



LOYOLA
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

Alumni Newsletter - Summer 2025

Dear Loyola Catholic School alumni and alumni parents,

As we wrap up summer, we're feeling grateful for all the growth, joy, and great memories the last school year brought. Thank you for being part of what keeps Loyola's mission going strong.

A big welcome to our newest grads! We're excited to officially have you in the alumni family. Your connection helps keep the Loyola spirit alive and well as you join the ranks of those that came before.

We're also working on updating alumni contact info and would love to hear from you! Staying connected helps us share meaningful updates, events, and stories from around campus.

Save the date! This year's Homecoming football game is Thursday, October 9. Whether you swing by on your own or get a group together, we'd love to see you back on campus for a fun evening.

Wishing you a smooth start to fall—and hope you're enjoying these last summer days!

With gratitude,
Loyola Catholic School Advancement Department

News & Events

Retirement Announcement



Pictured left to right: Annie Taschetta, Jane Lynch, Jan Willaert

We want to give a big thank you and congratulations to three amazing Loyola staff members who retired this year.

Jan (Rykhus) Willaert - '81, one of our beloved elementary teachers, has retired after an incredible 40 years at Loyola. Her love for teaching and the care she's shown her students have made a huge difference in so many lives.

We're also grateful to **Annie (Longenecker) Taschetta - '88**, who spent 3 years at Loyola and has over 20 years in education, and to **Jane Lynch**, who was with us for 2 years and brought more than 30 years of experience in Catholic schools. We'll miss their wisdom, warmth, and presence on campus.

Thank you, Jan, Annie, and Jane, for all you've done for Loyola. We wish you the very best in retirement!

Loyola Golf Tournament



The Crusader Golf Classic that took place this year brought together our community in the spirit of fun, generosity, and a shared commitment to supporting Loyola Catholic School. This year's team winner was **Rick Sellner, Andrew Cline, Luke Sellner - '17, and Josh Cook**. We are proud to add these names to the Champions Jug! Thanks to the dedication and support of our sponsors, participants, and volunteers we raised \$28,000 to help ensure that our students and staff have access to the resources they need for success!

Loyola Spirit Shop End-of-Year Sale

Everything is 20% off—no code needed!

Place your orders online [here](#), and they'll be ready for pickup every Wednesday in Loyola's main office.

Meeting the Need

We're Thrilled to Announce —We Surpassed Our Annual Fund Goal!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we exceeded this year's Annual Fund goal of \$1,148,500. Your support strengthens our mission and ensures we can continue providing exceptional opportunities for our students. Thank you for your trust, commitment, and investment in our shared vision. Together, we're making a lasting difference.

Loyola's Annual Report

The Annual Report highlights the school's academic successes, extracurricular accomplishments, and the many ways we have grown as a faith-filled community. Please take a moment to read through it by clicking on the link:

[Annual Report](#)

The Power of Monthly Giving:

Why Our Donors Choose to Give Month After Month

Steven Helget, Class of 2007 Alumni

Monthly giving has been a meaningful and easy way for Jennie and me to support Loyola—both for us as donors and for the school as a whole. For Loyola, recurring gifts provide steady, predictable support, which helps with budgeting and cash flow throughout the year. And for us, it feels good to know we're consistently giving back to a place that's had such a lasting impact on our family.



I look back on my own years at Loyola with so much gratitude. The faith-based education gave me a strong foundation for life—personally, professionally, and spiritually. The friendships I made have stood the test of time, and now, we're watching our children walk some of those same hallways and have similar experiences. What a gift to have this kind of school right here on The Hill.

When I think about how committed the teachers, coaches, and staff were during my time at Loyola—and still are—it just makes sense to give back in a consistent and meaningful way. Loyola's leadership continues to work hard to keep tuition affordable, which is no small task. While tuition is about \$5,400 per year, the true cost to educate each student is closer to \$11,000. Our monthly giving helps close that gap, and it's tax-deductible too.

We give because we believe in Loyola—past, present, and future.

Shelley Shultz, Alumni Parent

I give monthly to Loyola Catholic School because I know how crucial it is for the school to be fiscally sound. By making this donation on a monthly basis, I am making an impact on the day to day operations throughout the year. I strongly encourage all donors to consider a monthly donation at whatever monetary amount fits into their budget. I also look at my RMD contributions as an extra bonus of giving to Loyola Catholic School and St John's Catholic Church.



Yes, I would like to make a monthly donation to Loyola today!

