MDHS Junior Wins National Gatorade Player of the Year Award
Dear Mater Dei Family,

We have experienced an amazingly successful first semester of the 2007-2008 school year on the corner of Bristol and Edinger in Santa Ana, California. Our Monarch Boys’ Varsity Water Polo Team captured its first league championship and advanced to the CIF Finals for the first time in school history under the brilliant leadership of Head Coach and Aquatics Director Chris Segesman. Junior quarterback Matt Barkley became the first non-senior in the storied history of the National Gatorade Player of the Year Award to capture this prestigious national recognition. In addition, Matt was also named the Joe Montana Award winner as the best high school quarterback in the country and was the recipient of the Maxwell Award as the best Junior football player in the entire United States of America. As I write this letter, Mater Dei’s girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball teams are both ranked nationally by USA Today for the first time in more than a decade.

As amazing and exciting as these great athletic accomplishments are, the most compelling activities I witnessed during the first semester at Mater Dei High School were of a spiritual nature. On November 1, 2007 the Mater Dei community celebrated an all-school, All Saints Day Mass with Bishop Jaime Soto ’74. This was one of Bishop Soto’s final liturgies in the Diocese of Orange prior to his departure to Northern California to become the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento. Bishop Soto received multiple standing ovations from the Mater Dei student body during mass, while he encouraged our young Monarchs to “Imagine the unimaginable...stretch your minds and hearts and allow God’s spirit to help you to reach your full potential.” It was truly one of the most moving and powerful religious experiences I have ever been involved with during my 50-plus years on this earth.

The second compelling spiritual aspect of the first semester at MDHS was the incredible outpouring of caring, community service which I witnessed from the Mater Dei students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni. Beginning with the Mater Dei football and dance teams traveling to Camp Pendleton, California as part of the remarkable Monarchs for Marines outreach to hundreds of Marine families, and culminating with the amazing Advent Collection Christmas outreach project which touched hundreds of impoverished households here in Orange County through Catholic Charities, Catholic Worker, Thomas Shelter, Mary’s Shelter and SPIN (Supporting People in Need) and extending all the way to Nickerson Gardens in Los Angeles through our partnership with Verbum Dei High School and Urban Compass Central. The true spirit of CHRISTmas was most certainly alive and well in the hallways and homes of the Mater Dei family.

In addition, a group of Mater Dei students, faculty and staff is preparing for an exciting community service project to Costa Rica during the upcoming Easter Break to reach out and support missionaries and local Catholic pastors in helping those in dire need in the Costa Rican city of San Jose and its outlying areas. When I witness all that our Mater Dei family is doing to reach out to those in need whether locally, nationally or internationally, I thank God for the caring, generous hearts of the MDHS faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni. I sincerely thank, commend and applaud MS. HELEN STEVES and her Campus Ministry Leadership Team, as well as Religious Studies Department Chair PATRICIA BRAINERD, for their dedication, commitment and passion in leading our outreach efforts to those in our world who are most vulnerable and in the greatest need.

We look forward to a very successful second semester in all aspects of life here at MDHS, a semester in which we will say goodbye and Godspeed to the class of 2008 and admit the new Freshman Class of 2012. It is my sincere promise and pledge, on behalf of Principal Frances Clare and the entire MDHS Administration, faculty and staff, to continue to do everything possible, within our human capabilities, to provide a safe, top quality Catholic education to present and future Mater Dei Monarchs. May God Bless, guide and protect the entire Mater Dei Community in this new year of 2008.

Sincerely in Mater Dei,
MD Teachers Present at Annual Art Conference

The California Art Educators Association (CAEA) annual conference took place this fall with some workshops being held at Mater Dei. Two of our very own art teachers were on hand as presenters. MRS. CRISTINA FAULKNER held a workshop on “Art and Architecture.”

Fellow teacher MRS. CATHERINE WILSON was on the conference committee and was responsible for creating the first “Virtual Student Art Show.” This show displayed art work by Mater Dei students currently enrolled in digital and ceramic arts. She also helped the CAEA “go green” for the first time by burning and distributing the workshop lesson plans on CDs rather than providing each member with a paper printout.

Mrs. Wilson was also instrumental in setting up the 35 PowerBooks lent to the conference by Apple Computers, Inc. and loading them each with Adobe software. Once the conference was underway, she presented two workshops on the use of the Adobe software.

College & Career Peer Mentors

The college application process can be a very daunting task for high school students. There are so many colleges and universities, deadlines, essays and scholarship opportunities that it is sometimes hard to keep everything straight. Add to that the stress of current classes and trying to get into the perfect school, and some students may just put the process on the back burner all together.

Mater Dei High School offers its students help in every step of this application process. Students receive input from their guidance counselors as well as a full-time College and Career Counselor, MS. MYRA CASTRO. They are also exposed to helpful essay writing pointers and interviewing skills in their classes and have the opportunity to speak with college representatives who visit the campus during lunch.

This year, Mater Dei introduced one more helpful component for current students; College and Career Peer Mentors. There are currently four peer mentors on campus: seniors XOCHITL LEDESMA, KARINA CASILLAS, JAIME MASADA, and NATALI RODRIGUEZ.

Last summer the girls began helping Ms. Castro in the College and Career Center as a way to earn service hours. Their original tasks included organizing files and updating the scholarship websites. As their interest grew and the school year got closer, Ms. Castro was able to find more ways they could help, thus creating the Peer Mentor Program. The mentors now assist with College Night as well as college representatives who visit Mater Dei during the school year.

The mentors are each in the CCRC up to 3 days a week during lunch where they help students with the college application process. They help other students research various schools. They have also learned all the ins and outs of the application process and know the best websites to visit for scholarship and financial aid information.

