

# Alumni & Friends NEWS LETTER

Fall Edition 2021

# FOOTPRINTS

## Welcome **FATHER AUSTIN BOSSE**



Dear Marquette Families,

As the newly ordained and newly assigned Chaplain of Marquette Academy and Parochial Vicar at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Streator, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Fr. Bosse, pronounced "bossy".

I grew up on a beef cattle feedlot outside a small town in Northeast Kansas with two older brothers and an older sister. They are all married and I have twelve nieces and nephews with the thirteenth on the way. Life on the farm never inspired me to desire the priestly life. Don't get me wrong, I am overjoyed to be here as your new priest. If I had my way though, four years ago I would have been moving to work at Frito-Lay Headquarters in Texas. Headquarters in Texas was the only reason why in 2012 I agreed to leave my home and job in Kansas to take a new job running a corn handling facility outside of Champaign, Illinois. Illinois was supposed to be a stepping stone on my path to Texas where there were a bounty of prospective spouses and weather that rarely gets below zero.

The life I had planned and the dreams I created for myself crumbled when I realized that God was calling me to be his priest. Despite my own unworthiness, God called and patiently waited for me to respond freely and completely by giving my life back to Him. On May 29th of this year, with only a small portion of my friends and family present, Bishop Jenky laid his hands upon my head and spoke simple words that forever transformed my life. In a moment, I became committed to living the rest of my life in a state whose winters are worse than Kansas; I was espoused to a 2000-year-old woman whom we call Holy Mother Church; and I became a "Father" to men and women young enough to be my own and old enough to be my grandparents.

The first weeks of priesthood have been a whirlwind filled with joys and blessings; the joys of celebrating the sacraments that make Christ present to His people; the blessings of meeting so many kind and devoted sons and daughters who are seeking to follow Christ. At the same time, there have been unique challenges and difficulties for which seminary formation can never fully prepare you. Throughout all of it, the grace of God has been abundantly present as I have come into this unexpected and truly beautiful new life.

I look forward to meeting you all whether in the school or in the community. I have said it many times since I arrived, my family is five hundred miles from here, so please make me a part of your family. The priest isn't supposed to be a stranger or alien to family life, so make me a part of your family.

While I will be teaching Christian Life to our Juniors this year, my role is to be present for all members of our community. The Church tells us that parents are the primary teachers of their children, so if there is anything that you need help in understanding or articulating about the faith, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. God brought me here to aid you and your children on your journey to know, love and serve Him. My hope is to be able to help everyone find the joy that comes from giving your life completely to Him.

With prayers, love and blessings,

Fr. Bosse



Graduating class of 2021 who had all committed to colleges, 11 of those also are playing sports.

## INSIDE:

**New MA Chaplain ..... Pg 1**

**Upcoming Events ..... Pg 2**

**Alumni Spotlight ..... Pg 2**

**Faculty Spotlight ..... Pg 3**

**Strategic Plan ..... Pg 4**



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8-9, 2021  
Homecoming Weekend!  
Friday - Celebrity Bartender  
Night at Berta's.  
Saturday - MAHS vs. Walther  
Christian - GO CRU!!

October 16, 2021  
Go Club Scavenger Hunt  
High School Campus

October 31, 2021  
Annual Rip's Trip  
Meet at the Knights of Columbus

November 7, 2021  
Turkey Dinner  
Elementary Campus

November/December, 2021  
Merry Everything  
Calendar Raffle

May 7, 2022  
Marquette May Merriment 40  
Bader Gym

To sponsor an event, donate, or  
view the full calendar of events  
and athletic schedules visit:  
[marquetteacademy.net](http://marquetteacademy.net)



**Friday, October 8** - Calling all alumni! Join us for a **Celebrity Bartender Night at Berta's Tap** in Ottawa at 6pm, during Homecoming Weekend 2021. Get the old high school gang together and help us spread the word.

**Saturday, October 9** - Then, come watch some Crusader Football! The CRU take on Walther Christian at Gould Stadium. Kickoff is at 1pm. Hope to see you all there!

Keep checking our website more details.  
[www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net)



## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

**Jel Raikes**, a 2016 Marquette Academy graduate, is currently serving the end of his first four years in the United States Air Force. Jel has had many opportunities due to his service in the military. He was stationed near Toyko in Japan from April 2018 to August 2020. He was able to celebrate New Year's in Toyko, watch some Japanese baseball, plus learn and experience the different cultures. He is currently stationed in Altus, OK; however, he is deployed to Qatar until January 2022. After that deployment, he will be stationed at Hurlburt Field in Florida, right on Fort Walton Beach.

Jel joined the service because he wanted to be a part of something bigger than himself as well as do something most haven't or wouldn't do. A perfect example is his current situation of taking care of the thousands of Afghanistan evacuees fleeing their country and arriving at his base until further notice. Even though this time is quite stressful, he can assist others who cannot take care of themselves by providing basic needs of food, water, and safety.

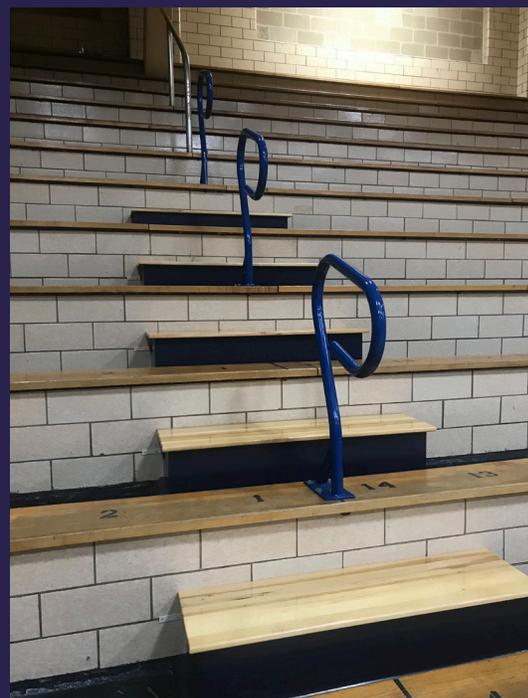
Throughout Jel's short career, he has received multiple leadership awards for his outstanding service, job performance, and how he interacts with everyone around him. His latest achievement was being promoted to Staff Sergeant, specializing in supply chain and logistics capabilities. He plans to continue his service in the United States Air Force.



