1964

3. Regimental Parades



1947

Since the late 1800s, Xavier students have played a central role in some of the city’s biggest annual celebrations. Not many high school students can say they marched up Fifth Avenue in the St. Patrick’s Day or Columbus Day Parades—but members of the Xavier Regiment can.

“It was like the entire City of New York was watching Xavier,” William Smith ’58 said of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Rain or shine, Xavier cadets, in their full dress blue uniforms, continue to star in unforgettable city-wide celebrations each March and October.

“The cadets were in charge of everything, and it showed what could be achieved by teenage boys,” said Major Francis Dong, USA (Ret.) ’67. “Of course, although the parades up Fifth Avenue and the reviews were both demanding and tiring, they displayed the pride of Xavier to the public.”

The Regiment has caught the attention of many political figures of importance over the years, including former President John F. Kennedy, who reviewed the cadets at the 1962 Columbus Day Parade.

And it didn’t stop there. In years past, parades went far beyond traditional city celebrations, creating some of the fondest memories loyal Sons shared.

For many years, the entire Regiment marched with the band from the school to the Church of St. Francis Xavier on the first Friday of each month. The cadets wore their full dress uniforms. The police stopped traffic on 16th Street. In the church, the officers would line up and form a cross at the time of the consecration.

“Marching out of the school, down the old stone steps, and to the Church to the cadence laid by the Drum and Bugle Corps always instilled a sense of pride in me,” said Philip Ambrosini ’62. “There was always an appreciative crowd of people to witness this event. And the Mass itself was highlighted by the military cross formed by the Regiment officers—a tradition I was fortunate to participate in as a senior.”

4. Turkey Bowl

The Turkey Bowl pitting Xavier against Fordham Prep is the oldest high school sports rivalry in New York City and one of the oldest in the nation. The holiday game often draws thousands of spectators.

Both schools faced off on Thanksgiving Day for the first time in 1905 but didn't begin to play annually until 1927. (Xavier's rivalry with its ancient foe goes back even further; Xavier and Fordham College clashed on the gridiron for the first time on December 2, 1883.) Since then, every game has become a pivotal part of Xavier's history.

For the past several decades, a Turkey Bowl pep rally has preceded the big game on Thanksgiving Eve. Xavier's main gymnasium booms with excitement as the football team rushes out and revs up the crowd for the most electrifying game of the season.

"This is a great legacy game, where we all get to add to it," varsity football coach Chris Stevens '83 reflected before the 98th Annual Turkey Bowl in 2021. "We're all part of the Xavier family and this Thanksgiving Day experience. We try to put it into perspective for the kids—it's important, it's a football game, but it's bigger than yourself. It's for the ages and represents a great school playing a great game on a great American holiday."



5. Block X Awards



Since 1941, the storied Block X Awards have honored Xavier student contributions to campus life. The first Block X Dinner was held at the King Arthur Restaurant, with Leo Paquin P'64 as toastmaster, on December 2, 1941. After that, the venue shifted to grand hotels—for many years, the Grand Ballroom at the Waldorf-Astoria. Originally, the banquet was sponsored by Xavier's Father's Club; later, it was funded by students through a Block X Drive.

The February 21, 1951 edition of the *Review* described the dinner as "Xavier's most advertised and popular event."

The original purpose of Block X was to recognize Xavier's athletes. After several speeches, students who had earned a varsity letter received it on stage. Seniors were awarded sweaters with stripes or bars showing the years they had played on varsity teams.

The dinner attracted influential alumni, politicians, and members of the media. In 1950, Mayor Vincent Impellitteri attended the Block X Dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria alongside the sports editor from the *Daily News* and representatives from local radio stations.

As it does today, Block X typically concluded with the awarding of the Bernard M. Moynahan '30 Scholar Athlete Award—dedicated to the young man who most fulfilled the ideals of Xavier, as did Moynahan, who was killed in Italy in World War II.

Prior to 1953, the Moynahan Award was given to outstanding Eastern college athletes selected by New York sportswriters.

Block X was, and still is, an expression of gratitude to students for the fine spirit, sportsmanship, and honor they bring to 16th Street. Xavier's main gym is now home to the ceremony, and the awards have expanded to include myriad extracurricular activities. Today, the Edward J. Spinello, S.J. Award, recognizing outstanding commitment to student activities, joins the Moynahan as one of the top awards given to graduating seniors.

6. Sons of Xavier

A tried and true tradition, a spirited rendition of "Sons of Xavier," the school fight song, closes just about every Xavier event. It has served as a beacon of brotherhood and hope among Xavier's loyal Sons, her parents, and her friends. Most notably, the song is sung after Commencement at St. Patrick's Cathedral—a signal for Xavier's newest alumni to fight the good fight as they enter a world of limitless possibilities.

"My favorite Xavier tradition was, and will always be, singing 'Sons of Xavier,'" said John Murillo '97. "Aside from the National Anthem, 'Sons of Xavier' fills me with the most pride of any song. It reminds me of four amazing years that shaped the person I am today."

The first record of the phrase "Sons of Xavier" dates back to 1914, when an organization known as the Sons of Xavier was formed for all who had attended either the college, high school, or grammar school of St. Francis Xavier. A 1922 edition of *The Xavier* records that at a Sons of Xavier meeting on April 20 of that year, a song called "Sons of Xavier" was sung for the first time and "scored an instantaneous hit." The lyrics were not recorded, however, and the current iteration of the song did not come into popular use until the 1950s.

"Xavier Hail," Xavier's former alma mater, which proclaimed loyal Sons' allegiance to country, God, and Xavier, was sung until 1940. 1941 saw a new song, "The Guidon March," adopted by the school. "The Guidon March" bears similarities to what is now "Sons of Xavier."

Regardless of its iteration, the school song will always fill Xavier's Sons with a sense of joy and fulfillment.

"Our school song evokes so many memories," reflected Bob Reinhart '69 P'94 '99. "Learning it during my freshman orientation; teaching it to new students when I returned. Singing it as a student at rallies and games; being invited by Coach Stevens to lend my 'big booming voice' for many years. When I think about it, I hear my fellow alumni at reunions and Hall of Fame inductions—the student body and faculty at assemblies—our newest alumni at graduation. I can feel the bond with so many Sons of Xavier—a living reality of pride, mutual support, and commitment to bringing that reality to all we do in the world. Guidons high, and all the world to see."



7. Beefsteak Dinner



Xavier hosted its first Beefsteak Dinner on February 21, 1962. Since then, the event has grown to become Xavier's most popular alumni event.

The first Beefsteak Dinner was headlined by Leo Paquin and former boxer and 1927 light heavyweight champion

Tommy Loughran, the evening's speakers. Ed Keenan '27 served as toastmaster.

The idea for the Beefsteak Dinner originated in a proposal made by Andy Morris '27 at a Sons of Xavier Board of Governors meeting in October 1961. The hope was to bring Xavier alumni back to 16th Street, especially those who hadn't been in attendance at other alumni events, and to serve as an opportunity for classes to hold reunions.

The night originally consisted of a cocktail hour and a dinner of fruit cups, beefsteak, lamb chops, kidneys, and beer. In its early years, Xavier invited myriad esteemed guest speakers, ranging from Mets slugger Tug McGraw to New York Giants star Tucker Frederickson.

The ensuing years followed a similar formula, with more significant adjustments like sing-alongs and dinner dances appearing in the 1970s.

The modern Beefsteak Dinner is a lively night of brotherhood that draws up to 800 Sons of Xavier back home to 16th Street each year.

8. Graduation at St. Patrick's

Xavier's 137th Commencement was its first at St. Patrick's Cathedral, on June 7, 1979. "I don't think I realized at the time that we were the first class to graduate from St. Patrick's," said Steve Donini '79. "However, I clearly remember how happy and proud my family was. I remember feeling a combination of nervousness, extreme happiness, and being somewhat overwhelmed by the grandeur of the Cathedral and the enormity of the moment as I said goodbye to great friends and memories at Xavier and began the next chapter in my life."

And enormous the moment is. The grandness of the occasion is a testament to the magnitude of what Sons of Xavier accomplish during their four years on 16th Street—and a fitting final act to a Catholic education in the heart of New York City.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one that is shared by generations of alumni.

At the end of the evening, when hundreds of tuxedo-clad, diploma-toting graduates crowd onto the steps of the Cathedral and embrace their classmates and teachers, they begin the next chapter of their Xavier experience—now as loyal alumni.



9. Service and Immersion Trips



In 1998, Xavier established the Companions of St. Francis Xavier program, commonly referred to as CFX. The first trip saw 13 students and three Xavier faculty members venture to Mexico, where they worked with the local community to build two community centers and three schools.

"The first Companions of St. Francis Xavier service trip was a life-changing trip for me," said Ray Otton '00. "Aside from being the farthest from home I'd ever been, it was the first time I saw the idea of being men for others lived out fully. Although we saw such poverty, we also saw people full of hope and gratitude—and this made working to build retaining walls and hand-mixing cement seem easy. The sense of being part of the community was really beautiful. It was evident that we were bringing the mission of Francis Xavier to life...We were never even sure it would make it to a second year, but as we said on that trip, *Nunca digas nunca* (never say never)."

In the years since, Sons of Xavier have crisscrossed the globe—answering Arrupe's call to be men for others in Maryland, Tennessee, Mexico, Camden, and beyond. Even when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the program, Xavier partnered with Habitat for Humanity in East Patchogue, Long Island, to help provide a safe and affordable home for a family in need. Now back in full swing, the program and its participants continue to touch lives around the world.

10. Maroon and Blue Day



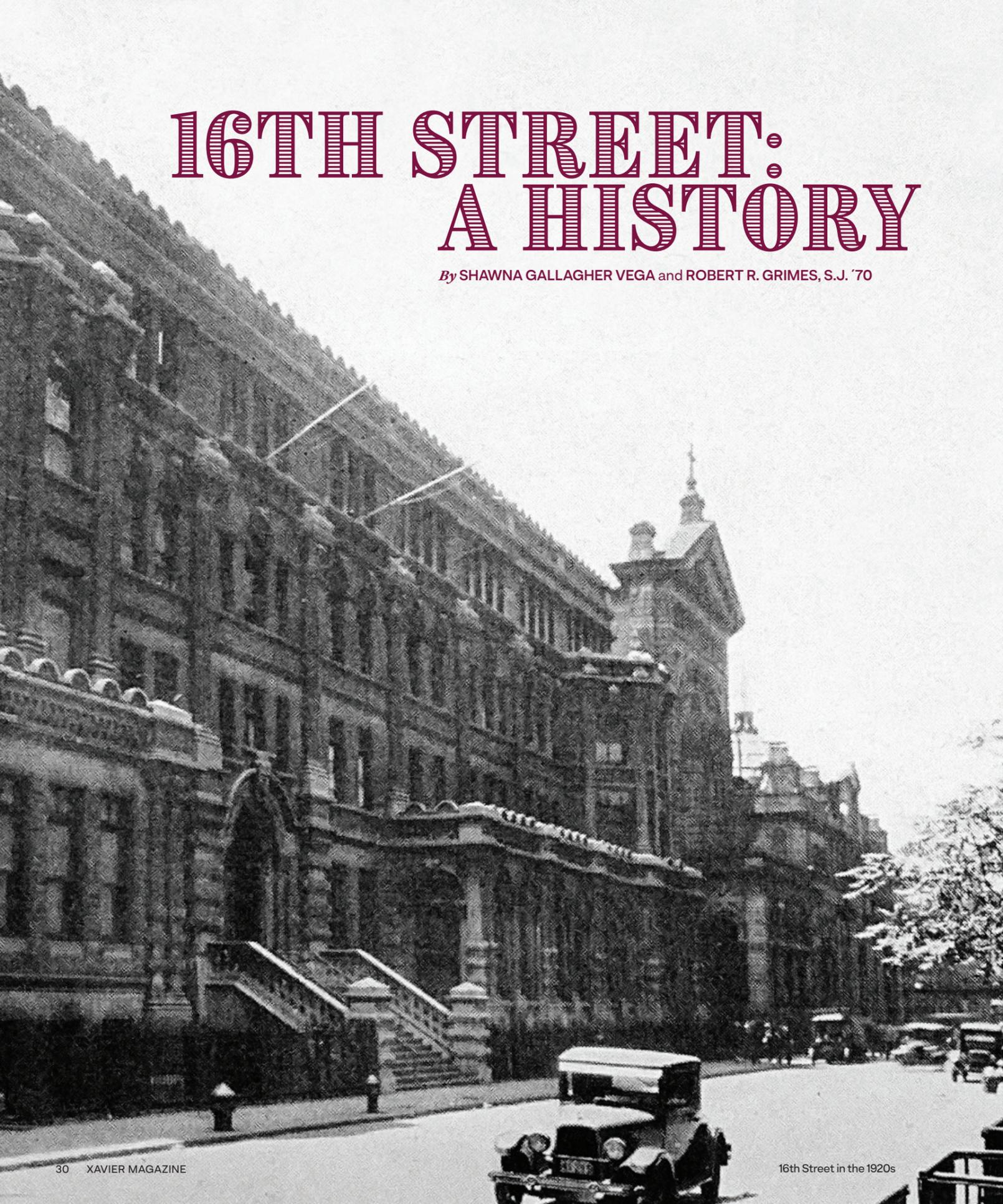
In 2007, former headmaster Mike LiVigni P'21 rebranded what had been known as Spirit Day into the now beloved Maroon and Blue Day. The event pits students against each other in a day-long competition unlike any other. Maroon faces Blue in pie-eating contests, relay races, and karaoke competitions, to name but a few activities. In the end, one side wins bragging rights and a free dress-down day later in the year. It's a defining day in every student's Xavier experience.

"Instead of a student fundraiser, I thought having a day that celebrated our community would allow our neighbors to see the students being the great kids they are and inculcate the freshmen into what it means to be part of the Xavier community," said LiVigni. "Besides, who doesn't love a huge block party?"

"Our guys love competition. We thought if they competed together, they would start to know each other across grades. So we decided that having grades join as maroon and blue teams would foster that spirit, particularly with the newer students," LiVigni continued. "It was a way to have fun, launch into the school year on a positive note, and for half of the student body to get bragging rights. As the years went on, we added events and took some away, but I still get nostalgic about those first few years when students displayed their talents to the school in Xavier Idol. That was probably the most fun I have ever had as an administrator. I stood in the gym every year and saw the students with faces painted, maroon and blue banners and balloons everywhere, while they cheered their hearts out. Every time I stood and looked around, I thought, 'I really love this place.'"

16TH STREET: A HISTORY

By SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA and ROBERT R. GRIMES, S.J. '70



16th Street in the 1920s

For Sons of Xavier and New York Jesuits, the words “16th Street” have long been synonymous with “Xavier.” They conjure memories of friends, teachers, priests, and brothers—of a celebrated school in a lively, historic neighborhood. But in its infancy, there was no guarantee that the school’s location would be 16th Street or that its name would be Xavier. We might have been talking

about Elizabeth Street and the School of the Holy Name of Jesus, where it all started in the summer of 1847. But a catastrophic fire in January 1848, just months after the school opened, urged Xavier northward.

After the blaze, John Larkin and his brother Jesuits struggled to maintain some semblance of a church and school for their pupils, first in a church basement on James Street, then in a cramped house on Third Avenue and East 11th Street. It was left to John Ryan, Larkin’s successor, to discover the property on 16th Street. Larkin had looked at locations on Stuyvesant Square and Gramercy Square, but no deal could be reached. Anti-Catholicism ran rampant in New York City, and few landowners wanted to sell to a Jesuit. Ryan looked at property on Washington Square and Clinton Place (now known as West 8th Street) with a similar result.

Eventually, Ryan took a different tack. In April 1850, he had two laymen (T. James Glover, the lawyer for soon-to-be Archbishop John Hughes, and Terence Donnelly, a trustee of the Emigrant Savings Bank) purchase 10 vacant lots on his behalf. Hughes and Donnelly then transferred the title for the lots, located on 15th and 16th Streets between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, to the Jesuits. The neighborhood’s mostly Protestant residents and developers descended into a furor when they heard a Jesuit school and church would be built in their backyard. “Consternation took possession of the residents,” it was noted in *The College of St. Francis Xavier: A Memorial and a Retrospect, 1847-1897*, “and they strove by various sorts of arguments to induce Fr. Ryan to locate somewhere else. We know that he remained.”



The Great Sumter Rally, held in Union Square in April 1861, drew at least 100,000 people.

In 1850, the neighborhood’s mostly Protestant residents and developers descended into a furor when they heard a Jesuit school and church would be built in their backyard.



Grammar school students pose for a photo on 16th Street in 1865.



Union Square in the late 1800s.



Beginning in 1917, Union Square played host to the USS *Recruit*, a wooden battleship meant to encourage military enlistment during World War I.

A college building was constructed, and students moved to 16th Street on November 25, 1850. Records show that the vacant lots to the east of the church on 16th Street became a garden for the Jesuits; the lots to the east of the college building on 15th Street became a student playground.

As it transitioned northward, the church and school also assumed a new name—Xavier. Its former appellation, “Holy Name of Jesus,” became “Gesú,” the name of the magnificent Jesuit church in Rome, when translated into Italian. Archbishop Hughes insisted he would have no “Gesú” in his diocese, outshining his cathedral. Instead, he suggested naming the church and school after the great Jesuit saint, Francis Xavier. Land and a name—Xavier was underway.

“The new College lay on the very outskirts of the city,” Xavier’s 50th anniversary book recorded. “North of 14th Street houses became sparse and took on a rustic appearance. For several years after 1852, the year of the World’s Fair, the corner of 23rd Street and Fifth Avenue, the site of the Fifth Avenue hotel, was occupied by Franconi’s Hippodrome. Fifth Avenue, north of 34th Street, was not graded until several years later. In anticipation of the crowds of strangers expected to visit New York during the World’s Fair, the Sixth and Eighth Avenue tramways were laid in 1851, from Vesey Street to West 42nd Street, and a continuous row of houses marked the line of the new streetcars. Scattered houses dotted the side streets crossing the two avenues and even West 15th Street

itself, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, was far from built up.”

A hard-cover bound issue of *The Xavier* published on the occasion of Xavier’s 75th anniversary featured reminiscences of the neighborhood in the 1860s. “The college neighborhood was so different in those days,” wrote Stephen Horgan. “Across the street, extending to 14th Street was a farm with cows and chickens and the remnants of another farm on Broadway. Union Square was a beautiful piece of country with fine shade trees. Many of the isolated residences were frame buildings with rows of brownstone fronts encroaching on vacant lots, where the boys played ‘One Old Cat’ or ‘Sting Ball,’ modern baseball being unknown.” Horgan went on to write that due to virulent anti-Catholicism, especially south of 14th Street, “it was not unusual for students in those times to be accompanied to and from school by a guardian.”

Union Square became an important gathering place for the city in the 1860s, a fact that would forevermore color the Xavier student experience. On April 20, 1861, just days after the nation descended into Civil War, a “monster meeting” assembled there to rally and hear speeches in support of the Union. The Great Sumter Rally, so named because the Confederates had just taken Fort Sumter in South Carolina, drew at least 100,000 people.

Despite wartime challenges, it soon became clear that Ryan had purchased optimal land at an opportune time. Many wealthy families began to take up residence in the neighborhood surrounding Xavier; in 1858, a scion of one of New York’s great families, future President Theodore Roosevelt, was born at 28 East

20th Street between Broadway and Park Avenue South. In 1865, a house was built at 24 West 16th Street, and two years later it became the final city home of William Cullen Bryant, poet, editor of *The New York Evening Post*, and eventual namesake of Bryant Park. The house is now part of Xavier’s campus.

The neighborhood commercialized significantly after the Civil War, with Tiffany & Co. opening a landmark structure at 15 Union Square West in 1870. Sixth Avenue became a significant shopping district dotted by department stores, a relatively new shopping concept at the time. (The first Macy’s department store had opened at the corner of 14th Street and Sixth Avenue in 1858.)

One of the greatest transformations of the neighborhood began on June 5, 1878, with the opening of the 14th Street station of the Sixth Avenue Elevated train. The availability of transportation fueled the growth of the neighborhood, which came to be known as “Ladies’ Mile” along Broadway and “Fashion Row” along Sixth Avenue near 23rd Street. The Sixth Avenue El also contributed to the growth of the College of St. Francis Xavier, which became one of the largest Jesuit schools in the country in the 1880s and 1890s.

As Xavier expanded in the late 1800s, the school’s military program began to pervade the student experience and inform neighborhood perceptions of the young men pursuing an education on 16th Street. “The dark blue uniforms of the Xavier

cadets (as the students were called) were a familiar sight on the New York City subways and streetcars,” Thomas M. Shelley wrote in *Ubiquitously Useful: The Jesuit College of St. Francis Xavier, 1847-1912*, “and the precision marching of the Xavier cadets were one of the highlights of the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade.”

