

FLORIDACatholic

HONORING
OUR 2024

Graduates



Grant and Truman: a story about two best friends

JEAN GONZALEZ
of the Florida Catholic

FORT PIERCE | Diagnosed with epilepsy at age 9, Grant Alcalde walked across the stage as the first graduate of the John Carroll High School class of 2024, a moment that immediately became a cherished memory.

Not just because he was the first graduate listed alphabetically, and not just because each step marked successes over physical challenges. What made it extra special was he shared the moment with his best friend.

When his name was called, he and all gathered for the commencement heard, "Grant Alcalde and Truman."

Then they saw a young man in a royal blue gown take strides with his service dog and best friend, Truman, also garbed in a royal blue gown. For Grant, both of them going to receive the diploma was more than symbolic.

"I'm smiling so big right now," said the 18-year-old as he recalled the moment. "It truly was a graduation for both of us. He earned that moment after two years and earned walking on that stage. As it was happening, I was thinking about the next chapter of my life. I was just thinking with him by my side, I could do anything. And I feel like we are a team, and with John Carroll's help, we impacted multiple people and flourished as a team."

WHEN IT STARTED

Grant's challenges began in 2015, after a harrowing, mysterious illness that put him in a medically induced coma. Doctors told his parents that he had a rare form of epilepsy that caused as many as 50 seizures a day. The fact this wasn't discovered until then was an "odd situation," his mother, Beth Alcalde, said, because his was a congenital condition he had since birth.

"It is extremely rare that a child could not know. Most kids who have this might not result in a live birth. And if a baby (with this form of epilepsy) is born alive, they would have been always seizing and missing milestones. The fact that he was 9 and already a student was kind of shocking."

At that time, Grant was a student at St. Joseph School in Stuart. He was being treated by doctors in Miami, with surgeries performed at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Fortunately, the seizures were reduced to one or two a month, but as he entered puberty, things changed.

"The seizures got much worse and freshman and sophomore year got really bad. We discovered exercising and my baseball career had triggered a few seizures," Grant said. "Even though I was an all-star player throughout my ca-

reer, I made the courageous choice to drop all sports and transfer to coaching my little brother's baseball team."

The family had also exhausted a level of care in Florida and sought the expertise at NYU Lagone Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. Doctors there currently treat the teen, who has also had surgeries at that hospital in New York City.

"He is on medication and will be on rest of his life," Beth said, adding that after his last surgeries, they explored the use of a trained response dog.

While the family researched what would be the best breed and age of a response dog, an advocate in the field suggested they might already have the best dog candidate in their home.

Truman is a rescue that has been with the family since 2018, when he was a puppy. At the time the Alcaldes thought about using a seizure response dog, Truman was already 4 years old. The advocate called that age a "sweet spot," where the dog has matured as a puppy but is still spry enough not to have the ailments of older dogs. Plus, the dog had already bonded with Grant as a family pet.

For Grant, having Truman go from family pet to response dog was a blessing and a gift.

"Truman became my service dog during my junior year, and him being by my side helps lower my stress and keep me calm during seizures," Grant explained. "I've had so many seizures that I can pretty much detect when they are coming on, so when I am having one, I give Truman a signal. Just knowing that Truman is by my side when they are happening makes it so much easier."

SCHOOL STEPS UP

What is also a blessing and a gift was the response from John Carroll's administration. Beth, who is an alumna, first spoke to then principal, now president of the school, Corey Heroux. The school community was already aware of Grant's needs, as he had suffered seizures at school. So when the family asked about the possibility of Grant bringing Truman as a seizure response dog to school, the administration jumped to action.

Michael Bryk, then vice principal, who will now serve as the Fort Pierce school's principal, recalled how he and Heroux agreed they needed a plan of action to support Grant's needs. The team worked in partnership with the Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Catholic Schools to develop best practices and operating procedures for having a service animal on campus — a first for a Catholic school within the Southeast Florida diocese.

"This was something we wanted



Grant Alcalde is seen with Truman in this 2022 photo, right before Grant's junior year of high school and after Truman's three-month training as a service dog.

to give Grant. As a school community we want to serve every child in the best way possible so they can experience an education at John Carroll," Bryk said. He added that when faculty, staff and school families were told there would be a service animal on campus, everyone was "very gracious and we had no push back."

