

# *The Maverick*



*Once a Maverick, always a Maverick!*



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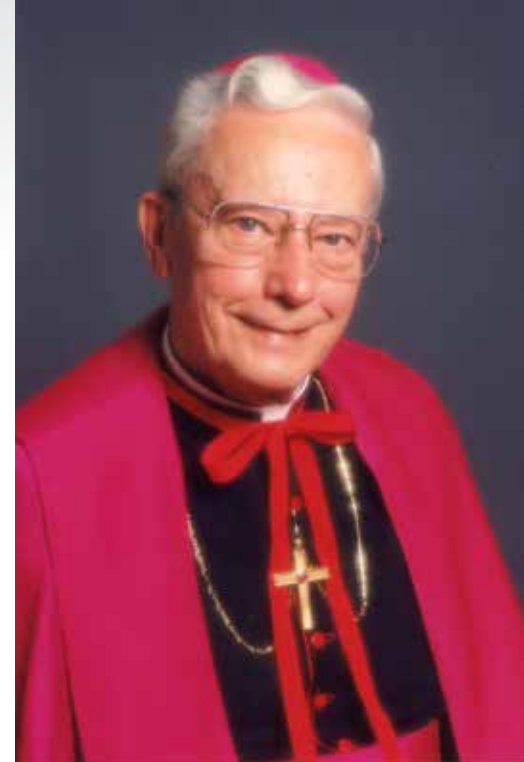
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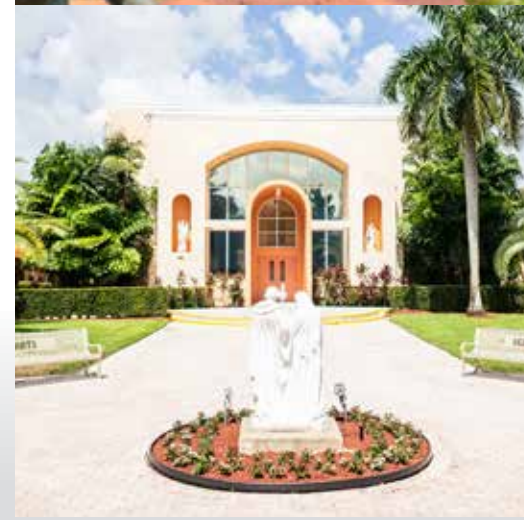
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## Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School



Last year, to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we created the very first edition of The Maverick Magazine. It was a wonderful way to commemorate the school's first 25 years, and share the growth and accomplishments along the way. Being quite pleased with how it turned out, we've decided to continue with the magazine and will start publishing two editions every school year, semester one and semester two. These two editions will give us the

opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our students, some of the events of each semester, highlight Maverick sports teams, and also share about our alumni.

Quite a lot happens here during each semester, and semester one was no exception. Our students not only excel academically, they are also involved in many other activities and school events. As you go through the magazine, you'll enjoy seeing some of the highlights for this semester, including: our National Merit students, Link Crew, the Maverick Players and their fall mainstage play, varsity team photos, and a piece highlighting some of our Maverick alumni marriages. This edition also includes a piece on the President-Principal Model, a first for our school, with some quotes and photos, and a piece on the Apple Conference hosted by the school on the last professional day.

I hope you enjoy reading through all of these and all the other highlights in this edition. As always, I am grateful for your continued support as we endeavor to provide the best in Catholic education for our students.

*Yours in Catholic Education,*

**Richard P. Jean**  
President





## “Progress is impossible without change.”

-George Bernard Shaw

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, Archbishop McCarthy transitioned to the president / principal model of administration, joining other Catholic high schools in the area that have also adopted this model. The movement away from the traditional “principal only” administrative structure follows a trend seen in Catholic high schools throughout the United States. As secondary school education has evolved and the needs of students have changed, many Catholic high schools have responded by realigning their leadership teams to ensure their schools’ operational efficiency.

In the broadest sense, the *president /*

*principal model* is aimed at strengthening the financial stability of schools by enabling the president to focus on institutional advancement and securing educational resources while the principal supervises curriculum and instruction, as well as the day-to-day operations of the school. The roles of school leaders will surely overlap, however, and every school will structure its administrative team to best meet its unique needs. But as research makes clear, what is essential for the success of this administrative model is a high degree of mutual trust between president and principal, a shared commitment to the school’s mission, and

frequent face-to-face communication. Because Archbishop McCarthy is blessed to have as its President and Principal long-time colleagues and good friends Richard Jean and Kevin Molina, the transition has been seamless.