What started out as a service hour opportunity has turned into a great way for students to help one another. It is a way for Mater Dei juniors and seniors to hear a new voice when it comes to the college application process. It is a welcomed change for students to hear advice from someone who is going through the same process they are as far as finding the right school for them.

Ms. Castro hopes this will become a longstanding tradition at Mater Dei.

Keith Runs for Soup

For the second year in a row, junior COLIN KEITH took part in the Carlsbad Marathon. Keith has been volunteering at Someone Cares Soup Kitchen (SCSK) since his sophomore year and is also a member of the MDHS cross country and track and field teams. Last year he decided to combine his love of running with a cause he holds close to his heart.

Following last year’s cross country season, he set out training for the 26.2 mile course and began raising money for the soup kitchen. He and fellow Monarch Garrett McRoberts ran the race together and raised nearly $8,000 for SCSK.

The kitchen, located in Costa Mesa, is open seven days a week and feeds over 300 people per day. Colin knew they could use the financial assistance and that his running could help bring in the funds, so he decided to run the marathon again this year. His commitment to last year’s event inspired a number of people and he had a whole team friends and family with him in this year’s race. Colin’s mom, aunt, grandmother, dad and uncle all took part in the half marathon. His whole cheering section was waiting when Colin crossed the finish line with a time of 3:31:19, good enough for second place in his age group.

Leading up to the event, Colin sent out over 700 letters to friends of SCSK in addition to personal letters and e-mails to family and friends. The pledged funds are still trickling in and when all is said and done, Colin believes he will surpass last year’s total of $8,000.

This has been such a positive event for the past two years, Colin would like to make this an annual event. The support he has received from his family and friends has been overwhelming. That support drives Colin to fundraise and train harder. His commitment is sure to increase the number of runners and walkers Colin has on his team for next year’s event.
Mater Dei junior 

Joe Ridenour 

earned the rank of Eagle Scout through the Boy Scouts of America this fall. Joe has been involved in scouts for almost as long as he can remember. He has earned countless merit badges and held a number of leadership positions at various levels of scouting, serving as a Chaplain’s Aide, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and a Troop Guide.

Joe has been involved in Venture Scouting which involves hiking, camping trips, SCUBA diving and shooting. He has also been involved in Sea Scouting where he learned to race sailboats. That skill has carried over to Mater Dei, as Joe is now a member of the MD Sailing Team.

The final step for all scouts on their way to the rank of Eagle Scout is a community service project. The final project Joe decided on was building a stage for his grade school, Our Lady Queen of Angels. The stage he built is adjustable and portable, lightweight enough that even the elementary school children can assemble it.

Although he has reached the highest rank in scouting, Joe continues to be involved. He serves as a mentor for younger scouts and has the opportunity to pursue more merit badges and earn palms. Palms are additional awards that Eagle Scouts can work towards.

Through scouts, Joe has volunteered over 350 service hours in the community. Because of his hours of dedication and service, Joe was recognized at the Mater Dei Christian Service Program Breakfast in the spring of 2007.

Monarch Becomes and Eagle

A number of Mater Dei students were recently recognized by the National Merit Program. The program has various recognition categories and Mater Dei had students honored in three of them.

Twelve seniors were named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program: Jennifer Bailes, Lauren Clifford, Paul Cooper, Elisabeth Ferris, Robert Gordon, John Kveen, Kristen Martin, Angelyn Nguyen, Nicholas Ross, James Trotter, Benjamin Vo and Anne Marie Weber.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

These students are distinguished by their strong academic performance. It is the National Merit Scholarship Corporation’s hope that this recognition will contribute to their educational opportunities and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential.

Senior Khaled Holmes was recognized by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for academic achievement and commendable performance on the Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The National Achievement Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding African American high school students. Of the more than 140,000 African American students who enter the National Achievement Program each year, only approximately 4,600 are honored. A group of about 3,000 are referred to colleges for their potential for academic success.

Four students were identified as outstanding Hispanic students by the College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP). These students are among a select group of 3,300 of those scoring the highest from a nationwide total of 124,000 high school seniors who took the Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) during their junior year. The Mater Dei students receiving this honor are: Ryan Andrade, Robert Gordon, Nicolas Nelson and Kerry Wakely.

The College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program was initiated in 1983 to identify outstanding Hispanic high school students. The NHRP provides their names to subscribing colleges and universities to encourage these institutions to seek out talented, academically well-prepared Hispanic students as potential candidates for admissions.
The annual Christmas Outreach, spearheaded by Campus Ministry, spread far and wide this year. Between individual contributions, clubs and teams getting involved, hundreds of members of the Mater Dei community took part in this generous effort.

The partnership between MDHS and Fr. Joachim of the Holy Family Orphanage in Rwanda, Africa continued throughout the Advent Season. A check for over $2,000 was sent to Fr. Joachim recently and efforts continue to be made at MD to support the children of his orphanage.

Locally, gifts were collected on campus for the children of Catholic Charities. This outpouring of generosity allowed parents to present their children with gifts on Christmas morning when otherwise they would have had nothing.

At the annual Christmas at the Corner celebration, guests brought gifts in addition to hooded sweatshirts and blankets to be distributed at Catholic Worker in Santa Ana.

The choir and girls’ soccer team collected stuffed stockings and gifts for the children of Thomas Shelter.

The children of Boys Hope/Girls Hope had their Christmas lists fulfilled with the help of a number of Mater Dei groups and faculty members. The football, softball, Advancement and ASB programs all took part in making those Christmas wishes come true.

Local families were adopted by the boys’ basketball program, various individual MD faculty members, current MD parents, as well as Mrs. Carol Koppenheffer’s religion classes.

The Pride Team collected baby toys, clothes, diapers and other essential items for Mary’s Shelter.

With the help of the entire MD community, the National Honor Society collected over $1,000 in gift cards which were distributed to local teens through the UCI Family Health Center.