LEARNING DAY BY DAY

Concerns about whether Truman would bite or make other students uncomfortable were put aside thanks to his extensive professional training. The only hiccup they faced was during the first rallies that involved loud clapping, which got Truman excited. But he soon became acclimated and any reservations faded away.

"It can be hard to understand how important a service animal is until you see it in action," Bryk said. "Truman brings so much comfort to Grant. You can definitely see the value of their companionship. Actually, it's invaluable. Grant's case is emblematic of how important a service dog can be and what that service dog can help his companion accomplish."

Grant said couldn't have been happier with the way John Carroll handled his situation.

"At the beginning it was a bit of a change for Truman and me. But once we got used to it, all the students at John Carroll were so open. We became social icons," Grant said with a laugh.

Beth agreed John Carroll's response was a blessing, but she wasn't surprised by the compassion. She said Grant had a very dif-

PLEASE SEE **GRANT, B10**



Grant Alcalde stands with Truman, his seizure response service dog and best friend, before his high school baccalaureate. During his junior and senior years, the John Carroll High School graduate was able to be on the Fort Pierce campus with Truman. According to the 18-year-old it was appropriate Truman had a cap and gown because it was a graduation they both earned. (COURTESY | JOHN CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL)



In his last graduation of president of John Carroll High School in Fort Pierce, Father Thomas Barrett, right, hands a diploma to Grant Alcalde, who is joined by his seizure response dog and best friend, Truman. The school is the first in the Diocese of Palm Beach to allow a student to have a service animal with them on campus. (COURTESY | JOHN CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL)

Identical twins, distinct personalities, unbreakable bonds

JEAN GONZALEZ
of the Florida Catholic

OCALA | As identical twins and best friends, Caitlyn and Courtney Hisey share almost everything.

But when it came to writing their graduation speeches for the top honors at Trinity Catholic High School in Ocala, the twins kept each other in the dark.

"And it wasn't easy," said Caitlyn, the class of 2024 valedictorian. "There were plenty of times I wanted to get Courtney's opinion, but didn't because we wanted to surprise each other."

Courtney's salutatorian speech came first, and Caitlyn immediately remarked it was wonderful and emotional. Perhaps one of the reasons it was emotional is she talked about their father, Allan Roy Hisey Gauthier, who died of cancer in March 2023.

"I talked about what I went through and how it affected me and how I leaned on the support system of my family and at Trinity, and on God who was my main support through it all," Courtney said. She added that she borrowed a piece of advice offered by the athletic director at an assembly at the beginning of the school year, reminding the students that everyone goes through difficult times.

"It was about not falling into being a victim to your circumstances and rising above those circumstances with your faith in God. After my dad died, I definitely noticed when people were going through something tough and noticed how often hardships happen. I think that experiencing what I had experienced made me more empathetic and I could relate to these people on a closer level and offer them support," Courtney said.

"Courtney's speech tugged at the heart strings," Caitlyn said. "It was really good. She made it very personal with her tone and word choice."

"Yes," Courtney agreed. "It was a little difficult to give the speech. I talked about my dad and how he died. I thanked my mom and dad and Caitlyn. I talked about my family and my Trinity family and the community and looking out into the crowd and seeing them made me emotional as well."

"Courtney and I are a lot alike," Caitlyn added. "But we are definitely different. We both handle things differently. Courtney is more expressive and I'm more reserved. After my father died I would be there to support her, but when doing that was helping both of us."

Caitlyn delivered her valedictorian speech near the end of the commencement. She spoke about her Catholic education (before going to Trinity, both she and Courtney attended Blessed Trinity School in Ocala from preschool)

'We were offered a great education (at Trinity). When you look at the education we received and an education we might have received in a public school, the comparison is insane.'

— Caitlyn Hisey

and why Trinity was so special. A lover of Disney movies, she offered five lessons she learned throughout high school and challenged classmates to use those lessons in the future, while connecting those lessons to Disney quotes.

"OK, so I am a huge Disney fan and Disney has been a part of most of our childhood. And when I was writing out these lessons I thought, 'Oh, this quote would go perfectly here.'"

As Caitlyn said that, Courtney let out a laugh. "Caitlyn is absolutely brilliant and beautiful and she is one of a kind — who falls along the line of introverted and extroverted. She would be happy to stay in and watch Disney Plus."