Richard and Kevin’s professional relationship goes back to 2000 when Richard was the Dean of Students and Assistant Principal at St. Coleman F. Carroll High School, where Kevin taught in the Social Studies Department. *“I was in charge of Student Government, so Richard and I collaborated on school activities,”* recalls Kevin. *“Working with Richard gave me my first experience in school administration.”* When Richard was appointed principal of Archbishop McCarthy in 2010, he encouraged Kevin, who had earned a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership, to join him as Dean of Students in 2011. But, as Kevin points out, their relationship is more deeply rooted: *“We are both products of*



*Catholic education, having attended Catholic elementary and high schools. We believe in the teachings and values of the Catholic Church, which is why we have dedicated our careers to Catholic education.”* Asked to compare their leadership styles, they agree that they both take their jobs very seriously and always keep in mind that teachers, students, and staff members depend on them to make wise decisions. *“It’s important to remain focused on what we do,”* Kevin notes, *“because we cannot let down those we serve.”* Their vision for the future of Archbishop McCarthy is the same, Kevin emphasizes. *“We want Archbishop McCarthy to continue as a school that provides educational opportunities for everyone.”*

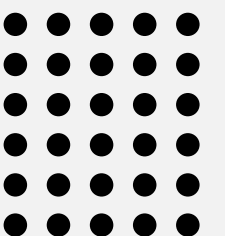


# The Play's the Thing...

The award-winning Archbishop McCarthy High School Drama Department mounted yet another successful fall production with its presentation of "The Curious Savage," a play at once funny and touching, eliciting both laughter and tears from audiences. Director Nicholas Palazzo (Archbishop McCarthy Class of 2016) observes that the play's theme is centered around the idea that human beings need to listen for the "hundreds of ways" we say "I love you" to those around us, whether that message is conveyed in words or actions.



Performed over four nights to sold-out crowds, the production received exceptional reviews from the South Florida Cappie critics. The Cappies, the Tony Awards for high schools, is a year-long program for theatre and journalism students through which students attend and discuss each other's shows, write reviews for publication, and, at season's end, honor student performers and technicians with Cappies. Mr. Palazzo expressed pride in his cast and crew and confidently noted that they are "looking forward to awards season in the spring." "The students worked incredibly hard," said Mr. Palazzo. "The production was an experience that will be remembered for years to come."





# Maverick Tech Ambassadors Featured at ADOM Professional Day Workshop

On Oct. 6, Archbishop McCarthy, one of six Apple Schools of Distinction in the Archdiocese of Miami, hosted a variety of workshops as part of the Archdiocese of Miami Schools' Professional Day. Teachers from elementary and high schools throughout the Archdiocese came to our campus to enhance their knowledge of the best strategies for teaching 21st century students. Presenters included faculty from Apple Distinguished Schools in the Archdiocese as well as professionals from such educational support services as Kahoot and Magma Math.



Archbishop McCarthy's Jennifer Santilli conducted a hands-on digital art experience to demonstrate how the Photo Shop app can be used in the classroom to inspire innovation and creativity for students and teachers. Claudia Curtis, Jeanne Ferrier, and Hartley Pawloski, members of the

McCarthy faculty and administration, presented workshops on how to maximize the potential of the widely-used Canvas Learning Management System (LMS), and similar systems, for school-wide communication, faculty training, and organizing the activities of sports teams, clubs, and honor societies.

But the stars of this technological showcase were Archbishop McCarthy's Tech Ambassadors, an elite group of students whose technical prowess enables them to provide iPad training to incoming freshmen at summer workshops as well as troubleshoot iPad glitches their peers might experience during the school year. These students, under the guidance of Archbishop McCarthy's Tech Mentors Mrs. Monica Arango and Mrs. Melissa Chriswesser, spent long hours over a five-week period creating a unique Apple Playground that enabled teachers to explore ways in which iOS apps such as Photos, Clips, iMovie, and Keynote can be used in classrooms to enhance student learning.

*Witnessing how brilliantly McCarthy Tech Ambassadors conducted the workshop, Mrs. Arango observed that it was "one of the proudest moments" of her and Mrs. Chriswesser's teaching careers.*



The McCarthy students' ability to innovate and collaborate on designing activities that engaged teachers, administrators, and even Apple representatives "blew everyone away," Mrs. Arango marveled. The accomplishments of our Tech Ambassadors reflect Archbishop McCarthy's dedication to its mission of forming tomorrow's leaders by encouraging students to excel in our 5As: Atmosphere, Academics, Activities, the Arts, and Athletics.



# FOOTBALL

## Maverick Varsity Football: 9-0!

# BOWLING



Led by first-year coach Dino Mangiero, the Archbishop McCarthy varsity football team was undefeated this season, beating teams from Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe counties. The McCarthy offense, which outscored its opponents by over 200 points, featured stellar performances by the quarterback and a corps of running backs and wide receivers, many of whom were freshmen and sophomores.

