

Alumni & Friends  
**NEWS  
LETTER**

Fall Edition 2024

# FOOTPRINTS

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# FATHER JACOB MARTINI



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Most everywhere else when I tell people my journey to the priesthood, I have to include an "origin" story as part of it. The great thing with telling it now is that many of you already know me or my family, or are actually my family. I think also you might be able to appreciate with me the words of St. Paul, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us." By this, Paul is recognizing the great treasure that is divine life, God Himself, dwelling within his broken humanity. It is a treasure that he is unworthy of but is freely given by God in a personal way. My story, though I did not actively kill Christians like Paul, is similar. I am so vastly aware of my own unworthiness to before the Lord and yet it is in my weakness that His glory may be seen.

If my journey could be summarized it would be this, all my life, even when I rejected Him, turned away from Him, ignored Him, or did not know Him, He has been faithful, He has been good; my priesthood is just a response to the generosity of God.

My journey has been one of just taking one step closer to Christ each day, with special care from our Blessed Mother. We are blessed in our community to be surrounded by so many good priests . . . .

. . . . I'll admit. I was afraid. There was part of me that did not want to answer this call outside of me from the Lord. I resisted as much as I could, trying to explain it away, listen to my desire to be a father and have a family, and overall to show God that I was unworthy of this call. How can the Lord be calling me to be His priest, I thought . . . .

But, it is as I said at the beginning. I am only a man, an earthen vessel, that contains this treasure that belongs to God and not to me. The only way I can repay the Lord for His goodness to me is by "taking up the cup of salvation and calling on the name of the Lord." (Ps 116:12-14) Hopefully, you too respond to this Love, this living and vibrant faith, that you may know the joy that comes with a relationship with Christ through His Church. All I can do is invite you to "come and see a man who told me all that I ever did." (Jn 4:29)

May the Lord who has begun this good work in me bring it to fulfillment.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ THE FULL STORY ABOUT ALUMNI (Class of 2014) FATHER JACOB MARTINI**  
[www.marquetteacademy.net](http://www.marquetteacademy.net)



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# MARQUETTE BASEBALL 1st IN STATE!

## AGAIN!

By Charlie Ellerbrock Ottawa Times/Shaw Media

PEORIA – The play that truly decided Saturday’s Class 1A baseball state championship game at Dozer Park probably won’t be as often discussed, as clearly recalled or perhaps not even as easily remembered as the significant plays coming after it.

However, for turning the tide in Marquette Academy’s favor, there was just the one and that came from Charlie Mullen.

With the Crusaders’ Carson Zellers and Altamont’s Kade Milleville locked in a one-hit-each, scoreless pitchers’ duel through the first four innings, it was the MA senior Mullen who came through with a looping line drive to center field that allowed hard-running freshman Griffin Dobberstein to slide home with the tie-breaking run. Although that margin was padded with four gift runs in the next inning – a dropped pop-up with the bases loaded and two outs, plus another off an RBI triple by Mullen – it was the initial run that sparked Marquette to a 6-2 victory over the Indians and its second 1A state championship in five seasons.

Mullen as a sophomore shined in the 2021 postseason to help MA to a third-place trophy. His first hit Saturday allowed Zellers to relax a little more and be as superb as he was on the warm and humid day, striking out five and finishing the day with a four-hitter.

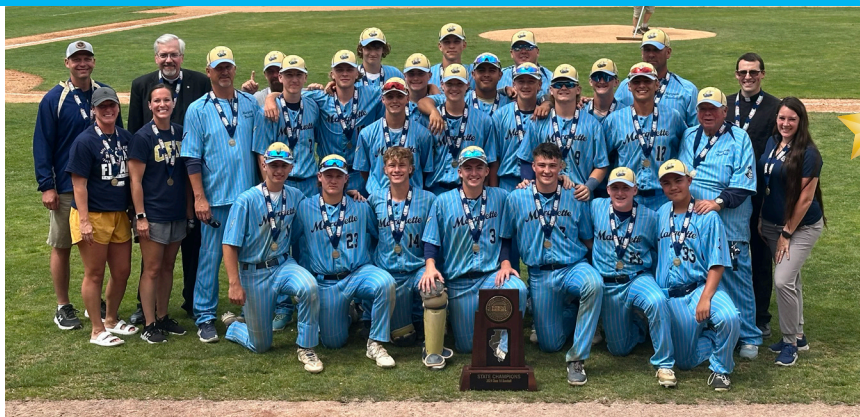
Though Zellers walked three and allowed a two-run single to Eli Miller all in the last of the seventh, the Crusaders (31-2) never seemed in danger of losing that lead after Mullen’s game-changing hit.

“Once we scored, I was more relieved and that helped,” Zellers said. “The other runs allowed me to be even more calm, focused and relaxed, but the first one was big.”

“I had two strikes, and I think I have a history of doing pretty well with two strikes. Two years ago, I did pretty well, too,” Mullen said with a smile. “The pitcher put it right down the middle, so I had to [swing]. It was kinda crazy ... I have no idea why I do well in the postseason, but it feels good, giving it all we’ve got.”

While Zellers was cruising, facing the minimum through four and helping himself out by snaring bullet line drives back at him in the fourth and fifth, Marquette (31-2) got a runner to third base with two outs in the fourth inning against Milleville but didn’t score.

But in the fifth, Dobberstein led off with a single, and Anthony Couch sacrificed him to second. Mullen followed with his huge hit to center, the throw home bouncing high enough to handcuff the Indians cat-



cher and allow Dobberstein to slide in safely.