So after offering some lessons and tying in quotes from Lilo and Stitch, Winnie the Pooh, Mulan, Aladdin and more, Caitlyn wrapped up her speech by congratulating her class, reminding them how special they are, and reminding them to rely on their faith as they excel in the future.

"I had to end speech with school's mantra," Caitlyn said. "During the daily announcements, the announcer said, 'Everything we do is for the' and the student body says, 'the glory of God.' And then he or she said, 'Let Jesus in our hearts,' and we say, 'Forever.'" As she said those mantras, the audience followed the cues to the tee, and Caitlyn said, "that made it feel really special."

Looking at these identical twins' academic and extracurricular schedule, it comes as no surprise that they garnered top honors. The sisters competed in several sports — cross country, flag football, girls soccer and track and field. Academically, they carried a heavy load as well, which included several AP classes — calculus, biology, Spanish, among others.

When asked what advice they would give upcoming seniors, Caitlyn was quick to say, "Start working on your application (to college) because it gets a little overwhelming in the fall with the workload and extracurriculars."

Courtney added that seniors should work on getting their ACT and SAT scores in line. And for all students, she said they should take grades seriously and prioritize



At left, Courtney, left, and Caitlyn Hisey share a hug before their graduation from Trinity High School in Ocala. The identical twins were the class of 2024 salutatorian (Courtney) and valedictorian (Caitlyn). At right, Courtney offers a sister a smile during the graduation. (COURTESY PHOTOS)



Courtney Hisey, left, spends some time with her dog, Oakley, while Caitlyn Hisey, right, spends time with her dog, Milo. The two dogs will join the identical twins when they attend the University of Florida in Gainesville. (COURTESY PHOTOS)

school and their relationship with God.

"For me the senior year was so stressful and I worried about a lot of stuff and over thought about too much stuff," Caitlyn said. "I would really tell them to go to God and trust in him and his plan for them. Be present in the moment, because it flies by very fast."

"Yeah, I recommend that to everyone I talk to," Courtney said. "Going to God and praying definitely eases your mind and helps a lot when you are stressed out and overwhelmed."

Both Courtney and Caitlyn hope to continue taking on challenges as they attend the University of Florida in Gainesville in the fall. Caitlyn plans to major in biochemistry and Courtney wants to pursue nursing.

Asked whether they think experiencing their entire academic

career in a Catholic school setting insulated them from the "outside world," both of the twins disagreed.

"I don't think we've been sheltered," Courtney said. "We are friends with people in other schools, and social media really doesn't allow you to be sheltered."

"And we were offered a great education," Caitlyn added. "When you look at the education we received and an education we might have received in a public school, the comparison is insane."

"And growing up with a Catholic education and being surrounded by God and others who are Catholic; going to Mass twice a week in school and parish, that all built a really good foundation for our faith," Courtney continued.

While in college, they said they planned to join a running club and

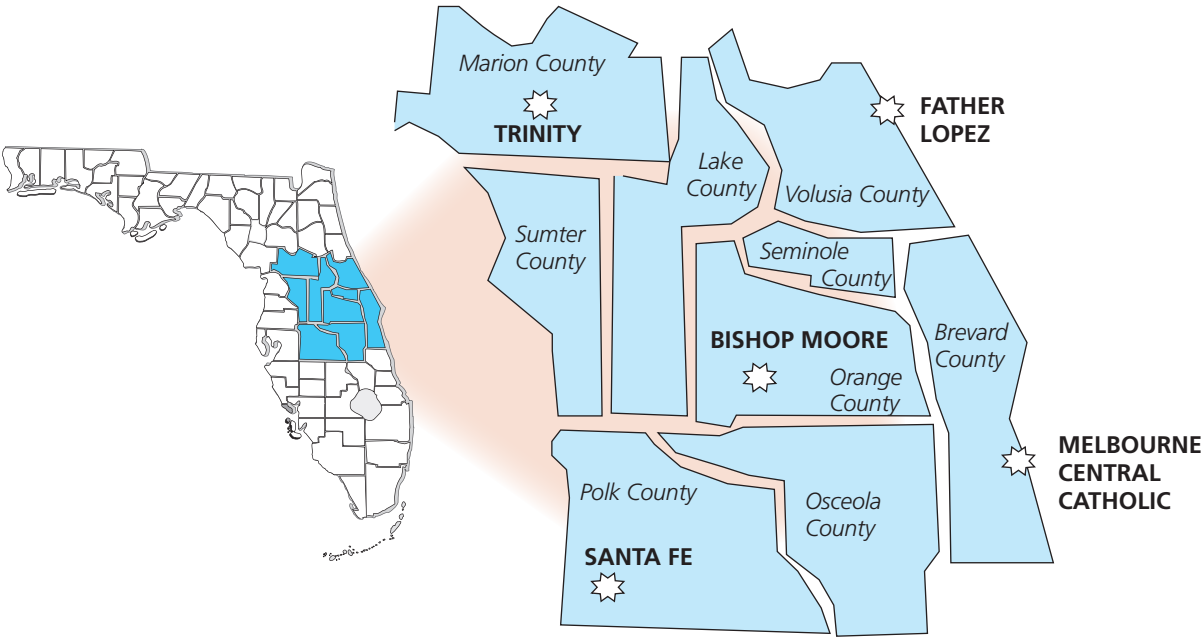
found a gym close to where they will live. They also hope to join the Catholic young adult group popular on campus.