*Coach Mangiero notes, "We were a young team, but we played well. We played great on defense."*

The coaches are especially appreciative of the "terrific support" the team received throughout the year and are confident that the team will have a great season next year also.



The Archbishop McCarthy Men's and Women's Bowling teams enjoyed another successful season in 2023. The women's team returned to the state championship tournament and finished 19th, a school high. Competing as an individual at the state championships, senior Anderson Albury finished among the top 15 bowlers in the tournament, Archbishop

McCarthy's best individual place ever. Coach Enzo Grossi was impressed by his teams' effort. *"Our teams are young but show great promise for the future."* The coach also commended the camaraderie of his bowlers.

*"The kids on this bowling team really have a great time together. They cheer each other on and build up one another every time we bowl. It has been a pleasure to coach these athletes."*





# CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Assistant Coach Ashley Murphy noted, *"We had our biggest men's and women's teams in quite a while. Both the men's and women's teams competed all across the tri-county area against some of the best competition in the state."*



The women's team qualified for the State Championship competition for the first time in almost a decade. Senior Helen Ribas, already accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point, ran a 5K in 20:07, the sixth best time in school history.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



In October 2023, Archbishop McCarthy alum Nick Castellanos, Class of 2010, set a major league baseball record by becoming the first player to hit multiple home runs in consecutive postseason games, helping the Philadelphia Phillies defeat the Atlanta Braves in the National League Divisional Series.

When asked to recall his most prized memory from his time playing baseball at McCarthy, Nick said *it was helping the Mavericks win their first state championship in 2010*. As a senior, Nick was named Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Florida, finishing the season with a batting average of .542.

# NICK CASTELLANOS



# CROSS COUNTRY



# GOLF



The 2023 Men's and Women's Golf teams enjoyed yet another outstanding season, with the women's team taking their 15th District title and the men's team winning their 12th. The golf teams played in tournaments throughout Florida and traveled to Arizona, coming away with a total of 6 victories in invitionals. The Lady Mavericks finished 7th in the State tournament, and the men placed 4th.

Senior Brett Moore won the individual Regional championship with a round of 65; he also broke the McCarthy school record for an 18-hole round by shooting a 64. Ryan Lopez set a school record for shooting the most rounds under par—8—in a single season.



Coach Carl Phillips proudly stated, "I feel so honored and fortunate to be coaching golf, a sport I love, at Archbishop McCarthy for the past 21 years." His one regret: "I wish that Archbishop McCarthy had been around when I was in high school!"

Given the administration's vigorous support and Coach Phillips' unbridled enthusiasm, there's no doubt that Archbishop McCarthy's golf program will continue to be one of the state's best.







# McCarthy's Academic All-Stars

Archbishop McCarthy High School is proud of its 2023-2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists and Commended Students, who are among the most academically talented high school seniors in the country. Students who qualify for these prestigious honors have scored exceptionally well on the PSAT taken in the fall of their junior year, with National Merit Semifinalists representing less than one percent of all U.S. high school seniors.

## Semifinalists



Christos Demos



Ana Garcia



Joshua Grant



Simone Kaplan



Emil Salgado Vazquez

## Commended Scholars

Camilo Bonilla  
Reagan Crews  
Ryan Dolan

Maryanna Dubay  
Kate Lambert  
Andres Robles

Alexandra Scott  
Daniel Viveros

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS | ACADEMICS

### College Board National Recognition Programs-Seniors

Mia Almaguer  
Connor Archabal  
Cristina Bermudez  
Camilo Bonilla  
Manuel Buenrostro Macedo  
Felipe Caceres  
Layla Candelario  
Joshua Carmona  
Reagan Crews  
Nicole Dale  
Jimena Del Barrio Flores  
Gabriella Delgado  
Christos Demos  
Ryan Dolan  
Kai Fellows  
Samantha Fernandez  
Ana Garcia  
Joshua Grant  
Lily Gupta  
Isabella Herrera  
Neilka Jacques  
Sydney Jorquera  
Megan Joseph  
Amari Lewis  
Amira Lewis  
Gabriella Llanes  
Camilo Llinas  
Sergio Lopez  
Anthony Marks  
Kaleigh McLaughlin  
Emiliana Mejia  
Chloe Menendez  
Jewel Montalvo

Matthew Moreno  
Paulina Murgueytio  
Maria-Gabriela Oliver  
William Pfeiffer  
Gabriella Polanco  
David Prepetit  
Monica Quiros  
Helen Ribas  
Daniel Rodriguez  
Gabriel Rodriguez

Jhan Velez-Tabares  
Stephanie Villafuerte  
Isabella Whitcomb  
Sebastian Yamin  
Alexa Young-Tem

### College Board National Recognition Programs-Juniors

Saphira Augustin  
Isabel Aljure  
Gabriel Auais  
Michelle Bethencourt  
Mia Cabanban  
Brianna Cackett  
Caitlin Cardinale  
Andrew Dieppa  
Ayva Dow  
Kiara Figueras  
Lacy Grant  
Jordan Herrera  
Victoria Herrera  
Sophia Jassir  
Samuel Jimenez  
Julianne Jorge  
Dylan Kubat  
Alyssa Melo

To become a Finalist,  
Semifinalists must submit  
a detailed application that  
outlines their academic  
accomplishments,  
participation in school  
and community activities,  
leadership abilities, and  
employment, as well  
as a personal essay.  
Congratulations to  
these outstanding  
Mavericks!

