Adelphi University • Alabama A & M University • Albany State University • Albright College • Alfred University • Allegheny College • Alvernia University
American University • Anna Maria College • Appalachian State University • Arizona State University • Barnard College • Barry University
Bethune-Cookman University • Birmingham-Southern College • Boston University • Brandeis University • Cabrini University • Canisius College • Carlow University
Champlain College • Chapman University • Charleston Southern University • Clark Atlanta University • Clark University • Clemson University • Colgate University •
College of Mount Saint Vincent • College of the Holy Cross • Colorado State University • Columbia College Chicago • Converse University
Cornell College • CUNY Baruch College • CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College • CUNY Bronx Community College • CUNY City College • CUNY City College of Technology • CUNY College of Staten Island • CUNY Hostos Community College • CUNY Hunter College • CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice • CUNY LaGuardia College • CUNY Lehman College • CUNY Macaulay Honors at City College • CUNY Medgar Evers College • CUNY Queens College • CUNY Queensborough Community College • CUNY York College • Dean College • Delaware State University • Delaware Valley University
DePaul University • Dominican College • Drexel University • Duquesne University • Emory University • Fairfield University • Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
University • Fordham University • Gannon University • Georgia State University • Goldey-Beacom College • Grambling State University • Harrisburg University • Hartwick
Houghton College • Howard University • Ithaca College • Jackson State University • Johnson and Wales University University • Lehigh University • LeMoyne
University • Loyola Marymount University • Manhattan College • Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts • Merrimack College Honors Program • Monmouth University • Montclair State University
Mont St. Mary College • Muhlenberg College • New Jersey City University • New York Institute of Technology • North Carolina Central University • Pace University • Paul Smith's College • Penn State University • Pratt Institute • Quinnipiac University
Regis College • Rider University • Rochester Institute of Technology • Rutgers University • Sacred Heart University • Saint Leo University • Scranton University • Seton Hall University • Siena College • South Carolina State University • Southern Connecticut State University • Spelman College
St. Catherine University • St. Francis College • St. John's University • St. Joseph's College • St. Peter's University • St. Thomas Aquinas College • Stevens Institute of Technology • Stonehill College • Suffolk University • SUNY Albany • SUNY Alfred State • SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Brockport • SUNY Buffalo • SUNY Cortland • SUNY Delhi • SUNY Geneseo • SUNY Morrisville • SUNY New Paltz • SUNY Old Westbury • SUNY Oneonta • SUNY Oswego • SUNY Plattsburgh • SUNY Polytechnic Institute of Technology • SUNY Potsdam • SUNY Purchase • SUNY Stony Brook
Syracuse University • Temple University • Texas State University • Texas Southern University • Texas University • The College of Saint Rose • Towson University • Truman State University • UNIBE (Dominican Republic) • Union College • University of California • University of Arizona • University of Bridgeport • University of Central Florida • University of Colorado Colorado Springs University of Connecticut • University of Delaware • University of Detroit Mercy • University of Maryland • University of Massachusetts Boston
University of New Haven • University of North Carolina • University of Northern Colorado • University of Notre Dame • University of Pittsburgh University of Rochester • University of Scranton • University of Tulsa • University of Virginia • Ursinus College • Utica College • Villanova University
Virginia State University • Voorhees College • Wagner College • Washington and Jefferson College • Washington College • Wells College • West Chester University of PA • Western Oregon University • Wilberforce University • William Woods University • Williams College • Worcester Polytechnic Institute

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022!
as they head off to these many great colleges and universities!
LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Cathedral Family...

PRESIDENT

Closeup with Juliette Picciano, President

CLASS OF 2022

Graduation 2022

GALA

Oh, What a Night!

REUNION

Reunion 2022

LEGACY

Preserving the Cathedral Legacy

In Memoriam
Dear Cathedral Family,

This is always an exciting time of the year when our seniors graduate and head out on their new adventures. All their hard work and dedication has paid off with hundreds of college acceptances. This year we have graduated 130 young women who collectively have earned more than $35 million in college scholarships and awards. It is humbling what we have all achieved together. They will be attending some of the finest schools in our nation, including the University of Notre Dame, New York University, Howard University, Emory University, and so many more.

We returned to school last September with 495 students with everyone in person. Our amazing faculty and staff continue to ensure that our students receive a stellar education. We continue to enhance the curriculum, increase our partnerships with outside organizations, and enrich our Academies through virtual workshops, conferences, and panel discussions.