But the most important thing about moving to Gainesville: They will continue to be close to their large family. Along with their mother and their two older brothers, their extended family of seven aunts and uncles all live in and around Ocala. With the twins, the youngest of the siblings gone, mom will have an empty nest. But no worries: Courtney and Caitlyn hope to go to Sunday Mass with their mother.

"And I'll probably Facetime her many times a day, which I already do," Caitlyn said with a laugh.

There are pros and cons to being identical twins. An obvious con is

PLEASE SEE **TWINS**, B10



Orlando Diocese

School listings

- Trinity, Ocala, B8
- Bishop Moore, Orlando, B9-B10
- Melbourne Central Catholic, B11
- Santa Fe, Lakeland, B11
- Father Lopez, Daytona Beach, B12

Trinity High School, Ocala

113 graduates

- Eduardo Alvarez
- Jacob James Arnold
- Jacob Baes
- Kieley Chaye Bateman
- Jayden Alecsander Benejam
- Shayla Ruby Benitez
- Justin Patrick Bianculli
- Antwon Dewayne Blanchard Jr.
- Emily Elizabeth Boring
- Christian Walker Boyd
- Madison Snow Boyd
- Peyton Elizabeth Brennan
- Riley Ardara Brennan
- Samantha Elizabeth Brooks
- George Karmariya Bryant
- Isabelle Marie Campbell
- Avery Ellis Campise
- Samantha Castillo
- Ava Grace Crews

- Cole Elizabeth Crews
- Alexander James Cussins
- Maritonni Dee Lapasa Dagala
- Synia Jael Davenport
- Richard Gavin Neil Davis
- Kendall Elizabeth Dean
- Tchegoun Anthony DeRosa
- Ethan Scot Daniel Dodsworth
- Dominic William Doyle
- Jacob Matthew Dyer
- Ranya Maria El-Jassous
- Seve Jose Fernandez
- Coren George Forrest
- Hollisanna Patricia Gillespie
- Janelle Gonzalez
- Dwayne Kurt Goodrum Jr.
- Aariana Rose Gravel-Holtzclaw
- Renee Lynn Grenier
- Mekai Juriel Griffin
- Hadley Ray Grow

- Celia Marie Hanna-Zelaya
- Evan Stephen Hardy
- Samantha Mary Heil
- Sydney Grace Heil
- Roman Tyler Hentz
- Melanie Herrera
- Yannarith Hidalgo
- Caitlyn Rose Hisey
- Courtney Rose Hisey
- Hayes Alexander Howard
- Jamielee Grace Hudson
- Brooke Iacobaccio
- Dominic Alan Johnson
- Elayna Ann Johnson
- Greycen Alexander Jones
- Emma Brooke Kaylor
- Aidan Daniel Keegan
- Jadyn Taylor Kennedy
- Kristyn Michelle Kennedy
- Sara Elizabeth Kingsley

