PHS pirit





A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF PARACLETE HIGH SCHOOL

The Catholic High School of the Antelope Valley

PHSpirit 2025

PHSpirit is published annually by the Advancement Office at Paraclete High School for alumni and friends.

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The 2025 Baccalaureate Mass with Father Nobert Joseph



FEATURES



Meet the Class of 2025	3
John F. Shea Athletic Complex News.	5
The Lady and the Marine	6
Faculty News	8
Alumni Profile – Meet Steve Steinberg	9
Homecoming 2024 Alumni Photos Homecoming 2025: September 19, 2025	10
With Deep Appreciation! PHS Honor Roll of Donors	14

DEPARTMENTS



In Memorium	8
From the Advancement Office	Centerfold
History Channel Your Inner Spirit Margaret Neill	19
Staying Connected	20
Reunions	23
Upcoming Events	Back Cover

Meet the Class of 2025

Highlights from the Senior Surveys.

Which memories will you remember forever about your time at Paraclete?

Priscilla Aguayo: "I will always remember the relationships & memories I've made at Paraclete. It is like a big family here and everyone has made me feel loved and seen. I will also never forget traditions like cheering at football games and running for homecoming court."

Addison Gorman: "The memory I will remember forever is winning the CIF Softball Division III Championship my junior year."

Christopher Bradshaw: "The memory I will forever remember at Paraclete was my first Mass. I am a Christian and never experienced a Mass until sophomore year, when I transferred to Paraclete. The Mass was fun, educational, and very mind-opening."

Lissandra Suarez: "I really enjoyed my high school experience because it allowed me to pursue my education at a prestigious school and help me find my best friends. The school allowed me to also grow in my religious faith."

Abraham Perez: "The bus rides to our away games for baseball. Laughing and talking about whatever is going on at school with the guys."

Matt Maida: "Speaking at Worship Night. Senior Retreat. In-N-Out Truck."

Abigail Megel: "My favorite Paraclete memory was playing my first home soccer game as the girls varsity soccer captain at Calandri Stadium. After three years, we were finally able to play home games at our school, and the energy was just electrifying."

Katelyn Thompson: "I will forever remember my meal stops for volleyball games, walking down the football field with my dad as a Homecoming princess, and my senior year prom."

Vincent Perez: "Class retreats, playing in football games, golf, and state championship for volleyball."

Andres Bruno: "Retreats, Worship Nights, playing boys volleyball, going to the first football game on the new field."

Jayden Espindola: "The new sports complex and how the whole school rallied around it."

Seanna Turcios: "I will always remember all of our fun & silly Spirit Start-ups and our Masses because it was a time when the whole school was together."



Do you have a favorite teacher, staff member, or coach? If yes, what would you say to him or her if you had the chance?

Cristian Alvarado: "Mrs. Erickson – Thank you for making math a lot less dreadful and for making the learning process easier."

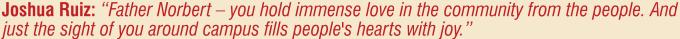
Emilio Archila-Orellana: "Mr. Miller — Only ever had you for one class, but your energy and encouragement felt like you had been teaching me all four years."

Ruben Pena Jr.: "Mr. Keever — I've had you since my freshman year and you have been so kind, and I have a lot of respect for you."

Jesse Hernandez: "Ms. King – thank you for being an amazing teacher. To have you as my teacher for 3 years was the best!"

Steven Cervantes: "Mr. & Mrs. Hernandez – Thank you for teaching such fun classes. You guys really improved my senior year, and my freshman year as I took drawing and painting that year. Keep staying positive and awesome, and don't stop doing cool/amazing things."

Ghazal Esteghlal: "Mrs. B, Mr. Landa, Saul – thank you for making class fun and actually making me want to learn. Thank you for being easy to talk to."



Madelaine Dill: "Ms. Huerta — thank you for supporting me throughout high school; I couldn't have done it without you."

Alexa Serrato: "Mrs. Olague — thank you for all the memories. They were a big part of my high school life. I wish you the best."

Jacob Mejia: "Mr. Ladensack — he is the funniest person at this school."



Describe your Paraclete experience in a few words:

Xavier Naef: "It was fun while it lasted and definitely prepared me for college."

Seth Branstetter: "A combination of good education and fun with friends made for a great experience."

William Gore: "I took many hard classes and tried to participate in many things and succeeded at both. I also made many friendships that will last a long time."

Kamille Mendez: "My Paraclete High School experience was something I won't forget. All the amazing teachers and staff help you a lot and guide you."

Carlo Ramirez: "Everyone cares, and Paraclete is more than a school or a community; it is a family."

Natalia Villacis: "My experience at Paraclete High School was fun, creative, and helped me step out of my comfort zone."

Armando Saucedo: "It went by fast, but nothing short of what you would expect at this school. A welcoming community, strong faith, and respect for one another everywhere."

Brett Novak: "My Paraclete High School experience has made me a better person."

Isabella Lara: "I joined Paraclete for my junior year, with low expectations after having a hard time at a different school. Here I've changed to be an optimist and to smile without fear. I've excelled in my classes, and I have joined so many clubs and

activities."

