



# ALUMNI E-NEWS

Students Four Years  
Brothers & Sisters for Life

DECEMBER 2024

## MARIST HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas, Alumni and Friends. There is much to celebrate this holiday season. OUR GIRLS are state champs in volleyball! Our alums are doing great things; our band is bringing the music; and the building is alive with the joy and merriment of Christmastime!

Lord, in this holy season of prayer, song, and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for the shining star and angel's song; for the infant's cry in the lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory and are bathed in its radiance. Merry Christmas, Marist family...and let us remember to pray for each other.



## **Robert Clifford '69 announces \$1 Million Gift to Marist High School**

Robert Clifford '69, philanthropist, successful attorney, and founder/senior partner of Clifford Law Offices, was recognized as a "Distinguished Alumni" at the 2nd annual "A Night of Honor, Glory, and Fame" on Saturday, December 7th, 2024, at the Larry Tucker Marist SportsPlex. During the event, Clifford announced a generous \$1 million gift to Marist High School in support of its ongoing mission and growth. The funding will support scholarships and financial aid to Marist students.

The gala was an incredibly successful event in raising funds for financial aid at Marist High School, in addition to Robert's generous gift. More details to follow.

[Read More](#)

## Joseph Beemsterboer '96



Responding to regulatory actions is just a part of the job in the food business. As such, it is essential to have leadership in place that can navigate what can sometimes be a complicated process. Walmart recently strengthened its leadership, naming Marist alum Joe Beemsterboer as its new Vice President for Government Enforcement and Legal Investigations.

Before joining Walmart, Beemsterboer spent over 12 years at the Justice Department. While there, he led the healthcare fraud unit for three years and served as Acting Chief for one year. In his new position with the retailer, Beemsterboer will develop government enforcement strategies and help Walmart respond to regulatory enforcement actions from federal agencies.

After graduating from Marist in '96, Joe attended Miami University and American University Washington College of Law. Congratulations, Joe! You make Marist PROUD!



## **Tori Carmen '06**

### **Anchor, FOX Carolina News**

Tori Carmen co-anchors the four o'clock, the five o'clock, the six o'clock, the ten o'clock news, as well as FOX Carolina News Tonight at 11 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tori graduated from Marist in '06 and then Indiana University with a Sports Communications and Broadcast Journalism degree.

She joined the FOX Carolina team on July 31, 2019, moving to Greenville from Syracuse, NY.

"As the only daughter of a high school football coach and English teacher, my love of sports and writing has deep roots in my childhood. I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, where I played almost every sport. If I wasn't on the field, you could find me cheering on my dad's football team, or the Chicago Bears/Cubs/Blackhawks/Bulls.

After graduating from Indiana University in 2010, she started her broadcasting career as the weekend sports anchor at KCWY-TV in Casper, Wyoming. After two years, she returned to the Midwest and landed in Toledo, Ohio. After a year of weekend sports at WNWO-TV, she got the opportunity to anchor sports Monday through Friday in Fort Myers, Florida at WZVN-TV. A couple of years later, she headed to Upstate New York.

She switched from sports to news as the weekend anchor at WSTM/WTVH-TV in Syracuse. In those two years, "I learned more about myself and things beyond the gridiron than I could've ever imagined, and decided news is where I belong."

That is excellent news for Greenville, SC! Keep us posted, Tori - We are watching!!

# Alumni Spotlight



## JOE FLAMM '04

Chef/Owner and Top Chef Season 15 Winner, opens  
NEW Chicago restaurant "il Carciofo"

### Joe Flamm '04

#### Chef/Owner

Celebrated chef Joe Flamm '04 launched a new restaurant in the Fulton Market District. *il Carciofo* opened December 12th, and is located at 1045 W. Fulton Street. This new venue joins Flamm's family of restaurants, including *BLVD Steakhouse* and *Rose Mary*. Together, these restaurants are part of the *Day Off Group*, which Flamm runs with Frank and Kara Callero, and Steve Zaleski. Congrats, Joe! Sounds delicious - go check out his new place!

