



## Principal's Newsletter

**November 2019**

*"Talent gets you in the door; Character keeps you in the room."*

***From the desk of Mr. McLaughlin:***

Thanks to our students, parents, faculty, and staff for their generosity during our Thanksgiving Donation Drive for the less fortunate. We appreciate our partnership with the following organizations:

**SAINT MICHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY, PRESENTATION PARISH SOUP KITCHEN, SAINT FRANCIS TABLE, QUEEN OF PEACE RESIDENCE, HOUR CHILDREN'S HOUSE, SAINT ALOYSIUS FOOD PANTRY, INCARNATION FOOD PANTRY, ST. JOHN'S BREAD AND LIFE**

Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated for all four levels on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We ask the Lord's help to remember all the good things we have and know we are blessed and grateful.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Terrier Madness** on Friday, December 6, at dismissal highlighting our Women's and Men's Varsity Basketball teams. Free SFP towels for all in attendance.
- **The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Lighting** in the Library on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents, staff, faculty, students, and alumni are all welcome. Enjoy free hot chocolate and the famous SFP Chocolate Chip cookies. Please consider donating an unwrapped toy! Doors will open at 7:00pm. Then consider staying for ...
- **The Art Department and Alvernian Drama Society** production of **Shrek** in our school auditorium. Two shows: Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm and Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.
- Music Department **Christmas Concert 1** on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and **Christmas Concert 2** on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Our Friends with Special Needs Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10am in the school cafeteria.

**From the desk of Mr. Castellano**

PSAT

Juniors and sophomores took the PSAT in October. The College Board, the organization that oversees the PSAT and SAT, has informed us that students will be receiving an e-mail from them sometime in December; this e-mail will include information about how students can access their scores. Once we receive word that the students have received this e-mail, we will send home information about how to understand and use the score report.

**Recognition**

Cathedral Basilica of Saint James in Brooklyn. Anthony Pace and Dr. Sullivan accept the Bishop Nicholas A. Di Marzio Special Mission Activity Award for St. Francis Prep's work in Kenya on World Mission Sunday, October 20, 2019.



It was a busy month of November for Campus Ministry! In the Catholic Church, November is the Month of Remembrance. All month, we encouraged our students, faculty, and staff to visit our school chapel to write the names of their lost loved ones in our Book of Remembrance. We also called to mind those we have lost during our daily morning prayers throughout November.

On November 12th, we kicked off our Thanksgiving Donation Drive in support of eight local agencies: St. Michael's food pantry, St. Francis Table, Presentation Soup Kitchen, Hour Children's House, Queen of Peace Residence, St. Aloysius Food Pantry, St. John's Bread and Life, and Incarnation Food Pantry. During our prayer service, senior Lauren Lodico (409) introduced our theme for this year, "Love Makes the Difference." When we all come together as a Franciscan family and acknowledge those with great need, we have the potential to make a tremendous impact. We did just that, collecting over 250 boxes of canned goods, pasta, cereals, and hygiene items.



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On November 20-22, we took 31 juniors up to West Hartford, CT, for our annual junior retreat. Focusing on the "Journey," our students took time to reflect and grow in community, considering the place God has in their lives. These juniors were thoughtful, prayerful, and diligent in their focus as they disconnected from the noise of social media, studies, and stress. Each student took something meaningful away from this experience and had fun along the way.





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On November 25th and 26th, we celebrated four Thanksgiving liturgies, one for each grade level. During his homilies, Father Ralph reminded our students of the importance of saying thank you, the way our Blessed Mother does in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:39-55). Also present at our liturgies were the agency workers who have devoted their lives to caring for the vulnerable and those in need. We are so blessed to invite these representatives year after year.

Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving and upcoming Advent season!

### **Music Department**

The St. Francis Prep Music department was honored on Sunday, November 17th, by the Long Island Music Hall of Fame and their High School Recognition Program. According to their website, "The Long Island Music Hall of Fame High School Recognition Program is designed to identify Long Island High School music programs that are creating valuable music experiences for their students and that are incorporating the National and New York State's Standards for the arts in creative and meaningful ways." Prep's Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir performed in "A Very Special Family Holiday Concert" at Jovia presents The SPACE at Westbury Theater to an audience that included parents and alumni!