Sofia Hilario: "My Paraclete experience was busy, yet exciting. Being involved in many in school and out of school activities allowed me to learn and grow as a person."

Camila Moreno: "Positive, insightful, rigorous, happy, profound."

Kaitlin Roque: "Positive and impactful, Paraclete is an amazing school as it balances education and practice of faith. I met some of my best friends here and had unforgettable memories made."

Antonio Longobardi: "It is truly a family-like culture. Getting out on Friday at 12:45 was a life changer for me. Many thanks to Paraclete, my faith in God was truly strengthened when I really decided to listen in my religion class ONE time."

Roathpanhaseth Keo: "It was very fun and an enjoyable time. I wouldn't trade these memories for anything else."



Isabella Batugo: "One of my Christian Service projects that was meaningful to me was the volunteering at Grace Chapel Feeding Center, when I fed homeless and those in need. It really touched my heart and made me learn gratitude."

Mackenzie Petzold: "I helped direct a heart fair that raised awareness for heart attacks for women."

Alexis Lee Andrade: "Helping out Vietnam War veterans. Seeing some cry because they are being recognized for what they did melted my heart."

Sophia Tirado: "Since sophomore year, I've helped at every workshop and entrance exam. This was meaningful to me because I got to give words of encouragement and reassurance to incoming freshmen."

Melanie Verdugo: "The girls soccer program's annual Christmas caroling at Mayflower Gardens."

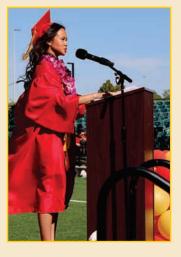
Gabriela Navarro: "Helping at the Knights of Columbus for 4 years."

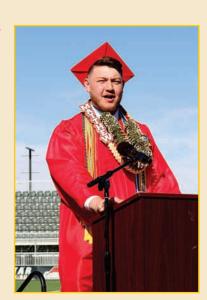
Joleen Olvera: "Lead rosary and prayer at San Fernando Mission."

Jasmine Chao: "I really liked volunteering with children with PTSD. I was able to connect with them through arts & crafts. This form of expression allowed them to open up and feel safe in our environment."

Ian Fountain: "I altar served at St. Serra for all four years with Father Norbert. I enjoyed serving God at His house. It was very holy."

Jacob Draper: "Cooking food for my neighbors."





Advice to your future self:

Grant Bradley: "Stay grounded, keep on track for your goals, and keep to your moral values."

Ava Hamilton: "Don't be afraid to fail for success comes from failing. Failure isn't permanent for it's merely just a stepping-stone on the path to success."

Joelle Hanon: "Stay focused and stay kind no matter what. You're number one in your list of priorities."

Mary Watfa: "Don't give up and live outside of your comfort zone; that's the only way you'll grow."

Piety Rose: "Love every season of life; it goes by too fast to wish for another season."

Cristina McDaniel: "Don't stress too much — you will be just fine in life. You're a strong and intelligent young girl, and you will have the life that you always wanted. You may feel behind in things, but you will get there in the future."

Andres Bruno: "Save your money, treat your significant other very well. Be good to your family. Keep God in your heart."

Amelia O'Malley: "Keep pushing for your dreams. Good things will find you."

Roy Brown V: "Please put in the work in college to give your future self a comfortable life. And try new things."

Jerald Varela: "Don't give up. Accomplish your goals. God always provides. God's got me."

Adrianna Follendore: "Don't stress about every little thing and keep up with everything."

Kennedi Redd: "Life moves pretty fast, and if you don't stop and look around every once in a while you might miss it."



John F. Shea Athletic Complex News

The Work Continues!

Progress at our John F. Shea Athletic Complex continues with the addition of the softball scoreboard with the official field naming: **Margaret Neill Field**. With an unveiling of the scoreboard, the team cheered for Coach Neill right before practice as they prepped for the play-offs.





In addition, we would like to thank and acknowledge the generosity of **Mr. & Mrs. John and Linda Ciufo**. The stadium press box displays their names in spectacular red and gold!

Continuing our partnership with the Shea Family Foundation, work is in process to create practice fields for all sports just east of our stadium. This will allow for freshmen and junior varsity teams to have the space they need to hone their skills.



The Lady and the Marine

From alumnus Ron Neilson, Class of 1976, we present to our Paraclete Family his words of his *heavenly experience*.

Preface

"The wind blows there constantly it seems. In the summer it acts as a cooling effect partially countering the summer's heat. In the winter it cuts through the coats and clothes. It cuts to the bone. I grew up in the Mojave Desert, not at all aware of the things I did not know. To me, *Mary* was just a name. It was the name of the school where I went. It was the name of the church where my family



went to Mass on Sundays and where all those school kids piled into that church to be present at my sister's funeral. It was the name of the neighbor lady who drove us to school each morning and drove a car-full of kids back home in the afternoon. Mary was simply Mary. It didn't mean much to me until I met The Lady. It was April 1991."

