



ST. PETER-MARIAN

CENTRAL CATHOLIC JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2017 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS



Alexandra Gago

Alexandra is an intellectually gifted, independent, deep-thinking, artistic young woman who has distinguished herself across the academic disciplines throughout her four years of high school. She graduates with the highest grade point average in her class, a remarkable 96.57, earning her the distinction of Valedictorian. Ally's course selection speaks to her ability and intellectual passions. She completed twenty Honors courses and eight Advanced Placement courses in subjects as varied as AP Calculus, AP Spanish Literature, AP European History, and AP Studio Art.

Ally was deeply involved in wide-ranging extracurricular activities throughout her four years. She held major roles in our drama program, led the Goddard Cup Rocket Team to a first place prize, was a member of the Fashion Design Club, a Peer Leader, and member of National Honor Society. At our Awards Ceremony, Ally received recognition as the Worcester Telegram and Gazette Student Achiever, Advanced Placement Awards in Spanish, Art, Biology, and English Composition, and the Mathematics Department Medal. Outside of school, Ally is an accomplished equestrian and she has pursued many years of music, art, and dance lessons.

Of her St. Peter Marian experience, Ally writes: "The sign above St. Peter-Marian's main entrance says 'Through These Doors Walks Greatness' and there could not be a truer statement. Inside its walls, you will find dedicated teachers, challenging classes, interesting extracurricular activities, and motivated students, all working together under the guidance of the administration and the Catholic faith to create a learning environment that ensures the academic and personal growth and success of every student. The Administrators and School Counselors have always taken the time to work with me to ensure that I had classes that suited my interest and abilities and fulfilled my requirements for both high school and college. The teachers are incredibly dedicated and caring people who give so much of their time, and they genuinely wanted to see me succeed and grow. On a more personal level, the Catholic mission at St. Peter Marian has been one of the biggest influences on my growth as an individual. The lessons I have taken away have shaped the view I have of myself, the world around me, and how I interact with the world. The education I received allowed me to become a well-rounded individual with a solid academic foundation, diverse talents and interests, and a well-developed social conscience."

Ally resides in Worcester and in the Fall will attend Wellesley College, where she plans to study Astrophysics, Spanish, and Art.



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Caitlin Welsh

Caitlin has had a distinguished high school career marked by exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and a humble, graceful presence. She graduates with the second highest academic average in her class, 95.54, earning recognition as class Salutatorian. Caitlin completed 19 Honors courses and six Advanced Placement courses, electing the most rigorous choices in all academic disciplines. At Awards Night, she earned Advanced Placement Awards for U.S. History, Psychology, and Chemistry and Medals from the Departments of Theology and Science.

Captain of the Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse teams, as well as a member of the Varsity soccer team, Caitlin is a fierce, but always fair and gracious, competitor. She is a Central Mass Conference All-Star. She earned the coaches' awards in basketball and lacrosse, as well as the prestigious Tri-Athlete Award and the William Haney Memorial Student Athlete Award. Dedicated to service and to her faith, Caitlin volunteers as a religious education teacher and Vacation Bible School teacher at her parish, The Church of Saint Roch in Oxford, MA. As Vice-President of Guardians for Life, Caitlin helped communicate and advocate the pro-life ministry among her classmates. She is a Eucharistic Minister, Peer Tutor, Student Ambassador, and member of National Honor Society.

Of her St. Peter Marian experience, Caitlin writes: "I have learned the value of hard work, being a part of a community and helping others. I learned freshman year that if I wanted good grades, which I did, that I would really have to work for them. This lesson is taught by every faculty member and coach at SPM, which leads to both skilled students and skilled athletes. The teachers' dedication engages and makes students want to learn. I will always remember Ms. Cronin's enthusiasm for teaching, which was showcased by her acting out many of the plays that we read. The size of the school means that everyone knows one another. I loved walking down the halls seeing people of all different grades waving and smiling at one another. Our Thanksgiving food drive is one of my favorite activities of the year. During this time, everyone comes together to give thanks for the food we have and to help those less fortunate. I am proud to say that I am the person I am today because of many of my experiences at St. Peter Marian."

Caitlin resides in Sutton, MA and in the Fall will attend Stonehill College, where she was a recipient of the Father Basil Moreau Scholarship and an invited member of the Honors Program. She plans to study Neuroscience.