During the early years of the 20th century, the main thoroughfares around Xavier bustled, and side streets filled with new businesses. Public transportation continued to transform New York City, with the debut of the subway on October 27, 1904. Union Square was one of the 28 original stations, leading Xavier to call itself “the most accessible school in Manhattan” in a *New York Sun* advertisement on August 29, 1914.

With the closing of the college in 1912, Xavier focused squarely on the work of secondary education. But within a few years, like the city and the nation, the school had no choice but to focus farther afield as war erupted in Europe.

The U.S. entered the Great War, as it was then known, in April 1917. Just weeks later, the “Wake Up America” parade, featuring the Xavier Regiment among its marchers, wound from Eighth Street up Fifth Avenue. President Woodrow Wilson stood on the reviewing stand at 23rd Street. Union Square became a hub of military recruitment; it was the site of a wooden battleship, the USS *Recruit*, meant to generate support for the war effort. Commissioned as if it were a normal vessel, the Landship *Recruit* was manned by a crew of trainee sailors from 1917 until the end of the war. It was said to have been responsible for recruiting more than 20,000 sailors into the Navy—no doubt a few Sons of Xavier among them.

Union Square became an important gathering place for the city in the 1860s, a fact that would forevermore color the Xavier student experience.

As peace returned and the Roaring Twenties dawned, so did a period of expansion for Xavier. Buildings were revitalized and enrollment boomed, as did academic and athletic programming. But the decade proved to be a brief, pleasant interlude before the Great Depression devastated much of New York City and another global conflagration erupted overseas.

In the 1930s, as the Depression unfolded, the size of the student body at Xavier gradually shrank by more than 40 percent. The students who remained observed a communist presence in the neighborhood, particularly in Union Square, where a major unemployment rally ended in violence in 1930. Two years later, the *New York Daily Worker* denounced a meeting of Catholic Action at Xavier as “building a fascist prop for capitalism.”

In response to the crisis of the Depression, the Xavier Institute of Industrial Relations (better known as “the Labor School”)



Students walk through Union Square Park in 1968.

emerged in the 1930s. It would bring extraordinary attention to 16th Street, not just from the neighborhood, but from the country as a whole.

The Labor School's mission was to educate workers and help them organize unions that were free of communism and mob influence. A newly ordained priest, Fr. John "Pete" Corridan, became associate director in 1946 and was assigned to work with longshoremen on Manhattan's West Side. His work trying to root out rampant crime and corruption at the piers led him to be immortalized in Elia Kazan's Oscar-winning 1954 film, *On the Waterfront*. While the Labor School was not actually affiliated with Xavier High School, Xavier's Press Club—a student-run public relations operation that flourished in the 1950s—delighted in promoting their neighborly connection after the success of the film.

New York City transportation continued to modernize, making the commute to Xavier even easier. The Sixth Avenue El closed in December 1938 and was demolished the following year, with the underground Sixth Avenue subway line opening in December 1940. It eased the commute of many Xavier students, who now had a subway stop right at the corner of 16th Street and Sixth Avenue.

For those young men who would become known as the

Greatest Generation, their happy days on 16th Street would sustain them in the battle to come.

An air of gravity began to characterize Xavier, the neighborhood, and the country in the early 1940s. For the second time in 25 years, clouds of war darkened the European continent, and the young men at the Jesuit military school on 16th Street had more than an inkling of the fate that awaited them.

George Camisa '45 was just 12 when he began his high school career at Xavier in 1941. He walked to school each day from his home in Greenwich Village, often with friends, and he witnessed the unfolding of history along the way.

As Xavier cadets marched to the Ninth Regiment Armory on 14th Street twice a week, the police would stop traffic on Sixth Avenue, "but gas was being rationed, so when they stopped traffic, it wasn't that big a deal," Camisa remembered with a chuckle. "Almost without exception, everyone banded together, and the end of the war was a common goal."

A huge military parade, "New York at War," marched up Fifth Avenue from Washington Square in June 1942. It was thought to be the largest parade ever held in New York City at the time, with 500,000 marchers and more than two million attendees. The Grand Marshal of the parade was General Hugh Aloysius Drum of the Xavier Class of 1894.

A few blocks north on Union Square, "it was basically

considered a communist platform," Camisa said. "The Communist Party was quite active during the war, and there were soapbox orators in Union Square. When you walked by, some guy would be giving a speech extolling Stalin and Lenin."

Despite the heady times, Camisa recalled the joys of ordinary high school moments—buying his textbooks at the Barnes & Noble on 18th Street and Fifth Avenue, marveling at the stores and restaurants on Union Square (the German restaurant Luchow's, once a city landmark, was a favorite), and frequenting certain establishments with his friends ("We were absolutely forbidden to go to Gatelys, so we went to Gatelys").

He was a senior when the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945. That day, the entire city felt like Xavier's neighborhood. School let out early in celebration, and Camisa and his friends—dressed in their khaki military uniforms—made a beeline for Times Square to join the jubilant throngs.

"Those were the happiest four years of my life," Camisa reflected. "It was just a great, great teenage experience."

After the global tumult of World War II and the Korean conflict, a sense of peace returned, and with it a halcyon era in the memories of Xavier graduates of the 1950s. Dr. Frank Heelan '56 remembers it as "a magical time."

A son of Elmhurst, Heelan said the entire island of Manhattan felt like Xavier's neighborhood, but certain memories of Chelsea beckon. "You could get any book you wanted," he recalled, at the Barnes & Noble on 18th and Fifth. The First National Bank on 15th and Sixth was the scene of Glee Club performances under the direction of Joe Caruso. (One of Heelan's favorite songs included this refrain: "We come to Xavier to get an education, a classical education, with a great deal of edification. We come to Xavier to get an education, a Jesuit education, and like it—you bet we do!")

In a sign of the times, Heelan and a few friends would sometimes walk to Union Square after school and debate Communist Party members who gathered there. "You would get up on the box and give your speech and tell them how wrong they were," he remembered of the Cold War-era arguments. "But it was civil. They'd listen to you, and we listened to them. They had their views, and we had ours."

Ten years later, Union Square remained a hotbed of political discourse.

"Union Square has always been Union Square," Ronald Rivera '66 P'90 '96 said. "You've always had your public speakers out there, your demonstrators. If you had something to say, you would go there and get on your soapbox."

Free speech and a safe, family environment around Xavier are Rivera's clearest memories. He first commuted from the Lincoln

Center area, then from 24th Street, and Xavier's neighborhood reminded him of home. "It was very comfortable to be there," he said. "On the borderline of the Village and Chelsea, you always had that residential feel." He often accompanied his grandmother to shop at the S. Klein's department store in Union Square, adding to the feeling that the neighborhood surrounding Xavier was "a real community."

Protest movements of the 1960s were very much a part of the Xavier neighborhood. For students at a military school, it was a fraught time.

After school, Rivera played football and ran track, so he and his teammates wound their way to East River Park for football practice and the 168th Street Armory for track. Closer to Xavier, as seniors they were allowed to go out for lunch, and Rivera's occasional thrill was a trip to the corner of 16th and Sixth to that longstanding favorite, Blue Valley Deli.

Rivera admitted that as a 1966 graduate, he narrowly avoided the neighborhood discord that marked the experiences of the next several classes. Discourse in the neighborhood would become something quite different as the '60s dragged on—particularly as America's involvement in Vietnam escalated.

Protest movements of the 1960s were very much a part of the Xavier neighborhood. In November 1965, five men burned their draft cards in Union Square to protest the Vietnam War. Among those in attendance was Dorothy Day. *The New York Times* reported in a front-page story that 1,500 people attended the rally, and "some shouted their approval and some their contempt." At one point, a counter-protester turned a fire extinguisher on the men burning their draft cards. For students at a military school just a short walk to the west, it was a fraught time. *The East Village Other* even printed Xavier's address and phone number with the suggestion of bombing the school (ultimately there were no bombs, but numerous threats). After the raid on the Stonewall Inn in 1969, Chelsea and the Village also became hubs of the gay rights movement.

Many alumni of the era remember that visiting most neighborhood establishments while in uniform was against Xavier rules. Others mentioned feeling drawn to the vibrant arts scene and counterculture of Greenwich Village ("a beehive of cultural, artistic, and political expression," in the words of Ben Benya, Jr. '68). John Peter Sabini '70, who grew up in the Village, recalled meeting the likes of Bob Dylan and James Baldwin at local cafés.

The war in Vietnam continued to rage, and the 1970s failed to offer much peace anywhere else. It was a particularly difficult decade for New Yorkers, including those on 16th Street. The

Regiment became optional for students in 1971. The city went bankrupt, violence was on the rise, and the infamous summer of 1977, marked by the “Son of Sam” killings and the July blackout and subsequent looting, signaled to many the end of a livable New York City. (In an interesting footnote, it was a Xavier parent, NYPD Detective Edward Zigo P’70, who eventually caught David Berkowitz, the “Son of Sam” serial killer, in August 1977.)

Michael Montelongo ’73 commuted from public housing on the Lower East Side, and his protective parents encouraged him not to wander Xavier’s neighborhood after school. After classes and Regimental responsibilities (he went on to become the cadet colonel his senior year), he quickly got on the bus home. “The city itself was very dangerous,” he recalled, “and fold on top of that all the controversy that was going on nationally. It was a tough time to be wearing any sort of uniform in connection with the military.” Yet Montelongo, who went on to West Point and a successful military and business career, remembered Xavier as “a game changer. The quality of education, the friendships, and the overall experience were just phenomenal for me.”

“Xavier was perfectly located—for me anyway, and the cast of characters who became my friends—because it was part of a neighborhood that was so interesting and offered so many different kinds of venues.”

By the following decade, when Nelson Fernandez ’81 commuted from the Upper East Side to Xavier each day on the 6 train, “Union Square was still a little iffy...We were advised by all the Jesuits that we should stay away from the park itself. That made me want to cross it even more. I crossed it, and it was fine.”

A member of the Xavier Dramatics Society during his high school years, he delighted in staging plays and musicals with his classmates and students from Xavier’s sister schools—and like alumni who came before him, he was drawn to Greenwich Village. After rehearsals, he and his friends loved to explore its winding streets. They had a special affection for Le Figaro Café on Bleecker Street, which closed its doors in 2008 and reopened in a revitalized form last year.

“We felt that we were so, so sophisticated,” said Fernandez, who credits his Xavier years with his decision to live downtown as an adult. “It was great fun. Xavier was perfectly located—for me anyway, and for the cast of characters who became my friends—because it was part of a neighborhood that was so interesting and offered so many different kinds of venues.”

Exploration of a different kind—that time-honored tradition, driver’s ed—expanded the reaches of Xavier’s neighborhood in the 1990s. When Joe Tully ’96 and several of his classmates needed a quiet place to learn to drive, “the place that fit the bill

was the Meatpacking District,” he recalled. After school, Xavier students traversed desolate streets dotted with meat warehouses, guided by an instructor named Mr. Henry, “who was infamous as a character,” in Tully’s words. Today, those once-desolate streets number among the city’s most exclusive.

Closer to Xavier, celebrities were an occasional sight in the ’90s, with actress Susan Sarandon and her then-partner, Tim Robbins, making their home on 15th Street. “They were actually friendly to all the students,” Tully recalled. After graduation, he crossed paths with Food Network star and onetime Xavier student Bobby Flay at his restaurant, Mesa Grill, which drew legions of diners to Fifth Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets until 2013.

While Tully, who was raised in Brooklyn, remembers ducking into Blue Valley Deli for a coffee and grabbing a sandwich at the now-defunct Terry’s Deli as much as the next Son of Xavier, the way the diversity of Chelsea expanded his worldview is what remains most distinct in his memory.

On September 11, 2001, every neighborhood in Manhattan and far beyond manifested the effects of the terrorist attack that killed 10 alumni and dozens of Xavier parents, family members, and friends.

James Cappabianca ’05 had arrived as a freshman just days earlier, and like most New Yorkers, his 9/11 experience is seared into his memory. Xavier organized students whose parents or guardians were unable to pick them up into groups based on their boroughs of origin, sending them home together in the early evening once the NYPD deemed it safe. As Cappabianca crossed Fifth Avenue with the group heading home to Brooklyn, “it was right there—a clear shot.” The young men could see the smoke billowing from where the Twin Towers had once stood, a sight that marked the neighborhood surrounding Xavier—and the entire city—for months to come.

They continued their walk toward the Union Square subway station, then rode the train together quietly. “I remember distinctly that it was nice to be in a group,” Cappabianca said. “We had a community because of our uniform in a really tough, challenging, dangerous moment.”

With classic Xavier resilience, Cappabianca noted that he and his friends didn’t shy away from experiencing the city after the attacks. When he didn’t have soccer, basketball, or baseball practice on the Lower East Side, at Xavier, or in Red Hook, respectively, Union Square Park provided a refuge. He and his friends would buy sandwiches and drinks and sit in the park, tossing a ball around.

“You grow up quickly,” Cappabianca said of going to high school in the city, “and you mature quickly in a way that is more self-aware and aware of what’s going on around you.”

The following decade, Justin Westbrook-Lowery ’16, a native



Students cross Sixth Avenue in 2022.

of the Bronx, also considered Xavier’s neighborhood a balm. Like many Sons of Xavier of his era, he and his friends enjoyed the culinary delights of Wendy’s and IHOP on 14th Street—and, once he started making his own money, the Hollywood Diner at the corner of 16th and Sixth.

He loved exploring the area’s cultural and political highlights as well. Each month, he attended meetings of the Stonewall Democrats at the LGBT Center on 13th Street, helping him better understand his identity and his political beliefs. He still visits the Center from time to time, now in his role as chief of staff to New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes.

“The area fed my love for the city and the great businesses and the great thoroughfares. Xavier was a great awakening,”

Westbrook-Lowery said.

Like many who preceded him and many who followed in his footsteps, he felt proud to wander the neighborhood surrounding Xavier donned in maroon and blue.

“The adults at Xavier always reminded us that whenever you wear your school uniform, you’re a representative of the school,” he said. “They underscored that message. The school has 175 years of history, and you need to do it proud—and pay it forward.”

Robert R. Grimes, S.J. is university professor of music at Fordham University and dean emeritus of Fordham College at Lincoln Center. He is a graduate of Fordham, Manhattanville College, the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, and the University of Pittsburgh.



President John F. Kennedy reviews the Regiment at the Columbus Day Parade on October 12, 1962.

Pivotal Moments

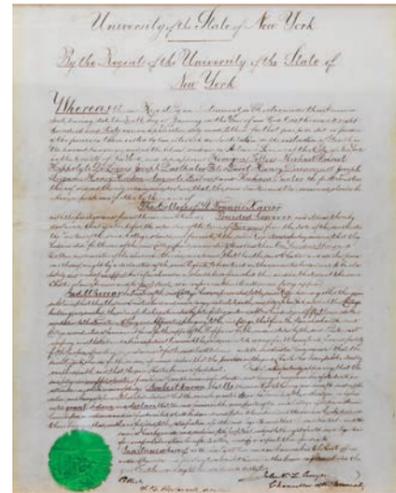


in Xavier History

By ERIC KREBS '17



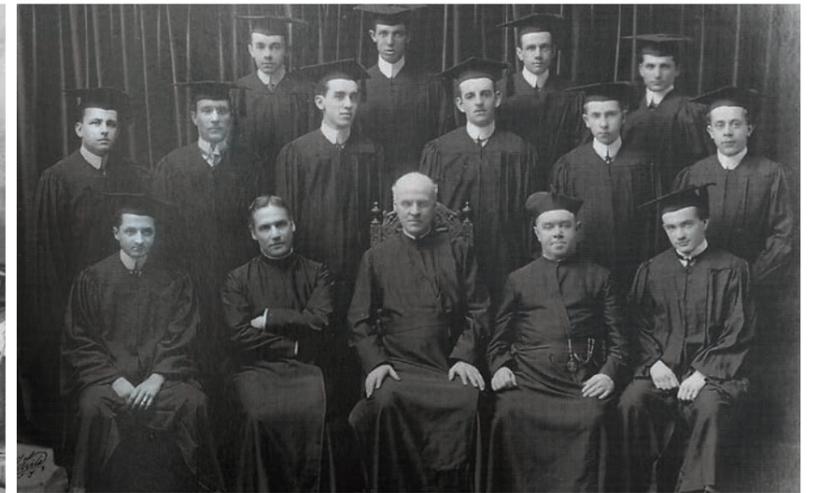
16th Street, 1888.



The Xavier charter, 1861.



Grammar school officers, 1904.



The final college graduation, 1912.

lot can change in 175 years, and at Xavier, a lot has.

Since 1847, Xavier has seen political turmoil, wars, pandemics, terrorism, even a superstorm that engulfed New York. But Xavier is not a house built on sand, and for as much as the tides of history have beat against our school, we have stood strong, adapted, and overcome time and time again.

In 1847, the idea that Xavier would enjoy such a long and resilient life was not self-evident. In fact, when John Larkin, S.J. traveled downtown from St. John's College (now Fordham University) to found a new college, it was unclear if the School of the Holy Name of Jesus—as Xavier was originally named—would make it to the end of the year. The school, in its first year, had two teachers and four rooms.

THE MOVE TO 16TH STREET

The next year, after a fire destroyed the school's original location, Xavier moved briefly to James Street, then to a private house on Third Avenue, where it remained until 1850—when the school opened what would become its permanent home on 16th Street. With the move came a new location and a new name: the College of St. Francis Xavier. This was a massive leap forward. In spite of some parents' objections that 16th Street was far too uptown and rural, between 1850 and

1851, enrollment jumped by 50%—from 80 students to more than 120.

XAVIER EARNS ITS LEGAL CHARTER

The 1850s were a decade of substantial growth for the college. There was one last step, however, for the school to establish itself: a charter.

Initially, Xavier students had to travel to, and pass an exam at, St. John's College to receive their degrees. At the initiative of Joseph Durthaller, S.J., Xavier's fourth president, this changed in 1861, when Xavier obtained a legal charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York—gaining the ability to confer its own degrees. The 1861 commencement took place in the college's courtyard, under the shade of trees planted there a decade earlier. Larkin's experiment was paying off.

It was not smooth sailing, however. Civil war had erupted in America earlier that year. Whether America would continue the barbarous practice of slavery or abolish it, whether the country would remain whole at all were all in question. Draft riots broke out across New York City, though the police were successful in keeping riots from Union Square. While Xavier was a very young school at the time, history notes that several Xavier men fought—and some died—for the Union.

THE DAWN OF THE REGIMENT AND THE CLOSING OF THE COLLEGE

In the mid-1880s, Xavier held its first military drill. By the 1890s, a fife and drum corps had been added, and in 1895, military education was required for all high school students. Xavier cadets became a regular sight at parades celebrating St. Patrick's Day, Columbus Day, and Memorial Day.

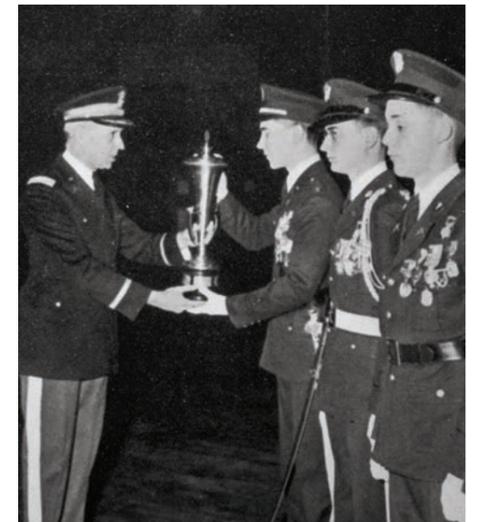
With the closing of the college in 1912 and Xavier's subsequent focus on secondary education, the military program became central to Xavier's identity. The wars of the late 19th and early 20th century also helped solidify that centrality. At least eight Sons of Xavier enlisted to fight in the Spanish-American War, and more than 800 Xavier men would serve—and some would lose their lives—in World War I. One Xavier graduate, Fr. Frank O'Reilly, served as a chaplain in that war, where he was wounded in action as he ministered to the dying, enduring enemy shells and gas attacks alike.

With the end of war came the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and soon thereafter, war again. Once again, Xavier bore witness to just how quickly the world can change.

THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Like many Sons of Xavier before and after, Dr. Tom Draper '44's high school education began not on 16th Street but within the labyrinthian tunnels and viaducts of the New York City subway system. But Draper wasn't the only boy making the trek from Jamaica. "There were a number of other students in the area, and one of them sponsored me," Draper recalled. "He introduced me to the subway for the first time." Draper's transit guide was Jack Lovely '42, a junior who lived the next block over. Each morning, Lovely met Draper outside his home, and the boys made their way to 16th Street together.

One clear, cold Sunday in the winter of his sophomore year, Draper—by then, a master of the IND Queens Boulevard line—rode into the city for Regimental inspection. It was December 7, 1941, and the boys stood at attention in the hall of the 69th Regiment Armory. Then the loudspeaker began to crackle, and the Army inspection staff were paged to the office, one by one. Later that afternoon, Draper sat in the Headmaster's office along with Headmaster Thomas Doyle, S.J. '25 and Ed Beavis '38, a faculty member and family friend who was to give Draper a ride home. They gathered around a radio and listened to the news—the Japanese had



Xavier's 69th military review, December 7, 1941.



The Gold Star Issue of the Review, 1945.



1917–1963

I, with mournful tread,
walk the deck my captain
lies, fallen cold and dead.
—Walt Whitman

After 85 Yrs., Xavier Ends Mandatory Military Drill

By ARTHUR MULLIGAN

Xavier High School, steeped in a proud military tradition, has bowed to a “certain strain and discontent” among some of its students—based on ideological beliefs, a desire for self-expression and concern over the Vietnam war.

As a result, the school has announced that starting in September military training will be on a voluntary basis.

The Rev. William T. Wood, rector of the 124-year-old Jesuit institution at 30 W. 16th St., said that in the last five or six years, there has been discontent among some students over the four-year military program.

At a student assembly and in letters sent to parents, Wood said that he regretted the action, but “the world of 1971 is their (the students’) world.” He said it would not be right to have them grow up in a “cocoon.”

“Hindered or Hurt”

He also said that 21 students had left the school since September because of its military motif and that many more were “hindered or hurt” by it.

The Rev. Vincent J. Duminuco, headmaster of the school, which was established in 1847 and has had a military training program since 1886, said the initial reaction to the decision was mixed.

“Some parents called to express their sincere thanks, and



The Rev. William Wood A “certain . . . discontent”

there were some who had reservations,” he said. One mother, who asked that

her name not be used, had no reservations about military schools:

“I don’t want my son to be a general with a sword between his teeth,” she said. “I just want him to get that kind of military discipline so tha’ he can face the world like a man. A lily-livered little kid can’t get any place in this kind of world today.”

Another parent said he would consult his lawyer about a possible breach of contract by the school because he contracted to send his boy to a military institution.

Predicts Confrontations

Still another parent said that the decision would result in daily confrontations at the school “between the long-hair hippie-types and the crew-cut military cadets.”

Duminuco scoffed at the suggestion. He said that certain concessions to long hair had been made at Xavier as well as at other military institutions and that students will still have to be neatly dressed and well-groomed.

He emphasized that students desiring to take military training



Xavier students Keith Hutchinson, John Merritt and Raymond Lehner (l. to r.) leave school in uniform.

would still have the advantages of a complete program. The school has been affiliated with the ROTC since 1935.

The famed institution has sent numerous graduates to the service academies and numbers among its

more famous alumni the late Mayor James J. Walker; the Rev. Laurence J. McGinley, former president of Fordham University; Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark, and federal Judge John F.X. McGohery.

A Jesuit School in Manhattan Finds Strength in a Network of Grief

Continued From Page A1

“They can challenge our hearts but not change them,” repeats the Rev. David S. Ciancimino, class of ’77 and Xavier’s headmaster, at the many memorial Masses he has offered. “That is our great sanctimony, if you will.”

In the classroom, students are often stricken. The Rev. John Garvey, who teaches religion, recalled the day in November when his class was at its shakiest. The school was tentatively steadying itself when an airplane crashed in the backwash.

home to scores of Xavier students and staff members. Of the nine people killed on the ground, four had Xavier connections.

When his father’s fire company arrived on the scene of the plane crash, James told Father Garvey, they greeted him as “one of us now.”

“I was really down,” Father Garvey said. “I had the ‘whys’ when James came on, my presumption was I had to take care of this boy, and I was low my grief and be there for him. But he reminded me that we had to deal with what is. He was the voice of hope, love and caring.”

Xavier has also drawn on its legendary network, the generations of Irish and Italian families from the farthest reaches of the five boroughs who have sent their sons here, propelling them into the city’s middle class. Everyone who has ever gone to Xavier knows everyone else, or so it seems. They played on the same Catholic Youth Organization basketball team, went to the same college, drank at the same bars, started the same beaches, worked at the same firehouses and brokerage firms.

These connections, a source of jobs and social life in good times, now provide sustenance of another kind in the face of unfathomable loss. For James Duminuco, a freshman, it was the death of his father, a firefighter, who was killed in the World Trade Center attack.

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for organized discussion and a Mass for the dead—and told him her heart was broken. Since then, he has visited her office daily, but by the candy she has put out for 500 teenage boys, each stricken in his own way.

James’s grades are average, unlike those of many of his fellow students. He postponed his SAT in November from October, made an early-decision application to Iona College, where he brother, Patrick, goes, and says he is “doing O.K.”

James has switched from cross-country to sprints because long runs give him too much opportunity to ruminate.

James can also turn for comfort to John Burke, Xavier’s assistant headmaster and another Brevoy Point neighbor. Mr. Burke, too, is caught in the wide, dark net of grief, having lost his son, Matt, class of ’81 and a budding broker at Cantor Fitzgerald.

Many of Matt’s friends died as well: James Kuehn, a basketball star from the class of ’89; Charles Heron, class of ’86 and a colleague at Cantor; Sean Lagano, an Xavier classmate whose uncle is the school’s defensive line coach and whose cousin is a sophomore.

“You don’t want to say to anyone, ‘Gee, I’m glad your relative died,’” he said. “If you had someone and my Matt had been the only person killed, it’d be so devastating enough. But it would be more devastating if it were someone you knew.”

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Photograph by Elaine Engstrom for The New York Times



Lorraine Longing, director of guidance.



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The autumn 1963 edition of *The Xavier*.

A *New York Daily News* article about the transition to an optional Regiment, March 1971.

A *New York Times* article about Xavier’s 9/11 losses, December 2001.

attacked Pearl Harbor.

The next day, America was at war. Xavier was forever changed. “Once we got back, we felt a certain motivation,” Draper remembered. “We suddenly felt important; we marched more briskly.” Army instructors, teachers, coaches, and, soon thereafter, students were conscripted into service. After graduating, Draper too served in the Navy.

In 1958, in her Fordham doctoral dissertation, Helen McNulty wrote that “no high school in the United States made a greater contribution in manpower and effort during World War II than Xavier High School.” Xavier’s contribution to—and sacrifice for—the war effort began at Pearl Harbor, where Robert King ’32 was among the 2,403 Americans killed. Three years to the day after, on December 7, 1944, Jack Lovely was killed in action in Germany. He was 20 years old, one of nearly 1,500 Sons of Xavier who served in World War II, and one of dozens who gave their lives.

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

By the 1960s, Xavier was well acquainted with the double-edged sword of patriotism, of pride

and loss. In 1963, that loss manifested anew.

Friday, November 22 was a day anticipated by all of Xavier—Dennis Klejna ’64 included. That night, adorned in their dress blues with dates on their arms, the entire school would gather for the annual Military Ball. Klejna, then a senior, was excited to participate in Xavier’s liveliest tradition.

Such a big deal was the Military Ball that school let out early, so the boys would have time to travel home and get ready for the biggest night of the year.

It was just past 1:30 p.m. Klejna, on his way out, stopped by his locker and went to the bathroom in Larkin Hall. While washing his hands, he noticed a member of the maintenance staff crying. “I couldn’t understand what he was saying,” Klejna recalled, “but he was talking about Kennedy.” Klejna walked to Union Square to catch a train home to the Bronx. It was there that he learned what had happened. “There was a whole crowd of people standing around getting copies of this newspaper that said, ‘Kennedy Shot.’”

The Military Ball went on that night. Afterward, Klejna and his friends partook in the second half of the Military Ball tradition: the afterparty. They went to a nightclub, sat

around awkwardly, and then went home. “Very few places were open,” Klejna remembered. “The city seemed very dark.”

It wasn’t just the city. On the night of November 22, 1963, America was dark. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was America’s first Catholic president and the youngest man ever elected to the office. On January 20, 1961, when Kennedy was inaugurated, there was a snowstorm in New York City, closing school. Klejna, like millions of Americans, watched the inauguration on television.

For the Sons of Xavier of 1963, Kennedy was a beacon of hope—and change. “Mr. Kennedy’s greatest act as President was to rejuvenate our government. To bring life to a dormant country,” eulogized the autumn 1963 edition of *The Xavier*. “John Kennedy was working, he was trying—he was beginning. Let us continue.”

“The world that my class entered Xavier in was very much like the world of generations of Xavier students before,” Klejna, who arrived at Xavier amid the 1960 election, remembered. “By the time we left, things”—across America, within the Church, and at Xavier—“were beginning to change very rapidly.”

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was a harbinger of the turmoil that came to define

the 1960s. In 1964, Lyndon Johnson won the largest popular vote landslide in American presidential history. Eight years later, in 1972, Richard Nixon claimed an equally large victory in the opposite political direction. And amid the conflict—moral, cultural, political, and literal—that embroiled America, Xavier soon found itself caught in the crosshairs.

THE REGIMENT BECOMES OPTIONAL

By the end of the 1960s, the meaning of the military uniform had changed drastically for many amid America’s increasingly unpopular war in Vietnam. Union Square had become a hotbed of anti-war activism, and for Xavier students on their way to 16th Street, their uniforms became a liability. “I’d heard stories of guys getting spat on...getting called ‘baby killers,’” remembers Donald Gross ’72 P’03. “I just got hassled.”

Beginning in the late 1960s, the New York Province of the Society of Jesus urged reconsideration of Xavier’s Regiment. In the spring of 1971, President William Wood, S.J. gathered Xavier’s ranks in the gym to break the news—the Regiment would become optional. After a few seconds of silence, “the

gym exploded in cheers,” said Gross, whose decision to leave the Regiment was, in his words, “immediate.” (It is interesting to note that alumni recollections of the assembly vary. Some remember silence, some remember cheers, while others remember a combination of both.)

“My father was devastated. He thought it was the end of Xavier,” recalled Tom Healey ’72, who was inspired to go to Xavier when he first saw his older brother, Jay Healey ’65, in his dress blues. “I was upset for my dad, but I was more so wondering about how it was all going to play out.”

Healey, it turned out, would play a crucial part in that transition. The next year, he was chosen as cadet colonel, the first to preside over an optional Regiment. “It was a transitional year, and I think I was a political choice, someone who wasn’t *too* military, *too* gung ho, someone who could get along with everybody and keep it together,” said Healey. Healey—and Xavier—did keep it together. Those who remained in the Regiment did so by choice, and, in the half-century since, the spirit of the program never faltered. Since 1993, the Regiment has earned the title of Gold Star Honor Unit with Distinction every year, and the position of cadet colonel

remains one of the most important leadership positions at Xavier.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Sixty years after Pearl Harbor and 26 years after the United States left Vietnam, war once again returned to America—this time, closer to home than ever.

Jay Burke P’84 ’87 ’91 ’94 began his fifth year working at Xavier like any other. Then, at 8:46 a.m. on September 11, everything changed.

Soon thereafter, he got a call from his son Kevin Burke ’94. A plane had crashed into the World Trade Center—where Kevin’s older brother, Matthew Burke ’91, worked. “Years ago, there was a small twin engine that hit the Empire State Building, and I assumed Kevin was referring to something like that,” Burke remembered. Kevin informed his father of the scale of the attack. “Then it became a frightening situation.”

Shortly after first period, Headmaster David Ciancimino, S.J. ’77 made an announcement over the loudspeaker and broke the news to the school.

Phones were set up in the library for students with family in the vicinity of the World Trade Center to try and make



Part of the Xavier contingent rebuilding the Rockaways, November 2012.

contact. Patrick Mahon '04, who was then a sophomore at Xavier, had an older brother, John Mahon '99, who worked in World Trade Center 7. Mahon went to the library to try and get in contact with John, and it was there, through whispers between teachers, that he learned the Pentagon had been attacked. "You had this surreal thing that you knew was happening, but you couldn't quite comprehend it or picture it," Mahon, now in his 12th year teaching at Xavier, said. "I really just felt like, 'Oh my God, the country is under attack.'"

While students tried to call home, Jay Burke made a difficult decision. With Ciancimino's approval, he left Xavier and went searching for Matt. Burke and one of his sons scoured Manhattan, traveling from hospital to hospital where survivors were being treated. Then, at one hospital in the Bronx, Burke learned that there was a patient on file with his son's name.

The Matthew Burke on file, however, was not his son. Burke's son had perished in the World Trade Center, along with every employee of Cantor Fitzgerald who showed up to work that day.

Eventually, Mahon got in contact with his mother, who informed him that his older brother was okay. He returned to religion class with Greg Harkness. Then came a deafening, rumbling noise. Dirt and debris, carried in an instant from two miles south, swarmed the windows. One of the Trade Center's towers had collapsed.

Mahon, like many students whose parents couldn't pick them up from school that day, wouldn't leave Xavier until after 6 p.m., when the NYPD deemed it safe. He took the F

train towards Brooklyn. It was only when the train was in Brooklyn Heights, overlooking the Manhattan skyline, that Mahon began to understand the destruction wrought that day. "When we got out of the tunnel, the Manhattan skyline was just this complete cloud of smoke so low, you couldn't discern buildings, you couldn't discern anything," he remembered. When he got home, he turned on the news. It was then that he understood something deeper about that day. "I knew at that point that nothing was ever going to be the same," said Mahon. "And it couldn't be. It just couldn't be the same."

Matthew Burke was one of 10 Sons of Xavier—along with John Ryan '74, Edmund McNally '78, Christopher Hanley '84, Michael Andrews '85, John Farrell '87, Jimmy Riches '89, Sean Lugano '91, James Coyle '93, and Charles Heeran '96—killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

In total, some 60 members of the Xavier community—loved ones of students and teachers alike—died that day.

"It was the worst day of my life, and the worst day of my family's life," Burke said. "But we had a family that rallied around us, we had our Breezy Point family, and we had our Xavier family."

Burke returned to Xavier two weeks after the attacks. And when he did, he brought with him a portrait of his son to hang in the teacher's lounge. "Whether it's at the dinner table during grace, at a ball game, or meeting up with some of his old friends," said Burke, "not a day goes by that we don't remember Matt."

In the weeks and months that followed, the Xavier community was stronger than ever.

The bonds of friendship, family, and faith persisted even as the pain of catastrophic loss remained.

SUPERSTORM SANDY

It was October 27, 2012, and Xavier's varsity football team had just beat Christ the King in a blowout, 40-14. The season was going great—great, of course, for everyone but the team. "We were 7-2, and we felt like underachievers," remembered Chris Stevens '83, who is now in his 35th year at Xavier and his 31st season coaching Xavier football. "In my speeches, I was saying to the kids, 'This is nearly the best team in Xavier High School history that's not going to leave a mark.'"

Then, on October 29, came the storm. The ocean rose a record 14 feet above normal levels. Entire swaths of the city were inundated. Winds reached 80 miles per hour along the coast of Long Island, toppling trees and telephone poles, wiping out electricity and leaving millions without power. Some \$19 billion in damage was done, 44 New Yorkers were killed, and more than 300,000 homes in New York were destroyed.

Ninety-three Xavier students were displaced, among them 11 varsity football players.

But, as Xavier history attests, adversity only makes our community stronger, and immediately after the storm, the community got to work. Students and teachers alike volunteered funds, supplies, and labor to those displaced by the storm. Xavier brigades trekked to inundated areas, and, in all, provided direct relief to more than 75 families in the Rockaways—the New York City neighborhood hardest-hit by the hurricane—and beyond. The Xavier community at large contributed an extraordinary \$665,444 for Sandy relief. Nearly \$130,000 of that total was spent on direct aid to families, with the rest of the funds supporting tuition assistance for displaced students for the rest of their years on 16th Street.

And while the city struggled to get back to normal, Xavier football had to get back

on the field. The league called Stevens and asked him if his team would be able to play. Stevens surveyed his team, and the resounding answer was yes. "We had 11 kids out of their houses, and they said to me, 'Coach, we just lost everything. Please don't let them take the season.'" And so Xavier played on.

Of the 11 players whose homes had been destroyed by Sandy, Stevens remembered, none missed a single practice for the rest of the season. Among those who had been spared by the storm, "they wanted to show that they were as committed to the team as these kids who had just lost their homes," said Stevens. "It was the strangest experience of my coaching career...Sandy just took us up a notch."

That reinvigorated focus carried Xavier all the way to the championship game against St. John the Baptist on December 1, 2012. It was frigid, and everyone was there—students, friends, parents, and family members all packed the sidelines to see Xavier face off against a team it had lost to earlier that season, to see the culmination of a season of hard work and camaraderie amid unbelievable adversity, to see Xavier, against all odds, win.

And Xavier did indeed win. The story traveled far and wide, from the local news to ESPN to rumors that *Sopranos* star James Gandolfini was set to play Stevens in a Xavier football biopic. "It was football Valhalla," Stevens recalled. But claiming the championship wasn't just a celebration for Stevens, it was an obligation. "The parents of the kids who were out of their houses came to every game. They were looking for something to distract them from their troubles. To be able to contribute to that was an honor." And to contribute, "we needed to win." Through the strength of the Xavier community, they did.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

When math department chair Jennifer Velazquez was a child, she and her cousins liked to play school. It was convenient, Velazquez recalled: everyone else wanted to be

students, while she wanted to be the teacher. She followed that passion all the way from an imaginary classroom in Elmhurst to 16th Street. And, when the coronavirus flipped the world upside down in March 2020, her 12th year of teaching math at Xavier, it was that passion that helped her rediscover the art of teaching—and the value of the classroom.

As foreign as many students found asynchronous learning, asynchronous teaching came with a similarly steep learning curve. "I felt like a new teacher at times, like it was my first year all over again," Velazquez said. "The word 'pivot' became the catchphrase of the last two years."

For Velazquez, the pandemic pivot began with recording a calculus problem on video—and trying to keep it snappy. "I was so worried about getting the video under-time that I messed something up, and I had to record the entire video all over again." Eventually, Velazquez shut off her self-imposed timer and gave herself time to solve the problem before her.

As it turned out, all of Xavier needed a little time to face—and overcome—the problems before them. And overcome, they did.

When Timothée Kambouris '20 learned that school would be closing for two weeks to flatten the curve of infections, he, like many Xavier seniors, was ecstatic. Gathered at lunch on March 12, 2020, Kambouris and his friends had no idea that it would be their last time. "When we left, no one felt the need to say

goodbye or anything. We had no clue," Kambouris said.

Then two weeks became two months, and a temporary change became indefinite. Kambouris finished the school year from his parents' house in New Jersey. Though physically apart, his friend group made it a point to stay connected. They exercised together over FaceTime, they hosted nightly virtual Netflix parties, and they communicated daily via Snapchat. One day, Kambouris messaged his friends with a question: "What's something about school you miss only now that it's been taken away?" On July 31, the Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola—after four months apart—Kambouris and his classmates gathered at long last in St. Patrick's Cathedral. As class salutatorian, Kambouris had the opportunity to answer his own question.

"I never thought I would miss waking up at 6 a.m.," he remarked in his speech that night, "and I really never thought I would miss carrying a 50-pound backpack home." But what remained was the community he found at Xavier, "the bonds and friendships that will last our entire lives."

It is those bonds, those friendships that have lasted through wars, terrorist attacks, superstorms, political turmoil, and pandemics, that have sustained Xavier for 175 years, and will sustain Xavier for generations to come.