Prologue

"There is a photo of three boys sitting on the empty pier, looking out at the large naval vessel that was docked there less than fifteen minutes from when the photo was taken. The boys are alone, with a curious look of concern on their faces as the naval assault ship, the USS Tarawa, had just been pushed from the pier by the San Diego tugboats. Then the lines were released as the Tarawa made its way slowly through the harbor toward the waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean. The father of each of those boys is on that ship. Two of the boys are mine, Paul, age 8 and Dusty who is 29 days from his sixth



birthday. They watch the ship slowly make its way out of the harbor knowing that it could very well be the last glimpse of their father. The first day of December 1990 was a sad day for those boys.

"It is a long way from the waters of San Diego to the murky, and then dangerous waters of the Persian Gulf. It gives one time to both plan and prepare militarily, as well as significant time to reflect, recall, and remember. The days were full and hectic as there was a lot to do for some and little to do for others... other than the latest Gameboy which could occupy a Marine infantryman's time. As the squadron's Weapons and Tactics officer, I was in a race to get the newly joined pilots up to speed on the basics of weapons employment and combat survival techniques. While that was job one, that was the easiest of my chores as the daily planning for the amphibious assault into Kuwait City and our squadron's role on D-Day was in constant change. Though having a "Secret" level of clearance and not a "Top Secret" clearance was of no concern to my entry to the planning session of the top-level officers of admirals and generals, I was included into the mix. 16-hour days had become the norm.



"Isolation on a ship can be both difficult to attain and yet so rewarding when found. I found three places I could go where I could sit (one place) or stand (two other places) for as long as I needed and no one would know I was there. It was in these times, in these places where I was transformed from former altar boy and current Marine aviation officer, a captain by rank, to one

soul of the many millions who had walked on this earth. I was one man reflecting deeply on the spiritual lessons from eleven years of Catholic school teaching and more importantly on my many talks with my lifelong friend, my spiritual counselor and Catholic mentor, the Benedictine monk and Abbot, Francis O.S.B. of Saint Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, California. I could take the many lessons with me into my time of seclusion and brief isolation. The return to California was, at that time, a hope, but certainly far from a sure thing.

"When looking into the darkness of death one sees many things. Some are favorable, some are less than favorable. Yet from the first of December into mid-February gave me time to hope and pray, not necessarily for a successful return to family and friends, but more importantly a return to God the Father's good graces and the rewards of the eternal life. In these quiet times, where there was a lack of disturbance from the electronic things we surrounded ourselves with in the early 1990s – the television, the radio, the boom box, the VHS player, I

was taking myself to a realm I had not realized before. Yet I was not aware how deeply I had been transformed into becoming a messenger of The Lady.



"War is the ugliest creation of mankind. It is wretched with filth and destruction. There is nothing more terrible on Earth. In all the wars of this country, there are but two so short in nature. I

was so fortunate to be in the nation's second very short war. As terrible as war is and as devastating as it can be for the victims of war, I have seen the other side of that very destructive nature of man. I witnessed it on the faces of the people of Kuwait as we, the combatants, liberated these people and returned both their country to them as well as their way of life. In all the celebrations I have been a part of, whether Fourth of July celebration, Super Bowl victory parties, weddings, what have you, none has come close to the celebration on the streets of Kuwait when their oppressors had left their country. For nearly twenty-five years now I am proud to be one of the many liberators of Kuwait, 1991.

"From our culmination in this accomplishment, our skills and efforts put forth and even knowing fellow Marines who would die over there and never come home, eventually our attitudes were supplanted by the business of packing all the war material, returning to the ships and waiting for the word from the President's staff to set sail for home. Instead, we set sail, not out of the Persian Gulf, but instead to anchor in the sewage of the Persian Gulf, where the evening entertainment after chow hours was to go up to the quiet flight deck and look over the rails to count both the sea snakes passing by as well as the floating turds that went by. There we sat, in the months of March, April, and into May before heading for home, and out of the Persian Gulf only to be directed by the President's staff to take a turn to the port side and continue north, up the Indian Ocean to aid the people of Bangladesh as they had just suffered the worst typhoon in their history. The machines and equipment that were previously used as

destructive tools of war were now, for ten days, to become lifesaving tools for an entire nation so helplessly struggling against nature's wrath and its sad aftermath. As the people of Bangladesh saw our ship



coming, they told the international Red Cross and Red Crescent that we were Angels from the Sea. Thus, our mission became known as Operation Sea Angel.

"Before leaving the stinky waters of the Persian Gulf, during our long days of waiting, the ships and those onboard were granted three separate port calls in to allow us to stretch our legs, improve morale, eat something other than green eggs, and revive our sanity. For the first of these three port calls we docked in the port of Dubai,



United Arab Emirates. After leaving the ship, I made my way across the river and into the Dubai Sheraton. Once inside I made my way to the lower level where there was a British pub. The first beer in nearly five months was the best beer I've had in my life. Amstel on tap, it was. It went down fast and smoothly like Gatorade. Throughout the day I enjoyed the new scenery, explored the city, and enjoyed being able to walk more than a couple hundred yards without having to turn around. I ate dinner in a real restaurant. Eventually I returned to the Sheraton, to that same British pub. It was late. There were a handful of Marines there. I met a man named Dave from PepsiCo who had invited other officers from my squadron to sleep in his suite. I was the last to arrive. It was after 3:00 AM when we, the last few, got up to his room. There were approximately nine others already asleep. Some were on the bed, most were on the floor, one on the couch. Dave was a bit discouraged, to put it nicely, that all the items from his hotel refrigerator had been consumed, and there was a trace of at least three large room service trays charged to his room. I think the last thing he said to me was, 'That's okay, Pepsi will probably pay for this when I tell them what happened and besides, you guys deserve it.' With that, I tried to find a place to lay down. The only available floor space to stretch out was inside the closet along the walkway to the toilet. The air conditioning was on, yet I slipped off my shirt and shoes. Exhausted, I soon fell asleep. Eventually I grew chilly and lacked a blanket. I settled for a towel from the towel rack.