For a second year in a row, we will also be recognized by Music for All's Advocacy in Action. The recognitions are for two different applications, "St. Francis Prep Has Music for Everyone!" and "St. Francis Prep Music Department Promo Video."

Looking ahead, Prep's Music department will be presenting our annual Christmas Concerts on December 13th and 14th. On the night of the 13th, we will feature all three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and our Concert Chorus. The 14th will feature all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Choir. Special guests include young musicians from Holy Family Catholic Academy, Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy, and families from the New York Intergenerational Orchestra. Doors open at 7:15PM, and both concerts begin at 7:45PM.

Members of our Concert Chorus will be singing at Presentation Parish's Soup Kitchen's annual Christmas Dinner, and our Chamber Orchestra will be performing at Prep's Party for Our Friends with Special Needs.

Happy Thanksgiving from Prep's Music department: Dr. Corbino, Mr. Johnston, Dr. Kobayashi, Mr. Karaca, Mr. Higgins, Dr. Silvagni, and Ms. Corwin!

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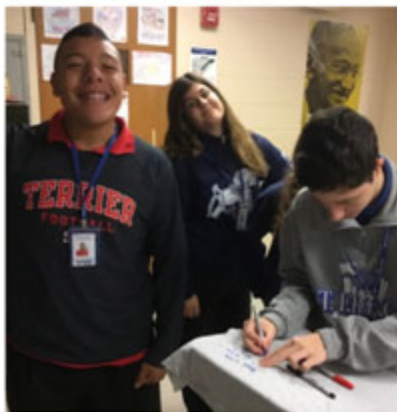




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### Mrs. Sorriero's Cor

COR 111 recognized the brother one of our classmates this Veteran's Day. Angelo Mohorovic's brother, Andres, will begin training in Florida and be deployed in April to United Arab Emirates. COR 111 sent love and best wishes by signing this SFP shirt so he can wear it and know we are thinking of him and watching over Angelo until he returns.



### Veterans Day

On Friday, November 8th, St. Francis Prep recognized and engaged with alumni who have served their country – including current members of our service branches.

Veterans and active duty military joined us here at Prep on November 8th for a special program designed to enlighten our students about the vital role our service men and women have played in defense of our freedom and our uniquely American way of life.

Participants had the chance to interact with our students today, explaining to them how the Prep helped prepare them for a life of service to our nation.

The following is a complete list of Veterans Day honorees:

- Daniel F. Lynch, Class of 1947 – U.S. Army 25th Division in the Korean War
  - Father of the late 9/11 firefighter Michael Lynch, Class of 1986
- Edward M. Kelly, Class of 1959 – U.S. Army Intelligence Officer in the Vietnam War
- John S. Pereria, Class of 1962 – U.S. Army Specialist, Company F, 40th Armored Division in Berlin
- Robert J. Engel, Class of 1964 – U.S. Army Sergeant, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division in the Vietnam War
- Michael M. Lee, Class of 1965 – U.S. Army Decorate Specialist in the Vietnam War
- Jon Fredas, Class of 1983 – U.S. Navy Commander for 22 years
- Jophiel Philips, Class of 1999 – U.S. Air Force JAG Major
- Leonard Legagneur, Class of 2016 – U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal
- Jonathan Ally, Class of 2016 – U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal
- Michael Melendez, Religion Department
- Anthony Grimm, Religion Department



[FaceBook Slideshow HERE](#)

### **Art**

On November 20th, Danny Gonzalez of Perception Studios came to visit the SFP Art Department. Danny is, first and foremost, a proud Prep dad with his two kids currently attending school here. The reason he came to visit the Art Department was to talk about his work in Visual Effects. Perception Studios has done special effects, credits, design, and technology work with major companies all over the world, including IBM, Microsoft, Marvel, Ford, and Audi! He spoke with students about their many projects and specifically their process creating the end credits for Avengers: End Game and the title sequence for Spiderman: Far From Home.