The contributions of the MD football team and the dance team continued for the Monarchs for Marines outreach program (see page 6). The players and dancers brought in hundreds of gifts and stuffed stockings for the children of the Marines and Sailors stationed at Camp Pendleton. The dance team also hosted a dance camp and Christmas party at the base in early December.

Individual classes also got into the Christmas spirit. Mr. Jim Reynolds’ and Ms. Trish Tillotson’s science classes raised funds to help build a fish pond in Africa. They raised the funds for World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. Miss Holly Haynes ’98 and her social studies classes raised enough money to purchase a water buffalo through an organization called Heifer International. This organization works to end world hunger and care for the Earth.

Whether it is a bag full of presents or a few extra dollars to help make a family’s Christmas special, every item donated this year made a dramatic impact on someone this Christmas season. Thank you to everyone who contributed to both the Christmas outreach as well as the continued projects overseen by the outstanding Campus Ministry program.

Visual Art Students Recognized

Visual Art Department Chair, Mrs. Cristina Faulkner, is proud to announce that several Mater Dei students have recently been recognized for their outstanding talent. Eleven students were finalists in the all California Young Artists’ Contest sponsored by Union Bank of California. The students created artwork based on the theme “Celebrating Hispanic Heritage”. Their works were chosen from among 600 entries statewide and were exhibited at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach. The honored students are: Jessica Madrid, Elle Radan, Meryl Engler, Heidi Guadarrama, Diana Rodriguez, Sridget Terrebonne, Jessica Arce, Tatiana Bernal, Danielle Fautch, Katie Brune and Flora Azcona. The artwork selected can now by seen on display in the Antone and Anna Borchard Family Library at Mater Dei High School.

2007 - 2008 Annual Fund Campaign

Ensuring the Monarch Tradition

Annual Fund Giving Levels

Founders Circle: $1,500+ Royal Court: $750 - $1,499
Patron: $250 - $749 Monarch: $100 - $249
Scarlet & Gray: $25 - $99

Nearly 30% of the students at Mater Dei receive financial aid support in order to attend. 100% of the funds collected through the Annual Fund go directly to supporting this need-based program. Benefactors at the Founders Circle Level are invited to the Annual Ring of Honor and Founders Circle Dinner to be held in May.

Thank you for supporting the MDHS Annual Fund.
The Mater Dei Monarch Football Team dedicated its 2007 season to the Marines and Sailors of Camp Pendleton, dubbing the program, Monarchs for Marines, “M4M.” The M4M outreach program was conceived through a process of reflection, prayer and a desire to support U.S. troops and their families. This program is not about war, it is ALL about lending tangible support and raising the morale of Marines, Sailors and their families; men and women who are selflessly serving us and our country with bravery, commitment and sacrifice in monumental ways.

While the primary goal of the M4M program is to support the troops of the First Marine Division stationed at Camp Pendleton, the program goals included the hope that the service and association with the Marines and Sailors might be a source of growth and inspiration for Mater Dei student-athletes. The Marine Corps tenets – sacrifice, commitment, courage, pride, brotherhood and teamwork – are essentially the same qualities COACH BRUCE ROLLINSON ’67 has strived for 20 years to instill in all Monarch football players, summed up in the Monarch call to “Pride, Poise and Courage.”

The brainchild of current MD parent LES BARKELY, M4M got underway when Camp Pendleton Marines met with the varsity football team last spring. The Marines presented the Marine history, tradition and values, as Coach Rollinson and Barkley led the team in officially kicking off the M4M Program.

On July 21, with support and cooperation from Camp Pendleton personnel, the varsity football team, dance team, coaching staff and numerous parent volunteers provided an action-packed, fun-filled day at Camp Pendleton. The day’s activities included over 400 man hours by the varsity football players in beautifying three base youth centers which serve the children of the Marine Corps personnel. Coaches worked side-by-side with football players who laid their pads and helmets aside to brandish hoes, rakes, picks and shovels to install new volleyball and tetherball courts, paint murals and improve the facilities with significant landscape work. The day also included a football clinic for Marine Corps Football League players and coaches, under the direction of Coach Rollinson and staff, practiced with the varsity team and then participated in a light scrimmage. The football team and dance team also ran a youth football camp and dance camp, respectively, for more than 400 children of Camp Pendleton personnel. There was also a “Lil’ Marine” Camp which involved whimsical face and hair painting, as well as fun bounce houses for the tiny tots.

The day’s activities culminated with a closing ceremony which featured performances by the dance camp participants, followed by words of mutual gratitude from First Marine Division Commanding General RICHARD MILLS and Coach Rollinson. On behalf of Mater Dei, Coach Rollinson presented a Monarch helmet and framed jersey to General Mills. The jersey has the number “1” for the First Marine Division and it bears the Guadalcanal Patch. General Mills expressed his gratitude for the service of the young men and women from Mater Dei. He said that “for so many at Camp Pendleton that are so far from their own home town, we now have a new home town, the Mater Dei Monarchs.” Upon his command, a detail of young marines individually presented the revered Guadalcanal Patch to each Monarch player and coach. In a rare honor, and as a demonstrative sign of the Monarch dedication of the season to the Marines and Sailors of Camp Pendleton, the patches were worn this season on the Monarch game jerseys. In his closing remarks, Coach Rollinson said, “General, we cannot guarantee victory, but we can guarantee that we WILL wear the Marine Guadalcanal patch with Pride, Poise and Courage.”

Upon concluding his formal remarks, Coach Rollo stepped down from the podium to lead the varsity football team in their famed “Pride Drill.” There, Coach Rollinson, in his characteristic, fiery, impassioned tone, called to his players to “never, never forget what happened here today, never forget who it is that you are playing for this season!”