In this issue of the Cathedral Connection, you will see some of the events that have taken place this year. We were so happy to welcome more than 100 alumnae back on Saturday, April 9th for the first in-person Reunion since April 2019 and we had a wonderful time at the Around the World Gala on Wednesday, May 18th at the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations celebrating two extraordinary Alumnae of Distinction, Maria Cecilia Salazar ’87 and Dr. Denise De Las Nueces ’99 with more than 150 friends and supporters. You will also read the impact of making a planned gift to CHS through the Sr. Mary Raymond Legacy Society.

In addition to a successful school year, we are excited about a new addition to Cathedral’s leadership. Juliette Picciano has joined Cathedral as the new president. Ms. Picciano comes to CHS from the Archdiocese of New York (ADNY), where she spent seven years on the development team working to fund the vast educational, pastoral, and charitable outreach of the Church in New York. Most recently, she concluded three years as Director of the Cardinal’s Annual Stewardship Appeal, during which time she and her team grew fundraising and participation for the Appeal throughout and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Picciano was also responsible for supporting parishes with their capital campaign efforts and increased offertory campaigns and in total raised over $150 million throughout her extensive fundraising experience. Prior to serving as Director of the Appeal, Ms. Picciano worked in a variety of capacities within ADNY development, including the Catholic Center at NYU, the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation, and as Chief of Staff to the Executive Director of Development. Juliette has shared that as a graduate of an all-girls Catholic high school in New Orleans, she is absolutely thrilled to help grow and lead an institution with such a rich history and diverse student and alumnae population. “I am looking forward to getting to know the Cathedral community and to working with Maria to further the mission of CHS,” said Juliette.

I am excited to have Juliette as a partner in strengthening Cathedral High School. She brings a broad range of experience in strategic planning, development, and admissions that will help us as we envision a bold future for our beloved educational institution. Our Cathedralite Press interview with Ms. Picciano is on page 4.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We could not continue our vital mission of providing an exemplary education to these young women without you. Have a wonderful summer!

With gratitude,

Maria Spagnuolo
Principal
Closeup with Juliette Picciano, President

BY FAITH FRASER ’23 AND HALEY SEEPERSAUD ’23

Rising seniors Faith Fraser and Haley Seepersaud who write for the Cathedralite Press, sat down with Juliette Picciano, Cathedral’s first president, to gain her insights on the new role and learn more about her.

What was your first reaction when you heard about the job opening at Cathedral for the new position as president? Was there a certain aspect to Cathedral and its identity that drew you in?

What attracted me to the position was Cathedral High School’s mission to educate the daughters of immigrant families. I went to an all-girls Catholic school in New Orleans growing up and had a fantastic experience, and I was very excited about the prospect of helping to serve the young women of Cathedral.

Was there a determining factor that pushed you to take the job as Cathedral’s new president?

In addition to loving the mission of the school, I also greatly respected the board members I met throughout the interview process. They are extremely committed to Cathedral, which I found incredibly energizing and motivating. I also loved meeting Maria Spagnuolo and thought that she and I would make strong partners in advancing the mission of the school.

Where were you in your career right before you decided to come to Cathedral?

I was actually in this same building working for the Archdiocese of New York! Right before coming to Cathedral, I was serving as the Director of the Cardinal’s Appeal, which is a $21 million campaign...
that funds all of the archdiocese’s educational, charitable, and pastoral outreach.

**What does it mean to you to be a faith leader at a Catholic school like Cathedral? How has your faith been important in your life?**

What I keep coming back to as I think about the question of Catholic identity here at Cathedral is a quote from one of the former archbishops of New York, John Cardinal O’Connor: “every human person is a unique and unrepeatable act of God.” Here at Cathedral, we have a school culture that recognizes each student as unique and unrepeatable; this is a place where each young woman’s particular gifts are cultivated! The teachers and administrators are here to help you identify these gifts in yourselves, because oftentimes others recognize gifts in us before we ourselves realize we have those talents and abilities. At the end of my own life, I would like to be able to tell St. Peter that I was a good steward of the gifts that God shared with me, my family, and the many young women I came to know through Cathedral High School!

**Was working in education something you have wanted to do since you were in high school, or did you initially want to pursue something else? If so, what did you want to be at seventeen years old?**

My senior year of high school was marked by Hurricane Katrina, and to be honest, I was not really thinking about what I wanted to be in the long term. I was thinking, what is happening in my life right now? and what am I going to do about college?

Did I always know I wanted to work at a school? Probably not. However, I have always loved learning and hope to share that love with the community here.

**As your career has progressed, what have you found to be the motivating and driving factors that told you this field of work was right for you?**

Relationships, results, and storytelling. I think so many of the students here have amazing stories, and I am excited to celebrate and promote the incredible ways that Cathedral High School is helping shape the course of your lives.