### **Key Club**

Members of the SFP Key Club attended the Light the Night Walk on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park. The Light the Night Walk is The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's walk to build awareness of blood cancers and raise money for research and support of patients and their families. Everyone had a great time!





### **Model UN**

The St. Francis Prep Model United Nation has started the conference season with a strong showing. Our delegation of 23 did a fantastic job; it includes many new members who gained much experience. This conference was attended by over 300 students from 20 different high schools in New York City and the Long Island area. We earned 5 awards. We want to recognize all our delegates for all the hard work preparing for the conference and especially those who won awards at the conference.

Best Delegate - Olivia Frantangelo 307 as United Kingdom in World Health Organization  
Best Delegate - Thanasi Dilos 404 as Brazil in the Human Rights Commission  
Best Delegate - Steven Boehm 302 as United Kingdom in the World Health Organization #2  
Honorable Mention - Henrik Israelian 407 as Germany in the European Union  
Honorable Mention - Valeria Quintero-Segura 314 as United Kingdom in the General Assembly.



Athletic Signings



Mackayla Scarlett



Sandon Karinsky



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Samantha Dumont



Michael Henry



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Jeanna Cunningham



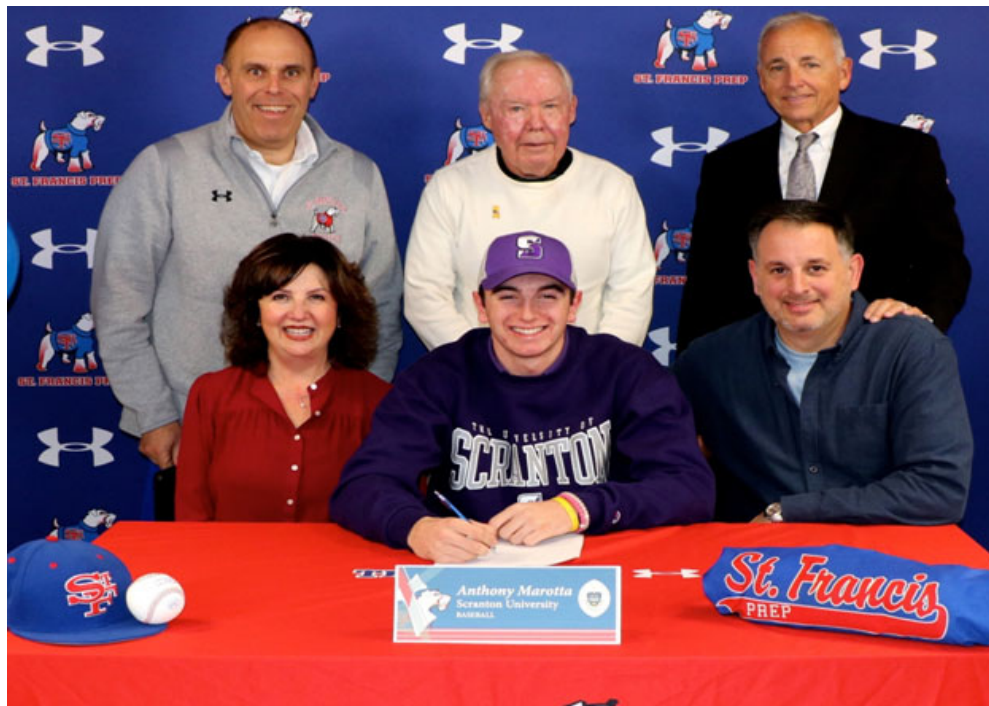
Jaden Rivera



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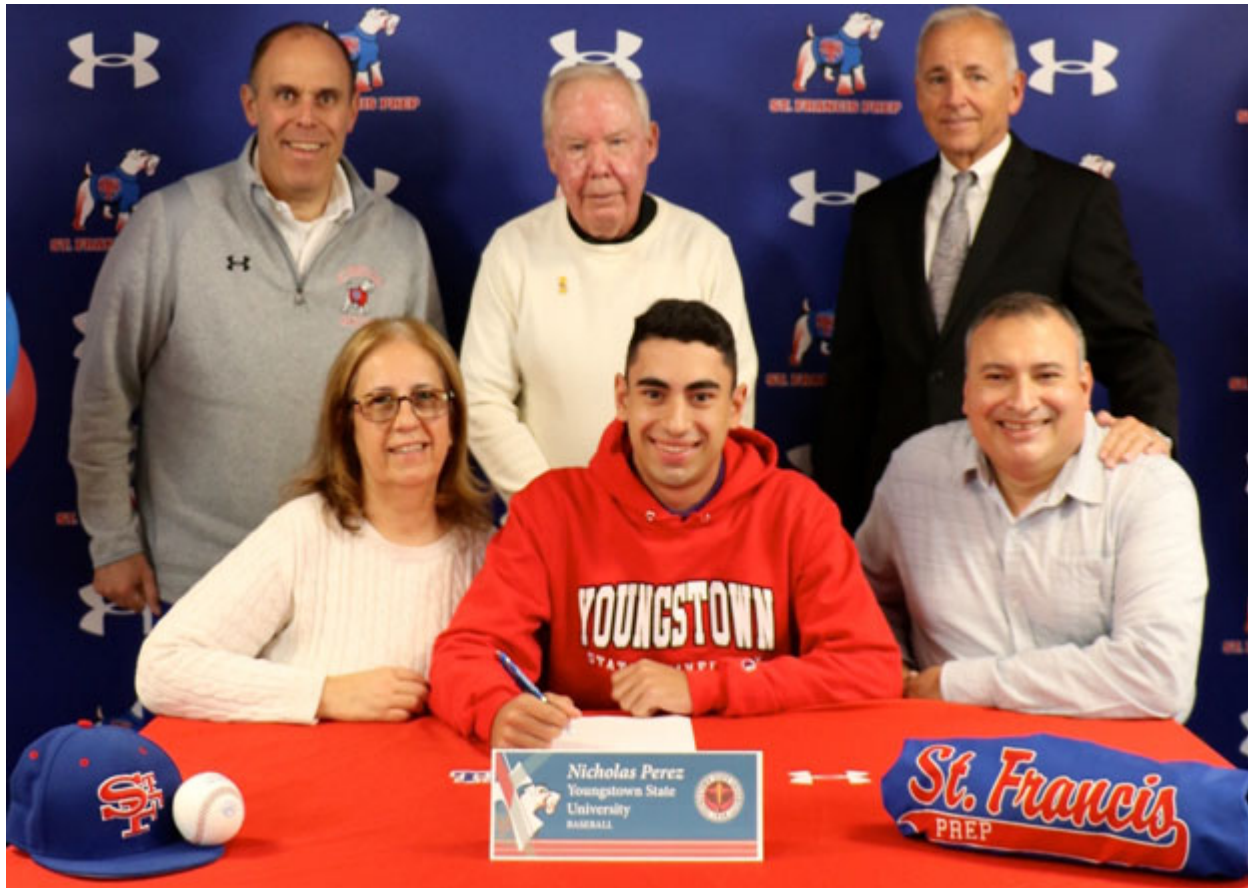
Destiny Howell



Anthony Marotta



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**Nicholas Perez**

### **Girls Swimming**

Varsity girls swim team: Swimming championships at Eisenhower Park November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The team placed 4th in the league and was given the prestigious spirit award!

Proud coaches: Danny Finn, Mrs. Finn, Domenica Cinquemani, Ms. Gambino

Seniors pictured: Leondra Craig, Jaela Burmester, Sabrina Demo, Isabella Lovasz, Anna Waitword, Maria Louiza Manassis



**Girls JV Soccer**

City Champs! It was a 0-0 game that went into overtime with two 10-minute "sudden death" periods. It was still 0-0 after the first 10-minute period. With 2:16 left on the clock, Lianna Messemer cleared the ball and got it to Nicole Mitchell who scored the only and winning goal! It was a hard fought, amazing team effort every second of the game! Hats off to Coach Stork and assistant coaches Sue McCabe and Dana Guerra: they always encourage the importance of hard work, a lot of practice, dedication, teamwork, and camaraderie. These are lessons and experiences these girls will carry with them for life.