The M4M program culminated on the eve of the 232nd anniversary of the Marine Corps. Mater Dei honored the Marines and Sailors of Camp Pendleton during its final league game vs. Servite at Anaheim Stadium. The event activities included a pre-game BBQ hosted by Mater Dei football, complimentary admission for active Marines, Sailors and their families and a special halftime tribute. This tribute included special recorded messages from Marines and Sailors currently stationed overseas as well as messages from past Monarchs and the First Lady, MRS. LAURA BUSH.

In addition to the many activities, the Monarchs have been raising funds to benefit the Marines, Sailors and families of Camp Pendleton. The Monarchs plan to continue this partnership with the First Marine Division for years to come. If you would like to make a donation or help in this effort, please contact Les Barkley at les.barkley@cox.net.
Junior Matt Barkley received his Gatorade National Player of the Year Award from Jeff Kearney at a December press conference in the Mater Dei LeVecke Center.

Barkley Named National Gatorade Player of the Year

CALIFORNIA STANDOUT FIRST-EVER JUNIOR TO BE NAMED NATION’S TOP HIGH SCHOOL GRIDIRON PERFORMER


The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Barkley as the nation’s best high school football player. A national advisory board comprised of sportswriters and sport-specific experts from around the country selected Barkley from more than one million high school football players nationwide. Barkley is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Male High School Athlete of the Year Award, to be presented at a special ceremony the afternoon prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

The 6-foot-3, 220-pound junior quarterback threw for 3,576 yards and 35 touchdowns, completing 63 percent of his passes (214-of-340) against just nine interceptions. The first junior captain in Mater Dei history, Barkley averaged 325 yards and 3.2 touchdown passes per game in leading the Monarchs (9-2) to the quarterfinals of PAC-5 Division Southern Section 2007 Football Championships, where they fell to Serra in the quarterfinals of PAC-5 Division.

The team’s Monarchs for Marines initiative, lending tangible support and morale-boosting contributions to the Marines and Sailors of Camp Pendleton. As part of the effort, Barkley has helped raise more than $100,000 for a charity benefiting the families of wounded and fallen Marines.

“He’s a great player,” said rival Centennial High Head Coach Matt Logan. “He’s very accurate, makes good decisions and great throws. He’ll probably be a Heisman Trophy candidate and probably NFL guy down the line. I guess Matt Leinart ’01 is the benchmark and he’s definitely following in those footsteps.”

“After his freshman season, I took him out to Athletes Performance and had him throw to NFL guys like Maurice Jones-Drew, LenDale White and Dominique Byrd when they were just out of college,” added Bill Cunerty, co-author of The Complete Quarterback and a consultant for Arizona-based Athletes Performance. “Each of them came off the field and asked me, ‘Coach, what college team does this guy play for?’ This kid started his first high school game at Mater Dei at 14! For Coach Bruce Rollinson ’67 to go away from the I-formation to the spread, that’s a miracle in itself, and he only did that because he had Barkley.”

“Without question, Matt is deserving of recognition as the nation’s best high school football player based on his statistics on the field and the impact his play had on Mater Dei’s success,” said Gatorade Senior Vice President of Sports Marketing Jeff Urban. “But he is also a shining example to peers and aspiring young players of what a leader and a student-athlete should be. He represents everything we hope for in a Gatorade Player of the Year recipient.”

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by RISE Magazine, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information and lists of past winners and future announcement dates, visit gatorade.com/playeroftheyear.

In addition to the National Gatorade Player of the Year Award, Barkley was named the inaugural Joe Montana Award recipient as the best high school quarterback in the country and was the recipient of the Maxwell Award as the best junior football player in the entire United States of America. He was the Trinity League MVP, the OC Register Offensive Player of the Year, the LA Times Player of the Year, a first team All-State selection and a USA Today second team All-American.
Monarch Football

The Monarch football team, under the tutelage of coach BRUCE ROLLINSON ’67, had a very successful 2007 season. The Monarchs finished with a share of the Trinity League Title and an overall record of 9-2. They advanced to the CIF Pac-5 quarter finals and were ranked as high as number 1 in the nation by ESPN.

In a preseason game for the ages, Mater Dei faced nationally ranked Corona Centennial at the Santa Ana Bowl. The Monarchs won that game by a score of 51 - 37 while Gatorade National Player of the Year, junior quarterback MATT BARKLEY, threw for 365 yards.

Another highlight of the season came when the Monarchs took on the Servite Friars at Anaheim Stadium. In a game that honored the Marines of Camp Pendleton in conjunction with the Monarch for Marines outreach program (see page 6) the fans were treated to an outstanding showing of support for US troops as well as a stellar performance on the football field. The Monarchs beat the Friars by a score of 38 - 13 in front of nearly 24,000 fans.

On an individual level, the Monarchs were led by a balanced and skilled team. Barkley led the way with a number of local and national awards (see page 7). Senior defensive end, CAMERON MEREDITH was named Trinity League Defensive MVP, as well as OC Register All-County. Senior lineman KHALED HOLMES was named Trinity League Lineman of the Year, OC Register and LA Times first team. He was selected as an All-State player and represented MDHS in the Under Armor All-American Game where he was named captain of his team.

Also earning individual awards were seniors BEN TA'ANUI JR. and Carlo Valdez who were named first team All-Trinity League. Seniors ROBBIE BOYER, ANDREW ABBOTT, CARLO VALDEZ and ROBERT MOJICA were named first team All-Trinity League and OC Register All-County. Abbott, Boyer, Valdez and Nick O’Neill were also selected to play in the Southern California Bowl. Valdez had a blocked field goal and eight tackles while Abbott had 5 catches for 95 yards and one touchdown.

Earning nods to the All-Southern California Pac-5 Team were, Abbott, Barkley, Boyer, Holmes and Meredith.