"Then it began."

Please continue reading about Ron's experience by going to Paraclete's website using the link provided. Reach out to Janet Bower at Paraclete: (661) 943-3255 ext. 111 if you have any questions or need assistance.



Faculty News



Mr. Carl Ladensack joined the Paraclete staff in 1985, and this entry under his photo from 1985 yearbook reveals just how much the Spirits needed him: "Administration, English III, FLS, Religion III, Co-Ed P.E., Basketball, Track, and Cross Country, Activity Director."

The man, the myth, Mr. Carl Ladensack retired in May after forty years. If you were ever lucky enough to have a conversation with him, you would know how much he knew about almost everything. His classroom was filled with memorabilia, cultural knickknacks, and objet d'art all of which were conversation pieces. Best wishes to Carl for beautiful sunsets during his retirement years.

Ms. Connie Thompson said goodbye to Paraclete after twenty-five years working as the attendance clerk, office manager, and her final year being a member of the Advancement team. Here's to a lovely retirement for a lovely friend!

Erick Jackson from the Class of 2002 returns to Paraclete as our Head Varsity Football Coach. He embraces his new role with excitement and purpose. "It's a privilege and honor to have this opportunity. I hope to make a positive impact on the Paraclete community as a whole, and my main goal within the football program is to help raise young men who exemplify high character and a great work ethic," Erick shared. With a collective cheer, we all say, "Let's go Spirits!"



Thank you to Barbara Russell

for her generous donation which led to the installation of a beautiful cross on our St. Joseph Building.

In Memorium

"Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Luke 10:20

2010 Lyndsay Evans passed away on October 15, 2024.

1997 Jesus Enrique (Rick) Gonzalez passed away on October 25, 2024.

1969 Rick Martinez passed away on November 23, 2024.

2011 Ashley Lewis passed away on July 18, 2024.

1968 Irwin Husbands passed away on April 14, 2024.

1974 Jeanine Slavin Day passed away on May 31, 2025.

1975 John Forrest passed away on February 26, 2025.

1986 Felix B. Ortega passed away on July 9, 2025.

1980 Lisa Gaeta passed away on July 18, 2025.

Alumni Profile ~ Living his Life with Humor

Steve Steinberg '83

Written by Steve Steinberg



I lost my sense of smell at Paraclete. While my classmates were losing their homework, the lunchtime pepper bellies were smelling less and less greasy to me. In the boys locker room, it was probably a gift that I was losing my sense of smell. Ignorance is bliss, I guess.

I chose to go to Paraclete because at the time it was the only school that had a soccer team. Sure it was known for high standards of education, but it was also known for embracing the obscure (at the time) sport of soccer. I had chosen the obscure position of goalkeeper, but the team already had a goalkeeper so for the first two years, I chose to sit on the warm bench in the gym on the basketball team rather than the cold bench with the soccer team. After all, I couldn't smell the gym, but I could feel the cold.

Actually, I really wasn't aware that I was losing my sense of smell. It is only in retrospect that I cannot smell the candles at morning Mass, smell the perfume worn by the pretty cheerleader, or smell the nicotine on my friend's jacket. In fact, these things did not exist for me. I did not know these were supposed to "smell." Imagine a friend saying, "smell this" or "do you smell that?" Everything smelled the same - like nothing.

If I learned anything at Paraclete it was how to lie. It was easy to nod my head acknowledging I understood biology class, to say I enjoyed reading *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, or to pretend I could interpret anything said by my math teacher. I did all of those things. I passed biology (barely), did not hire children into any workplace (*The Jungle* was in part about child labor...I think), and can now admit I never understood anything that math teacher said (not a single word).

What was not easy was hearing over 35 years later that I have Parkinson's Disease. Interesting fact: loss of smell can be one of the early signs that you may develop Parkinson's. I do not think I would have wanted to know that back then. In fact, I had a great life since graduation. I received a master's degree in Social Work and devoted almost 30 years to community-based mental health services to the most severe and needy populations.

I got married twice - I always was an overachiever. I am father to two young adult children. I have the satisfaction of always being there for my kids and keeping in touch. I am very proud of both of them. One does something important in retail, and the other just graduated from college with some degree and is going to graduate school at some university in some field that is important somehow. I love my kids very much, but I know one thing is true: That second kid is still costing me a lot of money.

Until my diagnosis 12 years ago, I was healthy and active which means the further I got from graduating high school, the more injuries I got. Actually, just because I have Parkinson's does not mean I am not actively hurting myself anymore. I box in a program called Rock Steady Boxing for people living with Parkinson's. Four times a week I punch a heavy bag for ninety minutes. Let me tell you, I hurt every day despite that bag not hitting back.