Melissa Rodriguez  
Isabella Rubio  
Christine Saint-Fleur  
Jacqueline Salas LeBlanc  
Emil Salgado Vazquez  
Juliet Sanchez  
Isabella Sobol  
Migsuly Taveras  
Amy Torres  
Ryan Torres  
Sophia Vega

Lucas Patino-Vergara  
Gianna Paul  
Hannah Pescatore  
Steven Rodriguez  
David Sandino  
Sophia Spalding  
Danielle Todd  
Raul Trujillo  
Fabianregie Virgile  
Alejandro Zampieri



# SWIMMING

The Archbishop McCarthy Men's and Women's Swimming teams had one of their best seasons in the school's history.



After competing in 8 meets, both the Men's and Women's teams won runner-up trophies in the District competition, the first trophy for the men's team since 2012 and the first trophy ever for the women's team, which also sent its 200-yard Freestyle Relay swimmers to the State Championship.



Freshman Kayla Chacon broke the 5-year old school record in the 100-yard breaststroke. Coach Valentina Artemeva enthuses, *"Our swimmers had a great team and appreciates the support of the school, especially Athletic Director Ms. Karen Frank."*



*"We will do our best to become better, faster, and stronger year after year."*





# VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Mavericks Volleyball team has long been one of the school's top athletic programs, in large part because of the outstanding leadership of Athletic Director Karen Frank. The tradition of excellence continued this year as Archbishop McCarthy won the District Championship and advanced to the Regional Semifinals.



Coach Robert Perez, in keeping with his philosophy that “to be the best, you have to beat the best,” scheduled games against some of South Florida’s powerhouse teams, including Gulliver Prep and St. Thomas Aquinas. The Lady Mavericks were consistently competitive against such tough opposition, which prepared them well for the playoffs. Coach Robert is looking forward to developing the talented athletes on his team and promises that “McCarthy’s women’s volleyball program will shine even more brightly in years to come.”