Girls’ Volleyball

The Mater Dei volleyball team, under the direction of first-year coach JIMMY MUÑOZ ’98 was led by senior and team MVP, LILY LOPEZ. Lopez paced the Monarchs to a hard fought 13-12 record and an appearance in the CIF Playoffs.

Lopez was named first team All-Trinity League and will take her skills to UC Santa Barbara next fall where she will play for the Gauchos.

Joining Lopez on first team All-Trinity League was junior MARIAH JAKOSKY.

The Monarchs also received solid play from senior JIYA BROWN. Brown has accepted a scholarship to continue her volleyball career at Howard University.

On December 27, 2007 the Mater Dei girls’ varsity basketball team defeated Ponderosa High School 58 - 26 marking the occasion of COACH KEVIN KIERNAN’S 500th high school coaching victory.

This is an amazing accomplishment for Coach Kiernan. He was recognized by PRESIDENT PATRICK MURPHY along with PRINCIPAL FRANCES CLARE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL KEVIN HICKMAN and ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MARTIN STRINGER prior to a recent home basketball game.

Kiernan’s 500 career victories have come as the coach at four area high schools including Mater Dei. Kiernan has coached both boys and girls basketball and won 6 CIF titles and 3 state titles. Kiernan was presented with a jersey commemorating his accomplishment along with a plaque that reads, “Congratulations to Mater Dei Girls Basketball Coach Kevin Kiernan on your 500th career win, December 27, 2007 vs. Ponderosa H. S., 58-26. The entire Mater Dei Community congratulates and salutes you and your Monarch Girls’ Basketball staff for its outstanding accomplishment. You are acknowledged as one of the truly exceptional high school coaches in Orange County, in the State of California and throughout the entire United States. Through your years at La Quinta H.S., Savanna H.S., Troy H.S. and now at Mater Dei you have accomplished this amazing milestone. We at MDHS are very proud that you achieved your 500th coaching victory as a member of the Mater Dei family. We look forward to many more years to come.
Girls’ Golf

There were numerous outstanding performances throughout the year. Junior DESIREE DUBREUIL was named the OC Register’s Player of the Week, posted the lowest average on the team, shot a two-under par round of 70 to take second place in the CIF Individual Playoffs, took third place at the Ayala Tournament, took fourth place at the Diamondback Tournament, medaled in five matches, advanced to the CIF State championships, and received the Farmers Insurance Student/Athlete/Citizenship Award. Senior MONICA VILLARREAL shot a 75 to take second place at the Diamondback Tournament, posted the second lowest average on the team and medaled five times during match competition. Freshman VICTORIA NGUYEN won the Trinity League Championship and medaled 3 times during the season while posting the 3rd lowest average on the team.

A number of Monarchs earned individual awards as recognition for their outstanding accomplishments. Nguyen, Dubreuil, Villarreal, MICALA MENDOZA, ARIANNA KJOS, and SHEALEE TRUESDALE earned Trinity All-League awards. Dubreuil was selected to the OC Register’s All-County first team, while teammate Villarreal who was honored with a selection to the All-County second team.

Seniors Kjos, Truesdale, and Villarreal were a great asset to the Mater Dei Girls’ Golf Program and helped the 2007 team set a high standard of success for future teams to build upon.

Boys’ & Girls’ Cross Country

The Runnin’ Monarchs had a great season this fall. The girls’ cross country team finished second in the Trinity League and advanced to the CIF Finals for the seventh consecutive year. The future of the girls program looks very bright with both the junior varsity and frosh/soph teams earning Trinity League Championships this year.

On the boys’ side, the team also finished second in Trinity League competition. They advanced to the CIF finals for the first time since 2001. The boys qualified for the state championships for the first time since 1994 with a seventh place finish at CIF. The boys finished thirteenth at the State Championships.

On an individual level, senior LOUIE GALLARDO III had another stellar season. He was the Trinity League Champion and placed 10th in the State Championships earning him CIF All-State honors. Gallardo plans to continue his running career in college but is still weighing his options.

Boys’ Water Polo

The Monarch boys’ water polo team recently completed the best season in Mater Dei High School history. The team, under the direction of COACH CHRIS SEGESMAN, finished with an overall record of 27 - 4.

The team captured its first ever Trinity League Championship, defeating Servite in boys water polo for the first time. The team had a great run in the CIF playoffs, advancing to the CIF Finals for the first time in school history. The Monarchs were led by Trinity League MVP, CIF Division II first team selection and OC Register All County second team selection, ALEX WHERRY. Just a sophomore, Wherry was a dominant player all season. Unfortunately for the Monarchs, he missed a few games in the playoff run after suffering injuries that required stitches in back-to-back games.

Wherry had the support of a very balanced Monarch team this season. His brother, ZACH WHERRY, a junior, was named first team All-Trinity League and first team All-CIF while juniors COLIN CARROL, RYAN GLADYCH and senior TIMOTHY SIMO were also named first team All-Trinity League. With a core group of players returning to the pool for the Monarchs next season, Coach Segesman and his players are excited about the future of Mater Dei High School water polo.

Attention all Sts. Simon & Jude Alumni

Join us for the Sts. Simon & Jude 40th Anniversary Weekend!

Saturday, April 5
Alumni Reception 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6
11:30 Mass followed by a School Open House & Barbecue

We need your email address to keep you informed!
Contact us at ssjs40@gmail.com
Surf’s Up 2008 holds some exciting new opportunities to get involved with Mater Dei’s only all-school fundraiser. Remember, all proceeds from this event benefit each and every MD student by providing funds for technology and campus upgrades. Whether you would like to attend the event, or bid on items through the online silent auction, we need the support of the entire Mater Dei family to make this year’s fundraiser a success.