Some other highlights of my life since Paraclete and living with Parkinson's include traveling to Scotland, Iceland, Italy, Greece, Japan, Spain, and Germany. These travels have allowed me to brag constantly and tell the same stories over and over to people who now just ignore me. I am an artist which has allowed me to brag constantly to tell the same stories over and over to people who now just ignore me. And I have gained the insight that if this profile goes on much longer you will be on the long list of people who ignore me. So let me wrap up...

I am so grateful to have gone to Paraclete. My experiences there shaped my values regarding service, family, and social justice (among many others). I carry these with me in my relationships, at work, and on my Parkinson's journey. More importantly, Paraclete accepted me and fostered the value of humor in day-to-day life. From the humorous school newspaper articles I wrote, to the twisted speeches I created, and to my tolerant friends, I always felt that because I was a Spirit, I could handle anything with humor. If I cannot laugh at it, I cannot live with it...even Parkinson's.

Steve lives in Oceanside, CA. Despite being "retired" he facilitates 3 different Parkinson's support groups, provides support and education to the Parkinson's community, and has a private practice through which he provides on-line therapy to people with Parkinson's and their care partners. You can read more and follow Steve's Parkinson's journey at www.whatsshakingman.com.

A Spirited Welcome to Alumni:

Homecoming 2024

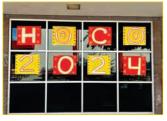
Some of the attending alumni captured in photos:

Tiffany Murphy 2012 Brian Sandberg 1993 Julia Harrington Rose 2000 Myamie Thompson 2017 Joslynn Salvatierra 2017 Avary Lathrop 2018 Ronda Bellville Perez 1998 Rvan Luther 1993 Jennifer Panek 2001 Sarina Arredondo 1997 Sammy Yacovelli 2008 Donna Grundler-Rich 1993 Fatima Serrato 2018

Samantha Parra 2020 Bobby Brown 2017 Kai Kendrick 2016 Noely Serrato 2014 Chris Ramirez 2017 Amiya Thompson 2017 Monica Gutierrez Hall 1989 Bob (Garcia) Sigueiros 1974 Barbara Callen Siqueiros 1977 Stephanie Holland 2007 David C. Thompson 1973 Peter Weilbacher 1994 Jason Williams 1992

Noel Serrato 2020 Miranda Ruiz 2017 Mike Ruiz 1992 Etasha Caston 2018 Bill Crawford 1973 Donny Thompson 2004 Michael Washington 2001 Louis Bravo 1997 Brian Sandman 1998 Jon Lueck 2014 John Clark 2014 Travis Phillips 2014 Danielle Peck 1997

Mariah Gibson 2009 Ti'Ana Bennett 2012 Branden Smith 2017 Chance Childs 2015 Leana Moleta Palaita 2012 Braydon Maish 2012 Monica Gonzalez Maish 2013 Fred Strack 1975 Vince Burton 1975 Jeff Bower 1975 Janet Godde Bower 1974



















































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For more information about our Sponsors, scan to visit our website.

From the Advancement Office

Please invest in our mission, our values, and our students with a gift today!

ParacleteHS.org/Giving

Benefits of Giving

Endowment Funds provide long term support for our Paraclete.

Gifts to each named Endowment Fund are an investment in the long-term financial health of Paraclete High School. Endowment Funds are held in long-term investments with the principal remaining untouched, which creates a permanent source of revenue for the school's annual tuition assistance program. Each endowment fund is structured to grow over time through reinvestment of interest, and dividends earned will be used towards tuition assistance. Consider a gift to an Endowment Fund today!

John and Haydee Nottoli Endowment Fund

Donna Martin Endowment Fund

Father Mariano Biasio Endowment Fund

Chris Hawkins Endowment Fund

Scholarship Funds provide help for students in need. Name your own scholarship!

Scholarship funds are ways to give back to Paraclete. A fund can be set up in your name to promote the ideals you embody or in the name of a loved one. A gift to one of these funds will allow a student in need the opportunity to get an advantage for life by attending Paraclete High School. Make a difference today by contributing to a fund.

Michael McGuire Scholarship Fund

 $Coach\ Ray\ De Shane\ Memorial\ Fund$

Tim Ward Memorial Fund

Nichter-Seidel Scholarship Fund

If you would like to create a fund in your name or to honor a loved one, please contact Vicki Novelli at VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org or (661) 943-3255 ext. 128 or Janet Bower at JBower@ParacleteHS.org or (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.

Thank you for helping us meet our students' needs. There are two easy ways to support Paraclete:



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SPIRIT in Christ SPIRIT as Family SPIRIT of Knowledge SPIRIT for Success SPIRIT to Serve

A Word of Thanks

For over 25 years, the foundations and other entities listed below have stood as pillars of faith and generosity. By providing essential financial support these groups have ensured that Paraclete continues its mission of serving students academically, spiritually, and athletically. The financial support over the years has helped Paraclete with tuition assistance, funding for teacher needs, and enhancing our campus facilities. The impact of these groups is profound and far-reaching. They have helped make a Catholic education accessible to families that might otherwise been unable to afford it. Their assistance has helped Paraclete retain students whose families have fallen upon hard times stay and graduate. They have helped us improve safety concerns on our campus. More than just financial commitment, these groups embody the spirit of community and shared responsibility. Their generosity reminds all that investing in the next generation is one of the most meaningful ways we can live our lives.