# CLASS OF 2024

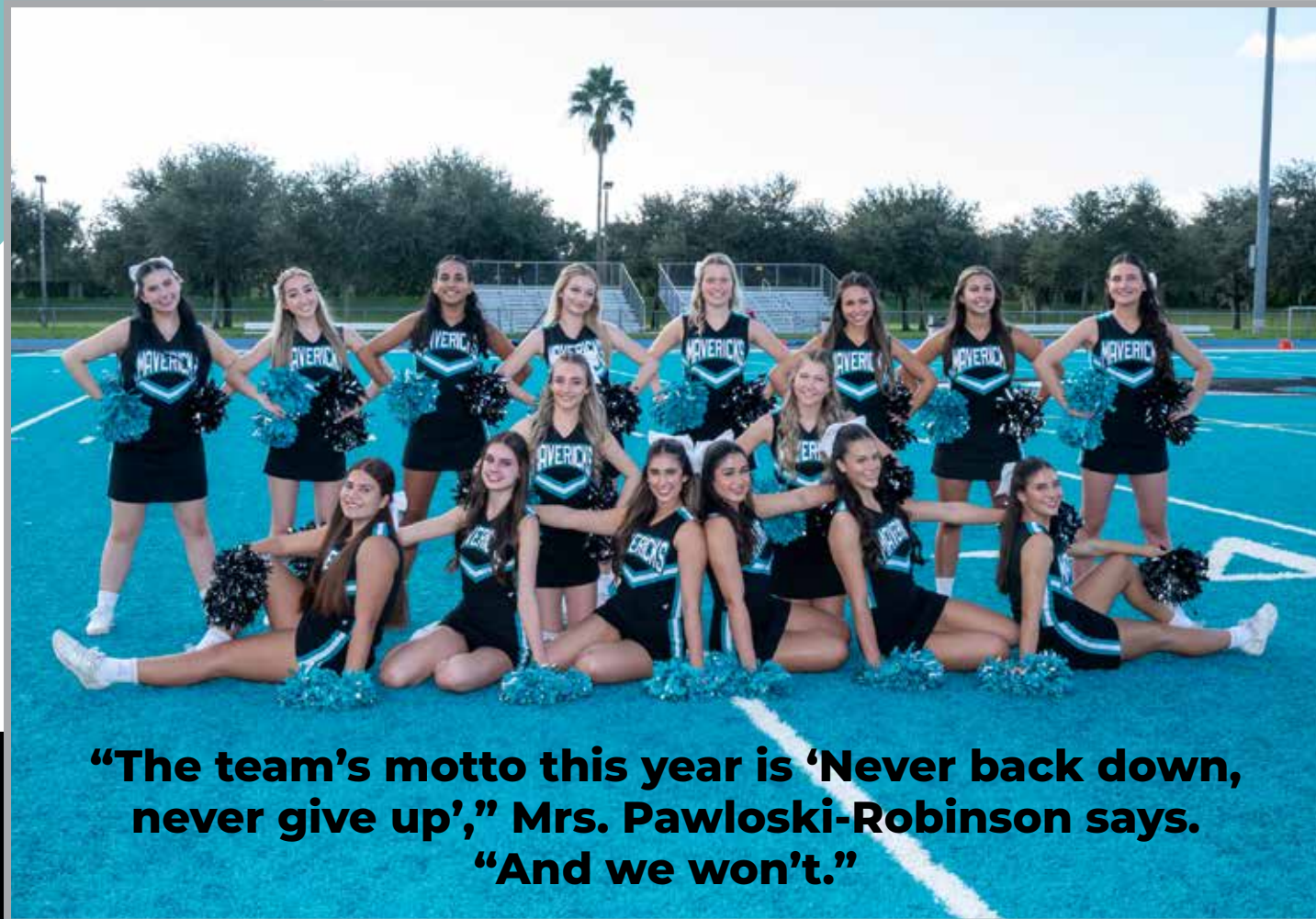


# '24



# CHEERLEADING

Archbishop McCarthy's cheerleading squad had a lot to cheer about this fall: Not only were they doing jumping jacks on the sidelines every time McCarthy's undefeated Varsity football team scored, they also performed at halftime of the Miami Dolphins home opener against Denver, a game that Miami won, 70-20. These young women are more than just lucky charms for the teams they cheer for, however; they are dedicated, highly-trained athletes themselves. Director of McCarthy's Cheerleading Program and Head Coach Hartley Pawloski-Robinson, with



**“The team’s motto this year is ‘Never back down, never give up,’” Mrs. Pawloski-Robinson says. “And we won’t.”**

coaches Lizanne Herron and Lisa Leopold, made sure the athletes on their team were well prepared for the rigors of their sport. “Our cheerleaders began their preparation last May, learning new routines, perfecting their technique, and mastering their stunts,” Mrs. Pawloski-Robinson points out. “They practiced for several hours every Tuesday and Thursday after school during the season.” It came as no surprise, then, that the football

cheerleaders nailed a perfect routine at the fall Pep Rally and the Homecoming game that evening. “They have been true ambassadors for our school this year,” Mrs. Pawloski-Robinson states proudly. As members of the Competition Cheerleading team prepare for the state tournament beginning in January, they remain dedicated to their sport.

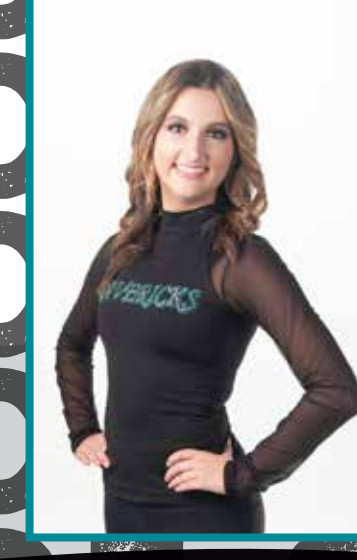
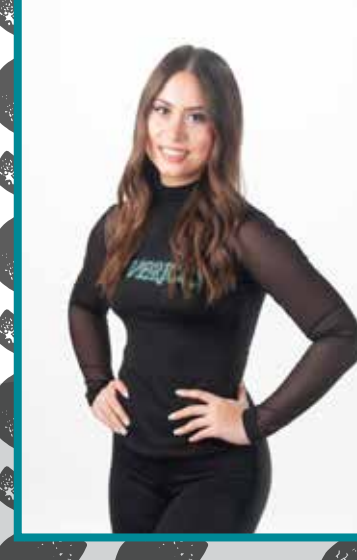
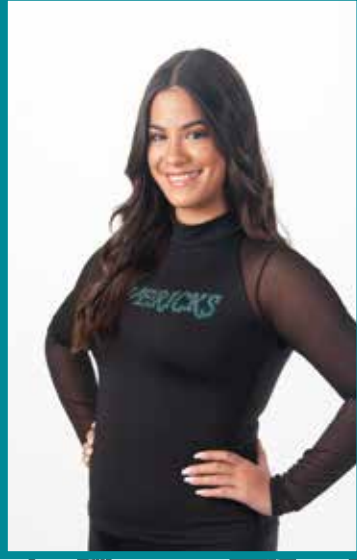
# DANCE