**Online Auction**

[www.materdei.org/surfsup](http://www.materdei.org/surfsup)

For the first time, you will have the opportunity to bid on select silent auction items from the comfort of your home or office. The first step is to go to the Surf’s Up website at [www.materdei.org/surfsup](http://www.materdei.org/surfsup) and click on the link to the online auction. Register to create a username and password and then you are ready to bid, just like eBay! Bidders need not attend the event to participate - anyone interested is invited to enjoy this new and exciting online auction, including alumni, family and friends. Categories that will be featured online include Home & Garden, Personally Yours, Getaways, Kids to Teens, Sports & Fitness, and Out on the Town. The online auction will begin on March 17 with all auction categories closing on April 3. Winning bidders will be notified via email and can pick up their purchases on campus the following week.

**Live Event**

Don’t miss the biggest party of the year! The Surf’s Dinner Auction live event will be held on Saturday, April 5 at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel. Join us for dinner, dancing and exciting live and silent auctions. Browse silent auction items available for bid at the event including the Parish Basket Category, fine jewelry from the Platinum Category, and the most exclusive trips, tickets and experiences from the Gold Category. Underwriters at the King Kameamea level and above will also enjoy a VIP Reception prior to the general public for a sneak peek at all the items for bid. As always, the highlight of the evening promises to be the live auction with exciting bidding on a variety of one-of-a-kind items and experiences.

**Important Dates for Surf’s Up 2008**

- **Thursday, February 28** - All Item Donations Due to MD Advancement Office
- **Monday, March 17** - Online Silent Auction Open for Bidding
- **Wednesday, March 19** - RSVP Deadline for Live Event
- **Thursday, April 3** - Online Silent Auction Closes
- **Saturday, April 5** - Live Event at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel
Imagine Tomorrow... Today.

The Monarch Legacy Endowment was created to ensure the long-term viability of the Mater Dei Financial Aid Program which helps almost 30% of the families at MD. Many families have made the important commitment to include Mater Dei in their estate plan through a bequest or other gift. To learn more about how your family could make a gift today that does not have to take a bite out of your checkbook, please contact our Office of Advancement at advancement@materdei.org or (714) 850-9534.

Through your endowment gift, you will help secure the future of Mater Dei High School for generations to come.

While most Mater Dei students sleep after consuming Easter dinner, chocolate bunnies and jelly beans the evening of Easter Sunday, March 23, fourteen students will be driving up the 405 Freeway to LAX. There they will join Mater Dei personnel, principal Ms. Frances Clare, Miss Kathleen Kelly ’94 of the Office of Advancement and Spanish teacher Mrs. Lydette Reyes Kubik ’72 for a 2:20 a.m. flight to San Jose, Costa Rica. They will be met in San Jose by MD Religion Department Chair Mrs. Pat Brainerd, her husband, John, and a welcoming party of Rotarians and Rotaractors. All are involved in the Mater Dei Easter Outreach, a joint venture with Rotary District 5320 (Orange County and east Los Angeles counties) and Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of San Jose, Costa Rica. The group will spend five days in Costa Rica where they will work at various locations. Two days will be spent working with Fr. Randall Villalobos, whose ministry is with street children and the poor. He is currently in the process of building a day care center in Desamparados. The students will cook for over 225 children, and then spend some time playing with the kids. Fr. Villalobos has been invited to visit the Mater Dei campus and will be speaking to the entire student body at the Lenten Masses in March. He hopes that students will be generous in their donations, which will be collected at each mass and throughout Lent. Under the direction of Campus Ministry, the students going on the trip will take the leadership role in fundraising among the Mater Dei community. They will be assisted by members of the Mater Dei Rotary Interact Club.

In addition to working with Fr. Villalobos, there are two other work days for the students. They will visit and work at an indigenous reservation in Zapaton and a Catholic school in downtown San Jose.

Mrs. Brainerd said, “We are grateful for the support we have received and will receive from the Mater Dei community and Rotary. We understand this trip is a privilege - an incredible opportunity to be of service and also to broaden our horizons and ultimately to promote peace by deepening our understanding of people from another culture.”

If you would like more information about this outreach or are interested in making a donation, please contact Campus Ministry at (714) 850-9556.
Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 Named Coadjutor Bishop of Sacramento

BISHOP JAMIE SOTO ’74 celebrated All Saints Day Mass in the Meruelo Athletics Center with the entire Mater Dei student body. This was his farewell Mass to the Mater Dei community before moving north to Sacramento. The mass was concelebrated by a number of his fellow alumni and diocesan priests.

Soto was named the Titular Bishop of Segia and the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California by his Holiness, Pope John Paul II on March 23, 2000. His Episcopal Ordination took place on May 31, 2000, the Feast of the Visitation. He served the Diocese of Orange until November 2007 when he was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento.

Following the Mass, there were a number of presentations by both MDHS administration and students. Soto received an honorary letterman’s jacket for his continued support of Mater Dei athletics and activities. MDHS Principal MS. FRANCES CLARE stated, “We come together to wish you continued life, love and success. Know that our community follows you as you continue on the journey to share our faith and serve God’s people.”

Presentations were also made by President PATRICK MURPHY, Alumni Director JOSEPH MEDLIN ’98 as well as the ASB Officers.

Bishop Soto’s message to the students and the entire Mater Dei community was one of hope and encouragement. “Imagine the unimaginable...stretch your minds and hearts and allow God’s spirit to help you to reach your full potential,” he said.

Although he has moved north for his new assignment, this is not a final farewell. In his closing remarks, Bishop Soto said, “once a Monarch, always a Monarch.”

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74, November 2007

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 as a Mater Dei senior

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 at his final Mass at MDHS as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 (center) celebrated All Saints Day Mass at MDHS prior to his new assignment as the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento. He is pictured with (l to r) Deacon Frank Chavez, Fr. Michael McKiernan, Fr. Christopher Smith ’70, Fr. Brendan Manson ’89, Fr. Ed Poettgen ’72 and Deacon Randy McMahon.