Paraclete graduates are not only well educated, but they are compassionate young people. The Paraclete Advancement Office extends our deepest gratitude to all who support Catholic education. The gifts we have received have made a difference and will continue to do so for years to come. May God bless you for your continued generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

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Naming Opportunities

These naming opportunities* are available for your support. If Paraclete High School has made a difference in your life or in the lives of your family members, now is your opportunity to give back and leave a legacy.

Spirit Athletic Training Field (\$100,000)

Training Room (\$100,000)

Baseball Dugout (visitor \$25,000)

Baseball Pitcher's Mound (\$15,000)

Discus Cage (\$10,000)

Baseball Bullpen (visitor \$10,000)

Football Scoreboard Ad (\$100,000)

Snack Bar Signage (\$50,000)

Family Benches (multiple locations available \$15,000)

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8 x 8 Pavers with your message (\$1,000)

We are taking orders for the next round of pavers. Be a part of the SPIRIT LEGACY WALKWAY! Individual/Family pavers are encouraged as well as those representing classes or teams.

Here is a list of classes that do not have a class paver yet:

1967*, 1968, 1969, 1970*, 1971, 1972*, 1976*, 1977, 1978*, 1980*, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990*, 1991, 1993*, 1997*, 1998*, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011*, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, and 2025. *We have received some donations towards a class paver.



To order your paver, check out this page on our website for the paver form and how to donate: paracletehs.org/athletic-complex-donate. When giving on our site, be sure to include on the PayPal Giving Fund page your name and email address so we will know the gift is from you. Checks are welcomed as well. If you have questions, contact Janet at JBower@ParacleteHS.org or (661) 943-33255 ext. 111. Please note that paver inscriptions are subject to administrative approval.

Wish Lists

Donate today to one of these causes:

Additional bleachers for the stadium Financial aid for a family in need MacBooks for our faculty Commercial Air Conditioning Unit Golf Cart for security

Football Program Wish List

3 Large Fans (Industrial Type)
Plyo boxes
Dline sled (Pop back)
Drone battery charger
Large refrigerator
New uniforms for next season



^{*}Naming opportunities and paver messages subject to approval.

With deep appreciation, we thank our donors! PHS Honor Roll of Donors

Making a difference with every gift!

This list reflects gifts made or received during our fiscal year: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

In reports of this nature, mistakes may happen. If your gift was omitted or missed, please accept our apologies.

If you notice an error, please notify the Advancement Office at (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.

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Dr. Regina Zurbano



History Channel Your Inner Spirit

Margaret Neill has spent more time at Paraclete than anyone else. Period. Her years began even before she arrived as a freshman in 1969 since her sisters were already attending as upper classmen and she would go to sporting events with them. Check out these amazing statistics that clearly called for the naming of the softball field in her honor.

Margaret Neill statistics:

- Started teaching and coaching in 1980.
- Became Athletic Director in 1984 until 2022 38 years; all the sports programs are where they are because of her leadership.
 - All combined during her tenure as AD, the school won 18 different CIF championships combined, in soccer, track, football and softball.
- Coached Volleyball, Softball, Basketball
- CIF titles: Softball 2015, 2016, 2024; Volleyball 1980
- State titles: 1, in Softball
- Years coaching:

Volleyball - 41 years

Softball - 46 years

- 800+ career softball wins
- Margaret was inducted into the CIF Hall of Fame in 2022.

And she's got at least one more softball season in her!

Thank you, Margaret, for all you've done for the Spirits!



Annette Olague with fellow dean Arthur Lopez and the soon-to-be-named electric cart.

A big

Thank You

to the

Paraclete Parents Organization

for our new electric cart to enable our deans quick access to the entire campus.

Staying Connected



concelebrated???!!"

1967 Mary Jo Bolen Saylor recently moved to Alpena, Michigan and loves it!

1972 Annette Keeler Barfield shares this serendipitous moment, "I was visiting my cousin in Monterey and went to Mass with her and guess who



Bishop Sylvester Ryan with Annette

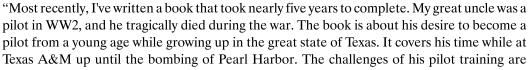
TREE.

1985 Konrad Kono will perform at Paraclete on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 2PM in the Godde Gymnasium. Tickets are available via our online Spirit Store (paracletestore.com) and all proceeds benefit Paraclete High School. Seating is limited so purchase your tickets now. Konrad is a master at the keyboard and engages his audience to create memorable experience. This

engagement is proudly presented by the Class of 1985. Contact Janet Bower for more information: <u>JBower@ParacleteHS.org</u> or (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.

1974 **Gerard Gibbons**' second book, *The St. Paul Phantom*, launches soon! The authentic family legacy epic is a true story of brothers, faith, family, and the American Dream. Gerard shared, "It begins in Ireland in 1884, coming to the Promised Land, covering the Golden Age in the early twentieth century, up to the beginning of the Roaring Twenties."

