Thomas A. Reynolds Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2016 JOSEPH BROWER & MARY ANN DETROLIO
2015 LOUIS R. PUOPOLO III, TONY ESPOSITO & MICHAEL SHEPPARD JR. '77
2014 MSGR. MICHAEL E. KELLY '57 & JOHN MCDERMOTT '48
2013 VINCENT D'ANTONIO '80, ROBERT B. HEINTZ & MICHAEL DEEHAN '80
2012 ED MAFFEY & JOHN SLEVIN '65
2011 ROBERT DOOLEY & SHARON RONDINELLA
2010 THOMAS & SUSANNE CREGAN
2009 JOSEPH A. NEGLIA H'01 & LARRY BAGGITT
2008 KEN MULLANEY, STEVE HAMBURGER & WALTER MCMAHON
2006 TOM MCCORMICK & REV. WILLIAM MELILLO
2005 EMMELYN MAILLEY, R.N. & GEORGE HAYES
2004 THERESA NEGLIA & JACK DIBBLE
2003 PATRICK O'CALLAGHAN & JOHN ALLEN
2002 MICHAEL GALLO & RICHARD BINKOWSKI
2001 PETER BUTLER & DREW BEIFUS
2000 DAN DETROLIO & DR. RICHARD SCAINE
1999 JEAN MORETTI & MICHAEL SHANNON
1998 WILLIAM CASEY & VINCENT PURPURA
1997 DR. THOMAS CUOMO & ROBERT FARRELL
1996 LESLIE BLAHA & M. RICHARD MERKLINGER
1995 REV. STEPHEN KILCARR & JACK O'ROURKE
1994 REV. MARTIN FORAN & REV. JOSEPH WORTMANN
1992 FRANK TUOHY • 1993 DR. JOSEPH O'CONNOR
1990 REV. EDWARD BRADLEY • 1991 SR. REGINA CORDIS CONBOY, SC
1988 NEIL MCNULTY • 1989 EDWARD FERRARI
1986 JAMES CONDON • 1987 DR. JOSEPH P. KANE
1984 RICHARD MORRIS • 1985 GABRIEL PIERRO
1981 JOSEPH WALSH • 1982 JOHN LOMBARDO • 1983 LAWRENCE SWEENEY

FATHERS CLUB PRESIDENTS

• 1965–Joseph McLoone • 1966–William Poole • 1967–John Burke
• 1968-69–Les Blaha • 1970–Robert McMenamin • 1971-72–Thomas Reynolds
• 1973–Emil Hensler • 1974–Louis Masucci • 1975–Harry Knox • 1976–John Healy
• 1977-78–Lawrence Sweeney • 1979–John Lombardo • 1980–Patrick O'Callaghan
• 1981–Conlin "Lyn" Brogan • 1982–Edward Ferrari • 1983–John Mailley
• 1984–Neil McNulty • 1985–William Yeomans • 1986–Robert Batta
• 1987–V. Vincent Velardo • 1988–Michael Shannon
• 1989–M. Richard Merklinger • 1990–Vincent Purpura
• 1991–Drew Beifus • 1992–Bill Malone • 1993–Bob Travisano
• 1994–Tom Lyons • 1995–Anthony Pusillo • 1996–Scott Russell
• 1997–Dan DeTrolio • 1998–John Strong • 1999–Ray Gizienski
• 2000–George Hayes • 2001-02–Steve Hamburger • 2003-04–Ken Mullaney
• 2005-06–Joseph Brower • 2007–Vito Bianco • 2008-09–Edward Maffey
• 2010-11–Donald Bruno • 2012-13–Thomas Lynch • 2014-15–Thomas Young
• 2016-17–Michael Nilan

SETON HALL PREP FATHERS CLUB

Family Mass *and* Communion Breakfast

PRESENTATION OF THE

Thomas A. Reynolds Award

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Thomas A. Reynolds '48

Tom Reynolds, Class of 1948, was the first of only nine men in the modern era of The Prep Fathers Club to serve two terms as President and an early contributor to its growth through active involvement. Tom was the organizer of the first *Sports and Activities Journal,* which in the seventies and eighties was one of the Fathers Club's major fund raisers. Tom showed a unique dedication to The Prep and was a believer in the important role the Fathers Club plays at Seton Hall.

Active as a student at The Prep, his loyalty grew during the years his four sons, Tom '72, Robert '74, John '75, and Richard '84, attended The Prep. On March 30, 1979, Tom Reynolds was killed while jogging near his home in North Caldwell. As a consequence of this tragedy, Seton Hall Prep lost a true friend and steadfast supporter.