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 bides a tearful farewell to the MDHS community

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 receives a gift from MDHS President Patrick Murphy

Bishop Jaime Soto ’74 blesses the students at the All Saints Day Mass, November 2007
Congratulations to Colt Brennan ‘02 who recently completed a spectacular collegiate football career at the University of Hawaii. Brennan led the Warriors to a number 10 National Ranking and a BCS Bowl (Sugar Bowl). The Sugar Bowl took place in New Orleans where the Warriors lost their only game of the season to the University of Georgia. The Warriors finished the season with an overall record of 12-1.

In his final season with the Warriors, Colt led his team to a Western Athletic Conference Championship, was named WAC Player of the Week three times and WAC Offensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Brennan finished the season with 4,343 total passing yards with a 70.4 completion percentage. Colt threw for 38 touchdowns this season and a total of 131 touchdowns in his three seasons with the Warriors. During those three seasons, Brennan broke 31 NCAA football records including the NCAA single-season touchdown record with 58 touchdown passes during the 2006 season.

Colt won, or was a finalist for, a number of prestigious national awards over the past two seasons. He was one of just four finalists for the 2007 Heisman Trophy. He was invited to the awards ceremony in New York City where he finished third in the voting.

Brennan was selected as a member of the South Team for the 2008 Under Armor Senior Bowl. Colt was one of 100 college football players from across the country to take part in the game. In a vote by his South teammates, Brennan was named team captain. Colt was on the winning side of a hard fought 17-16 South victory.

Having graduated from the University of Hawaii in December, Colt is now working out in preparation for the June National Football League Draft.

In Our Prayers…

Christian Barker - Son of Sandy Gordon Barker ‘83
Agnes Dobson - Mother of Chuck Dobson ‘59
Jim Ellis ‘80
Alfred Flores ‘98
Jim Mendiaz - Father-in-law of Lisa Velasquez Mendiaz’86
Mary Jane Orstad - Grandmother of Christian Schmitz ‘98, Garrett ‘02, Brynn ‘04 and P. J. Maurer ‘08
Helene Vasquez - Grandmother of Dana Vasquez - MD faculty member
Irene Weling - Mother of Fr. John Weling ‘72, S.J. and Barbara Lumley ‘67
Fr. Ronald D. Wolf, S.J. ‘60

In our Catholic life, we have always asked others to pray with us for our loved ones. We appeal together to the Lord for healing as well as the gift of eternal life. This is often done with Eucharist prayer of the church. If you would like us to pray for someone, or if you would like to send a memorial Mass card, please call the Campus Ministry Office at (714) 850-9556.
Alumni Class Notes

1950s

MARY HELEN GARCIA SANCHEZ ’54 and her husband Manny reside in Rancho Cucamonga. Mary Helen attended Immaculate Heart and Chaffey Colleges before beginning her career as a school and CCD teacher. Manny spent 20 years in the USMC and served in Vietnam. They are now retired and enjoy spending time with their four sons, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

1960s

JOHN CORPOS ’63 worked for the federal government for nearly 40 years and retired last year. He spent time with the Army Corps of Engineers and as a designer and project manager with the Navy. John now resides in San Carlos with his wife Emily. They have three sons, ages 31, 28 and 26 and are enjoying their free-time.

MARY ALICE ARNOLD ALTORFER ’64 lives in Texas with her youngest daughter Renee. Mary Alice is widowed and has four daughters and 10 grandchildren. She graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2000 with a degree in journalism. She had her Mother’s Day Opinion Page article, “Fallen Soldiers’ Mothers Are Also War Casualties,” Volume 152 from May 2006 entered into Congressional Record by Congressman Charlie Gonzalez of San Antonio. Since the 1994 reunion, Mary Alice gets together annually with classmates CAROL COLE SMITH, JUDY NAGY and AMANDA HERTZ-CRISEL. So far, the four have travelled to Somoa, New Zealand, Australia, England, Sonora, CA. and New England.

1970s

LINDA MOOTH MOORE ’71 and her husband Bob welcomed their first grandson, Alexander Michael in August. Alex is the son of the Moore’s eldest daughter, Suzanne and her husband Travis Goff. Their three other daughters, Becky, Jessica and Cyndi are all students at Pittsburg State University. Linda and Bob reside in Kansas where she is the Director of the Criminal Justice Program at Labette Community College.

1980s

STEVE PNIEWSKI ’81 is currently running a maritime services and software company in Virginia Beach. He and his wife Susan are expecting their second child this spring. Steve and fellow alum DAVID LESTER ’81 own and race thoroughbred horses in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

1990s

TRACY SANDS ATKINSON ’74 and her husband Jeff reside in Laguna Niguel. They are the proud parents of four children ranging in age from 16 to 25. Tracy is the financial coordinator in a dental office and is a spiritual care volunteer at a local hospital. She has held the position for nearly one year and is happy to visit with patients who often have not family in the area or are just lonely or scared.

Attention St. Anthony Claret School Graduates

St. Anthony Claret School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on April 12 & 13, 2008 and would love to have all our alumni families come to the festivities. If you know anyone who attended St. Anthony from 1957 to present, please send, call, fax or email names addresses, phone number and email addresses to St. Anthony Claret School, 1450 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92805, Attn: Pam Gordon, (714) 535-3284, fax (714) 535-8558, email: pgordon@sacschool.org.
Alumni Class Notes

SANDY GORDON BARKER ’83 and her husband Gary ask that you keep their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for them. The Barker’s eldest son, Christian Gordon was diagnosed with Leukemia just one day after this 13th birthday. With the love and support of his family, including his brother Garrett and sister Kendall, Christian battled the disease complaint-free and with faith and bravery for 20 months. He passed away on December 29, 2007 at the age of 14. You can visit Christian’s webpage at www.caringbridge.org/visit/christianbarker.