**What are you most passionate about in our school community?**

I’m very moved by the fact that Cathedral High School has remained true to its mission since 1905, and that over the course of many decades, women from vastly different racial, social, and geographic backgrounds have all been profoundly influenced by the education they’ve received here. As I get to know our sponsors, alumnae, prospective families, and supporters of the school, I am hoping to tell that story as well!

**What, if anything, would you like to say to all the Cathedralites, past and present, about your new role at Cathedral? What should they expect from you in the upcoming years?**

First of all, thank you for the warm welcome! To the present students: dream big! There is so much you have to offer and you should count on Cathedral to support you as you carve out your place in the world. To the alumnae: I’m looking forward to meeting you! Thank you for having chosen Cathedral and for your contributions to the school. Come back and visit!

Regarding my role in particular, I’m really here to focus on advancing the school through shaping its strategic direction, expanding the school’s development and alumnae engagement efforts, and growing enrollment. In short, I’m here to support the Board of Trustees, Maria, and our teachers as we seek to better live out the mission that we set forth over a hundred years ago and still remains relevant today.
CLASS OF 2022

On June 8th, 130 members of the Class of 2022 and their families joyously celebrated their graduation at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, continuing this 113-year-old tradition.

Mistress of ceremonies Ms. Rosemary Eivers greeted everyone and introduced Hazel De Lara ’23 to sing the National Anthem with Ms. Perry’s American Sign Language – 4 class signing along.

This year’s Commencement Speaker Ursula Burns ’76, the former CEO of Xerox, addressed the Class of 2022. Ms. Burns shared how quickly the last 46 years have moved for her and advised the graduates to slow down and savor each day. She reminisced about her time at CHS remarking, “the one thing I learned at Cathedral, the education...”
that I received at this school was the foundation for my whole life.” She continued that “Cathedral provided a solid education, the best foundation, respect for others and ourselves, and how to be a woman among women.” And that “your role in the world as a woman starts today. It is so different [than my time] and so fundamentally different than the role of men. [Your] responsibility is higher, [your] needs and calls are higher, you will need to stand up in a differentiated way.” She asked the graduates not to be discouraged by the world we live in and reminded them that “you have a responsibility to save the world. Improve the world. You have to be a good person before you are a successful person before you are a powerful person.”

Valedictorian Jocelyne Villatoro and Salutatorian Zemira Meade spoke of their Cathedral experience and how despite a global pandemic, the class of 2022 rose to the occasion. They both offered inspirational messages to the graduating class. Jocelyne will study at New York University and Zemira will be attending Colgate University. The Class of 2022 was recognized with over 100 awards and honors, with acceptances to 213 colleges and 402 scholarships exceeding $35 million.

Principal Maria Spagnuolo spoke of the Class of 2022’s tenacity and grit, perseverance and resolve, and courage and optimism. “Your resilience, strength, and compassion are all the beautiful qualities that make you, you, and got you here today.”

You can watch the graduation ceremony here: https://youtu.be/GyUuurFPpPI
After two years, the Cathedral Community gathered with great excitement at the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations to honor two celebrated Cathedral alumnae. Maria Cecilia Salazar ’87, member of the Principal’s Council and Executive Director at JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., and Dr. Denise De Las Nueces, Chief Medical Officer at Boston Health Care for the Homeless, were presented with the 2022 Distinguished Alumnae Awards.

Thanks to cooperative weather, participants enjoyed cocktails on the outdoor terrace overlooking the East River with splendid views of Long Island City while listening to the piano compositions of Cathedral junior Anita Andrade. During dinner, the program was livestreamed to at-home guests, who were welcomed by the mistress of ceremonies and NBC 4 New York’s Consumer Reporter Lynda Baquero ’83. Senior Catalina Almeida offered a heartfelt rendition of the National Anthem and beloved religion teacher Jim Philipps led the participants in prayer.

Principal Maria Spagnuolo thanked the board and committee and presented the awards to the two honorees who spoke eloquently of their experiences at Cathedral and the value of Catholic education. Said Maria Cecilia Salazar, “When asked why I give to CHS, whether it is my time or as part of the annual giving to fund the education of future generations, the answer is usually quite simple. CHS not only holds a special place in my heart, but through the years and with maturity, I have come...
to recognize that CHS is the place where the strong foundation started by family is further strengthened and solidified so that we can become the people we are meant to be.” Added Dr. De Las Nueces, “My time at Cathedral set the stage for the person I have become. I give back because I was taught to do so. I was able to succeed scholastically because of teachers who believed in me and challenged me to be my best. I was so delighted to spend time with the next generation of Cathedralites today in the Medical Gateways program. The students are so bright and I am confident they will achieve whatever they set their minds to doing.”