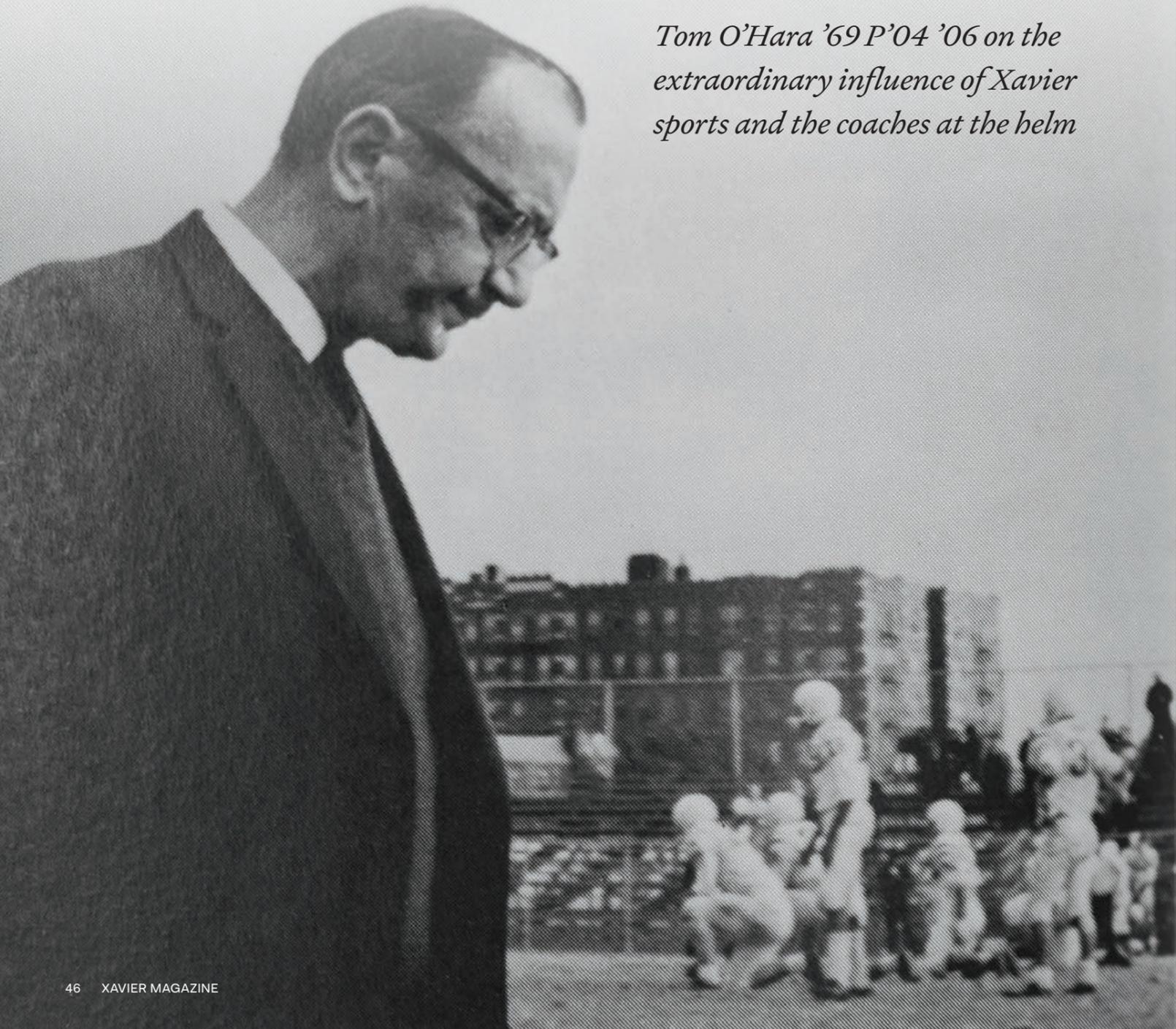
Eric Krebs '17 is a graduate of Yale University. He is a writer and economic researcher.



Graduation during the COVID-19 pandemic, July 2020.

LEGENDARY COACHES

Tom O'Hara '69 P'04 '06 on the extraordinary influence of Xavier sports and the coaches at the helm



The first time I ever set foot on 16th Street, I met The Legend.

It was June 1967. My family and I had just arrived in New York from Cleveland, where we had lived for a decade.

I was 15 and had just finished my sophomore year at St. Ignatius High School, the Jesuits' Cleveland branch office. But New York had been our clan's base since my grandparents emigrated from Ireland in 1921, and their son, *the* Tom O'Hara, had graduated from Xavier in 1943. There was no question as to where I would complete my secondary education.

My father and I were in Xavier's hallowed halls that hot summer morning to meet with the headmaster and, frankly, it was not going well. I was being told, it seemed, that I was being given a place at Xavier only because my dad was a grad.

I briefly considered telling the headmaster what he could do with my place at Xavier, but my dad, an FBI agent of some renown, was a tough, no-nonsense guy, and it would have been a suicidal gesture on my part. I said nothing.

But things suddenly took a turn for the better. Xavier's school year was over, but my dad learned that his old football coach was in the building. We retreated from the headmaster's office and descended the stairs to a storage space off the main athletic locker room, where we found the great Leo Paquin P'64 overseeing an inventory of equipment and uniforms in preparation for the upcoming football season.

My father had not seen Mr. Paquin since 1943, when the celebrated coach and teacher had departed 16th Street to accept a commission in the Navy. (Many of his colleagues, students, and players, including my dad, would soon follow him into World War II.)

"Leo," as his players affectionately referred to him (out of earshot), recognized my dad immediately and greeted him warmly in that cement-mixer of a voice that was instantly recognizable to generations of Sons of Xavier. Then he shook my hand and, after briefly interrogating me about my own rollercoaster gridiron career, said he would see me at training camp in August.

Training camp? In high school? Coach Paquin had my attention.

As the son of a Xavier football player, I knew all about Leo Paquin. The man from Massachusetts had anchored the left flank of the Seven Blocks of Granite, the formidable Fordham line that had held the Rams' opponents to just 33 total points in eight games in 1936. Future NFL coaching

icon Vince Lombardi, himself one of the Seven at right guard, had been Paquin's roommate and his lifelong friend.

When Paquin graduated in 1937, the New York Giants invited him to play for them. Instead, the gridironman who had made the dean's list every year at Rose Hill headed downtown to coach football and teach Latin and English on 16th Street.

I went on to play for Coach Paquin for two years. I was recruited by the United States Merchant Marine Academy following my senior season, and I suspect that he may well have had something to do with that. When I graduated from Kings Point in 1973, Leo, by then Xavier's athletic director, hired me as assistant JV football coach. And that is how one reluctant transfer student from Cleveland embarked upon a 55-year (and counting) relationship with Xavier—as a player, coach, teacher, parent, and, for the past two decades, unofficial football and rugby scribe.

My story is not unique. Whole battalions of Xavier's Sons had their lives impacted by Leo Paquin during his four decades on 16th Street. Kevin Craig '68 is one of them.

For the past 35 years, Craig has been a professor of engineering at prominent institutions of higher learning, but from 1965 to 1967, he was the center of Xavier's offensive line. Following his senior season, for which he earned a slot on the *Daily News'* All City First Team, he was awarded both the Moynahan and Herlihy (football MVP) trophies at the school's Block X Dinner. Later, he took his talents up the Hudson River to West Point, where he lettered in football and baseball and represented the United States in international baseball competition.

There is no question in Craig's mind who most influenced him back then. Although he was a big strong kid, his first exposure to organized football did not come until 1965, the summer before his sophomore year at Xavier, when he arrived at Camp Fordham, deep in the Catskill Mountains, for preseason training. "I began to experience the philosophy and wisdom of Lombardi through Coach Paquin, an extraordinary coach himself," Craig said. "I came to see that Coach Paquin was a more reserved version of Lombardi, with the same philosophy of commitment to excellence in all one does, paying the price for success, and rising each time one fails. The same passion and fire was there, but it was internal."

Nick Scerbo '72 was familiar with the legend of Leo Paquin when he arrived on 16th Street in September 1968. "However," he wrote, "on my first day of Latin, when Mr.



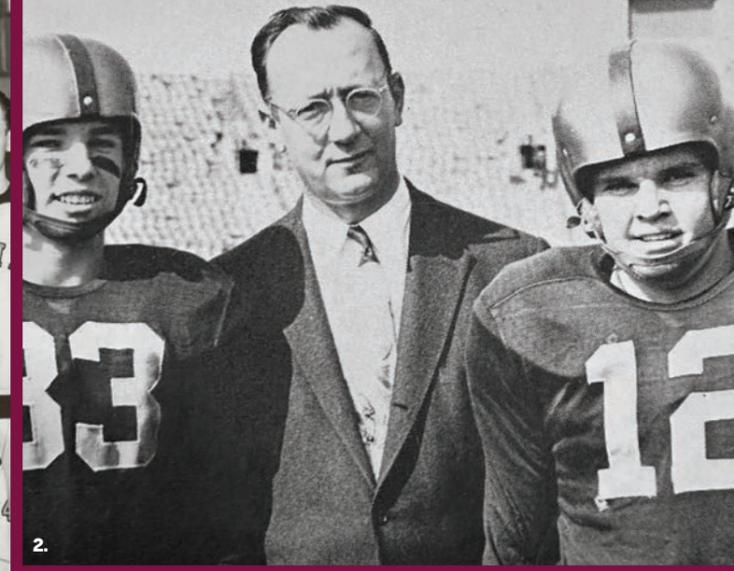
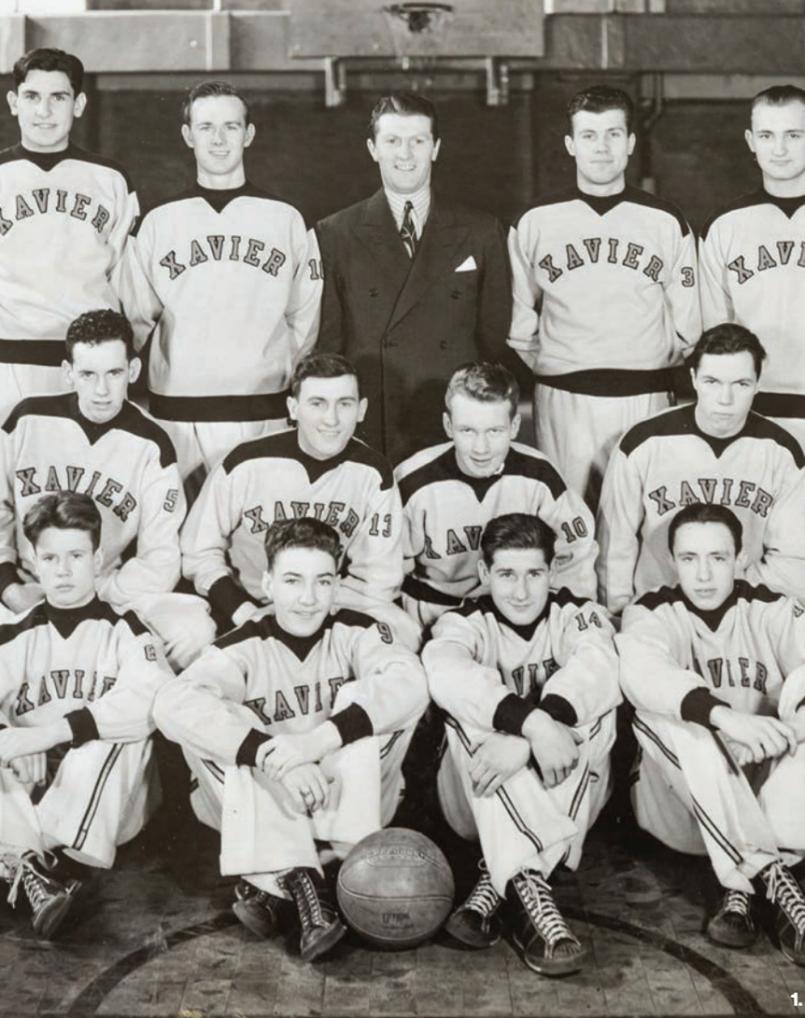
Frank McGuire '33



Leo Paquin P'64



Jim Scott P'79 '84



1. Frank McGuire with the basketball team in 1941.
 2. Leo Paquin with his football players in 1955.
 3. Jim Scott with his runners in 1965.

Paquin walked into the classroom, my expectations were replaced by awe. Although an imposing man, he was quiet and humble; his mere presence commanded respect. Over the course of the year, he demonstrated his character and leadership. In his interactions with us, he personified the Jesuit tradition of *cura personalis*—care for the whole person.”

Scerbo played briefly for Paquin following the 1969 JV season, when he was promoted to varsity for the Turkey Bowl, but by the following August, Paquin had stepped away from coaching to become Xavier’s athletic director.

Nevertheless, Paquin became Scerbo’s friend and mentor over the next two decades as Scerbo pursued his own vocation as a high school football coach and teacher, first at his alma mater and then in his native New Jersey. Presented with the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of his hero, Scerbo returned once more to 16th Street in the mid-1980s, this time as head football coach.

Throughout Scerbo’s career in coaching and sports administration, Paquin was there for him, right up until

his passing in 1993. “In my first year as head football coach at Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic, we played St. Cecelia’s High School, who often played Xavier when Coach Paquin coached against Vince Lombardi,” Scerbo recalled. “Coach Paquin attended the game and, when speaking to me afterward, said, ‘Watching you during the game, you reminded me of Vinny.’ When I realized that he meant Vince Lombardi, I was speechless. It was a great compliment, but I would have preferred that he compare me to himself. That would have been the greater honor.”

Even more famous than Leo Paquin in the sports world was one Francis J. McGuire ’33, but his life could easily have gone in a far different direction. The future Basketball Hall of Famer was born in Greenwich Village, the youngest of 13; he was just 4 when his father, a New York City police officer, died in the line of duty. According to *Xavier: Reflections on 150 Years*, published in 1997, “Frank was left to make his way in a neighborhood that was

described as well populated with ‘the gangster element.’”

Despite his tough Irish mom’s best efforts, McGuire “had some minor problems” which are not described but were enough to get the Christian Brothers and Greenwich House involved. “A few years later,” the history continues, McGuire “found his way to the Jesuits at Xavier High School.”

And the rest is history. McGuire starred in football and basketball on 16th Street and went on to glory at St. John’s University, where he captained a terrific basketball team and finished in just three years.

His fabled career as a college basketball coach is well documented. He was Coach of the Year at St. John’s, North Carolina, and South Carolina, winning over 100 games at each institution and taking all three schools to the NCAA tournament. He took two teams to the NCAA final: his 1952 St. John’s team lost to Kansas, while his 1957 North Carolina squad defeated a Kansas team that included Wilt Chamberlain. McGuire and Indiana legend Bobby Knight are the only college coaches ever to lead their teams to 32-0 seasons.

Oh, and McGuire also coached the St. John’s baseball team into the 1949 College World Series.

In between his time as a star college player and his Hall of Fame career as a college coach, Frank McGuire spent 11 years teaching history and coaching basketball on 16th Street, with time out for service in the Navy during World War II. “High school, that’s where you really coach,” he said in an interview many years later.

Even then, according to the 1997 Xavier history, McGuire was known for his sense of style, sporting a game-day wardrobe that included a navy blue blazer and alligator loafers. And even then, his will to win was intense.

In a column he wrote upon McGuire’s passing in 1994, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* sportswriter Dave Anderson ’47 P’72 recalled a basketball game he covered for the student newspaper his senior year when Xavier played St. Cecilia’s High School in Englewood, New Jersey.

“Like any coach,” Anderson wrote, McGuire “didn’t trust any home team’s timekeeper, even when the St. Cecilia’s basketball coach that night was also its football coach, a man named Vince Lombardi.” McGuire, who was also Anderson’s civics teacher, took him aside. “‘Sit at the scorer’s table,’ he said, ‘and watch that clock.’”

Coach McGuire also knew how to win in the classroom. “In those days,” a student from the Class of 1942 recalled in *Xavier: Reflections on 150 Years*, “the Father Provincial visited each Jesuit high school once a year. You could be

sure that McGuire’s students appeared to be the best prepared and most knowledgeable in the Province. They had been thoroughly coached: ‘When I ask a question,’ McGuire would say, ‘I want everyone to raise his hand. If you know the answer, raise your right hand. If you don’t know the answer, raise your left hand.’”

But, Dave Anderson wrote, McGuire also had a strong sense of right and wrong. One day at St. John’s, he got a phone call from Adolph Rupp, Kentucky’s imperious head coach, objecting to the presence of Solly Walker, a Black player on the New York squad.

“You can’t bring that boy down here to Lexington,” Rupp commanded.

“Then cancel the game,” Coach McGuire snapped. “Cancel the game.”

Solly Walker played in Lexington.

As Dr. Tom Draper ’44 recalled, Frank McGuire was equally devoted to his students on 16th Street. “As our history teacher in 1940-41, he took an interest in our intramural basketball team, and on one special evening, he took the entire class out to the Jamaica Arena, where his colleague and friend Claire Bee provided us with instruction on basketball fundamentals.”

For non-basketball historians out there, the equivalent would have been for Leo Paquin to take his Latin class over to East River Park for an afternoon with Knute Rockne.



Along with football and basketball, two more sports with a long and colorful history on 16th Street are track and cross country, ably helmed for decades by Jim Scott P’79 ’84. Scott spent his entire

teaching and coaching career at Xavier, beginning in 1948.

Scott became head track and cross country coach in 1956, and from then until 1993, the “Scottsmen” strengthened a Xavier tradition in those sports that continues today. He was named chairman of the Track and Cross Country League, New York Section of the Catholic High School Athletic Association in 1986 and was inducted into the CHSAA Hall of Fame in 1988. Perhaps best of all, he got to coach his sons Jim ’79 and Dan ’84.

As George Febles P’83 ’88 ’90, himself a former Xavier teacher and track and cross country coach, wrote: “It would be a formidable task to list the city, state, and national championships garnered by his former runners and protégés coaching at Xavier, Fordham Prep, and Regis, to name but a few schools. Some, like current Xavier coach Pat Dormer P’17 and Fordham Prep coach George Febles,



Chris Stevens '83 hoists the CHSFL AA championship trophy in 2015.



Pat Dormer P'17 and his team after winning the outdoor Jesuit Championships in 2012.



Joe McGrane P'20 in 2016.

Jr. '83, have, like Jim, also served as chairmen and leaders of the city and statewide CHSAA.

“The listing of high school and college track and field All-Americans from teams coached by Jim’s runners and mentees would be another difficult task. Scottsmen, and many coached by Scottsmen, have run for Georgetown, Villanova, Fordham, West Point, Bucknell, Manhattan, Notre Dame, Boston University, and many other collegiate track powers. I am pleasantly astounded meeting Scottsmen—fathers, grandfathers, and career men—who are continuing their physical fitness as they work, raise their families, and make the world a better place.”

One of those Scottsmen, Jim Mantle '68, wrote:

“We had some excellent runners. The team was competitive, especially in the sprint events, even though we practiced just three days a week because of the military requirement that all athletes had drill on Mondays. We traveled to Van Cortlandt Park for practice during cross country and outdoor track seasons, most days arriving back home in the evening.

“It was Mr. Jim Scott who gave me the opportunity to run and compete. My brother Danny '66 approached Mr. Scott and asked if he could find a place on the team for his less-than-athletic, asthmatic little brother. Mr. Scott said no problem; he would have a spot for me. By senior year, with his supportive coaching, I was cross country team captain and had broken the varsity school record for the 2.5-mile cross country course at Van Cortlandt. I was also proud to be on a record-breaking two-mile relay team with Dave McGroarty '68, Tony Dasaro '69, and Pat Connelly '70.”

As dedicated as Scott was to his boys, he was also known for his understated coaching style. Patrick O'Brien '66 recalled the time his teammate Joe

Carini '66 asked their coach whether Xavier should emulate the LaSalle track team, whose coach had his runners lifting weights. “Mr. Scott replied, ‘Joe, it’s nonsense. You run with your legs, not your arms,’” O’Brien remembered. “End of discussion.”

That understated style, wrote Jim Tierney '68, also extended to their coach’s sense of humor. The aforementioned Jim Mantle “was doing very well one year with his 880-yard times and was anxious to do better and possibly break the two-minute barrier. He asked Mr. Scott if there was anything he could do to improve his times.

“Mr. Scott looked past Jim, took a puff on his cigarette, and replied, ‘Run faster.’”

Jim Mantle paid this tribute to his former coach:

“During our annual end-of-the-year track and cross country team dinner, Mr. Scott would always make a few comments about each member of the team present, no matter what his status on the team. Some of his remarks would be spiced with humor. Jim could make light of our eccentricities, but never at the expense of our limitations. Ultimately, his remarks were always positive and encouraging for each individual. And he would make these comments without reading from prepared notes—truly remarkable.”

In an address to Xavier students, faculty, and coaches earlier this century, former headmaster Mike LiVigni P'21 memorably proclaimed that sports at Xavier were themselves “a miracle.”

Indeed.

Xavier’s “campus” is but a few buildings on a city block in Chelsea, surrounded by brick, concrete, and asphalt. Our students travel to 16th Street each morning from all five boroughs and far beyond, and at the close of the long

academic day, most of our athletes make their way to faraway fields and other venues to train or compete. Then comes the long commute home to reheated dinners and the long hours of homework and study required to measure up to our alma mater’s exacting standards. And the next day they do it all over again. And the next day after that.