TOP HONORS

Valedictorian
Caitlyn Hisey

Salutatorian
Courtney Hisey

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Carly Michelle Krueger | Tania Vanessa Romero |
| Nhi Thi Uyen Le | Cristen Joan Ryan |
| James Brian LeFils | Heaven Betty Hope Sanders |
| Jewellius Jaleel Lluberes | Josiah Naed Santiago |
| Alvey Lucas Lozano | Tanner Charles Schuette |
| Joshua Steve Martinez | Olivia Jewel Shirley |
| Cedric Wayne McFadden | Kaelee Mae Smith |
| Alan Charles Means | Jamarkus Antonio Starkes |
| Reese Taylor Meffert | Alexandra Clair Stevens |
| Thomas Anthony Melvin | Nathaniel Lee Stickney |
| Andrew Joseph Meyer | Adrian Frazier Taylor Jr. |
| Brock William Moorman | Hannah Marie Torres |
| Bryan Jose Morales- Ampudia | Matthew Torres |
| Aiden Ryder Morey | Connor Michael Tundis |
| Cote Jason Mulligan Jr. | Owen Gregory Varney |
| Maria Eduarda Nava | Samantha Nicole Villabona Gonzalez |
| Aubrey Lynn Nelson | Anthony Vincent Vizzini |
| Tobias Zachariah O'Brien | Wesley James Warren |
| Rylee Hannah Ostanik | Xavier Levon Washington |
| Angel Acencion Padilla Zendejas | Connor Gary Williams |
| Troy Anthony Patterfritz | Hope Deborah Willis |
| Zachary Lawrence Pozeg | Sally Ann Wood |
| Miguel Antonio Quintana | Matthew Nicholas Wymer |
| Caroline I Repiedad | McKenna Sophie Yates |
| Mariah Nicole Georgie Reyes | Innesa Taylor York |
| Jeremiah Matthew Rhem | Gavin Thomas Youmans |
| Madeline Theresia Rivette | Brooke O'Neal Zullo |

OUR PRAYERS ARE THAT YOUR FUTURES SHINE BRIGHTLY

Class of 2024

FROM THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDACatholic MEDIA

Melbourne Central Catholic High School

92 graduates

- Allysha Kelly Alexandre
- Justin Michael Allen
- William Carlos Almeter
- David Alvarez
- Diego Alvarez
- Monica Jean Arreola-Tolley
- Karisma Lynn Barnes
- Christian Bradshaw Bent
- Ellie Catherine Bonenberger
- Charles Mikas Booth
- Matthew Raymond Breisch
- Danika S. Brotherton
- Arianna Mary Bruno
- Jaylynn R. Byrd
- Zoe Marie Candelaria
- Lucas Francis Carney
- Jamie Mae Carr
- Leah Grace Carraway
- Mark William Carroll
- Alizea Maria Cartagena
- Jane Frances Cichock
- Nicolas Neil Coledan

- Jailyn Marie Como
- Vegas Ray Comstock
- Zoey Marie Cook
- Charlotte Maria Mekdes Cornell
- Rachel Ann Darwood
- Emma Faye Davidson
- Hayden Thomas Deane
- Lolagrace M. DeSantis
- Thomas Do
- Eva Pauline Döking
- Jaden Ajani Duckett
- Ric'Darious Iovonta Farmer
- Sophia Grace Fasanella
- Samuel Robert Felipe
- Lauren Marie Foster
- Javier Adrian Garcia
- Lauren Elizabeth Giannavola
- Alexander Gomez
- Megan Claire Griffith
- Gabriel Jabr Hadid
- Joseph Henry Hamer
- John Derrick Holleran
- Samantha Ann Hudepohl

- Darian Stanley Jean Charles
- Evan Morgan Jellett
- Morgan Nicole Kellner
- Jacob Atencia Koster
- Joshua Rey Kyle
- Cameron Laliberte
- Joshua Paul Lazan
- Zheni Li
- Daniel Luces
- Noah Anthony MacDonald
- Aren Ramsee Marsh
- Christian Jacob Maynard
- Kasen Anthony McKesson
- Isabella Audrey Militano
- Kaleigh Kateri Morris
- Tiana Carla Nasnas
- Mia Carolina Nieves-Polanco
- Kameron Elizabeth Nygaard
- Brian Michael Oesterle
- Kailey Victoria Ojeda
- Chloe Grace O'Neill
- Ethan Dene Patterson
- Israel Pena-Rincon