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Kevin O'Callahan

Kevin is an accomplished student, athlete, and leader in the St. Peter Marian community. After transferring in his sophomore year, he immediately earned the respect of his teachers and peers for his intellectual ability, academic tenacity, and strong personal values and belief system. He graduates with the third highest academic average in his class, having completed eighteen Honors courses and seven Advanced Placement courses. At Awards Night, Kevin received the AP U.S. History Award, as well as the Social Studies Department Medal, in recognition of his passion for and excellence in the study of history and the social sciences.

Kevin is a member of National Honor Society, a Eucharistic Minister, a Peer Tutor, and a Varsity baseball player. He was this year's recipient of the William Haney Memorial Student Athlete Award. He volunteers his time at National Education for Assistance Dog Services (NEADS), working in the kennel and socializing dogs who are training to become assistance dogs. Kevin works a part-time job at Davis Farmland as a cashier and zipline attendant.

Of his St. Peter Marian experience he writes: "The St. Peter Marian community is unbelievable. My classmates are family to me. The friends that I have made in my three years at SPM will be close to me for the rest of my life. I have also had the unique opportunity of making close friends with students coming from China, South Korea, and Honduras. This has given me the opportunity to understand and learn new things about cultures that were once completely foreign to me. This is something that few other high schools can offer to a student."

Kevin resides in Sterling, MA and in the Fall will attend Wake Forest University where he plans to study Economics, Government, and History.



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Deirdre Gallo

Deirdre sets high standards for herself and stays true to them. This has allowed her to excel academically, athletically, and personally. She has attended St. Peter Marian since seventh grade and has had an incredible career. She graduates with the fourth highest average in her class and has completed 22 Honors courses and five Advanced Placement courses.

Deirdre is a member of National Honor Society, a Peer Leader, and a Eucharistic Minister. She is a two-sport Varsity athlete, playing field hockey and softball. The sport of softball is her passion. She competes and trains year round and is an extremely talented, and equally hard working, player. She has played Varsity since eighth grade, Captained for two seasons, and is a Central Mass All-Star. She received this year's Coach's Award, as well as the prestigious Ann Ash Zelesky Athletic Award. Deirdre is thrilled to have been a recruited Division I Student-Athlete.

Of her St. Peter Marian experience, she writes: "I believe my overall development was influenced largely by the people at SPM. All of the people at SPM have impacted my life in some way, whether it be spiritually, academically, athletically, or personally. The administration have played a key role in embedding our mission statement throughout the school curriculum and environment. Having a close bond with all of the teachers has made academics more accessible. The students at SPM all share a common goal of success and are friendly, welcoming, and genuine; without my peers pushing me and cheering me on along the way, high school would have been much harder. One of my most memorable experiences at SPM was in the spring of 2015 when I played on the varsity softball team and won the state championship. Being able to compete on that kind of competitive stage was a privilege, and it was even more of a privilege to add to the legacy of the St. Peter Marian Softball Dynasty."

Deirdre resides in Shrewsbury, MA and in the Fall will attend Georgetown University where she will study Human Science on a Pre-Med track.



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John Blair

John has attended St. Peter Marian since seventh grade. Insightful, hard-working, mature and creative, John's ability to make quick connections with challenging content allowed him to excel. He graduates with the fifth highest average in his class, having taken 23 Honors courses and five Advanced Placement courses. At Awards Night, John recognized with the AP Spanish Language Award and the Foreign Language Department Medal.

John is often found in service to others in the community. He is a valued Peer Tutor, a Peer Leader, a Eucharistic Minister, member of liturgical choir, and President of National Honor Society. He is a passionate and talented actor who held several lead roles in the drama department, notably Danny Zuko in Grease and Darry Curtis in The Outsiders. His commitment to his faith was acknowledged in his selection for the Bishop Daniel P. Reilly Memorial Book Award. John joins a distinguished group of St. Peter Marian Alumni, having been named the Class of 2017 Guardian Award recipient. This is the highest honor given to a member of the graduating class, recognizing humble and dedicated service to the community and a true 'guardian spirit'.

Of his St. Peter Marian experience, John writes: "I am one of those people who fully enjoyed my high school experience. And, no, I was not part of the 'popular' group that seemed like they had life all figured out. I was a part of something much bigger than that. I was a part of the SPM community, a place where nobody puts you down for being who you are or for doing what you are good at. We all celebrate each other's unique gifts and talents, which allow you to grow into the person you believe you are. We support everybody. We are a family and I felt right at home."

John lives in Rutland, MA and in the Fall will attend Boston College where he plans to study Pre-Medicine and Spanish.