Seniors Raquel Rubio and Lyla Velez offered their reflections on their Cathedral journeys and shared their excitement at winning scholarships to New York University and Emory University, respectively. Said Raquel, “As a first-generation American, and the first in my family to learn English and attend college, Cathedral has taught me to ‘Go forth and set the world on fire,’...I cannot wait to continue exploring science and health at New York University majoring in Global Public Health.” Added Lyla Velez, “The Future Business Leaders of America and Junior Achievement Programs both ignited my interest in business and law and I am eager to study Philosophy, Politics, and Law at Emory University.”

Entertainment was provided by Marie-Claire Giraud ’87 who made her operatic debut with a selection of arias and songs and DJ Flyy Grl, Latidra Lewis ’91 who had everyone on their feet dancing.

Funds raised during the evening will be directed to scholarship support.
There was much joy in the room on Saturday, April 9th as Cathedral High School alumnae gathered for Reunion 2022. The celebration began with a Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral followed by a festive luncheon at the school. Guests enjoyed the student-led school tours that gave both alumnae and soon-to-be alumnae a chance to get to know each other and their special CHS experiences.

Classmates who graduated in 1972 celebrated their special milestone with a commemorative gold diploma presented by Principal Maria Spagnuolo. CHS sisters were so happy to see each other and relive their high school memories.

Sandra M. Palleja, MD ’72, Executive Medical Director, Global Product Development Consulting, Infectious Diseases at PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific spoke for many when she said:

“I was super happy to have attended and had the opportunity to see my classmates, most of whom I’d not seen in 50 years! Thank you to the students and administration for hosting us all, for the lovely meal and all the trimmings that made our day so special. Mass was also wonderful as a way to set the stage for our celebration.

I had honestly forgotten how good a part of my personal journey Cathedral has been. That reconnection was wonderful! It warmed my heart and soul.”

Reunions are held each spring, but CHS alumnae know they are always welcome at CHS.
Preserving the Cathedral Legacy

Each year we say goodbye to many fellow Cathedralites who pass on. It is bittersweet to memorialize fellow classmates and friends. We remember them in their youth, as they matured and on to their last days. A number of Cathedral alumnae have chosen to honor their school by participating in the Sr. Mary Raymond Legacy Society. We salute these women whose legacy continues through generous remembrances in their estates.

» Catherine Martin ’42
» Catherine Griffin ’47
» Margaret Naumann ’47
» Catherine Meehan ’55
» Ann Marie Flynn ’56
» Grace Murray ’56
» Mary O’Brien, friend of Cathedral

They will be missed, yet their memories will live on in the hearts of the Cathedral community. Their kindness makes it possible for us to serve the next generation of Cathedral women. Perhaps, like Catherine Griffin, they will have careers in medicine. Or like Catherine Meehan, become teachers. The possibilities are truly unlimited. Whatever road they choose, it is through the selfless support of people like you that their futures are brighter.

For information on the Sr. Mary Raymond Legacy Society, please contact Gina Lombardo at glombardo@cathedralhs.org or (212)-688-1545 ext. 212.

IN MEMORIAM

The Cathedral High School community extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of recently deceased alumnae and friends. Please remember them in your prayers.

Elizabeth Smith Darcy ’36
Maria O’Neill ’39
Eleanor Wilson Catalano ’41
Catherine Martin ’42
Helen Doherty Clark ’43
Catherine Mulkeen McCarthy ’43
Mary Garvey Rogan ’43
Margaret Mahoney Schneyer ’45
Catherine Griffin ’47
Margaret Nauman ’47
Margaret Devaney Arbuthnot ’48
Rose M. Moran ’49
Eileen Kenny Gallagher ’50
Patricia Dolan Spillane ’53
Sr. Patricia (Ann Marie) Markey ’53
Barbara Geiger George ’54
Mary Ann Minogh Kennedy ’54
Johanna T. Waldhofer Niemann ’54
Catherine Meehan ’55
Joan Szramiak Wasilewski ’55
Theodora Muller Woods ’55
Kathleen Madden Dammacco ’56
Ann Marie Flynn ’56
Grace Murray ’56
Stella Reyes ’60
Louise Kovino Wright ’61
Nancy Cassar Gannon ’63
Monica Elena Hartley ’64
Angela Sanchez ’64
Loretta Canzius Astegher ’65
Jean Opris Ruggiero ’65
Christine Cybulski Petroski ’66
Lois Cavallero LaBelle ’68
Yvonne Vazquez ’68
Gina Powell Rubeiro ’80
Katherine Robles ’85
Donna Valentin Eclipse ’87
Corriana Ashmeade ’98
Samantha McGovern ’01
Jennifer Tolliver ’01