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Leah Carraway



Salutatorian
Christian Maynard

- Miriah Dolores Picinich
- Barrett Gavin Plymale
- Gage Lucian Plymale
- Brallavan Puharajan
- Ahlana Marie Reyes
- Michael William Rizzo
- James Louis Roberts
- Adam LeCompte Ross
- Annabel Caridad Ross
- Annabelle Scarlett
- Isabella NanceMary Schell
- Mary Lyn Schmidt

- Gregory Luis Schwendeman
- Abigail Mary Shea
- Caden David Simcox
- Patrick Thomas Strain
- Arianna Lynn Teeter
- Jaslynn Marie Thomas
- Robert Victor Trebnik
- Jaime Vargas, III
- Peyton Sean Westmoreland
- Ella Paige Wheatley
- Daniel Alexander Winkelmann
- Sophia Anna-Marie Wright



Father Lopez High School, Daytona

84 graduates

- Reese Nicole Allen
- Anneisa Nykole Andrews
- Laura Jean Ash
- Spencer Michael Beatrice
- Alexis May Bishop
- Wade Garrett Bruce
- Wyatt Daniel Bruce
- Tyler William Callaway
- Bianca Bella Campos
- Dominic Anthony Carmichael
- Jayden Orlando Rivas Centeno
- Jacob Matthew Cerovac
- Emily Caroline Chandler
- Angello David Chromy
- Reinaldo Dryden Cintron Nance
- Aidan James Clyde
- Katherine Rose Corbett
- Jonathan James Cotton
- Landon Brian Scott Dean
- Alexandra Lynn Defeo

- Marilyn Victoria DeWitt
- Isabella Caridad Digon
- Anna Grace Edwards
- Richae Carlaysia Gibson
- Diogo Feijo Gomes
- Manuel Gonzalez-Mellado
- Audrey Kay Greathouse
- Davian Atanasio Hernandez
- Chloe Elisabeth Hoff
- Daniel Jimenez
- Leiry Laura Jimenez
- Joseph Thomas Keelen III
- Krystal Monroe Ketchum
- Nicholas David Kinsey
- Abigail Paige Koppennolle
- Mason Alexander LaBonte
- Martina Lapidote Minin
- Kathy Le
- Peter Thienan Le
- Junheng Lu
- Alexander Benjamin Maiden
- Savannah Anne Marsh

- Sebastian Ivan Martell
- Sadie Rose Martin
- Mollie Marie McGrath
- Catherine Clare McNamara
- Boston James Milligan
- Skylar Stephen Minor
- Nyla Skye Miranda
- Alejandro Xavier Montesdeoca Ponce
- Olivia Ollie Andrea Moore
- Kylie Sage Moylan
- Romin Allen Multari-McKinney
- Noah Benjamin Rossilini Muni
- Daniela Olivar
- Kelcy Lin O'Quinn
- Thalia Jean Perez
- Bryant Emanuel Pico Vera
- Jonathan Theodore Prentice
- Naylea Jolette Ramirez
- Ryan Richard Raszl
- Robert William Patrick Ridgeway
- Logan Matthew Santamarina

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Sadie Rose Martin



Salutatorian
Peter Thienan Le

- Eliana Maria Santiago
- Lana Jo Sheridan
- Lindsey Renee Silvestris
- Sebastian Sobotka
- Talan Ray Spires
- Summer Alexis Stevens
- LeeAnn Lucille Strong
- Abigail Marie Sutherland
- Lech Dominique Sweeney
- Sylvia Nicole Taylor
- Taylor Elizabeth Timko

- Lucas John Tischler
- Sofia Jissel Torres
- Cassandra Cn Tran
- Emily Adeline Valenzano
- Ian Thomas White
- Emma Mae Wilen
- Hannah Linn Wilen
- Jordan Jakari Young
- Erin Elizabeth Yunick
- Greg Xinguan Zboch