Yet 60% of Xavier’s students belong to at least one of its 41 teams that compete in 20 sports. Forty percent are multi-sport athletes. Our sports history is a long and colorful one that includes teams and players who have distinguished themselves at every level—collegiate, national, international, and professional. Win or lose, the men who have represented Xavier in athletic competition are better for it. And for that, a large portion of the credit must go to Xavier’s coaches and athletic administrators and moderators.

I have singled out Leo Paquin, Frank McGuire, and Jim Scott for this tribute because they are all Xavier Hall of Famers—larger-than-life figures closely identified with sports that have brought recognition to Xavier since the 19th century.

But this article could easily have been about Chris Stevens '83, who has become the winningest coach in the 140-year history of Xavier football; or current Xavier basketball coach Joe McGrane P'20; or cross country and track and field coach Pat Dormer. Or, for that matter, longtime baseball coach Rich Duffell P'93 '99, whose sport has also been around 16th Street since the 1800s, albeit intermittently.

All of these men are also members of the Xavier faculty. All are established, successful coaches. All are respected—by their players, their opponents, and by generations of Sons of Xavier.

Xavier men, young and old, are fortunate to have them.

A graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Tom O'Hara served as Xavier rugby's first coach upon the team's founding in 1976. He was inducted into the Xavier Hall of Fame in 2012.

MOYNAHAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Bernard M. Moynahan '30 Scholar Athlete Award recognizes a graduating senior with an exceptional commitment to academics and athletics. The award's namesake was a stellar student, athlete, and Cadet Colonel on 16th Street before enjoying a standout academic and athletic career at Boston College. He was killed in action during World War II on September 23, 1944.

1953	Edward Jewusiak	2001	Ryan Harmon
1954	Joseph Simone	2002	Michael Petri
1955	Thomas Carroll	2003	Brian McKeon
1956	John Casko	2004	Evan Bernstein
1957	Ruben Cubero	2005	James Cappabianca
1958	Barry Hurtz	2006	Angelo Miranda
1959	Thomas Sullivan	2007	Nickolas Hendra
1960	Daniel Caruso	2008	Michael Erickson
1961	Michael Genovesi	2009	Seamus Kelly
1962	Thomas Foley	2010	Patrick Nilsen
1963	Thomas Medich	2011	James McCool
1964	Patrick Cacacie & Kenneth Kolarcik	2012	Patrick Kilgallen
1965	Brian Kiely	2013	Isidro Camacho
1966	Brian Phelan	2014	William Solomon III
1967	Thomas Connolly	2015	Charlie Lambert
1968	Kevin Craig	2016	Christian Raslowsky
1969	William Quigley	2017	Connor Buckley
1970	John Battaglino & Robert Bennett	2018	Josef Raphael Oetli
1971	Gerard Conticchio	2019	Stephen Ryan
1972	John Moran	2020	Oliver Branham-Upton
1973	Thomas Masterson	2021	Andrew D'Alesio
1974	Frank McNerney	2022	Ciaran Murray
1975	Emil Giordano		
1976	Francis Apicella		
1977	Sean Coyle & Robert Haskins		
1978	Joseph Profaci		
1979	James Scott		
1980	John Profaci		
1981	Thanos Patelis		
1982	Joseph Ryan		
1983	Lybron John		
1984	Charles Mulham		
1985	Charlie Moran		
1986	Paul Andrews		
1987	Christopher Sturiano & Paul Mattioli		
1988	Justin Porto		
1989	Gregory Dolan		
1990	Michael Glynn & William Lozito		
1991	Rod O'Connor		
1992	Kenneth Nikaido		
1993	Daniel Steffens		
1994	Robert Gallagher		
1995	John McDermott		
1996	Michael Lee		
1997	Michael Rybicki		
1998	Thomas Traugott		
1999	John Traugott		
2000	Arthur Curcuru		



SONS OF XAVIER REMEMBER



Dr. Tom Draper '44 and Ean Tom '24—representing an 80-year spread of Xavier's history—at the 2022 Golden Knights Luncheon.

Earlier this year, *Xavier Magazine* asked alumni to reflect on the following questions: What made your time on 16th Street so special, and why? How did Xavier impact your life?

We are grateful to share their responses below and on the pages that follow.

1944

At Xavier, I was welcomed into an institution whose faculty and student body were committed to the service of Church and Nation. Between Church and Nation, there existed such a harmony that they often seemed to share the same path. Our Regiment that underwent military training in the Armory was the same that gathered in prayerful sodality with Fr. Tom Matthews in the Student Chapel. Frank McGuire, who taught us history in 1940-41, was the same man whom the Regiment honored when he enlisted in the armed services in 1943. Fr. Ray Gough, who played games of handball with us in 1940, and whose first Mass I served following his ordination, departed for a life of service as a missionary in the Philippines in 1944. My fellow cadet, Jack Lovely, gave his life in the Army's Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Xavier taught me the values of service to others that enabled me to dedicate my life to the health care of individuals and in public health to the care of the community in which we lived.

Dr. Tom Draper

1948

Entering in 1944, being part of a 97-year-old school, and drawing on a four-century Jesuit tradition was awesome (uniforms, parades, and LATIN!). We were to act manfully, and aim to do noble and unselfish things with our future lives. Wednesday, as I recall, was our training afternoon at the Ninth Regiment Armory to which we would march two blocks from school. And we had MPs in the hallways to maintain order and traffic to classes, and you better have your shoes shined and uniform buttoned or you were "written up" by those no-nonsense (some of the time) MPs.

John Kapp

1950

The creation of the Glee Club in 1948-49 in which I played a role along with teacher Joe Caruso. It prepared me for my college and graduate degrees leading to a career in health care.

Louis Parker

1951

The best of Xavier for me were the friendships with my fellow students and some of my Jesuit teachers. They were long-lasting and some powerful today.

Jack Replogle, S.J.

Attending a Catholic, Jesuit military high school, I am sure, helped me as I moved on to attending Virginia Military Institute, graduating with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, followed by 23 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. My next career was spent as a Township Manager for 26 years in Pennsylvania. Xavier High School was a big contributor to the road ahead after graduation.

William Shea

1952

I always appreciated the fact that I was attending a great school with a long tradition of Jesuit education and the JROTC. My life was impacted forever by the self-discipline learned from study habits and the Regiment.

Thomas Conniff P'83 '84

1955

Xavier taught me what the important goals in life were and how to achieve them.

Dan Cuoco

Xavier gave me a strong commitment to God and country and the importance of service to my fellow man. This was an important baseline when I joined the Corps of Cadets at West Point whose motto—"Duty, Honor, Country"—underscored my life.

James O'Connell

The school had a huge impact on my life. I remember a single tapestry of my life from 14 to 18 bound in maroon and blue. Fr. Matthews hovers in the Main Hall, always available at the start of the day. Mr. Caruso tells me how to spell his name; park the CAR in front of the USO. M'm! M'm! Good! Mr. Rogo, I ask, teaches *Ich bin ein Deutscher*. My dad always describes Fr. Fagan as a double for Maurice Chevalier. There is Barnes & Noble at 18th and Fifth—their flagship—always cheaper than the Xavier bookstore for tech stuff. Subway rides from 14th Street to 207th Street for tennis practice. Pat Rooney in white flannels. The months the weekly drills move from the Ninth Regiment Armory on West 14th Street to the 69th Regiment Armory on East 25th Street so the Roller Derby could rock and roll. The St. Patrick's Day Parades and green beer in steins. Fr. Knoepfel tells 300 new freshmen that only 180 will graduate. He's off by three. I learn, I study, I make friends, and, in truth, I flourish. It is years before I figure out that Xavier made me the smartest guy in the room with only two exceptions. I still keep score.

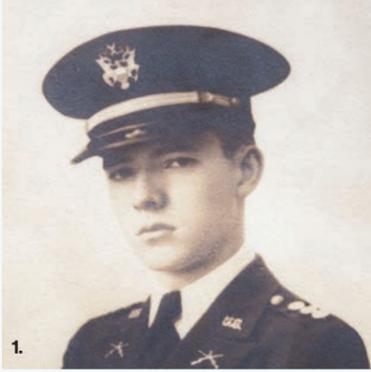
Harry Waterson

I never thought of myself as a leader. Until Xavier! At Xavier, I performed well academically, learned how to shoot a rifle on a team that never lost a match, became a leader as a bugler, and achieved the rank of Cadet Captain—in the top 10 of my class. This continued at Manhattan College, where I led the rifle team to the league championship. By the time I turned 30, I was superintendent of the Amoco Terminal and Lube Oil Facility in Baltimore, Maryland. I had 128 people, including seven supervisors, under my command.

Edward Wolek

1956

Xavier taught me to think critically and gave me a head start on the



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1. Dr. Tom Draper '44

2. John Kapp '48

3. Jack Replogle, S.J. '51

4. Thomas Conniff P'83 '84



Dr. Frank Perroni '56, Pat Rouse '56, Dr. Ludwig Deppisch '56, Charlie Ferrara '56, and Anthony Cangemi '56 at Villa Mosconi in Greenwich Village in 2011.

rest of my life. It also introduced me to classmates with whom I remain friendly to this day. My first year of college, I received As in math and English without having to study because of my Xavier background. Because I was on a football scholarship my first year at Xavier University, my time was extremely limited. Being able to take math and English courses without spending significant time preparing for them was a huge advantage. People are amazed today when I tell them that my high school football coach was a member of the famous Fordham University Seven Blocks of Granite and that in addition to coaching, he also taught Latin and English. I'm not sure there is anywhere today where students have exposure to high school coaches with that level of achievement and background. Teachers like John Finnegan not only provided me with an outstanding mathematics education but also shared his philosophy on life and raising kids and influenced me in a positive way. The military aspect of Xavier provided discipline and leadership skills that have been an asset my entire life. I am grateful every day for the education and example that the faculty provided for me. Few people understand the true advantage of having received a

Jesuit high school education, but I do.

John Casko

📍 In addition to our wonderful teachers and the demanding calls for self-discipline from our Prefect of Discipline, Fr. Charles Lehmkuhl, S.J., I would like to salute Mr. John Fisher, a retired Chief Warrant Officer who instructed our marching band. Mr. Fisher was an outstanding teacher who brought the newcomer up to the grade of professional musician over the years. He was humble but persevering, and had great energy despite his World War I-wounded lungs which left him somewhat short of breath. But he was a giant for a man of short stature, who carried a ladder and press camera to capture outstanding photos of our Regiment at the mid-year and final reviews. Mr. Fisher earned the respect and gratitude of all in the Regimental Band and others who knew him. He is an icon of a true gentleman.

Dr. Frank Perroni

1957

As a 37-year Air Force pilot and general officer with a combat tour in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller, I attribute any success in my military career to two educational institutions: the U.S. Air Force Academy from 1957 to 1961 and Xavier High School from 1953 to 1957. Certainly my desires to become a pilot and military officer for 37 years were attributed to attending the newly constructed USAF Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado, as part of the third entering class in 1957. However, equally important in my development as a professional military officer was my almost arbitrary selection of Xavier when I knew absolutely nothing of the Junior ROTC program that was integrated into an extremely challenging four-year academic curriculum. The Jesuits were magnificently effective in presenting me with a broad spectrum of academic courses that in truth allowed me to take almost the identical first and second year college courses at the USAF Academy. Moreover in my Xavier military experiences,

I still get a lump in my throat whenever I think of my few but mostly terrifying encounters with our Prefect of Discipline, Fr. Charles Lehmkuhl, S.J. I never feared any Air Force general more than I feared Fr. Lehmkuhl as he always mysteriously appeared and disappeared before our very eyes during any misdeed we committed. So, thank you, Xavier, for the foundational development of both my intellect and courage that allowed me to achieve success in my beloved Air Force career.

Brigadier General Randy Cubero, USAF (Ret.)

1958

Eventually I'd play quarterback, point guard, and pitcher on 11 Xavier teams, but on a November Saturday morning in 1954 I was super excited for my first-ever real high school game (freshman basketball). Arriving early after walking and taking the bus and subway to 16th Street from Queens Village, I quickly realized I'd left my locker key at home. Suddenly a giant in a Roman collar and black cloak, Fr. Charles Lehmkuhl, S.J., the Prefect of Discipline, arrived with a master key, not to open my locker, but to command me to return home immediately to get my key—and to be back at Xavier, in game uniform, before my first-ever game ended. I made it back to school to play about 30 seconds at game's end, but never forgot my key or much else in the 68 years since!

Dr. Charlie Crawford

When I was applying to the varied NYC Catholic high schools in the eighth grade and I visited Xavier, I was impressed by the welcoming attitude of the faculty and the students who were proctoring the exam. There was something very different about Xavier and I decided it was the place for me. All I had to do was pass the exam and see how to pay the \$30/month tuition. My education and the leadership training I received from the military faculty, I believe, molded my life more than college. Friendships were made even though we did not live in the same neighborhoods, unless we consider NYC and New Jersey as "our



Edward Whalen '59 and his classmates on a trip to Westover Air Force Base in the fall of 1958.

neighborhood." I am indebted to the many scholastics who were our teachers and mentors. I enjoyed the Regiment and its discipline. I recall clearly the senior retreat at Gonzaga in Monroe, New York.

Dr. Bruce McDonald

As a student coming from Washington Heights, I was most influenced by the sense of brotherhood instilled in me. This and the dedication to discipline guided me (and still does) in all my years since that initial time on 16th Street.

Dan Rodriguez

The fact that the education and friends that I developed would last me a lifetime. The Jesuit philosophy is something that I have cherished. It has guided me all my life.

William Smith

1959

Without a doubt, the Regiment with the whole school

participating. Didn't appreciate it until later in life. It's where I learned (and later applied) "No excuse...SIR!" It set Xavier apart.

William Fagan

📍 To quote a much-used phrase, "It was a time for a coming of age." I was a much different person going into Xavier as a 13-year-old freshman than I was when I came out at 17. My experiences with the Jesuit tradition, the faculty, and my fellow students molded my life. The JROTC program was a tremendous experience and gave me some skills I've used through life. The religious factor and the ability to question has also helped me. The academics were great even if some of the subjects were quite painful for me.

Edward Whalen

1961

Xavier provided us with "the facts of life" through Fr. Knoepfel, S.J. at orientation; opened our minds and hearts through excellent teachers;

surrounded us with generous, talented, happy classmates who became lifelong friends; challenged us to choose integrity, character, devotion, and love for all we meet in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier. Our lives allowed us to build on that foundation, or return to the well for encouragement and acceptance through our reunions.

John T. Bradt

At Xavier I learned how to ask the right question. The value of thinking things through. The value of seeing both sides of an issue.

William LaRosa

The values, discipline, and self-confidence instilled at Xavier became indelible throughout my entire life.

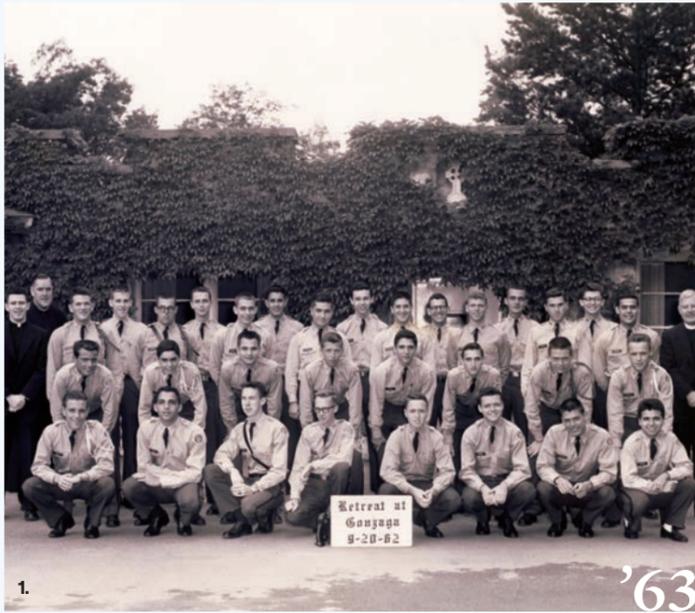
Frederic Salerno

1962

In addition to the great education I received, I learned a lot about self-discipline and teamwork. When I left 16th Street, I felt truly

"With time, all the memories connected with old St. Francis will grow tender, joyous. The bricks, the walls, the desks, will rise up and appeal to you, as though they were living things...As the chorus of sweet memories grows fuller with the years, the sense of obligation deepens, the value of service done grows more and more apparent, the spirit of loyalty grows stronger. Such is the experience of every 'old boy'—at least, every St. Francis 'old boy.'"

—J.A. Mooney 1859
The Xavier, June 1897



1.



1. Bill Porter '63 and his classmates on their senior retreat in September 1962.

2. Jim McDonough '66 and his classmates celebrate their graduation at the Waldorf-Astoria in June 1966.

prepared for college and life in general. That being said, what made my time even more special were the relationships forged at Xavier. I was fortunate to be invited into the honors program in sophomore year. Besides taking extra coursework, the honors class remained together as a group for three years. You got to know your classmates well and developed special bonds with some of them. My best friend is Frank Candido, a fellow 2B, 3B, and 4B classmate.

We have been friends for 63 years. Frank was in my bridal party and has served as the family doctor for 40+ years. Relationships like this are rare. I feel blessed to have Frank in my life.

Philip Ambrosini

Among the formulas associated with Jesuit education is *cura personalis*, care of and for the individual student. After over 60 years of attending or working at Jesuit schools I've come to understand this phrase to mean taking an interest in the student. When I was a student at Xavier many of my teachers took an interest in me which, as an averagely self-absorbed 18-year-old, I mistook for mere flattery. Only later did I appreciate how important it was to be taken seriously as a person who had interests and talents which I was expected to nurture and share. In my work as a teacher and administrator I never forgot this gift of interest my teachers gave me at Xavier.

Hubert Cloke

Xavier has had and continues to have a great impact on my life. First, as a student, Xavier taught and upheld lifelong lessons and discipline necessary to be successful on the spiritual, emotional, and physical levels. Second, as a member of the faculty, teaching the young men these same lifelong lessons brought the perspective of what the elders had taught us. As a teacher, I came to understand more fully what Xavier does for the students, the teachers, and society as a whole. Now, as a retired professor emeritus, I am able to experience a third perspective. Still active at Xavier events, helping out teaching at times, and performing at some events, I see how Xavier changes with the times and is truly a community that is both accepting and welcoming. It is a way of life, a family of people, and it is always there. Xavier, although totally unexpected at first, has formed a very big part of who I was, who I am, and who I will continue to grow to be.

Rocco Iacovone

My four years at Xavier exposed me for the first time to the Jesuits and their mantra, "men and women for others." I experienced discipline in an academic, spiritual, athletic, and social environment. Perhaps my realization of this exposure was gradually realized over time through college, law school, and my professional career and to some degree, the realization continues with ongoing interaction with my classmates.

Ken Padgett

1963

More than college, more than grad school, more than law school—I think of my time at Xavier as setting me on course for my life's journey. The teachers were unforgettable, the Regiment gave us a common purpose, and many of the 35 or so fellows with whom I shared every class from sophomore through senior year became lifelong friends.

Bill Porter

My time at Xavier High School taught me the life values I have passed to my children.

Hank Cardarelli

1964

I've always felt that my Xavier education was in many ways more valuable than my college education, for while college taught me what to think in my chosen profession, Xavier taught me how to think, a much more valuable skill that I use in every aspect of my life.

Jack Molinelli

That time...those four years (1960-1964) have lasted a lifetime—well, not yet. I've "marched" through the years ever-conscious of the privilege my single mother provided. The surrounding of fellow students and teachers was and always will be an inspiration and challenge to share both competition and camaraderie; thereafter striving to impart to others the Xavier values of service and achievement.

Bill Murray

Xavier provided me with a solid foundation in critical thinking, intellectual curiosity,

and academic discipline, not to mention ways in which such skills could be marshaled in support of what became my life's work as a historian, researcher, teacher, and writer.

Kenneth Perkins

For me, it was the military learning and discipline combined with the spiritual learning and discipline, especially the junior and senior year retreats. Xavier prepared me for college better than I may have appreciated at the time.

Jon Thompson

Great education, both academic and practical.

Jim Vavrina

1965

I was definitely not an overachiever at Xavier. I was not an officer in the Regiment, or a team captain, or valedictorian. Far from it. I was just one of the guys. And that was the best part. In spite of the achievements of others, I was still an equal and I was treated that way. At Xavier, I was a part of a greater thing, but I was just as important a part as everyone else and I was reminded of that every day. Xavier helped me develop self-confidence and self-respect as well as respect for others. And that was just as important to me as any accolade, and it lasted a lot longer, too.

Marty McCormack, Jr.

