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### YANKOSKI FAMILY ACTIVITIES CENTER TAKES SHAPE

We are eagerly anticipating the grand opening of the Yankoski Family Activities Center this fall! The brand-new gymnasium will enable us to provide exciting new opportunities for our students and families.

# HOLY LIGHT

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

## ENDURING COMMUNITY AND CHERISHED TRADITIONS AT NAZARETH PREP

Year-end celebrations are a staple of any high school experience. Tight-knit community and deep connections are what make these traditions different at Nazareth Prep. As the academic year came to an end, the school community enjoyed several annual events including our senior awards ceremony and brunch, senior sunset, graduation ceremony, year-end Mass, and school-wide barbecue.

Seniors were recognized for their academic achievements during an awards ceremony and brunch attended by their families. In the evening, they took part in senior sunset, a newer tradition that allows our graduates to enjoy a final gathering together at the school. This year, the Class of 2026 celebrated with the Community Kitchen food truck and the Kona Ice snow cone truck on campus, enjoying food and fellowship with their fellow graduates and underclassmen.

This year's graduation took place in a new venue, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, across the street from our campus. The sanctuary offered a beautiful backdrop to mark this monumental moment for our graduates. Valedictorian Mark Stuckey highlighted the close-knit school community, taking time in his speech to call out each one of his classmates' ambitions for the future: an orthodontist, pilot, architect, and more. "As we walk across the stage today," Mark said, "let us not only celebrate how far we have come, but look forward to how far we can go." The Class of 2026 was cheered on by friends and family, along with several Nazareth Prep alumni who came to support their classmates, further highlighting the strong connections our students make across grade levels.

*Continued inside* ➔



JaMarcus Pierce (R), Class of 2025, and other alumni returned to cheer on Isaiiah Dawson (L) and the rest of the Class of 2026.



Members of the Class of 2026 toss their graduation caps outside of Sacred Heart Catholic Church to celebrate after the ceremony.

## ENDURING COMMUNITY (CONT'D.)



A'Rondae Morris, a 2026 graduate, returned to man the grill, which he has done since his freshman year!

Year-end traditions don't end with the graduating seniors. All Nazareth Prep students worked hard to complete assignments, prepare for exams, and maximize their internship experiences. On the final day of school, students, teachers, and staff gathered for the final Mass of the year, celebrated by Father Philip Farrell from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

After Mass, the school community went outside for the annual school-wide barbecue, featuring burgers, hot dogs, nachos, fries, funnel cakes, and more! Across the campus, students could be seen shooting hoops, cooling off with water balloons, or hanging out in the shade.

Each year is marked by unique events and exciting new opportunities, but **Nazareth Prep's traditions keep our school community thriving.** As we prepare for new students to arrive this fall, we look forward to welcoming them into the caring family made up of our faculty, students, and families.

## HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIR

After 18 years of dedicated service, Staci Brogan will step down as Chair of the Holy Family Institute Board of Trustees. Staci's tenure has seen numerous changes, including the establishment of both Nazareth Prep and the Journey of Hope program. We are grateful for her leadership and steadfast support!

**John Wingerter will step into the role of Board Chair** after nine years as a trustee, serving on both the Audit and Finance Committees.

John is an alumnus of the University of Notre Dame and a partner at K&L Gates specializing in Mergers and Acquisition and Private Equity Transactions. He has been recognized in both *The Legal 500 United States* and *The M&A Advisor* for excellence in his field.

"I look forward to deepening my work with the organization," Wingerter said. "I have had the opportunity to see the critical services Holy Family brings to our community and am eager to help the mission continue to thrive."

Please join us in offering our sincere thanks to Staci and our congratulations to John as we continue building bright futures for the children and families we serve!



## NEW PROGRAM OPENS DOORS TO TRADE CAREERS

Since 1900, we have supported young people on our campus in Emsworth. This year, **we are proud to announce the new Tools for Life program** to further our mission and expand our reach in the community. This innovative workforce development initiative is designed to give young adults the runway they need to launch successful, independent lives.

The program targets individuals actively engaged in apprenticeships or skilled training programs – providing a supportive bridge over the hurdles blocking young people from pursuing their career ambitions. Participants will live on our campus, with access to essential services such as Wi-Fi, laundry, and reliable and safe transportation assistance to job sites.

A holistic curriculum will extend beyond housing and transportation. Residents participate in classes focused on financial empowerment, culinary skills, and driver training – crucial tools for success in adulthood.

"**The program is about more than just a place to stay. It's about building the foundation for a stable, independent future,**" said Ami Steinmetz, Program Manager. To learn more, visit [hfi-pgh.org/tools-for-life](http://hfi-pgh.org/tools-for-life).



## CELEBRATING A MILESTONE YEAR WITH SISTERS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

This year, as Holy Family Institute celebrates our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN) are celebrating 150 years since their founding! As a result, our leadership has had the opportunity to spend time with Sisters from around the world this year, strengthening our connection to the global mission.

In March, we welcomed Sisters from Italy and Poland as they visited CSFN ministries in the United States. In Pittsburgh, we took our guests to significant sites in the congregation's history, including St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in the Strip District, where the Sisters were first welcomed by the Spiritan priests to teach Polish immigrant children; Duquesne University, founded by the Spiritans, who continue their special partnership with the Sisters to this day; and of course, Holy Family Institute, where they perused photos and artifacts from our archives, explored our historic campus, and visited the chapel.

We are looking forward to once again hosting Sisters from other countries this August, as they complete a pilgrimage to the United States, gathering in fellowship with American Sisters and touring ministries in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York City.

These opportunities to build relationships have been a significant highlight of this milestone year. **Each visit strengthens our connection to the worldwide community of Sisters and reminds us that our mission is carried across the globe** by other sponsored ministries working to improve the lives of children and families.



The Sisters pose with the statue of Mother Foundress Frances Siedliska on HFI's campus.

## HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY COMPETES IN THE ELITE EIGHT!

Holy Family University (HFU) women's basketball team played Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight. HFU, located in Philadelphia, is another sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, so we attended the game at Duquesne University to cheer on the Tigers! While in town, Dr. Anne Prisco, President of HFU, talked with students at Nazareth Prep about the university and encouraged them to apply!



Sister Linda at the game with Sister Mary Joan Jacobs (L), Faculty Athletics Representative at HFU, and Dr. Anne Prisco (R), President of HFU.



Dr. Prisco talks with Nazareth Prep juniors and seniors about HFU.