Bishop Moore High School, Orlando

327 graduates

Beatrice Alexis Acacio
Antonio Michael Adornetto
Maria Catalina Aguilera Corrales
Noam Aharoni
Albert Ahumada
William Alejandro
Dayanara Angeline Alfaro
Giannah Leylani Algarin
Gwyneth Josefina Allender
Adrian Alberto Alquinta
Valentina Daliz Alvarez
Cassandra Rose Amitrano
Gabriella Clarice Amkhinich
MacKenzie Jean Andrew
Martha Androulakis
Stanly Eliecer Angamarca
Mateo Angel-Gutierrez
Donovan Christian Anouge
Erin Gorion Araya
Clara Isabelle Banet
Isabella Lauren Bannatyne
Roman James Barbieri
Matthew Ryan Barrera
Matthew Michael Barry
Ryder Louis Beato
Jacob Manuel Bejarano
Katsi Maria Bengoa Feliciano
Ireland Jane Black
Kyle Richard Bodwell
Matthew Elijah Boik
Matthew Gabriel Bonilla
Teague Louis Brewer
Finley Faith Briscoe
Aidan Thomas Brooks
Camden James Brunhofer
Elena Marie Buell
Ashleigh Naomi Burt
Samara Nicole Caballero Goyeneche
Cherise-Belle Camacho
John Gabriel Camacho
Justin Anthony Cameron
Vincenzo Joseph Cardillo
Liam Alexander Carter
Sofia Franceschi Castillo
Diane Janelle Celeste
Tatum Barnett Cempella
Luisana Valentina Chacon Zambrano
Terry Mir Chang
Aiden James Chapman

Noah James Cherry
Marceline Clermont
Cameron Michael Codio
Ava Rylie Collins
Peter Francis Collins
Jake Anthony Conti
Maria Paula Correa Pinilla
Natalia Marie Costa
Berta Josete da Costa Canga
Tristan Martin Coupet
Charles Landon Cox
Tayriel A. Crescioni Rosado
Mary Katherine Dadlani
Marc Anthony Dancy
Gabriela Cerqueira De Melo
Emily Nolan Dear
Abigail Grace DeCamillo
Giuliana Fiore DeGusipe
Isabela Diaz
Sara Evelyn Domanski
Christopher David Donald
Maddox Timothy Donovan
Corey Dorce
Shawn Andre Dozier Jr.
Kaylee Grace Dunn
William Bruna Dunn V
Logan Joseph Dusey
Maddox Luke Dziedzic
Daniel James Eggers
Diego Jose Elias
Skylar Mackenzie Ellerbusch
Zoë Madison Ello
Devon Daniel Elmendorf
Natalia Espinosa
Emily Briceno Estevez
Ashley Christine Evans
Dylan Matthew Evans
Camille Elizabeth Fahey
Sophia Valentina Fernandes
Louis Jake Ferris
Sarah Figallo-Acosta
Sofia Figueroa-Loaiza
Elizabeth Nicole Filimon
Peyton Isabella Fischetti
Timothy Owen Flaherty
Preston Riley Flittner
Mikayla Ysabel Flores
Anya Elise Flynn
Katia Angelle Ford
Victoria Bella Franco
Erin Faith Fricker
Jacob Michael Froehlich

Kian Miguel Fullon
Andrew Joseph Furey
Noah Crosswell Furr
Mario Botello Garcia
William Alexander Garcia III
William Malcolm Gavigan
Landon Cole Gibson
Brady Anthony Girard
Isabella Maria Giubilei
Shaye Lily Gluckman
Adrian James Go
Alex Joseph Gonzalez
Hendrix Jesus Gonzalez Calderon
Rylee Joy Goodyear
Liam S. Griffiths
Samantha Kate Grilli
Kiley Eileen Gruber
Dominic Joseph Gum
Luke Aaron Hammons
Hailey Michelle Haug
Cooper William Heagy
Calvin Gray Hencken
Amanda Denisse Hernandez-Cepero
Diego Andres Herrera
Katherine Marie Herrero
Blake Mitchell Hidalgo
Tullian Cam Ho
Ryan Joseph Hogenmiller
Mary Ainsley Holmes
Alejandro Hudtwalcker
Parker Grace Hurley
Therese Marie Ice
Sophia Isabelle Iglesias
Ricky Bernard Isaac
Sophia Noelle Ives
Ava Reem JeBailey
Alyssa Michelle Jimenez
Nayla Sachi Jimenez
Sarah Joachim
Mitzkahelle Greta Joseph
Christina Ange Jules
Jose Andres Katsoulis Sepulveda
Matthew David Kattan
Kayla Lagrosa Kho
Keith Cavanaugh Knapp
Jack Ryan Knisley
August Elizabeth Krauszer
Abigail Katherine Kunz
Ava Elyse Kwiatkowski
Caroline Rose La Morte
Megan Elizabeth La Morte