### Notre Dame Visit

Larry Tucker '79 (Marist President), Meg Dunneback (Marist Principal), and Joy Lewis (Dean of Academic Success) attended the Notre Dame ACE Conference with the theme "Cultivating Authentic School Culture," along with other Catholic educators in the nation. While at ND, they invited Marist alums attending Notre Dame & St. Mary's College to join them for pizza and conversation about college and Marist. Colonel Ed O'Connell '99 (Notre Dame '03) joined the group and shared some wise words. #ForeverRedHawks





## Brian Motykowski '95

From Brian: "Who said insurance is boring? I'm an Account Executive VP at IMA in Denver and have toured one of the largest bitcoin mining facilities in the US."

Very exciting, Brian!

Q: How do you make an insurance agent laugh?

A: Tell them you're fully covered!



## The Marist Band

The famous Marist Band visited Christ the King and St. Walter-St. Benedict on November 20th to perform for students and staff! The band always has a great time visiting local grammar schools, playing music, and bringing joy and fun while representing Marist!

The Marist Band also marched in the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade 2024!  
Our band is absolutely second to none, always has been....., and always will be!!!



## STATE CHAMPS!

Marist girls' volleyball team won their 3rd state championship in program history on November 16th. They defeated conference rival and team-ranked-fifth-in-the-US, Benet Academy. It was RedHawks vs. Redwings as the teams battled in a thrilling three-set match in Bloomington, emerging triumphant 19-25, 25-16, and 25-19 in the IHSA Class 4A State Competition. The day before, our girls defeated Lockport (Twp.), 25-14, 25-22.

The Marist boys' and girls' volleyball teams currently hold Illinois state volleyball titles in the same calendar year. The win marks Marist's seventh volleyball state championship in school history for the boys' and girls' programs.

Jordan Vidovic leads the team as Head Coach, assisted by Kelly Phelan and Avery Jedry. Jordan is a four-time National Coach of the Year, two-time Illinois State Coach of the Year, and two-time AVCA Midwest Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Illinois Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2022. This past fall, he was inducted into the Marist Hall of Fame. Beyond his family, Jordan credits the many coaches who have supported him along the way. Boy, are we glad he is on our team! Fantastic work, everyone- Let's GO, REDHAWKS!

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**Congrats!**

**Ashley (Sellers) '10 Mead** and her husband Kristopher welcomed baby boy #2 on St Patrick's Day, Tadhg (Tadhg is an Irish and Scottish Gaelic name for boys that means "poet" or "storyteller")!



Little brother to Ronan, now two-and-a-half. Congrats on your beautiful family!  
COME ON!- This guy looks like he is ready to tell us a story right now.... CUTE!!!

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**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Michael Miller '70**  
**Michael McGowan '76**

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." In times of trial and challenge - in times of grief and loss - we are called to lift our eyes to God - for He is our help, our hope, and our strength.*  
Psalm 121

A memorial card with a black background. At the top left is a simple wooden cross. Below it, the text 'IN LOVING MEMORY' is centered. Underneath, the names 'Michael Miller '70' and 'Michael McGowan '76' are listed. A quote from Psalm 121 is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, there is a small logo with the letter 'M' and the word 'MANSIE' below it. The background of the card features a close-up of lit candles.

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# MARIST

*Trivia Night*



Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025  
Marist Cafeteria  
7:00pm  
\$10/person

8 players per table  
Prize \$ to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

\*assignment: study the 80's

MARIST.NET

Register Now!



# CLASS OF 1975

## GET READY!

### Class of '75:

Get ready and reach out to Marist and each other. Your 50th-year REUNION is coming! We can't wait to see you and hear the stories, updates, and photos.

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Have you moved? Do you have a new job? Did you get married? Is there a new addition to your family? Let us know! We want to hear your news!

Class notes may be used in [The Point Magazine](#), which is published twice a year. They may also be used on Marist's social media, including [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Update us

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Marist High School, 4200 W. 115th St., Chicago, IL 60655  
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