Alumni Spotlight

Anne (Nolan) Jordan '97

We had the recent pleasure of catching up with 1997 Loyola alumna, Anne

(Nolan) Jordan — a proud Mankato resident, co-owner of a successful local business, and current Loyola Catholic School parent. Anne's gratitude for her Loyola experience runs deep, especially the strong foundation of faith that she says has helped guide her through life's many seasons — including this past year, as her family has faced some health challenges.



She recalled how meaningful the Serenity Prayer has been to her in times of uncertainty:

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.”

As a student, she says she wouldn't have fully understood the weight of those words, but looking back, she wishes she could tell her younger self: *“Your life is in God's hands, and He loves you.”* That same message of trust and grace is now something she tries to pass on to her own children.

Reflecting on her own days at Loyola, Anne spoke warmly of the deep and lasting friendships she formed — classmates she still sees regularly, celebrating milestones together and supporting each other through loss. “It is sad that funerals can be the reason for getting us all together,” she said. “but it also speaks volumes to the type of bond that was formed as kids and that it's still there today.”

She also shared memories of teachers who left a lasting impression. Mrs. Brandt's senior-year marriage class, for instance, opened her eyes to the true meaning of the sacrament of marriage — not just as honeymooners, but of the challenging conversations surrounding faith, family, finances, and health. She's also thankful for Mr. Thiem, who went beyond teaching by coaching track and cross country and always showing up with wholehearted commitment to the school and its students.

That same commitment and work ethic are now a part of Anne's daily life as co-owner of **Babe Plumbing Heating and Air**, the business she runs alongside her husband, Jeff. “Business ownership is not for the faint of heart,” she laughed. “Especially when you're doing it with your spouse!” Anne wears many hats — sales, HR, accounting — and she wouldn't trade it for anything. Together, she and Jeff actively support youth sports in the Mankato area, continuing the spirit of giving back that was modeled for her as a child.

Anne credits her parents for making the sacrifice to send her and her four siblings to Loyola. “It shaped who I am,” she said. “It taught us to work hard, stay grounded in our morals — and if you do that, good will follow.” She believes her children are now learning those same lessons.

With a heart full of gratitude and faith, Anne Jordan embodies the Loyola mission — living out the values instilled in her decades ago and continuing to pour them into her family, business, and community today.

2025 Hall of Fame Inductees



We had the honor of inducting 7 incredible alumni and past coaches into the Loyola Activities Hall of Fame: **Shane Sellner - '14** (pictured is brother, Luke Sellner - '17, with Shane's son, Isaac), **Lindsey Theuninck - '17**, **Lindsay (Mamer) Rozek - '01**, **Dan Rotchadi - '75**, **Dan Ireland**, **Steven Helget - '07**, **Molly (Biehn) Becker - '00** (not pictured). In addition to celebrating these outstanding individuals this past year, we also honored some of our former state teams with banners, recognizing their incredible achievements and contributions to Loyola's legacy.

Celebrating Published Alumni



Loyola Catholic School is proud to celebrate the creativity and accomplishments of our alumni who have gone on to author books. Whether writing fiction, memoir, poetry, or academic work, these alumni inspire current students and remind us of the many paths a Loyola education can lead to.

We would like to highlight some of the few we have here in our school collection: *The Vatican Diaries* and *The Vatican Prophecies* by **John Thavis - '69**, *The Lair of Raven* by **Craig Duehring - '63**, *The Bootlegger's Secret* & *Mark Penn Goes to War* by **Michael Springer - '52**, *Look What They Asked of Us* by **John McGraw - '66**, *Cherishable* by **Julie (Johnson) Wylie - '91**, and *The Kindness Booth* by **Laura Murray - '07**.

If you're a Loyola alum who has written a book—or know someone who has—we'd love to hear from you! We're building a collection of alumni-authored books in our school library and invite you to send us a copy to share with future generations of Crusaders.



Pictured: Sr. Mary Kay Gosch, John Thavis, and Sr. Mary Kay Ash at Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, where John was invited to speak to the Mankato community about his career in journalism, his New York Times bestseller *The Vatican Diaries*, its follow-up *The Vatican Prophecies*, and his more than 20 years covering the Vatican for Catholic News Service.

Eye Spy Alumni



Emily Schumacher, Class of 2018

Miss Minnesota and Loyola Alum Emily Schumacher had the honor of joining Mrs. Taschetta's Kindergarten class and Mrs. Stoffel's 2nd grade class for lunch this semester as a special reward for their participation in the Kids Heart Challenge!



Charlie Shamp, Class of 1951

Beloved alum Charlie Shamp stopped by for a special lunch with his great-grandsons, Charlie & Will, and granddaughter Gretchen! He brought along two of his daughters—and fellow Loyola alums: **Deb (Shamp) Morreim - '74** and **Vickey (Shamp) Heelan - '75**, making it a fun multigenerational Crusader reunion!