1988 Andrew Bass emailed his news: "I live in Orange County, CA, and I've been here in California since graduating from Paraclete. I've worked for SchoolsFirst FCU for nearly 25 years, and I look forward to retiring in the next few years. In my spare time, I like traveling with my wife, two adult children, and other family members.





described before he's sent off to war in India. The impact of his death on his family and loved ones is described within the chapters of the book. All of my former English teachers at Paraclete would be proud."

Andrew's book is available from most online sites. He donated a copy of his book to the Paraclete Library while on a visit to the campus with his son Ryan. Congratulations to Andrew!

1989 Jason Pooley – Fellow classmate, Brighton Bacchus is all about sharing good news about our alumni including the recent headlines from the Farm Journal's PORK:



Jason Pooley won the 2024 Farm Journal's PORK Best Beards Contest, praised for his well-groomed, bold beard and mustache.

One of the judges shared that she thought Jason's beard was a true showstopper, worthy of the top prize. Jason serves as the health programs manager in the pork industry. When asked why he entered the contest he replied that he's working on auditioning for Santa Claus. Looking good, Jason!

1992 Brian Lutz lives his faith! Along with his generosity as a Spirit, he is also active at Holy Spirit Parish School in Sacramento where his kids attend. He participated in the school's homecoming themed auction and provided a photo.



1992 Mike Pokorny visited Caryl Hier (beloved former staff member) in Carpinteria to take her to lunch recently. Caryl loves catching up with her Spirit kids!



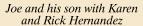


1993 Joaquin Siques Mary Gavel, sister of former coach and teacher Andy Gavel, and her husband ran into a Paraclete alum from 1993 - Joaquin Siques, who is now the City of Pasadena's Transportation Director. From Mary's husband, "He recognized the Paraclete cap I was wearing. Such a great connection we had! I miss my brother-in-law, Andy Gavel (Coach Gav)." [Editorial note: Coach Gav

passed away on October 31, 2018.]

2002 Joe Martin stopped by for a visit in February with his son Joe Joe.







Joe and his son with retiring Connie Thompson

1997 Erin Hitchman Tague currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Facilities Planning, Operations, and Construction at College of the Canyons, a leading California community college. With over two decades of experience in public education facilities management, Erin oversees capital improvement projects, long-term facilities planning, maintenance, operations, custodial services, and sustainability initiatives across multiple campuses. She has successfully led major efforts such as the development of the Advanced Technology Center and critical infrastructure upgrades, modernized operational workflows, and implemented strategic improvements to support student success and long-term sustainability.

Before joining College of the Canyons, Erin served as the Director of Facilities Planning at Antelope Valley College for nearly 17 years, where she led numerous capital projects and played a critical role in shaping the college's physical and strategic growth. Her career is marked by a strong commitment to compliance, innovation, and aligning facilities operations with institutional goals.



Outside of work, Erin has been married to her husband Ryan for 10 years and is the proud mom of their nine-year-old son, Dylan—an avid golfer. As a family, they enjoy vacationing in Mammoth and Pismo Beach whenever possible. Erin also served as PTA President at Gregg Anderson Academy at Westside Union School District for two years, reflecting her lifelong dedication to supporting educational communities.

2005 Jason Stoll is representing the Spirits well! Here is his bio from CSUN's (California State University, Northridge) music lecturers page (https://www.csun.edu/mike-curb-arts-media-communication/music/faculty-staff/lecturers):

"Southern Californian pianist, Jason Stoll, enjoys a multifaceted career as concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, educator, and collaborative artist. Past concert highlights include giving the U.S. premiere of Benjamin Britten's Rondo Concertante for piano and strings, numerous solo recitals and chamber music throughout his native California, across the United States and internationally, and has appeared with numerous orchestras as soloist including the Santa Monica Symphony, the Loyola Law School Symphony, the MUSE/IQUE Orchestra, the North Charleston Pops, Midland-Odessa Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Miami Music Festival Orchestra, the Westlake Village Symphony, the California State University, Northridge Symphony, the Antelope Valley Symphony, the York Symphony Orchestra, and the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Stoll has also competed internationally and was named a Semi-finalist in the 2015 Dublin International Piano Competition and Finalist in the 2013 American Paderewski Piano Competition.

"In addition to a busy schedule of performing as a solo artist, Mr. Stoll is also a lover of chamber music. He has been actively involved over the years in a various amount of ensembles including ACE Trio (flute, clarinet, and piano) as well as a multitude of duos, trios, quartets, etc. all with unique instrumentation and repertoire."

2021 Nicholas Kauilani McIlroy

Carson – Mrs. McIlroy shared this impressive news: Nicholas recently graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and serves as a second lieutenant. He earned his degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and minored in Portuguese.

2024 **Tyler Soles** - From Tyler's mother Staci: "Tyler has signed

with Duquesne University and moved to Pittsburgh! He received a full athletic and academic scholarship playing D1 NCAA Football. The 1st game was August 30th [near publication time for this newsletter] at the Steelers Stadium against Pitt. It's a rivalry game."