McCarthy's Dance Team has had an equally active season. Head coach Melanie Cajuso, along with assistants Madison Rojas and Jenna Walker, maintained a busy schedule, as the Dance Team performed at football games, pep rallies, and the men's Varsity Basketball home opener, in addition to preparing for the team's competitive season. Ms. Cajuso acknowledges that “although the season was jam-packed with events, it was very productive. We cannot

wait for what the rest of the school year holds.” Coming off its two National Champion wins last year, the Legacies Dance Team is working hard to prepare for their upcoming competitions. “These dancers know what it means to be committed and give it their all on the dance floor,” Ms. Cajuso says proudly. “The team has come back bigger and stronger in hopes of defending those titles this year.”







# Maverick Marriages

MAVERICK MARRIAGES | ALUMNI

## “What God Has Joined Together...”

-Mark: 10:9

### ASHLEIGH BAMFORD (2013) AND MICHAEL GIGLIOTTI (2014)

Baseball, a sport with a storied history at Archbishop McCarthy, drew Ashleigh and Michael together; the couple met because Michael played baseball at McCarthy with Ashleigh's brother. Ashleigh and Michael believe that the Roman Catholic atmosphere at McCarthy “displayed the perfect example of what a strong, loving, and faithful marriage looks like. We're grateful to God for placing us together at the right moment at Archbishop McCarthy, which taught us to keep God at the forefront of our relationship.”



### JESSICA CASTELLANOS (2004) AND STEVEN FENTON (2006)

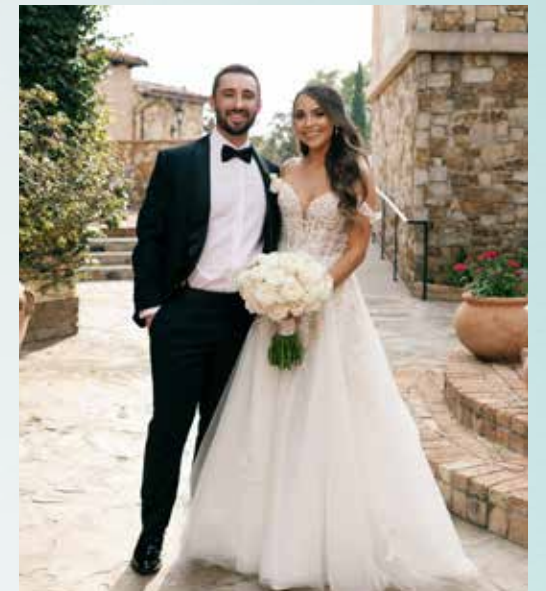
Jessica Castellanos Fenton: “There weren't many students in the school [in its first few years], so we'd run into each other in the hallways and have casual conversations here and there. Little by little we hung out and began attending each other's sporting events. We then began to see each other outside of school.” Jessica notes that “our faith has always been important to us. Attending a Catholic school will always be a significant part of our story.”

### JESSICA MONROY AND SEAN LEONARDO (2009)

Jessica and Sean shared classes, as they were both in the Class of 2009. Their Catholic faith is central to their marriage. Jessica points out that “having the same Catholic views has helped us raise our children in the Catholic faith.” The family attends Sunday Masses and prays with their children at bedtime, believing that “a family that prays together stays together.”

### NICOLE SICA AND JACOB BLANCO (2013)

Despite not having any classes together in their four years at McCarthy, Nicole and Jacob both played soccer and shared the same friend group. “The atmosphere at McCarthy helps mold you into the person you will become later,” says Nicole. “Jacob and I share the same values, which happened because we spent our formative years at McCarthy.” The couple have fond memories of their time in high school and hope that one day, their children will experience the same.



### ASHLEY CANDELORA AND TYLER WAUNSCH (2010)

Ashley and Tyler, both soccer players, were introduced by a mutual best friend and consider themselves “blessed to have found a once-in-a-lifetime love” at Archbishop McCarthy. Ashley states that the couple's relationship has been “built on a foundation of love and respect,” values that are an essential element of the atmosphere at Archbishop McCarthy.



### KRISTEN CUBA (2012) AND EDWARD PINO (2011)

A summer volleyball camp at McCarthy brought Kristen and Edward together, though they had attended the same Catholic elementary and middle schools. “Catholic values are at our core,” Kristen says. “We knew we wanted to get married in our elementary school church because it was important to us. Our faith is at the foundation of our marriage.”