Learning to see God in all things, learning to think outside the box, and learning the concepts of Ignatian spirituality, which truly formed my own spiritual journey in life.

Rev. Daniel Murphy

1966

Xavier gave me a sense of discipline.

Peter Costiglio

In retrospect, I came to understand how hard our teachers worked to help us learn and understand not only course content but how to be "men for others." I came to appreciate the retreats at Gonzaga Retreat House. I loved the JROTC. It was such a unique experience for high school boys. I remember

we served as an honor guard when Pope Paul VI came to NYC. I know that my father, a World War II veteran, was proud of my participation. This experience helped me when I got drafted and left for active duty in 1972! Perhaps most importantly, I came to have so many friends during those school years and that number has grown since graduation. I have attended every reunion including our 50th. We still have about 100 active members of my class. These guys love to reminisce. It's like being back in school but without grades! Lastly, when my son was born, we drove back from Indianapolis, where we lived, to have him baptized in the Student Chapel. I will never forget that experience.

Edward DeSimone

My first exposure to critical thinking and intellectual rigor, binding with friends with whom I still have regular contact 60 years later.

Ron Graziano

I learned how to organize myself to get things done on time, to get to school on time regardless of transit issues, to have the discipline to complete homework regardless of how much there was. When I got to college, it was easy. The same habits carried over in my working career.

Jim McDonough

When I took a placement test to see what freshman classes I should take, I looked around the room after a while and noticed that everyone was finished except me. I was usually the first one finished with these types of tests. This taught me to be humble and work hard.

Jim Wickersty

1967

The Xavier environment was a perfect setting for anyone who wanted to learn. Students who were there to grow intellectually, teachers who were intelligent and dedicated, and an administration that maintained a caring, safe, clean, disciplined, supportive school for all. And men and women



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for others, which has stayed with me my whole life.

Richard Battaglini P'96

Xavier was my dream school, applied to no other. The Regiment was the unique experience that made the years on 16th Street very special. The entire school was a community in which everyone knew everyone else. That was because the cadets ran everything at the student level; the social and leadership skills taught and acquired were without equal and wearing the uniform on a daily basis was a matter of pride and ensured a marked public visibility that demanded proper gentlemanly behavior as representatives of the school. Ultimately the Regimental system engendered a camaraderie that has lasted throughout life. The school's never-ending emphasis on competitive excellence in all things academic, military, and athletic (indeed, life in general) stayed with all throughout the

1. Major Francis Dong, USA (Ret.) '67 and his classmates on their junior retreat in February 1966.

2. Richie Battaglini '67 P'96 with his classmates and Jim Keenan, S.J. in September 2019.

"I come to you as one who loved the Xavier that was and is captivated by the Xavier that is coming to be...I thrill with hope for the Xavier a-borning, and I yearn to share that hope with you."

—Walter Burghardt, S.J. '31
December 2, 1972



Lenny Alfano '69, his classmates, and their dates at their senior prom at El Patio Beach Club in June 1969.

“For 75 years, she has been sending men into every walk of New York’s busy life. Old with the age of 75 golden years, today she stands younger, fresher, more vigorous, more active. Go into whatsoever avocations you will, but always remember that you are Jesuit products and Sons of Xavier.”

—Michael Clark, S.J.,
18th President
December 10, 1922

years. It was the most demanding environment in which to grow up; “multitasking” might properly be applied to the Xavier experience. Juggling academics (e.g. Latin, Shakespeare), the military (drill, uniform maintenance), and sports (often practiced at venues away from the school) all while commuting from home and back made for long days and study nights. When speaking about Xavier, I have emphasized that Xavier is the bedrock of my academic achievements through the doctorate; Xavier made all subsequent academic endeavors easy. It was once said that the X in Xavier stands for excellence... definitely true.

Major Francis Dong, USA (Ret.)

Being part of the Xavier Regiment gave me a sense of honor, duty, and pride. Each day I wore the Xavier uniform I had a sense of belonging to the Long Blue Line of Xavier cadets going back, all the way back. Xavier cadets were known and respected in the city. We were seen and admired in every major parade on Fifth Avenue. Being part of the Regimental system we learned leadership and self-discipline. That formation has followed me throughout my life. I will always be grateful to Xavier.

Deacon Francis Orlando

1968

My time at Xavier changed the trajectory of my life. I was introduced, during my time there, to the power of learning—and the extent I could, through expanding my knowledge in all areas of my life, change my path. The subtext of the need to serve has also filled my life. In addition to military service, I have committed myself to several nonprofit groups, culminating in a five-year tenure as an AmeriCorps volunteer working with Habitat for Humanity (a tenure that I am now completing at age 71).

Ben Benya, Jr.

Xavier helped me to become sensitive to the plight of those less fortunate than I. The following poem, *On My Way*, is an affirmation of lessons in kindness I learned as a student.

On My Way

I was on my way to a class reunion, where the beer and beef steak would flow all night. Bundled up in a handsome coat and hat appropriate for a businesswoman glaring down the wintry bite, you were dragging a suitcase (or was the suitcase prodding you) slowly, gradually, to nowhere near where I was heading. In the spiky shadows of wrought-iron church gates, somber but silent in their disapproval, you stopped me. Even in the face of your twisting grimace, I was proudly prepared to provide whatever direction would propel you securely on your way. But unprepared—only briefly, thankfully—for the prayer you offered in angry agony, politely: “Will you help me, please? I’m so hungry.”

James Keane

Inclusion is a trendy concept today. But it was no less so in the 1960s when I was at Xavier. There was an abundance of extracurricular activities to suit a vast diversity of interests. My niche was the Speakers’ Guild. It was fun, and

I was proud to represent Xavier in competition. Having learned the art of public speaking, I am particularly humbled that those skills are very useful today as I regularly receive requests to give keynotes and testimonials at retirement dinners of friends and colleagues. Shout-outs to moderators, teammates, and special friends (some deceased): Rev. Richard Blake, S.J., Rev. Russell (“Super”) Sloun, S.J., Richie Mayer, Bruce Owens, Sal Perisano, and Jack Foley ’69. Extra shout-outs to John Scaffardi (best man) and Mark Castel ’76 (brother-in-law). Highest affection and admiration for Rev. Vincent Butler, S.J. (officiated at my wedding, my dad’s funeral, and my son’s baptism in Xavier’s Student Chapel).

Dr. Robert Yordan

1969

📷 The people: the staff, the military, and the lifelong friendships. Many of us keep in touch via social media. No matter how far away we are, we are all Sons of Xavier.

Lenny Alfano

Xavier provided me with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that have allowed me to be a better human being.

Philip Drago

The foundational wisdom learned at Xavier does not cease to help and amaze me. The basic respect for life and the dignity of every person instilled at a very impressionable age through insightful teachers remains a cornerstone on which one builds life principles. Back at Xavier 53 years after graduation, I find myself again a student, now learning spiritual direction. Using valuable lessons learned from living life and now learning how to help both myself and others mature in their spiritual journey is a crowning achievement to a beautiful life journey. To even out a former impetuous study of the Spiritual Exercises with a tranquil reflection on Ignatius’ Manresa experience is a privilege. One realizes that these earlier experiences, now come to life anew, were never forgotten, but simply stored for another time. Ignatian

spirituality, not unfamiliar to any insightful and self-reflective Son of Xavier, can help one find a renewed spirituality in the service of both oneself and others. Our Xavier teachers and Jesuit scholastics somehow unwittingly gave us this gift when we were at Xavier. It can never be given back. Perhaps those Sons and future Sons of Xavier reading this brief essay will remember and act on this perhaps overlooked, but never forgotten, ability to be of service as true men for others. May the Spirit lead other Sons of Xavier to rediscover this vocation so skillfully and deftly embedded during their youth at 16th Street.

Dr. Thomas Forlenza

From the headmaster to the faculty, everyone made me feel valued. They were engaging, bright, dedicated men who valued education. The students that I had the good fortune to spend four years with taught me the meaning of kindness, trust, and excellence.

John Pettinato

1970

Shortly before graduation, I reflected upon the alumni observing their 50th reunion at our annual military review and projected forward to how this occasion would be observed for our Class of 1970. I realized I was standing in the middle of a century of Xavier High School history. Only it was the second century of that history, and I thought of the 1870 class. At 175 years, Xavier High School is like that familiar, aged oak tree in the village square, present longer than anyone’s personal memory. It has weathered, survived, and watched the comings and goings and the travails and history of numerous generations. Similar to it, Xavier has spawned a forest of SOX family trees, who have spread throughout the world pollinating Loyola’s wisdom and values. Our roots are deep, while our branches continue to reach ever higher.

Thomas Cody

I loved my AP English and history courses. I loved our religious retreats and Sodality meetings and discussions. I especially loved

the Student Chapel. That was and remains for me a profoundly blessed space. I loved the group of scholastics. I loved going to high school in New York City. That experience was like attending an entirely different and deeply enriching other classroom every day for four years. I loved coming of age in the 1960s, during the age of Aquarius, the Civil Rights Movement, Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council, John, Paul, George, Ringo and Bob Dylan, Fr. Dan Berrigan, S.J., the Women’s Rights Movement, the Youth Rights Movement, and the patriotic struggle against the Vietnam War. My time at Xavier helped form my religious beliefs, my political beliefs, my progressivism, and my future career as a journalist. I am proud our Class of 1970 influenced Xavier to make JROTC optional. Xavier was never West Point Prep for me. It was always decidedly and profoundly a Jesuit high school. I loved my track coaches and my speech team advisors. No matter how much I failed, they were always supportive and encouraging. I loved my classmates. I loved that we were from all over New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Long Island. We were and are diverse, fearless, creative, loyal, and funny, as well as serious, brilliant, and street smart. We were all coming of age. Hey, no doubt we are all still coming of age.

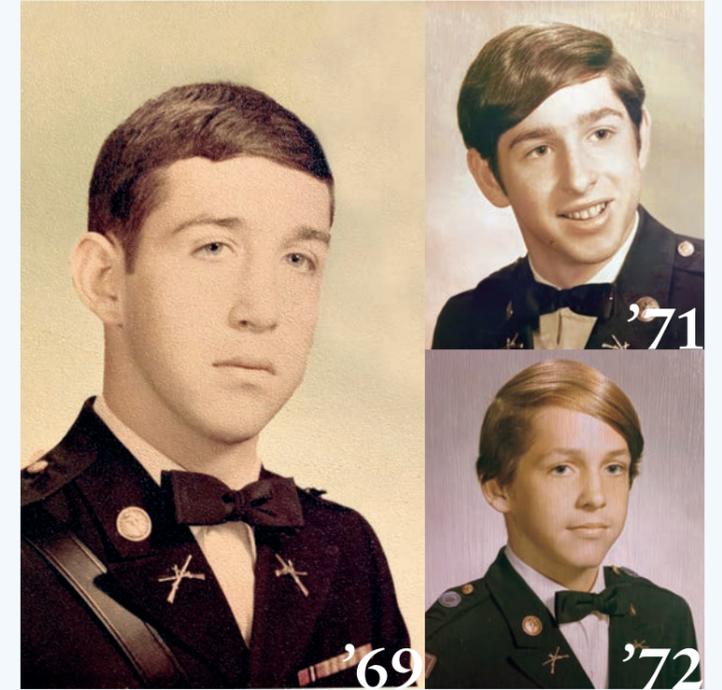
Denis Kelly

Without Xavier, I would have been lost. Xavier opened new vistas for me. It gave me agency to critique the materialism all around us, develop my spirituality, and to become a man for others as I moved through life and work. Also, the fact that there were people different from me but with common interests made me a Son of Xavier.

John Peter Sabini

The discipline and rigors of achieving high academic standards. Learning how to be a man for other men.

Patrick Yuen



The Foley brothers—Jack '69, Gene '71, and Bill '72.

1971

📷 My two brothers and I attended Xavier together in 1969—Jack '69, myself, and Bill '72. Jack succeeded on the forensics team, where he won first place in the New York State high school tournament and went on to take fourth place in the national competition in Chicago. Bill and I played on the basketball teams and made many lifelong friends. Xavier gave us the academic skills to attend Georgetown, Fairfield, and Villanova. Thank you Xavier for providing us with the wherewithal for the three Foley brothers to establish a wonderful life—together!

Gene Foley

Xavier, for a young man like me with aspirations of going to West Point, was a dream come true. People may find it difficult to understand, but the combination of military tradition with Jesuit tradition and the learning discipline of a classic education taught me I could be who I wanted to be. It allowed me to dream and follow my dreams. It completely transformed my life, giving me the self-confidence to leave New York and explore the world as a

journalist, a profession I found at Xavier through my student newspaper work. It also showed me a career in the military was not for me. I loved my four years in uniform at Xavier and disagreed with the decision to drop mandatory military training. But I also realized that a career in the military would be much different than simply marching up Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick’s Day. Xavier taught me so much in so many ways.

John Frank

As a kid from the suburbs, Xavier opened me up to the world at large and taught me what it was to really learn and think on my own. I met a wonderfully eclectic group of classmates who taught me much about the city but also about other things as well, and both the Jesuit and lay teachers gave me a moral and intellectual base in which to flourish.

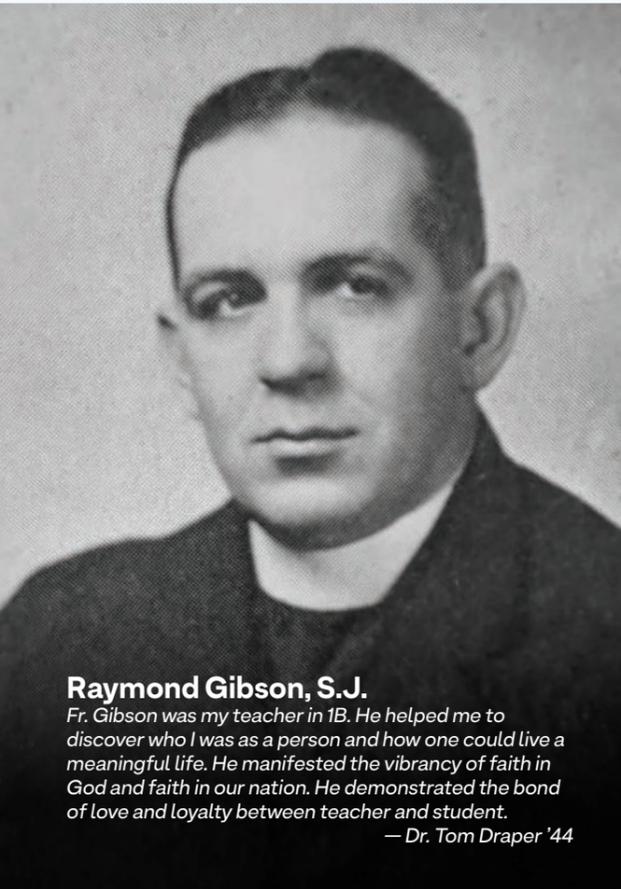
John Hallinan

Attending Xavier was enlightening and helped develop my sense of responsibility both for my own actions/outcomes and for others as well.

Eric Hoffmeyer

THE LASTING LEGACY OF XAVIER TEACHERS

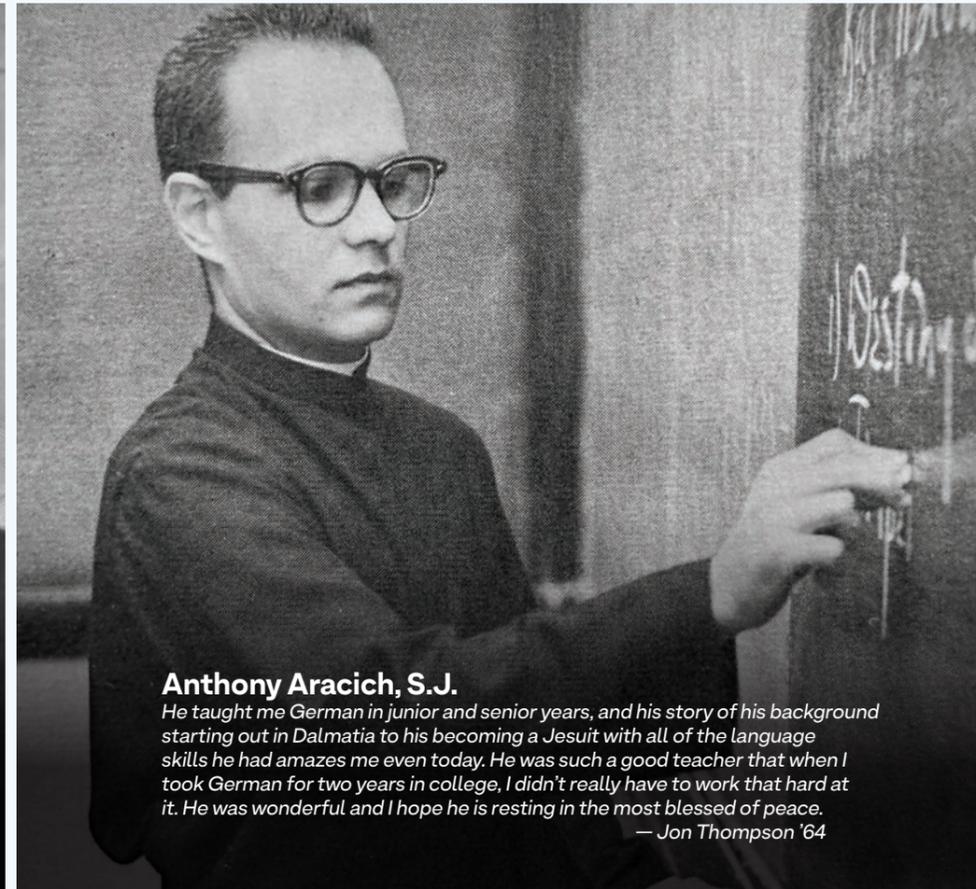
Alumni reflect on the teachers who impacted them most



Raymond Gibson, S.J.

Fr. Gibson was my teacher in 1B. He helped me to discover who I was as a person and how one could live a meaningful life. He manifested the vibrancy of faith in God and faith in our nation. He demonstrated the bond of love and loyalty between teacher and student.

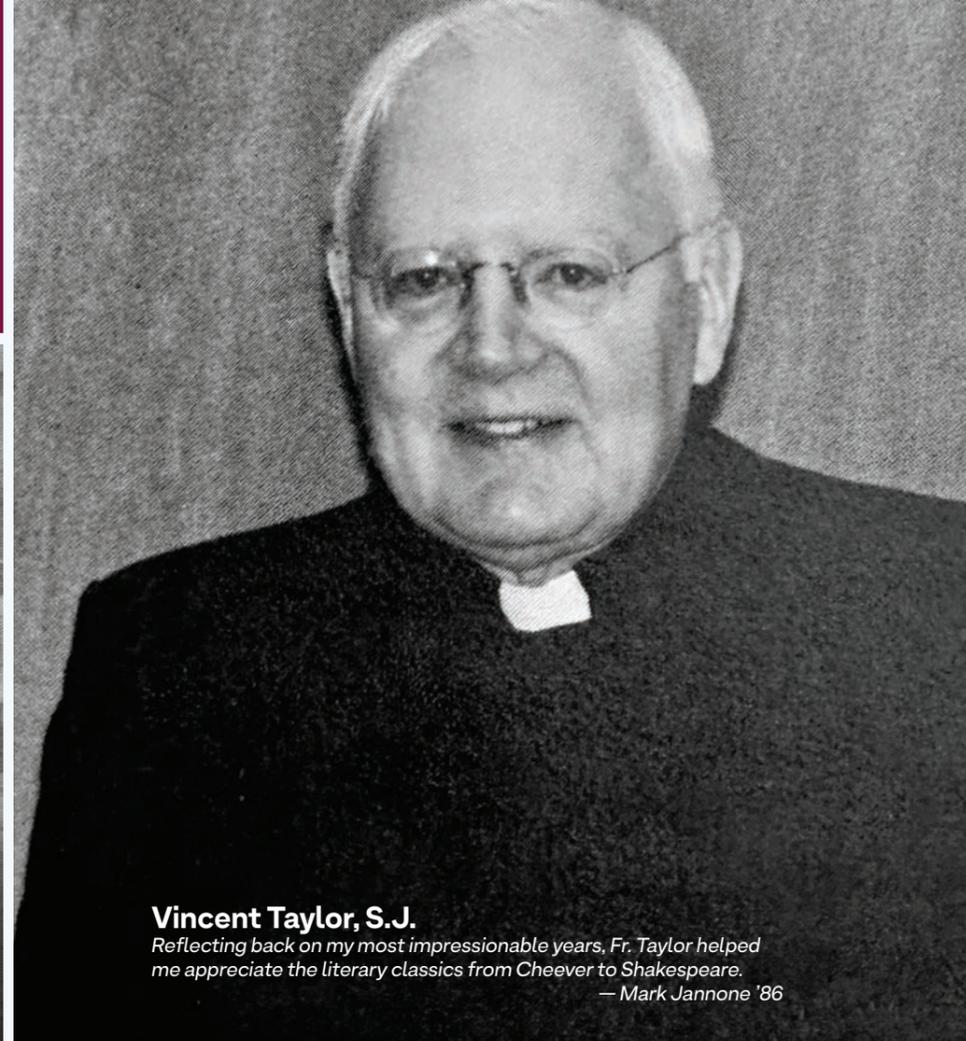
— Dr. Tom Draper '44



Anthony Aracich, S.J.