Following Tom's untimely death, a group of his friends, many of them Prep and Fathers Club alumni, established the *Thomas A. Reynolds Scholarship Fund*. Since its creation in 1979, this fund has distributed more than $1.4 million to more than 220 students.

The goal of the Reynolds Fund is to provide financial assistance to Prep students who, due to the death or disablement of a parent or other provider, would otherwise be unable to continue their studies at The Prep. In March 1981 the Fathers Club Executive Board created the *Thomas A. Reynolds Award,* to annually honor a member of The Prep Family who models Tom's ideals in actively supporting the goals of the Fathers Club.

The Thomas A. Reynolds Award

The Thomas A. Reynolds Award is presented annually by the Prep Fathers Club in the memory of Tom Reynolds '48. The candidates for the award must be individuals who– 1) exemplifiy the Christian tradition in every facet of their relationships with their fellows, 2) have consistently shown themselves to be devoted to the welfare of the student body at The Prep, and 3) have consistently remained active members of The Prep community beyond the usual degree of involvement. This year's recipients fill the requirements to a tee—

2017 HONOREES

Christopher Barnitt '88

As an alumnus of the class of 1988, Mr. Chris Barnitt, had already left his mark on the Seton Hall Prep community. At his graduation Chris was the recipient of the Archbishop Thomas A. Boland Award, named the school's Most Representative Setonian. He continued his studies at Georgetown University, earning his B.A. in English and his Master of Social Work from Rutgers University.

Chris started his work at the Prep in 1993, teaching Science and Theology and continued to create a positive impression on the Prep community, being recognized in 1998 as the recipient of the Salvatore N. Caprio Award for his "time, patience, and concern" with his students. In 2004, he joined the School Counseling Office and took over as director of this office in September of 2017. In addition to his work in the School Counseling Office, Chris serves as a counselor to the Griffin Bridges Program and is the Head Coach of the Prep's Cross Country Team. Chris also works as a part-time lecturer at Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work.

Those who spend time with Chris know that he is the epitome of selflessness, always concerned with the well-being and needs of others. He faithfully serves the Prep community in his role as a School Counselor, always attentive to the needs and concerns of his students. As the head of the Prep's sandwich making for St. John's Soup Kitchen for many years, Chris has prepared hundreds, if not thousands of meals for those in need; he has even volunteered his talents as a barber for the Prep's Buzz Off fundraiser for cancer research. It is clear that through his dedication, work, and service to the Prep community, Chris is the embodiment of the spirt and the mission of Seton Hall Preparatory School.

John B. Murray '59

If there is any person who meets the qualifications for the Thomas A. Reynolds Award, it is John B. Murray, Class of 1959. A faithful Catholic, devoted husband and father, John and his wife, Ann, are parishioners of St. Mark's Parish in Sea Girt. His life has been one of Christian Service, not only to Seton Hall Prep but to a Habitat for Humanity project in Jersey City.

John began his days at The Prep in September of 1955. Coming from the Vailsburg section of Newark, He was always on the honor roll, he was an excellent student, combining his academics with playing football, basketball and baseball. John was a leader on all of his teams and headed the school as President of his Class of 1959; he was the recipient of the Most Representative Setonian Award at graduation.

John continued his education as a recruit to the football team at the University of Notre Dame where he played end. He later graduated from Georgetown University Law School and began his life-long and successful law practice, remaining today as a partner at the law firm of Connell-Foley in Roseland.

John joined the Prep's initial Board of Trustees in 1987 and in 1994 began serving as Chairman of the Board until the present. He was honored with the Msgr. Thomas G. Fahey Award as Alumnus of the Year in 1994.

John and his fellow trustees successfully separated The Prep from the University in 1985 and are responsible for the school thriving at its new home in West Orange. Along with trustees Tom Farley, Bob Nolan and Frank Walsh, John undertook the massive project of purchasing and developing the 44-acre plot of land and laid out the vision for what we enjoy today at the Kelly Athletic Complex.

Recently, the field house at the KAC was dedicated in John's name and at the ceremony Msgr. Kelly said, "Quite simply we would not be standing here today without John's contributions from day one." John led the 23-year-long marathon in seeing the project completed as the school made it successfully across the finish line.

John is a Prep Man through and through. It is his abiding passion for our school and his steadfast determination to do good for The Prep that have endured all of the challenges and hurdles along the way.

John can still often be heard saying, "There are no problems, just opportunities." This is quite apparent when you look around The Prep because so much of what we have at school–our campus ministry and spiritual life program, our academic and athletic facilities and sound financial status–has been made possible through the time, expertise and the steady direction of John Murray.