CARMELLA ARNOLD SNYTSHEUVEL ’82 has a freshman son at Mater Dei and is having fun being back at school and seeing all the changes that have taken place on campus.

HEATHER SCHAEGGEN RUSSELL ’85 and her family recently moved to North Carolina after an exciting 15 years of teaching at St. John the Baptist School.

ANDY RICHMOND ’87 was recently named the Central Region Head of Navigant Consulting’s Disputes & Investigations practice. He lives in Chicago with his wife Kim and their two girls, Abby and Emma.

KELLY KRAUSE STRAIGHT ’88 and her husband John spent seven months in 2005/2006 traveling around the world. They spent time in the Caribbean, Europe, Southeast Asia, the South Pacific and South America. One of the highlights of the trip was teaching English for several weeks in Thailand.

1990s

ERRYN ROBERTSON ’91 and TODD BLAKE ’91 welcomed daughter Winnifred Mae in September 2007. The Blakes reside in Warsaw, IN.

JOHN LESOVSKY ’92 and his wife Nora welcomed their first child, Colleen Burke Lesovsky, in July 2007. John is a firefighter with the Anaheim Fire Department and Nora is a surgical intensive care nurse for UCI. The Lesovskys reside in Huntington Beach.

ALONA PAZZULLA FULTON ’92 and her husband Brian have been married for four years. They have a four-year-old daughter Aislinn and reside in Huntington Beach. Alona has taught children’s dance for 10 years and works at the family business, Pazzulla Plastics, Inc.

CHRIS JACKSON ’93 has signed a contract with the Philadelphia Soul of the Arena Football League. The season gets underway in early-March with the team traveling to Los Angeles to take on the Avengers on March 20 at the Staples Center.

MATT THACKERY ’94 and his wife Elizabeth welcomed a new son, Andrew, into their lives in December 2007. They live in Washington D.C., where Matt works as an architect and design manager at Marriott International. Matt recently received his MBA from Johns Hopkins University.

BRENT BERGER ’98 and his wife ANGELINA LOMBARDI ’98 welcomed their second child, Giovanni Paolo, in August 2007. His big brother, Gianluca, is now four-years-old. The Bergers reside in Placentia.

AMANDA PINUELAS ’99 and Christopher Kolbensclag of San Clemente were married in September 2007 at St. Timothy Church in Laguna Niguel. The two moved to Irvine following their honeymoon in Paris. Amanda works for First American Corp. in Santa Ana and Chris is a project manager for a real estate developer in Anaheim.

Attention Alumni

Since the beginning of the school year, 125 graduates have given a grand total of $16,500 to the Alumni Heritage Fund. The Alumni Heritage Fund exists solely to provide financial aid for children and grandchildren of alumni who attend Mater Dei. Use the envelope provided to make your gift so the next generation of Monarchs may enjoy the same high school experience you did. Your challenge is to give just one dollar for each year you have been out of Mater Dei.

The Classes of 1987 and 1962 were the top donors this quarter. Which class will be tops next quarter?

Contact the Alumni Office for more info, (714) 850-9534, jmedlin@materdei.org.
Alumni Class Notes

MATTHEW BODEN ’96 completed his undergrad work at the University of San Francisco. From there he went on to earn a Doctorate of Psychology from the University of Illinois. He is currently completing his internship at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto.

BETTINA LENGSFELD ’96 earned her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Texas in May 2007.

JENNIFER GORE ’98 is an accountant with British Petroleum and is her second year of the MBA program at CSU Fullerton.

The Flores Family - ELVA FLORES-VICARI ’82, VERONICA FLORES-MAXWELL ’84, and GLORIA FLORES-VOSOUGH’91 ask for prayers for the loss of the youngest member of the Flores Family, ALFRED LEE FLORES Jr ’98 on 1/12/08. He is in now in Our Lord’s Kingdom.

JACQUELINE SIT ’99 is moving from the NBC affiliate in West Texas to Oklahoma City as a TV news reporter for CBS.

JACQUELINE ZINKE ’06 had a stellar freshman soccer season as a member of the University of Arizona Wildcats. She started every game and was named to the All Pac-10 Freshman Team.

2000s

JESSICA MACIAS ’01 is the Marketing & Media Coordinator for The National Professional Paintball League (NPPL). The league is kicking off the first event of the 2008 Super 7 World Series of Paintball with a tournament in Huntington Beach March 28 - 30. The teams will play on six fields set up on the beach just south of the Huntington Beach pier, over 80,000 spectators are expected to attend.

SHAWN A. TAYLOR ’01 recently started a financial practice with Northwestern Mutual and is playing as much golf as he can.

JACQUELINE BROUSSARD ’05 is a sophomore at the University of Arizona where she plays on the Wildcats soccer team. She had a fantastic year being named U of A Student Athlete of the Month in September. She was also selected to the All Pac-10 Honorable Mention Team and the Pac-10 All Academic Second Team.

BRENDON PRITCHARD ’03 graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in June 2007 with a degree in East Asian Studies. He has accepted a position in Japan as Coordinator of International Relations. Some of his duties include translating for English speaking government officials during visits with Japanese government officials, planning and hosting cultural events, and teaching English as needed in Japanese government offices and local schools. Brendon, center, is pictured here in Japan with his brother, Nick ’10, far left, and Tan M. Nguyen ’03.

To update an address or if you wish to receive this publication via e-mail please call (714) 850-9534 or send a message to mcraft@materdei.org

Attention Current Parents & Alumni: We would like your feedback! Mark your calendars to visit the Mater Dei website at www.materdei.org February 18 through February 29 for parent and alumni surveys.