Sharing on Social



Lori (Chamberlain) Kuehl - '91
is with **John Etzell - '96**



Kerry Rykhus and Paul Vogel

celebrating decades of working
together at Boys Town.

from the class of 1982 enjoying
Olympic National Park.

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Share your photo and story by joining our [Alumni Facebook Group](#) or emailing
your picture and caption to advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org —
you might be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Class of 2025



Congratulations to the newest high school graduating class! As you step into the world and embrace life's next adventure, may you find joy, success, and fulfillment in every endeavor. Best wishes for a bright and promising future ahead!

Rachel Ammann
Logan Barke
Gabrielle Bemmels
Eli Blace
Maxwell Bolstad
Madeline Cooney
Titoluwani Ehinmowo
Hayden Ettesvold
Casey Fogal
Preston Grams
Mercedes Hernandez
Giang "Chloee" Ho
Madison Marie Huiras
Iker Noe Juarez
Samantha Kann
Chase Kijenski

Gabriel McCarty
Jacob Miller
Gabrielle Monson
Taiton Moore
Sofia Roessler
Eduardo Sanchez Serrano
Sophia Skinner
Grace Stoffel
Alexander Streeter
Samuel Vetter
Isabelle Walls
Addison Wassman
Vaughn Roy Wernsing
Camden Winter
Daniel Wood
Kyle Zimmerman



Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger Award Winner

Rachel Ammann

Principal's Award Winners

Danny Wood and Gabby Bemmels

St. Ignatius of Loyola Award Winner

Collin Kirschner

In Memoriam

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Alumni

John Arend, 1956
Aloysius Arens, 1962
Thomas Coughlan, 1961
Sheila Cunningham,
1954
Raymond Dauk, 1951
Rosemary (Zimmeth)
Donovan, 1943
Harland Drumm, 1958
Peggy (Sturm)
Fallenstein, 1955
Randi Fasnacht, 1982
Audrey (Rausch)
Frederick, 1951
Howard Hanson, 1962
Betty (Saenger) Hasse,

Friends

Rose Allen
Richard Anderson
Margaret Ayers
Rae Nita Austad
Sandra Bach
Bonita Boerboom
Craig Boyer
Mary Brose
Yvonne Burgi
Darlene Carlstrom
Richard Corcoran
Dennis Davito
Mark Depuydt
Anne Doyle
Georgia Fasnacht
Susan Funfsinn

Mark Miller
Jennie Molohon
Dana Murry
Beatrice O'Brien
Margaret Oberle
Margaret Orness
Tito Ortega
Richard Otto
Bryan Paulsen
Don Pearson
Adrian Person
Barb Peterson
Tamara Phillips-Krueger
James Portz
Renee Reutzel
Barbara Robinson

1941
William Hodapp, 1945
James Hodapp, 1942
Gary Kremer, 1967
Nancy (Ubl) Lyons, 1975
Phillip Mans, 1969
Thomas Marka, 1952
Thomas Mocol, 1974
Amanda Nusser, 2010
Joseph Pleiss, 1944
Timothy Ray, 1974
Peter Reintjes, 1965
Vicki (Braun) Schmidt,
1967
James Schmitz, 1945
Robin Tacheny, 1975
Gwendolyn (Hecht)
Thompson, 1959
Clement Woitas, 1954
Donald Wolff, 1957
Paul Ziegler, 1984

Frederick Gengler
Pearl Gohla
Margie Haga
Julie Hagemann
Ruth Hanson
Gerald Hiniker
Joe Holland
Frances Huettl
Arlene Huschke
Ramona James
Richard Kern
Judy Koenigs
Patrick Madden
Lorraine Marden
Phyllis Martinka
Janice Martinson
Barbara Mathes
Robert Matuska
Heath McCorkle
Barbara Mathes

Roy Schultz
Charles Sehe
Delpha Skelly
Elizabeth Sohler
Steve Solberg
Arlene Soper
William Statham
Elizabeth Stenger
Mary Stenzel
Myron Storlien
Lois Sutter
Charlene Ubl
John Ullrich
Kathleen Ulmen
Doris Welter
Victor Wilcox
Joan Wilmes
Dorothy Ziegler
Duane Ziegler
Paul Zins

If you know of a classmate or friend of Loyola who recently died and is not listed, please let us know: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org.

Let's Connect!

We want to know what you've been up to! Have some news to share? Know of someone you think should be featured? Please send us a note with your announcements or update your contact information.

Email: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org

Phone: 507-386-5392



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