“Charlie struggled early in the year in the cold weather, but we knew he could hit,” Marquette coach Todd Hopkins said. “I knew when we got here he’d do something special. He got us going today.”

The icing came in the next inning, when singles by Zellers, Sam Mitre and Keaton Davis loaded the bases with one out. After Dobberstein grounded into a force at home for the second out, Couch hit a sky-high pop-up just behind second base, and it was dropped. All three runners scored, including Dobberstein hustling all the way from first. Mullen capped the rally, clubbing a booming triple to right-center field to plate Couch.

The Cru added a run in the seventh off Altamont reliever Aden McManaway when Grant Dose walked, Alec Novotney collected his second hit of the day, Zellers sacrificed them over, and Mitre slammed a sacrifice fly to center.

“You saw how we won, doing little things. Bunt, bunt, bunt, play good defense and get good pitching,” Hopkins said. “Today we caught a break and were like piranha in bloody water. ... The kids just handled the heat, the pressure in a tough game. We told them before the game to seize the moment, and they did.”

“Anytime you get down here it’s sweet. ... But this year, it helped that we had a few players that were on the ‘21 team. They learned from last year’s team and came out this year and just shocked us, shocked the state this weekend and all year. They put it together at the right time, and I’m just so proud of them. This is an unbelievable group of guys.”

**“The best team doesn’t always win a state championship, but we were the best this week, and we did.”**

## MARQUETTE MAY MERRIMENT XLII RAISES \$318,000+



We are absolutely thrilled to share the incredible results from our recent Marquette May Merriment 42 - Happily Ever After, held on May 4, 2024. Thanks to the tremendous generosity and support of our community, we have surpassed all expectations and achieved an outstanding fundraising total of just over **\$318,000!**

This remarkable accomplishment wouldn’t have been possible without each and every person who contributed their time, resources, and passion towards our cause. Your dedication has made a profound impact on Marquette Academy and the students we serve.

With these funds, we are empowered to fulfill our budgetary responsibilities and complete the grade school gym project. In addition to this MMM42 total, we received a major donation from Mrs. Delores Anderson and her son Scott, on behalf of the late Don C. Anderson, for a brand new hardwood gym floor. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of the MAES Knights and future Crusaders!

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, donors, MMM42 committee, volunteers, and attendees for making this event an unforgettable success. Your commitment to Marquette Academy and Catholic education is truly inspiring, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Let's celebrate this milestone achievement and the brighter future it promises for our school and our community! Save the date for next year's event - May 3, 2025.



**MMM42 Chairpeople:**  
Katie & John Nelson  
Paul & Tara DeMink  
Karen & Mike Obenhin -  
not pictured (honorary)



**Visionary Award Recipients:**  
Brenda Killelea & Diane Kummer



## Marquette Academy

# RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION FOR A NEW GYM FLOOR!

With hearts full of gratitude and reverence, we celebrate a remarkable act of generosity that will forever shape the lives of countless children at Marquette Academy. It is with great humility and pride that we express our deepest appreciation for the extraordinary contribution made by Dee Anderson on behalf of her and her five children Scott, Jennifer (Stephen), Greg, Susan (Christopher), and John. A second generous contribution was made by her son Scott to ensure the completion of the new gym floor.

These donations towards the new gym floor at our beloved grade school campus are not merely a financial contribution; but a testament to the unwavering dedication and profound love that the Anderson family holds for Marquette Academy and the well-being of our children.

In honoring the memory of her beloved husband, Don C. Anderson, a cherished member of our school board at St. Columba Grade School and Marquette High School, Dee and

her family exemplify the essence of selflessness and community spirit. Don's legacy, rooted in his commitment to the betterment of our schools, resonates deeply within these halls and beyond.

As parents, Dee and Don took immense pride in providing their five children with the gift of a Catholic education, beginning their journey at St. Columba in Kindergarten and culminating in their graduation from Marquette High School. Their unwavering support and dedication to Catholic education has left an immense mark on our school community, shaping the lives of generations to come.

Dee Anderson's own contribution to the educational landscape as the Advancement Director at Marquette High School for twelve years further underscores her profound commitment to nurturing the growth and development of our students. Her tireless efforts in advancing our school's mission have left an enduring legacy of excellence and compassion.

Today, as we embark on this transformative endeavor to renovate our gym floor, we do so with a profound sense of gratitude for the Anderson family's remarkable generosity. Their donation will not only enhance the physical infrastructure of our school but will also provide our children with a safe and conducive environment to thrive, both academically and athletically.

In honoring Don C. Anderson's memory through this noble gesture, the Anderson family reminds us all of the power of community, compassion, and the enduring legacy of love. May their generosity inspire us to continue striving for excellence and to uphold the values that define our educational institutions.

On behalf of the entire school community, we extend our deepest thanks to Dee Anderson and her family for their extraordinary generosity and unwavering commitment to the future of our children. **THANK YOU!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11, 2024  
4-6pm Homecoming  
Alumni & Family Tailgate  
7pm HOCO Game  
GO CRU!!  
Gould Stadium



October 27, 2024  
Annual Rip's Party  
Knights of Columbus

November 3, 2024  
Turkey Dinner  
Elementary Campus

December 2024  
Merry Everything Raffle 12/1-25  
Holiday Home Tour Dec. 7



**Friday, October 11** - Calling all alumni & fans! Tailgate with the Marquette family across from Gould Stadium starting at 4pm. Then watch some Crusader Football! The CRU take on Aurora Central Catholic at 7pm. Great food, drinks, raffles and Marquette spirit! After the game, enjoy a tenderloin at the Knights of Columbus.

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



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