Please keep Jel and all our service men and women in your prayers.

## UPGRADES

We finalized a project in Bader gym over the summer from a pre-Covid May Merriment Fund-a-Need ask. New stairs and railings to update gym seating. Thank you to all who donated to this, and our many other much-needed projects! And a big shout out to Joel Weiss and B&R Machine for their quality craftsmanship. Marquette Academy is so fortunate to have such amazing and loyal supporters.



# Auf Wiedersehen, Herr Suppan!



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



This year, we said farewell to our beloved Heinz Suppan at Marquette Academy. Heinz retired after 38 years of teaching numerous Marquette students. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education Heinz, and enjoy your retirement!

"I am a first-generation American, born of Austrian and German families. I received a BA in German and history from Illinois College and an MA in History at the University of Illinois in Springfield. I served in the US Air Force as a German interpreter and served at Rhein-Main AFB in Frankfurt Germany. A military scholarship helped me get through college.

After completing my master's degree I returned to Germany to teach at a German high school in Hannover in Lower Saxony northern Germany. After returning four years later I worked as the director of a Head Start program for Sangamon and Morgan Counties. In 1983 I applied for a German teaching position at MHS. I met with Principal Laughlin. During a tour of the old Marquette we entered the gym that was preparing for the first May Merriment. A week later I received a letter offering me the position as German and History teacher. I also agreed to accept a position as chess club coach and assistant to the girls' tennis coach.

From the fall of 1983 to the spring of 1987, I commuted to Ottawa by driving up from Springfield on Monday mornings and staying at the Surrey

Motel for \$10 a night and returned to Springfield after classes ended on Friday afternoons. In 1987 I sold my house in Springfield and purchased my present home in Ottawa.

In 1984 I organized my first student tour to Europe. This was a three week tour that would visit seven countries in Europe. It was so successful that I continued to organize and lead these trips until 2015. In 1987 and 1988 I led trips to Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii. Altogether, I probably led as many as 500 students and adults on these tours.

In 1991 the MHS principal asked me to take over the school band and an extracurricular activity. I asked her what band since I knew there were only five students who had signed up for the class, and we did not want to lose the John Philip Sousa music award. I agreed to accept the position with the understanding that I would teach music history, but during our Homecoming parade in 1991 I felt the band should do something; so I got my trombone out and joined with the band who rode on the back of my Mazda truck. I continued to work and develop the band. I even got adults including Jane Mills and Sandy Kotek who played clarinets to join. Within a year I had built up the band, and we participated in spring and Christmas concerts and then began to play at games, churches, nursing homes, and schools. We had concerts to celebrate Veterans' Day marked by flags from all parishes and featuring the local U.S.

Color Guard and may of the city. We were recognized by the local paper and asked to play at dedication ceremonies for parks in the city.

During the 1992-1993 school year, I was awarded Teacher of the Year honors.

One of the things I thought was great about the Foreign Language Department, of which Principal James Masaglia appointed me chairperson, was the fact our Foreign Language program was staffed, for the most part, by native-speaking teachers. That impressed a lot of our visitors. In 1988 the Latin teacher, Dennis Czerny, and I organized the first MHS International Banquet. Each of our classes (German, French, Spanish and Latin) would prepare dishes that represented these cultures and serve them to parents; eventually they were open to the public. So many people came to these banquets that we had to move from the school cafeteria to the KC's and eventually to the grade school cafeteria. Each class would provide the food and drink and also put on a program that reflected each culture. This program lasted for 22 years. As the German teacher, I also arranged for field trips for my students to attend German museums and restaurants in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. I worked very closely with several of our German foreign exchange students, as well."



# STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

**IT'S AN EXCITING TIME FOR ALL CRUSADERS AND KNIGHTS!!** As we look to the future of Marquette Academy we know that a long-term plan will proactively address challenges and leverage opportunities that support our commitment to provide an exceptional, faith-based education that maximizes every student's growth in faith formation and academics. For these reasons and with the approval of Most Rev. Louis Tylka, Coadjutor Bishop of Peoria, the Office of Catholic Schools is embarking on the creation of a new Strategic Plan for each of the six diocesan high schools to assist and guide secondary education in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria during the next five years.

Marquette Academy is working with Boston-based Partners in Mission (PIM) to develop our school's next Strategic Plan. PIM has facilitated highly successful, individualized strategic planning processes with hundreds of Catholic schools and dioceses across the United States. As we begin to build our Strategic Plan, we'll be incorporating the ideas and opinions of key constituents throughout our community. The key areas of focus for our strategic plan will be: Academics, Advancement, Catholic Identity, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance, Governance and Student Life. We will be contacting members of our school community and asking them to participate in the various stages of the strategic planning process. After the extensive assessment and analysis is complete and the new Strategic Plan is in draft form, it will be submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools for approval in the spring of 2022.

The ultimate purpose of the plan is to continue helping Marquette Academy evolve from being an excellent school to graduating students who are faith-filled, lifelong learners whose commitment to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is witnessed daily in word and deed.

[www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net) **815-433-0125** Follow us on Social Media



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