The marriage of high school sweethearts may seem like the plot of an implausible Hollywood rom-com, but Archbishop McCarthy has seen more than its fair share of happily-ever-after endings. In Archbishop McCarthy's 25-year history, there have been many couples whose relationship has developed and flourished at our school. So what is it about Archbishop McCarthy that has aided teenage romances to blossom into loving marriages? Some McCarthy couples have shared their thoughts with The Maverick.



# We Want You to be You

The first day of high school can be nerve-racking for incoming freshmen. The challenges of making new friends, taking more difficult courses, and just finding their way to their next class can be overwhelming.



Archbishop McCarthy's Link Crew not only eases this transition but also rolls out a "teal and black" carpet for incoming freshmen at their orientation so that, in the words of Director of Student Activities Claudia Curtis, **"they know they are part of the Maverick Family from Day One."** One of the essential qualities for Link Crew leaders is kindness: They are there to alleviate the anxieties, insecurities, and doubts that freshmen typically have on that first day and throughout the school year.



Ms. Curtis summarizes Link Crew's goal on the first day of school when she tells freshmen, "We want you to be you, and not somebody else."



Link Crew leaders remain in touch with the freshman class through such activities as Candy and Cram, Movie Night and Carnival, and the Pi Day Scavenger Hunt.







Deacon Lazaro Ulloa, Director of Campus Ministry and Theology teacher, concurs, observing that *“the activities at McCarthy High School play a pivotal role in the Catholic formation of students. Grounded in Christian inspiration, faith reflection, and fidelity to Christian teachings, these activities instill a deep understanding of faith.”* School Masses, daily prayer, and participation in the sacraments *“ignite a spiritual connection,”* Deacon Ulloa emphasizes, *“that cultivates a commitment to the Gospel’s call to promote social responsibility.”*

*“Manere in Dilectione Christi:  
To Abide in the Love of Christ”*

**“To abide in the love of Christ” is the motto of the school’s founder and namesake, Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy.**

These words are the foundation upon which the school’s mission is built—to form tomorrow’s leaders by providing a Roman Catholic experience in all facets of school life, including **Atmosphere, Academics, Activities, the Arts, and Athletics.** “Bringing Jesus to our student faithful is a great honor,” says Theology Department Chairperson Mr. Richard Grebenc.



Among the most treasured faith experiences open to McCarthy students are retreats. The Retreat Program Director, Mr. Chris Caprio, speaks from longtime experience in stating that the value of McCarthy’s retreats to students is “immeasurable.”



Not only do these student-led retreats strengthen participants’ faith life, Mr. Caprio points out, they also *“improve their self-confidence and motivation; student leaders become mentors of faith, compassion, and courage to their peers.”* Each class has a retreat that is designed for their age level. Freshmen attend Genesis, which is coordinated by Mr. Fredy Perez and Mr. Chris Covone. *“Genesis is the beginning,”* Mr. Perez enthuses. *“It is an opportunity for ninth-graders to grow in faith and explore the options available to them in the Peer Ministry program.”* The three-day Antioch retreats are for sophomores, who travel to the remote retreat facility Cedarkirk for the first time and are led by junior Peer Ministers. Planning for the junior class retreat, Transfiguration, begins six