### Annual Memorial Mass of Remembrance

The Prep community gathers together in prayer to remember the deceased alumni, family members, friends, faculty, and loved ones each year on the first Sunday of the month of November. This year it was held on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

The student recipients of "named and memorial scholarships" have an opportunity to meet the benefactors (alumni, family, and friends) of the scholarship awards they received. The following scholarship presentations were made:

**The Michael F. Lynch '86 Memorial Scholarship:** Angelina Carracciolo '20, Tiara Luke '20, Riana Simo '20, Sophia Zephyr '20

**The Bernice And James E. Mchugh H'92 Scholarship:** Arianna Goolcharan '20, Mikayla Barnave '20, Jada Jackson '20, Joanna Salazer '20, Pierce Elliott '20, and Diego Llanos '20

**The Alfonse J. Niedermeyer '79 Memorial Scholarship:** Tony Petion '21 and Morris Hubbard '23

**The Paulette and Vincent A. Toscano '53 Scholarship:** Vasili Koutouratsas '20 and Angelo Koutouratsas '20

**The Hugh and Margaret Kelly Memorial Scholarship:** Anthony Lygeris '20

The newly added bricks and other memorials on the "Pathway to Saint Francis" were blessed prior to Mass. The Banners of Honor were raised in the gym after Mass in memory of Coach Frank Nastro, Jr., H'85 and Joseph Mulholland '41.

A brunch followed all of the ceremonies.



Alumni





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**Joanne Persico '84**, Prep Trustee, Hall of Famer, Red and Blue Ring of Honor Inductee, and SFP Golf Classic honoree, secured her **500th Win** as Head Coach of the St. John's University Volleyball Team with a straight-set win over Seton Hall on Friday, November 18th. Congratulations, Joanne!



**Ojani Walthrust '16** is currently studying abroad in Peru for his final semester at The George Washington University. He has about a month left and is researching what it means to be a Black Andean (the indigenous people of the Andes Mountains) through the popular dance of Qhapaq Negro. He will return to the United States on December 9.

Recently, he received the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship. This Fellowship is very prestigious; out of 800+ applicants, 30 Fellows are selected. The Pickering Fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University. It aims to diversify the State Department Foreign Service.

He will start a Master's degree program in Fall 2020, receive mentoring from a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (FSO), intern at an embassy abroad and at the Department of State, and have the opportunity to live the life of an FSO in accordance with applicable law and State Department policy. Ojani is excited to have the opportunity to serve overseas, help decrease global literacy gaps and use his language skills to foster better relations between the U.S. and other countries to keep Americans safe.

In a message to St. Francis Prep, Ojani said, "Thank you for giving me the fundamentals to succeed. I am grateful to soon be embarking on a new way of life as a public servant."

Congratulations, Ojani! Keep doing great work!



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**Dr. Ronald Gentile '83** was featured in *NY Daily News* story entitled "**Medical Miracle of Biblical Proportion,**" which detailed his skilled work that helped save a man's eyesight. He is an ophthalmology specialist in New York City and has been practicing for more than two decades. He dedicates his time to clinical ophthalmic care, research, teaching, and humanitarian work.



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Dr. Ronald Gentile, left, director of the Ocular Trauma Service at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, with Joseph Goldstein, middle, and Dr. Richard Koplin, an eye trauma surgeon. (Photo: Barry Williams for New York Daily News)

[New York Daily News Story](#)

### **Faculty**

Congratulations to Mr. Joseph Sciamè on being honored by STANYS (Science Teachers Association of New York State) as a Fellow in their organization. The Fellows Award is STANYS's highest and most prestigious honor. Fellows are chosen on the basis of their effective teaching and active participation in professional scientific organizations. Well done!