

LANCER LIFE

Salpointe's newsletter for alumni, parents and friends



December 2020



President's

Message

Dear Lancers,

This has certainly been a challenging year, to say the least. We can't wait for 2020 to be history!

Many in our community have been overwhelmed with health issues, financial stresses, emotional exhaustion or academic frustrations. Yet while we have felt the pain, chaos, confusion and challenge of living in a world dominated by COVID-19 since March, many of us have experienced some unexpected positive realizations in our lives.

Maybe we are more grateful for our families and friends. [Continue reading...](#)

With love and gratitude from Salpointe,



The Reverend Thomas "Aidan" Butler, O.Carm., is celebrating 70 years as a Carmelite priest and many of those years have been spent in support of Salpointe Catholic High School and living at Salpointe's Carmelite Priory.

Fr. Tom joined the Carmelites at 13 years old when he was encouraged by a nun to attend high school at the Carmelite Seminary in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Fr. Tom was ordained a priest on June 6, 1950, at the age of 24. He is the senior member of the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary and will turn 95 years old on February 17. Though not quite the oldest Carmelite, Fr. Tom has been a professed Carmelite longer than any other living member.

Throughout his long life, Fr. Tom has been known to skydive, hunt, paint, photograph and write more sermons than he can count. This remarkable priest has worked at 10 high schools and parishes across the country, leaving a legacy everywhere he goes.

Young Tom was born in Pittsburgh, PA, to a family of athletes. "My dad was a professional football player back before there were these big professional teams," said Fr. Tom. "He was known to be outstanding! My younger brother Jack played professional ball for the Pittsburgh Steelers and he was among their best." Jack Butler was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2012. The Butler family is still very close friends with the Rooney family, founders and owners of the Steelers and Fr. Tom can often be seen sporting Steelers attire.

"Everyone in the family played sports!" said Fr. Tom. The Butlers are a family of athletes, and Fr. Tom was no different.

CAMPUS NEWS



Three Cross Country State Championships

Congratulations to both the men's and women's Cross Country teams for winning State Championships! The 2020 state title is the first for the Lancer men's team and the fourth for the women's team. Sophomore **Kylie Wild '23** also won the women's individual state championship! [Read more.](#)



Volleyball State Champions

Congratulations to the women's Volleyball team for bringing home another State Championship! In a five-set thriller, these Lady Lancers defeated top-seeded Notre Dame Prep to win the state title. [Read more here.](#)



Annual Heroes Awards

Congratulations to the 2020 winners of the annual Carlos Valencia and John Glinski awards! The Carlos Valencia Award recipient is **Erin McGuire '22** and the John Glinski Award recipient is **Antonio Martinez '22**. [Read more about these exceptional Lancers here!](#)



Congrats to Salpointe's Heisman Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to **Mercedez Romney '21** for being named Salpointe's winner of the Heisman High School Scholarship. This award recognizes Mercedez as an outstanding student-athlete.

"When I found out I was a school winner," she said, "I was very humbled and excited to know that my hard work has paid off." [Read](#)

[more here.](#)



Salpointe Cares

Like people all over the world, Salpointe families have suffered challenges due to COVID-19. In response to our community's critical needs, Salpointe launched a unique support program in April. "Donors have fed hungry children, kept the lights on in homes, helped pay funeral expenses, purchased eyeglasses for visually impaired students, paid tuition and so much more," says Jen Harris, Director of Advancement. [Learn more about Salpointe Cares](#)

[here.](#)



Adopt-a-Family: A Lancer Tradition Since 1985

For decades, Lancers have rallied in support of local families in need. Since 1985, students, faculty and staff have donated Christmas gifts to dozens of families each year. Working with Pio Decimo again this year, the Lancers have carried on that tradition and adopted 29 families in need. Because of the pandemic, the need is even greater this year. Lancers continue to make a difference! If you want to help, [click here.](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

Matt Martin '02 Named to Chicago's 40-Under-

40 List



Matt Martin '02 is an Alderman in Chicago, IL, and was recently named to Chicago's 40-Under-40 List. "I'm proud to be associated with 39 other great Chicagoans," said Matt. In regards to his work as Alderman, Matt said, "I work for you, but I'm also working alongside you. Thank you for inspiring and challenging me to help bring transformational change to our ward and city." [Read more here.](#)



Alumni Stepping Up to Soar

Two Salpointe graduates have joined the *Stories that Soar!* professional cast as paid contracted artists to continue this mission-driven work in the community. **Jackie Barra '20** and **Stephen Peterson '20** have experienced what it feels like to help kids have their stories told through their involvement with the Literacy Connects' *Stories that Soar!* High Program. [Read more here.](#)



Alumna Emphasizes Need for Blood Donations

In her third year as the Executive Director for the Red Cross' Southern Arizona Chapter, **Courtney Slanaker '10** emphasizes the need for blood donations during this time. "We are in dire need of volunteers to support our blood drives across Arizona," she said. During this holiday season, consider giving the gift of your blood to change countless lives. [Find more information here.](#)



Honoring Lancer Veterans & Military Members

Salpointe honored all Lancer veterans and members of the military in a virtual Veterans Day celebration this year. The Mass and presentation can be [viewed here](#). Salpointe's list of veterans is available on the alumni website and [can be seen here](#). To add Lancer alumni, faculty or staff to the list, please contact Carissa Krautscheid at ckrautscheid@salpointe.org with the name, graduation year, military branch and photo.



Shop Local, Support Lancer Originals

Successful Lancer alumni are making their mark on Southern Arizona as entrepreneurs and business owners! The alumni included in the [Lancer Originals Directory](#) proudly display the Lancer Originals logo. We encourage you to support these businesses next time you go out to eat, need a service or want to support a non-profit! If you are a Salpointe alum who wants to be included in the directory, please contact Kasey Barghout at 520-547-9365 or

kbarghout@salpointe.org for more information.

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Update Your Contact Information

Submit News for the Next Lancer Life!



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