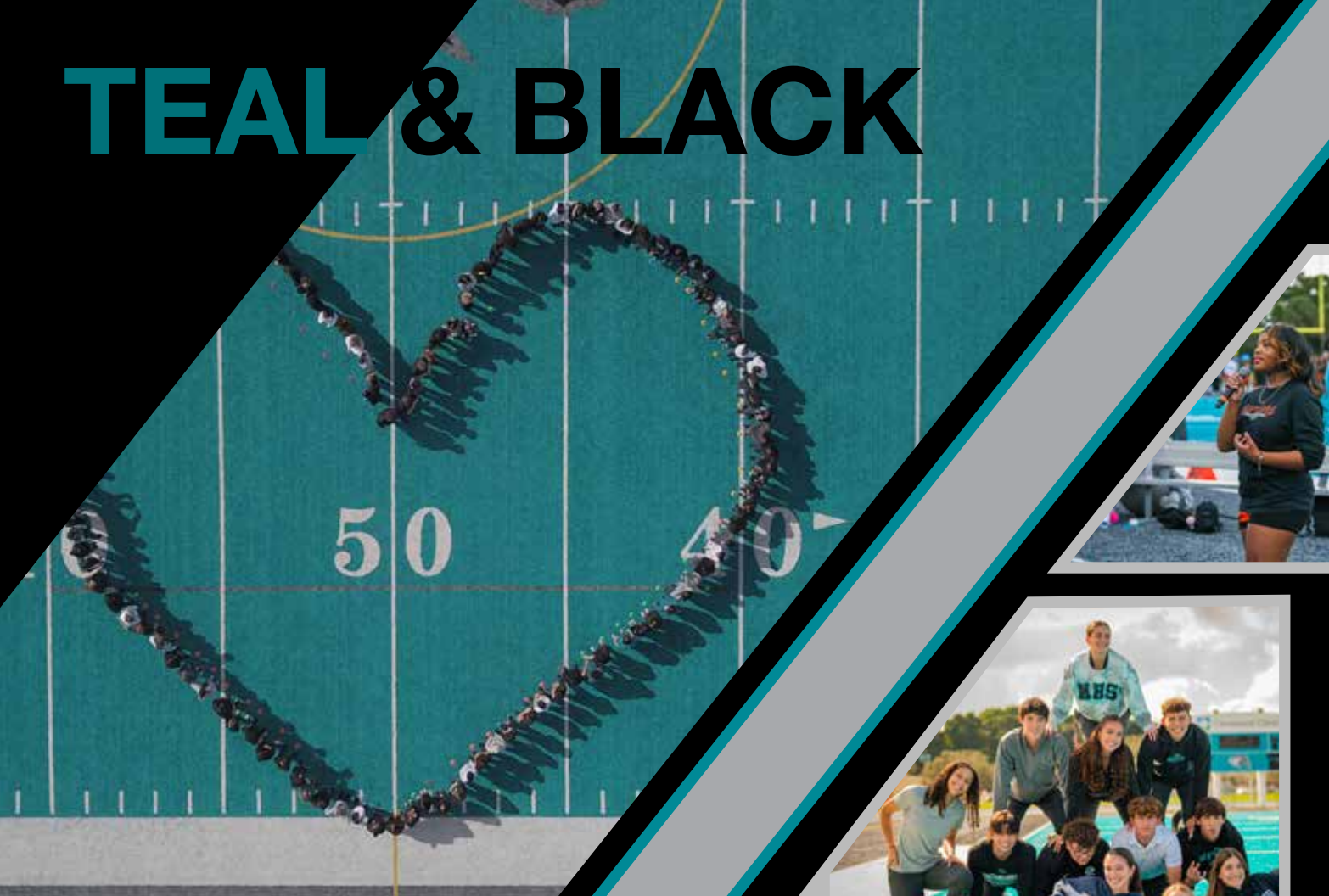
months in advance, says co-moderator Ms. Claudia Curtis, who describes *Transfiguration* as *“an opportunity for juniors to participate in candid and thoughtful dialogues of what faith looks like at every step of one’s journey.”* Ms. Curtis characterizes her role in planning Transfiguration and the senior Pentecost retreats as her “why” and “the greatest privilege” she has as a member of the McCarthy family.



As Campus Minister Deacon Ulloa observes, *“The wealth of fellowship activities on the Archbishop McCarthy Campus creates a supportive community that enriches the Catholic atmosphere at our school.”*



# TEAL & BLACK



Today the Archbishop McCarthy High School community continues to grow, and our Maverick spirit is more vibrant than ever!

We take pride in what we do every day and strive to work together towards a better tomorrow.



## Unlimited Possibilities

*Your support of the 5A's Annual Fund allows us to maintain and enhance the learning environment for all students and has a direct impact on our Atmosphere, Academics, Arts, Activities and Athletic programs.*

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*Archbishop McCarthy*



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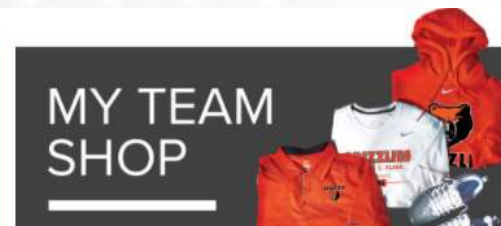
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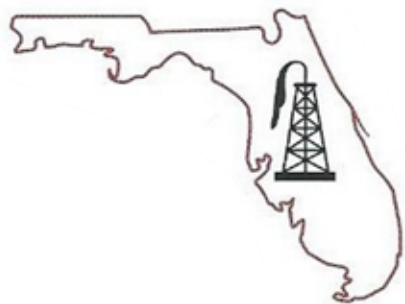
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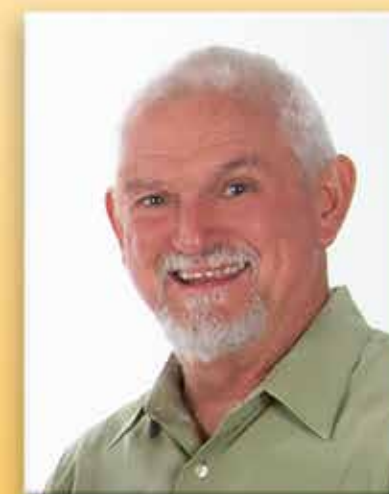
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