He taught me German in junior and senior years, and his story of his background starting out in Dalmatia to his becoming a Jesuit with all of the language skills he had amazes me even today. He was such a good teacher that when I took German for two years in college, I didn't really have to work that hard at it. He was wonderful and I hope he is resting in the most blessed of peace.

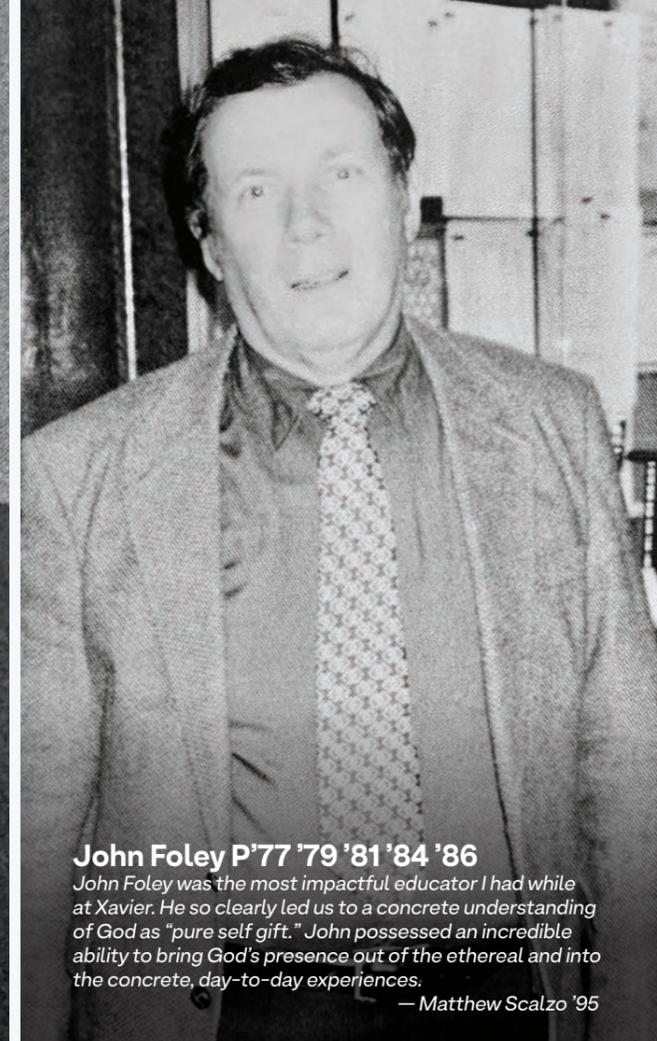
— Jon Thompson '64



Vincent Taylor, S.J.

Reflecting back on my most impressionable years, Fr. Taylor helped me appreciate the literary classics from Cheever to Shakespeare.

— Mark Jannone '86



John Foley P'77 '79 '81 '84 '86

John Foley was the most impactful educator I had while at Xavier. He so clearly led us to a concrete understanding of God as "pure self gift." John possessed an incredible ability to bring God's presence out of the ethereal and into the concrete, day-to-day experiences.

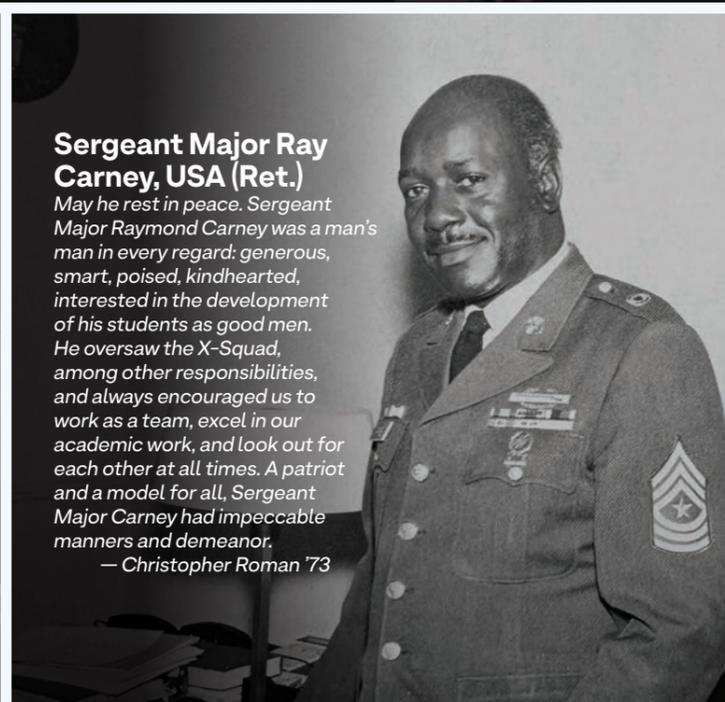
— Matthew Scalzo '95



Leo Paquin P'64

No question it was Mr. Leo Paquin, my English teacher and also my football coach. I still remember being mesmerized in his class with the reading and discussion of the epic poem "Sohrab and Rustum" by Matthew Arnold.

— Brigadier General Randy Cubero, USAF (Ret.) '57



Sergeant Major Ray Carney, USA (Ret.)

May he rest in peace. Sergeant Major Raymond Carney was a man's man in every regard: generous, smart, poised, kindhearted, interested in the development of his students as good men. He oversaw the X-Squad, among other responsibilities, and always encouraged us to work as a team, excel in our academic work, and look out for each other at all times. A patriot and a model for all, Sergeant Major Carney had impeccable manners and demeanor.

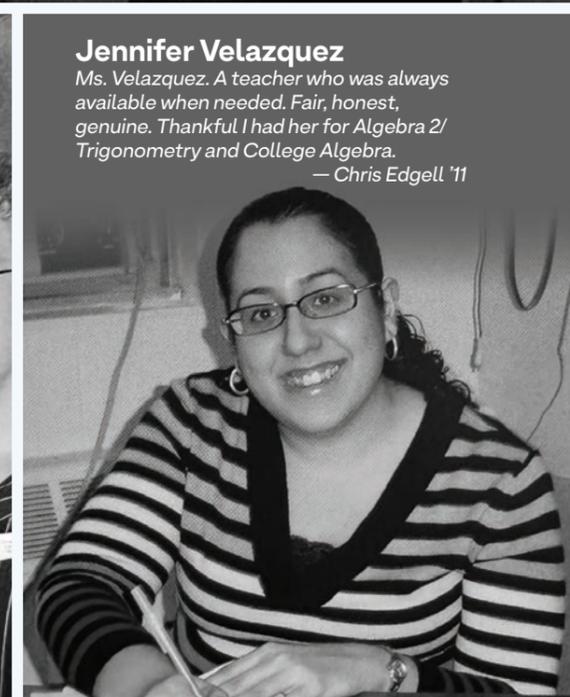
— Christopher Roman '73



Denise Iacovone

Denise Iacovone was and remains the most influential teacher I've ever had. She constantly challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone, reflect on my feelings, and learn to express what I couldn't in words through my art. She changed my life and will always have a special place in my heart.

— Kevin Keenan '08



Jennifer Velazquez

Ms. Velazquez. A teacher who was always available when needed. Fair, honest, genuine. Thankful I had her for Algebra 2/ Trigonometry and College Algebra.

— Chris Edgell '11

To read more alumni submissions about their most influential teachers, visit 175.xavierhs.org.



1. Thomas Healey '72 leading the Regiment at the 1972 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

2. Pat Whalen '75, Alice Maffey, Tom Maffey '75, Kim Florich, Steve Florich '75, and Mary Whelan in Assisi, Italy, in 2018.

University. Years later, I earned an MBA from Columbia, but the best education I ever received was during those formative years on 16th Street. Thank you.

Robert Hynes

1972

Most of us have had the experience of not fully appreciating what we have been told or taught until after many years of reflection. Xavier was the path from adolescence to young adulthood where we were guided by a dedicated faculty and, more importantly, role models, to become men of character. I was part of the terrific 125th Anniversary Class of 1972. Who can forget Fr. Kenny (we still remember our declensions and conjugations), the kind Gerry Werckle (teaching about protagonists and suspense with O. Henry stories), the pugilistic Mr. Finnegan (I can still solve quadratic equations and map a parabola), Mr. John Scott (was he Castor or Pollux? My classmates understand!), the amazing math teachers, Messrs. LeBeau and Baker. But the most important lesson they imparted, sometimes in words, and always by example, was to be excellent in humbly exercising one's gifts and talents because "from those to whom much has been given, much will be expected." A lesson to unfold throughout a lifetime.

Edward Fox

I was a HAP kid in the summer of 1967 and when I saw Xavier I fell in love. Being accepted was a great day for me. I made some lifelong friendships and had experiences I could never have imagined. Attending Xavier opened up a world to me and I've tried to take advantage of that.

John Garcia

Xavier changed my life. When my father died after freshman year, my mother called the school to withdraw me and my brother, who had just been accepted, since we had no money. Fr. Wood, the rector, responded saying that both of us would have full scholarships until graduation. Xavier later pushed for my full ride to Fairfield

to learn and to grow and to find yourself in a special place—the high school complex and the church—against the backdrop of New York City. Xavier made me look at life differently, look at others differently, look at my own relationship with God differently.

Thomas Healey

1973

Xavier taught me how to think, to question assumptions about the world that I had taken for granted, to realize that someone with very different views than mine was worthy of respect and in fact could teach me something about truth, and that human beings have been wrestling with the same basic questions about life and what it means to be a responsible individual in a society for at least 2,500 years.

Scott Cameron

We entered Xavier in the fall of 1969, a time of great change and turmoil in our nation. It was the height of the Vietnam War which divided so many, similar to what we are experiencing today. Wearing our dress blues or Army greens on the subway often resulted in hostile glares or worse. One time someone cursed me out and called me a war criminal. Our class was the final class before the introduction of the "Pilot School" for the Class of 1974. Teachers went from wearing severe black robes to donning jackets, with the exception of some of the long-tenured teachers. We were blessed to be taught by some of the legends of Xavier such as John Finnegan, James Nash, Leo Paquin, Tom Baker, John Foley, Brian Moroney, and George Febles, who never misses a reunion. The seismic change came toward the end of our sophomore year, when we sat in the gym and listened to Fr. Wood explain that JROTC would become optional. It was the correct decision as so many disliked the military program, particularly the many transfer students from the soon-to-close Brooklyn Prep. (I actually attended Xavier for the JROTC program.) Our Class of 1973 was present for the 125th anniversary and now we are honored to be a part of the

175th. We always remember our brothers who are no longer with us. On a personal note, I am very proud that my son Brian is now a member of the Class of 2026.

Bruce Caulfield P'26

Attending high school in Manhattan taught me what New York City has to offer as a global center of finance, food, and culture. A freshman year art class assignment about Henry Moore had me looking at sculpture from the East Village to Lincoln Center. At 13 years old, I became a New Yorker, a distinction I've carried living and traveling around the world.

Tom Donovan

From the moment I first set foot on 16th Street in the fall of 1969 until I graduated four years later, I became a part of Xavier, and Xavier will forever be a part of me. Our church, country, and world were going through some challenging times in my years. So was the City of New York. My classmates came from all boroughs, New Jersey, Long Island, and Westchester. We were diverse in so many ways and we used that diversity for the greater glory of God. We learned the subject matter. We grew in personal and spiritual ways we did not comprehend until many years later. I remember all my teachers and counselors. Wherever I have traveled over the years I always seem to find Xavier alumni with whom to share a tale. Drill and track at the Armory. Language classes that became like the UN. Knowing that when we would leave our familiar confines of Xavier we would be prepared for the world outside. At the 125th Anniversary Mass, I had the privilege to meet Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. We simply shook hands and he told me to stay close to Jesus.

Deacon James F. Maber

My four years at Xavier had two major impacts in my life. First, the military program taught me how to be a leader. Second, I am told that I am who I am today because of my time at Xavier.

Ray McCarthy

The sense of community, academic excellence, competitive nature of students who were bright, the quality teaching, camaraderie among students. Xavier is the reason I became a Jesuit and a teacher.

Marc Roselli, S.J.

I often think of three teachers who continue to inform my life. Ray Carney taught me personal responsibility. Brian Moroney gave me a love of theater, opera, and literature which still fill my life with joy. John Foley taught us to always ask why. He made me a critical thinker. I am eternally grateful.

Timothy Trott

1974

At Xavier we came from different socioeconomic backgrounds, all five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester, and New Jersey. We were smart and very smart, athletes and not, orators, band and theatre group members, budding reporters for the *Review* and yearbook, part of the Regiment or not, members of the Chess Club and much more; however, we all respected, appreciated, and celebrated each other. On 16th Street there was no us and them; it was all we, together, and that included the Jesuits and lay staff, which if we didn't start off thinking so, it soon became apparent. Xavier gave me the foundation to think for myself and understand another perspective. The summer of 1970 before entering Xavier, my Class of '74 assigned reading was *Oliver Wiswell* by Kenneth Roberts, a story of the American Revolution from the viewpoint of a British Loyalist New Yorker. I thought to myself, "This is different!"

Kevin McLaughlin

In the fall of 1970 Xavier introduced me to the world outside of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, and its influence has shaped my life ever since. I learned how to communicate with people, accept them for what they were, and to help those who needed help. Xavier helped to instill in me a discipline that enabled me to have both a successful

business career as well as a great life with my wife and friends.

Richard Scheller

I was fortunate to participate in Xavier's first foreign exchange program the fall of my junior year. The opportunity to live and study in Paris was amazing. I took away a deep respect for other cultures and a love for Paris.

John Schneider

1975

It opened my eyes to a completely different world than the one I was raised in.

Tom Maffey

When I was a freshman, SGM Ray Carney told my class that while most people have a lifelong attachment to their college, for us it would be Xavier. He was right on that point, just like he was right on so many others. My time at Xavier was fundamental to the man I became. It helped shape my values, my intellectual curiosity, my character. Given my prior religious education, I know I would not be Catholic today had it not been for what I learned at Xavier. The academics, the camaraderie, the living example of the priests and faculty shaped me forever, and I am eternally grateful.

Jack Oliva

I went to Xavier in the early 1970s, graduating in 1975. It was a time of decline and chaos for the city, but Xavier was a haven from those troubles. I recall the school was in transition—the Vietnam War rendered the JROTC voluntary in 1971, which was a relief to many but a disappointment to others (not me!). The old "D" building that wrapped around the church still had halls of "school green" plaster walls and incandescent lights, and the classrooms had some blackboards so old that the slate was too slippery to use chalk on. Hard to believe it now, but seniors were allowed to smoke on the Larkin Hall stage! My favorite times were spent with other classmates, and some I've stayed in touch with for 50 years. In the Military Club, we spent afternoons huddled over Avalon

Hill board games reworking famous battles. The Chess Club boomed in the wake of the popular Fischer-Spassky matches (or maybe everyone showed up on picture day).

John Telesca

1976

Forty-six years later, I can still remember points in time at Xavier as if they were yesterday. A true testament to the impact it had on my life.

Lou Bonica

1977

I was very shy and lacked self-confidence. Xavier gave me confidence and self-assurance that I have carried with me for my entire life.

Gerald Edwards

I always look back at my time at Xavier as a significant supplement that helped to shape my values and outlook, particularly in the areas of self-accountability and service to others. I will never forget the lessons that emphasized personal responsibility in my actions. I recall one such lesson where I was instructed to look in the mirror and ask, "Do you respect the person you see?" "Are you proud of the actions of this person?" "Is this person accountable for their actions?" "What does this person do in the service and care of others?" Or stated differently, "Has this person acted unkindly or in disregard of others?" These self-reflection questions stayed with me throughout my life. I feel that my tenure at Xavier molded and solidified my moral base and helped shape how I treated others as my life's journey progressed.

Anthony Sarro, Jr.

1979

The teachers and my involvement with the football team made my time special at Xavier. I was the manager of the football team my junior and senior year. My father, Dr. Thomas L. Doyle '43, was the team doctor those years and had been the doctor working with the team since the late '40s. It was so special to stand on the sidelines with him and help with any players who had been injured during



1. Michael Barbieri '80 P'10, left, speaking at the 1979 Turkey Bowl pep rally.

2. Members of the Class of 1984 at one of their annual dinners.

3. Christopher Spataro '89 and his baseball teammates.

the game. We even worked on a compound fracture of a player using an inflatable cast to alleviate the pain until he could get to the hospital. Xavier has impacted my life almost since I was born. My grandfather, father, uncles, brother, and cousins all attended Xavier, and I was going to football games almost since I was born. Xavier has meant so much to my family. My father gave the main address for the 125th anniversary and the start of the Hall of Fame. *Chris Doyle*

I came from a very poor family. My father was a construction worker with six children, and when he was injured on the job, my mother tried to pay my tuition at Xavier with a disability check. Fr. Cronin, S.J. refused to accept it, saying, "This is to feed your children," and I was allowed to remain at Xavier on a work scholarship. It was challenging but rewarding, and Xavier set me on my way. Thanks to Xavier's academic excellence, I won three college scholarships and earned a BS in mechanical engineering at Polytechnic

Institute of New York, followed by two master's degrees. Thanks to Xavier's JROTC program, I found my profession as an Army officer, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel (2005) and again retiring as a DOD Supervisory Special Counterintelligence Agent (2020). Thanks to Xavier's outstanding language department and exchange program, I discovered Europe and became a Foreign Area Officer. I now live in Munich. So Xavier was an awesome launchpad. It gave me everything! *Michael Wickman*

1980

There's something special about a Xavier education; something special about the structure, the discipline, the life lessons you learn there. The bond I developed with my classmates still exists over 40 years later; it's something you live and take with you. Next to my parents, I think Xavier had the greatest impact on my life and helped make me the man I am today. *Michael Barbieri P'10*

The friendships and relationships that were formed both on the field and in the classroom remain important to this day.

Stephen McAllister

1982

My time at Xavier shaped my life. I learned about leadership, discipline, and service. I started as a student in the Higher Achievement Program in the summer between my 7th and 8th grade years. I was hooked from then on. HAP helped me see that there was so much more than Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Dan Simonette

1984

One thing I will always remember is when a fellow student shockingly died in his prime. It kind of made me realize that there are no guarantees in life if someone so young and full of life could be taken without warning.

Frank Natale

A handful of my classmates and I have been meeting annually now for the past 38 years dating back to June 14, 1984 (39 total dinners). The dinner originated as a thank-you to Fr. Bill McGowan for his help in navigating the steps for our future in college. Fr. McGowan attended annually until his passing in 2007. While we rarely see each other, the Xavier bond has brought (in some fashion) some of the eight classmates together each year to catch up, reminisce, and reflect on our time at Xavier and the impact the school and people like Fr. McGowan had on our lives.

Rich Windram

1985

I made my first commute from Flatlands in Brooklyn to 16th Street on a 90-minute bus and subway journey at 12 years old. I quickly learned many things you would call street smarts, and I grew up fast. I shared classes with guys from every borough. We experienced the city together and were proud to wear the blazer or polo because being a Xavier man means something. Many of the Jesuits made a significant impact on me. They taught me to question everything, and I did and still do. I probably spent too much time in JUG for questioning some of the rules, but the upside was I got to know Mr. Gregory and Mr. Woehling that much more. I got my first job in the computing industry because a hiring manager was also a Xavier grad. It's a wonderful and inclusive community.

Andrew Meyer

1986

Most special to me were the friends, bonds, and relationships I made with my fellow brothers. The biggest impact Xavier made to help shape my life was truly to be selfless and a man for others.

Mark Janmone

1987

I am blessed that my three brothers and I were all able to have the benefit of attending Xavier High School. I am so grateful to my parents, who gave us an amazing educational experience, lifetime friends, and the strong basis for being a man for others, with a heart for volunteering and public service.

James Creighton

1988

At freshman orientation, we were told that there was something special happening on 16th Street. There was, and so it continues 175 years and going. To me Xavier's specialness is embodied in the Jesuit tenets of learning, service, and faith—they flowed through all aspects of my experience. For a kid who wasn't forthcoming about difficulties at home, Xavier served as my source of solace, strength, and faith for four years. I'm forever thankful for the support of Xavier's clergy and teachers, my classmates and teammates, and the confidence it instilled then and throughout the next stages in life.