2015 Chloe Koslo's mother Allaire Paterson Koslo shared this news and is understandably proud!

"U.C. Berkeley bestowed the Young Alumni of the Year Award to Chloe Koslo (Paraclete Graduate 2015, U.C. Berkeley Graduate 2019, Antioch University Masters in Psychology 2024).

"The Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by Young Alumni commends a young alumnus who graduated within the last 10 years who has made a significant contribution to their community, country or the world at large. This award pays tribute to Mark Bingham '93 who died on September 11, 2001, defending the United State on United Airlines Flight 93.

"Chloe Koslo is no stranger to the triumphs and travails facing the human spirit. The psychology graduate student and president of the Lakes Town Council in Lake Hughes, California helped her tiny Los Angeles County community emerge from a pair of natural disasters: the Lake Fire of August 2020 and a flash flood and mudslide September 11, 2022.

"It was with steely equanimity that Koslo coordinated recovery efforts working with local, state, and federal organizations, including FEMA, to return life to normal, while calming the nerves of the hamlet's 600 plus residents."

Konrad Kono Live

in the Antelope Valley

Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy Konrad Kono live at the pianno, bringing fun and entertainment!

If you've seen him perform, you know what you'd be missing - and if you haven't, you're in luck, because Konrad will be in town! Seating is limited so purchase your tickets now!



Ticket prices:

Online Pre-Sale (ends Sep. 5th): \$15.00

At the door: \$20.00 Current students: \$5.00

Family (5 or less): \$40.00

Use the QR code above to get your pre-sale ticket price.

Seating is limited! Doors open at 1:30 PM for tickets purchased at the door.

For more information,

contact Paraclete High School at 661-943-3255

All proceeds will benefit Paraclete High School.

This special engagement is proudly presented by the Class of 1985.

Reunions

1984 Class Reunion Celebration! Forty Years in the Making at the Old Town Tequila Factory Restaurant & Cantina in San Diego, CA, on August 3, 2024. An evening of laughter, memories, and camaraderie with 35 classmates and guests, followed by a Continental Breakfast at the Old Town Historical Park.





The Class of 1985 is hosting a reunion on September 27. Please reach out to Kitty Hogan Calhoun at MissKit.Hogan@gmail.com if you are interested.

The Class of 1985 will host a fundraising event for Paraclete on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 2PM in the Godde Gymnasium featuring classmate and musician extraordinaire Konrad Kono! All are welcome. Tickets for this event may be purchased via our online Spirit Store: ParacleteStore.com.

The Class of 1995 is holding its reunion on October 18, 2025, at the Castaway in Burbank. If you are interested in attending, reach out to Ana Tintocalis at analeetintocalis@gmail.com. For tickets go to https://www.paracletehighschoolclassof1995.com.

2005 Class Reunion – the '05 grads enjoyed getting together at Lucky Luke's in May thanks to organizer Jackie Yochim. "We had alumni fly in from other states while some made a four-hour drive! Two of our alumni are in a band together and were gracious enough to play live for us! The band is called Thrift Store Troubadours. All in all, it was a GREAT night, and we all decided a 25-year reunion needs to happen!" Jackie shared.





For upcoming reunion details go to www.paracletehs.org/alumni/important-dates-events. Share your reunion plans and photos and news of your events with Paraclete at JBower@ParacleteHS.org or call (661) 943-3255 ext. 111.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents: If this newsletter is coming to your son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please notify the Advancement Office of your child's new address so the newsletter can be sent directly to him or her. We can continue sending the newsletters to parents as well!



PHS news is published by Paraclete High School. Its contents are made possible by members of PHS staff, faculty, alumni students and parents. Any comments about this newsletter, or if you need to update your address information, or if you would like to submit articles, please contact: Janet (Godde) Bower jbower@paracletehs.org



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(661) 943-3255

(661) 722-9455 fax

Upcoming Events:

Homecoming

Cheer on the Spirits – September 19, 2025, versus Village Christian High School at Paraclete

Konrad Kono Live – brought to you by the Class of 1985 – Saturday, September 27, 2025, 2 PM – tickets are available at our online Spirit Store through September 5th and at the door the day of the event.

Ongoing Recruitment

Recruiting new Spirits! Do you know an 8th grader or a high school student who would love to be a Spirit? Have them contact Evelyn Reyes at EReyes@ParacleteHS.org or (661) 943-3255 ext. 123 today!

Open House – Saturday, January 10, 2026

Workshop for Entrance Exam – Saturday, January 17, 2026

Entrance Exam – Saturday, January 24, 2026

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Prayer Service - Thursday, November 20, 2025

Christmas Advent Celebration – Thursday, December 11, 2025

Catholic Schools Week January 25, 2026 – January 31, 2026

Easter Prayer Service – Thursday, April 2, 2026

Opportunity Raffle Ticket drawing on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 – Good Luck!

If you enjoy the printed PHSpirit magazine, please let us know! Stay in the loop!

Parents: Please send us your Paraclete graduate's contact information. We can keep you on our mailing list, too!

Please share your email address by contacting Janet (Godde) Bower '74 at JBower@ParacleteHS.org.