David Bloom

1989

My time on 16th Street was special for many reasons. First, it was at Xavier where I met some of my closest lifetime friends. Next, my rigorous Jesuit education prepared me for life in a way that not many men can claim. By molding me from a boy into a man and making me understand what it means to be a man for others, Xavier provided me with invaluable tools—tools that I still use every day! Finally, I must say that my time on the baseball field with my fellow Xavier Knights provided fond memories and fun times. I had the privilege of playing Xavier baseball for three seasons, from 1987-89. We achieved much success over those three seasons, winning approximately 80% of our games. More importantly, the bonds that I formed with my teammates are priceless. Thanks for the memories!

Christopher Spataro

1992

The groundwork laid down by the curriculum, religious teaching, and educators is something I reflect on to this day in my major decision-making processes. The lessons I learned there are ones I instill in our home and family on a daily basis.

Alex Valich

1993

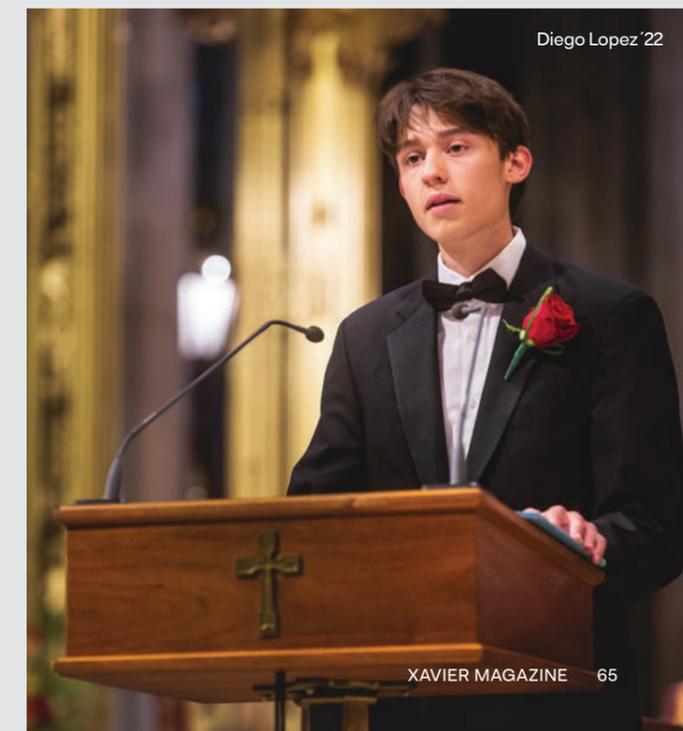
My time at Xavier prepared me to be part of something bigger than myself.

Christopher Muller

VALEDICTORIANS

1919	John Seftor	1962	Guy O'Brien	1995	Edelmiro Rivera
1920	Francis Downey	1963	James Nolan	1996	Joseph Wong
1921	Matthew Lyons	1964	Daniel Duane	1997	Anthony Distinti
1922	Unknown	1965	Paul Doersam	1998	Charles Larkin
1923	George Mully John McCafferty	1966	Alan O'Brien	1999	Matthew Kelly
1924	Alfred Barrett, Jr.	1967	Albert Lauber	2000	Benzon Dy
1925	Harold Folser	1968	Robert Reiser	2001	William Bernstein
1926	Edward Doyle	1969	S. Thomas Jennings	2002	Adam Panopoulos
1927	William White	1970	Robert Bennett	2003	Daniel Cherif
1928	Robert Boyle Horace McNally	1971	Ralph Josefowicz	2004	Michael Cherif
1929	Alfred Hartman Raymond Leddy	1972	Thomas Healey	2005	William Moccia
1930	Robert Cox Griffith Scott	1973	Michael Montelongo	2006	Karol Kurzatkowski
1931	Stephen Duffy Thurston Davis	1974	Terence McIntosh	2007	Joseph Caputo
1932	James Heater	1975	Michael O'Keefe	2008	Brendan Roche
1933	John Bergmann	1976	Mark Hallinan	2009	David Wong
1934	Harold Spille	1977	Sean Coyle	2010	David Campmier
1935	John Yates	1978	Joseph Profaci	2011	Michael Kemp
1936	Joseph Murray	1979	Don Summa	2012	Aman Grewal
1937	Vincent Brennan	1980	John McGuire	2013	Timothy Kelly
1938	Robert Roth	1981	Nelson Fernandez	2014	Jordan Berka
1939	Martin Conroy	1982	Arthur Fuscaldo	2015	Kevin Ko
1940	Francis Desider	1983	Nicholas DePalma	2016	Christian Raslowsky
1941	Frederick Gassert	1984	Michael Maher	2017	Eric Krebs
1942	Frederick Carroll	1985	Charles Prestigiacomo	2018	Francis Corrado
1943	Robert Vilece Thomas Doyle	1986	James Wong	2019	Christian Deem
1944	Donald Connolly David Carroll Robert Geiringer	1987	Edward O'Callaghan	2020	Michael Manta
1945	John McDonald Thomas Gassert Harry Mehl	1988	Minalkumar Patel	2021	Ryan Wong
1946	Donald McPadden Thomas Ryan	1989	Mark Morrison	2022	Diego Lopez
1947	Patrick McGowan	1990	Anthony Colantonio		
1948	John Kapp	1991	Timothy Kennedy		
1949	James Breininger	1992	Tommy Katopodis		
1950	Richard DeGeorge	1993	Antonio Miranda		
1951	James Kennedy Donald Kelly Edward Lynch	1994	Nitikrai Suwangonsakul		
1952	George Shea				
1953	Antonin Scalia				
1954	William Donnelly				
1955	John Gallagher				
1956	A. Douglas Logue				
1957	Thomas Donnelly				
1958	Anthony McNulty				
1959	James Riordan				
1960	Henry Geoghan				
1961	James Ryan				

Before 1919, top graduates were occasionally honored with medals recognizing specific achievements. Multiple graduations were held in certain years, hence the multiple valedictorians.



Diego Lopez '22



1. Tim Williamson '00 with a classmate at the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade. 2. John Murillo '97 and Dave Rodriguez '97. 3. Michael Gorini '05 and his classmates at the 2005 New York/New Jersey regional robotics competition.

When I reflect on this question, I cannot help but think of the paramount objective of Jesuit education being forming men for others. On West 16th Street in the 1990s we were reminded of this weekly, if not daily.

Patrick Tubridy

1995

Xavier challenged me to “look for God in all things” as St. Ignatius Loyola taught centuries ago. There was that consistent spiritual challenge to be aware that our gifts and talents were a result of God’s grace. A challenge to recognize that even when we failed in a moment, that God gave us the strength to transcend and try again. Almost 30 years after graduating, I have continued to ponder how God has been at work in each stage of my life.

What he was telling me through the woman I married, through the children I’m raising, and the vocation I’m living. I think that Xavier planted seeds in all of us, hoping that we’d see God in our lives and ultimately reflect the love of God to others for His glory.

Matthew Scalzo

1997

It’s hard to narrow down what exactly made going to Xavier so special. Just commuting from Jersey as a 13-year-old opened my eyes and pushed me to mature much faster than my friends who went to school in town. Shining my shoes, organizing and wearing my military uniform gave me so much self-pride in how I looked and conducted myself. Getting in early to either do homework or just hang out with friends was something to look forward to

every day. Playing soccer, making it to the city championships senior year, and receiving the Block X is a legacy that I’ll always carry with me. Going on Kairos connected me to people like never before. Xavier has a daily impact on my life.

Whether it’s still being a commuter today, living the 4th, or visiting an old classmate and having our kids play together, Xavier and my memories of going there are always present in my life. Xavier truly shaped the man I am today.

John Murillo

I had a blissful ignorance during my time at Xavier, the most formative years of my life. Our experiences—academic, faith, service, charity, and patriotism—were embedded in us. The seeds were planted. Over the past 20 years, I am still benefiting from Xavier and the sacrifices made by my parents. Yes, we received a stellar education but we were also blessed with a foundation on which our lives are built today. Finding God in all things, indeed. AMDG.

George Sinnott

1999

St. Ignatius, a man for others. This was instilled in me at Xavier and has guided me throughout my life. On June 25, 2022, I was admitted into the ministry of acolyte. Next year, 2023, I will be ordained into the ministry of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, where I will continue the mission of being a man for others.

Alberto Cordero

The friendships I built with my fellow Sons of Xavier, and Xavier laying the foundation for my

professional success as a U.S. Naval Officer, are what still impact my life today—and why I return as often as I can.

Justin Guiterman

2000

The friendships. The brotherhood. The memories. Not to mention it’s my dad’s alma mater, too (Arthur ’66). Within a span of less than three months in the spring of my senior year, I had the opportunity to lead the Regiment down Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick’s Day, attend our prom at The Plaza, and graduate at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Not many people are fortunate to have those types of experiences, and I still cherish those memories every time I think of Xavier.

Tim Williamson

2003

The camaraderie formed with my friends from Xavier and how those relationships are still strong today. The idea of being a man for others as the guide for life while at Xavier and afterwards.

Anthony Rogone

2005

Joining the first Xavier robotics team in 2005 was by far the most special. We won first place in the New York/New Jersey regional competition and fourth in the national competition. To this day, my current job as an automation engineer was influenced by my work on the team. I am also still friends with some of the team members.

Michael Gorini

2007

Xavier laid a foundation for me to be successful not just professionally, but also personally. Inspired by its foundation during formative experiences, I live a life of service that I hope to be an example for my children.

Major Michael Nilsen, USA

2008

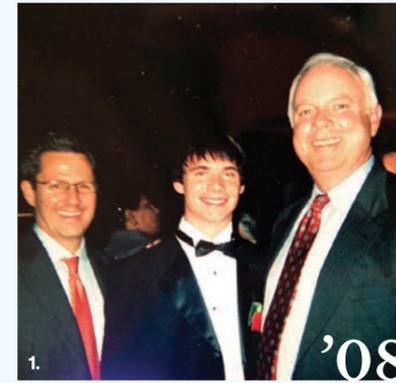
Xavier High School helped me become the man I am today. Every teacher, coach, classmate, and alumnus I came across left a permanent imprint on me personally and professionally. Xavier taught me the value of being a lifelong student and unconditional man for others. My favorite experience at Xavier was our graduation day from St. Patrick’s. Pete Dowling ’68 and Bobby Sica ’74 sat next to my mom in the Cathedral during the ceremony. I met Mr. Dowling and Mr. Sica during a Career Day at Xavier my junior year. They became like fathers to me over the years, and having them sit with Mom at graduation will forever remain my favorite Xavier moment.

Kevin Keenan

2011

The ability to find peace. Between Kairos, Magis, and the senior silent retreat, I’ve come to appreciate spending free time to be alone with God. It ain’t easy, with academic rigor then or work life now, but forcing oneself to make time is so rewarding. Never would I have found this had it not been for Xavier. Forever grateful.

Chris Edgell



1. Bobby Sica '74, Kevin Keenan '08, and Pete Dowling '68. 2. Tim Steffens '12 surrounded by Xavier graduates at his wedding.

2012

Xavier has a different impact on anyone who graduates from 16th Street. However, no matter the differences in impact, all boil down to the same phrase, “I’m a graduate of Xavier.” It holds a heavy impact on anyone you meet—friends, fellow alumni, etc. You made it through a rigorous four years that have prepared you for what lies ahead. There is no academic institution that I know in the NYC area that carries the same weight as being a graduate of Xavier.

Jack Johnson

Xavier has been incredibly impactful on my life, especially the lifelong friends and connections gained there. At my wedding this past year we had Xavier graduates spanning from the mid-’80s through the Class of 2022, all relishing our time spent there.

Tim Steffens

2014

I didn’t recognize or fully appreciate it then, but my time on 16th Street was a four-year education in the best teaching methods and learning how to care for your students and foster their self-development and growth. As a Ph.D. candidate working on my doctorate in history and summer HAP teacher, I strive to create such a welcoming and supportive learning community in my own classroom. Academics aside, my fondest memories at Xavier come from my time in the Xavier Dramatics Society. My fellow castmates and I had such a fun four years participating in the fall plays and spring musicals. While the productions were hard work, there was a lot of laughing

and goofing off paired with hard work and determination.

James Lavelle

2016

Xavier taught me what it means to be a good man. I often get teased for my nicer attitude and outlook on life, but I wear that with pride. I have Xavier to thank for that. I walked out of St. Patrick’s Cathedral remembering the smaller lessons I was taught on 16th Street. I was taught that we’re all the same. I was taught to love—and to love others equally. I was taught to look out for the little guy. I was taught to be there when a friend needs me to be there. I smile remembering my four years as I write this, and I smile as I recognize that I get to come back to Xavier every day to impart these lessons on future Sons of Xavier. An alumnus recently asked me what I want to be when I grow up. My answer: a good man. I have Xavier to thank for putting me on that path.

Nick Barone

2017

There were a multitude of things that made my time on 16th Street so memorable; however, the thing that made my experience on 16th Street the most special would have to be the relationships I built with fellow students, faculty, and staff. Whenever I was in need of processing or simply reflecting on an event, lesson, or experience that took place, there was always someone who was willing and able to chat with me in that very moment.

Nicholas Tucker

2019

I will never be able to fully express in words the impact Xavier had on my life. My closest friends to this day are my classmates from Xavier. I was able to see clearly what being a man for others truly meant. I met role models among the faculty and among the students that I still try to live up to today. It was such an important time in my life, and Xavier changed me for the better.

Arthur Gange

My experience at Xavier was so significant because of the relationships I built with my closest friends, and because of the doors it opened for me. The experiences I’ve had with my friends inside and out of the halls of this school really cemented our brotherhood, and I cannot imagine how differently my life could have played out without meeting these people. The only reason I’m at Hopkins now is because of my best friend telling me to consider it, and that choice has opened up so many opportunities for me to accomplish my dreams. There is no one I’d trust more than my Xavier brothers, and this community had such an incredible impact on my life.

Esteban Rivera

2021

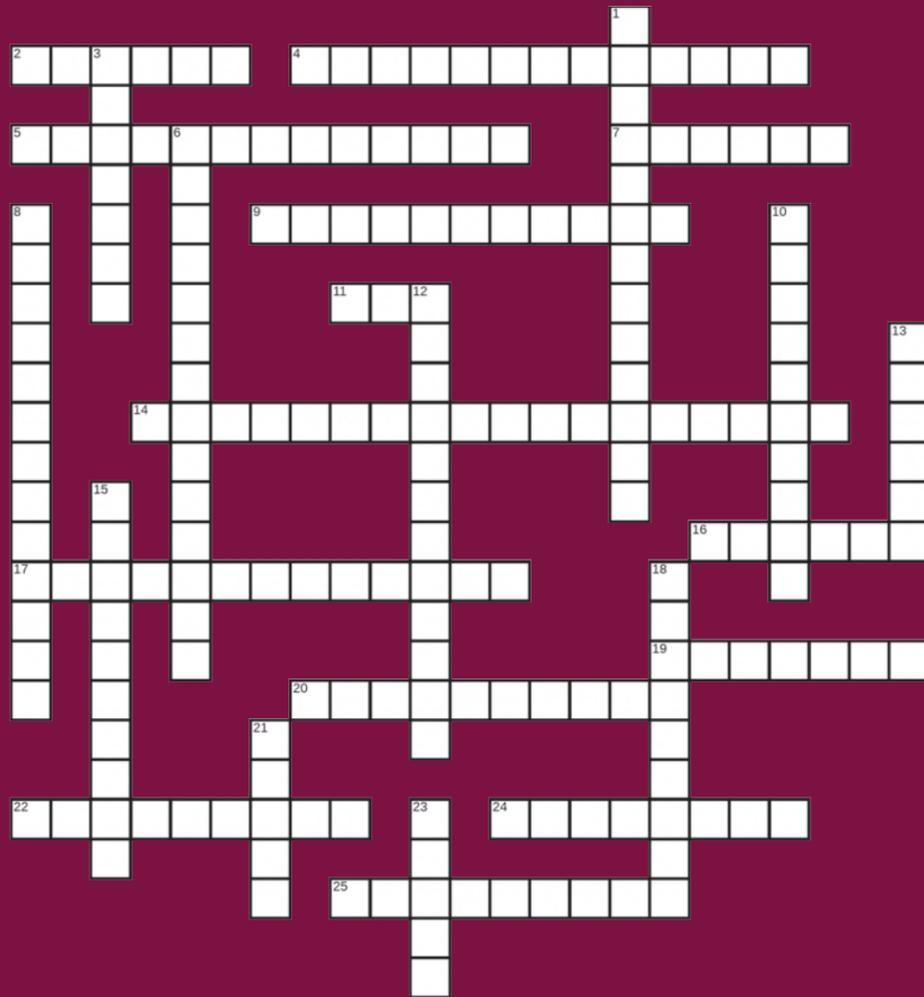
Through Xavier, I have been able to meet and grow close to some of the most amazing people in my life today who I am proud to call my best friends, but more importantly my brothers. I thank God every day that he brought me to Xavier and brought these incredible men into my life, creating an everlasting bond between us.

Panayoti Athineos

“One must observe that Xavier has lived and grown side by side with this remarkable city, through years of incredible changes, of persecution of Catholics, cultural shocks and literally millions of immigrants, depressions, wars, poverty at times almost impossible. One could say that the success of the school can be measured by the distinguished roster of honored graduates successful in every profession, the leaders in every field. Yet for a Catholic school such is not the measure of success. The nourishing, strengthening, and deepening of faith, the sharing of the vision of Jesus Christ, the spread of the Kingdom of God, are the ultimate goals of Xavier...We can but judge that through so many years, with patience and courage, Xavier has labored for these goals.”

—*Servant of God Pedro Arrupe, S.J.*
November 12, 1972

Crossword



Solve the puzzle and win a set of Xavier coasters!

Send us a copy of your puzzle filled with the correct answers by December 15, 2022, and you'll be entered to win a set of 175th anniversary coasters. Five winners will be chosen at random on December 16, 2022, and notified by email and/or phone. We can be reached by email at news@xavierhs.org or by mail at Communications Office, 30 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Across

- 2. Ronald Reagan named this 1953 graduate to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986
- 4. Xavier's 10th president and first alumnus to hold the position
- 5. Lifestyle entrepreneur crowned queen of the 1959 Military Ball
- 7. Former English teacher and Class of 1985 alumnus who later became head coach of USA Rugby
- 9. Founded in 1976, this Union Square event has grown into a neighborhood staple that fills the square four days a week
- 11. Oft-used term for detention at Xavier and Jesuit high schools nationwide

- 14. Theologian and 1920 graduate who appeared on the cover of *Time* in 1960
- 16. Xavier football's last mascot before becoming the Knights
- 17. In 2002, these Xavier musicians performed at a peace concert in the newly restored Pentagon
- 19. Xavier Hall of Famer credited with introducing more than 1,000 students to New York's vibrant performing arts scene during his 43 years of teaching
- 20. This 1952 graduate and Medal of Honor recipient has a Xavier library named in his honor
- 22. Popular bookstore near Xavier

- 24. The six-story, 33,000 square-foot addition that opened in 2016 is partially named for this former headmaster and Secretary of Education for the Jesuits
- 25. Precursor to Maroon and Blue Day during which students walked to popular landmarks to raise funds for important causes

Down

- 1. English teacher and author of the bestselling novel, *We Are Not Ourselves*
- 3. *Today* co-host and 1972 graduate who was an accomplished cartoonist on 16th Street
- 6. A rug store once stood at the site of this popular diner on the corner of 16th and Sixth

- 8. Xavier's longtime school colors
- 10. Founder of the Jesuits
- 12. 1945 graduate who led Holy Cross to an NCAA basketball title and later played for the NBA
- 13. Archbishop of New York who gave Xavier its permanent name
- 15. Stalwart deli on the corner of 16th and Sixth that has fed generations of Xavier students
- 18. Xavier's 29th president and 46th headmaster
- 21. Birthplace of Xavier's namesake saint
- 23. Highest honor given to a graduating senior



NOW

When students arrived in the fall of 1965, a new academic building and an accessible 16th Street entrance welcomed them. In the ensuing 57 years, the essential structure of 30 West 16th Street (seen here in April 2022) has endured.

*Sons of Xavier
Keep marching
On to victory
With colors flying
Guidons high
Stand so all the world can see
We're with you!*

*Onward to glory
Loyal sons and true
Maroon and blue
We'll see you through
We'll fight for you!*