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Nayla Jimenez



Salutatorian
Charles Stacy



Brooke Elizabeth Lasher
Jordan Nathaniel Latson-Davis
Kelli Lynh Le
Joseph Randy Le
Kiet Vinh Le
Isabella Jaden Leeper
Jaime Ignacio Leizan Gonzalez
Madison Rose Lester
Aidangelly Lezcano
Lauren Elizabeth Liden
Tyler Michael Lindenmuth
Isabel Marie Livermore
London Josiah Lizaire
Javier Alexis López Toledo
Natalia de Los Angeles
Paige Helen Lovely
Anne Catherine Lube
Rushelle Renee Luma
Luke Aaron Francis Maddox
Gabriela Maestre
Natalia Maestre
Briella Fortunato Maiorano
Helen Anneliese March
Valeria Marin
Culen Joseph Marin
Nicolas Marin
Leon Martinez
Meagan Marie Martinez
Jose Juan Martinez
Carmen Lara Matias
James Hewitt McCluskey
Avery Marie McCoy
Cristian Alexander Eugene McElwee
Kort James McLean
Loha Carolina Melton
Jake David Melvin
Xavier Vicente Meregildo
Ava Marie Metzger
Charlet Donna Middeke
Garret Joseph Milhausen

Amelia Kelley Miller
Raelin Miriam Miller
Trinity Grace Miller
Aryk Nadim Miller
Julia Nicole Mitchell
Joseph Angelo Mohay
Spencer David Moler
Miguel Mondragon
Andrew Thomas Monson
Aubrey Darlene Moore
Hollis Katherine Moricle
Masen James Morphew
Daniela Moya Garay
Justin Romeo Muniz
Nolan Blake Munroe
Connor Hampton Murray
Nina Isabella Neal
Alexander Kent Newsome
Angelina Rose Nguyen
Alan Phuong Nguyen
Benjamin Gia Hoa Nguyen
Matthew Gary Nguyen
Jaden Jean Nice
Tyler John Nicholson
Colin Alexander Niemiec
Isabella Renée Nieves
Nina Valeria Noguera
Andrew Christian Novak
Daniel Joseph O'Malley Jr.
Ella Kathryn Oleck
Jesus David Ortega Lobo
Claudia Valeria Ortiz Prieto
Jace David Overturf
Samaya Isabella Paris
Madeline Grace Parks
Emma Jane Patterson
Ashley Nicole Peña
Chanelle Leanne Peralta
Danniella Lorette Perez

PLEASE SEE **MOORE, B7**

MOORE: Bishop Moore High School in Orlando celebrates the 327 graduates of the class of 2023

FROM B6	Hayden Scott Phan	Caro Ramirez	William Luke Raymond	Arianna Marie Soriano
	Vincent Siao Phan	Santiago Ramirez	Aaron Thomas Reabe	Isabella Renee Sorondo
Xavier Luis Perry	Nils Lyno Pierre	Illan Gabriel Ramon-Vazquez	Noelle Ciera Rebeyka	Abby Rose Sorrentino
Tyler Scott Peters	Angel Antonio Ponte-Garofalo	Isabella Nina Ramos	O'Mari Derek Reid	Andrew Ernesto Sorrentino
Maddox Andrew Petty	Ethan Andrew Puterbaugh	Paige Collins Rask	Francesca Lois Reilly	Charles Adam Stacy
Samantha Marie Phan	Gianluca Fernando Quintana	Warren Andrew Rawlings	Jared Emiliano Resendiz	David Harris Stead
			Julio Emmanuel Reyes Duran	Keira Elizabeth Stewart
			Dylan Turner Rivas	Carlee Marie Strollo
			Elliott Rodriguez-Mendoza	Camille Marie Strong
			Trey Jerome Rollen	Chloe Madison Strong
			Sophia Bella Romano	Aidan Kenneth Sturgeon
			Elizabeth Elaine Rosario	Noah Edward Sullivan
			Marissa Mercedes Rosario	Megan Mayfield Sweeney
			Maria Camila Rotz	Ladainian Avont Sweeney
			Marcelo Ruiz de Tezanos	Matthew Evanda Sweet
			Patrick Francis Ryan	Laura Maria Tarazona Alonzo
			Sarah Sicily Sajan	Ronaldo Sahmar Thelusma
			Brandon James Salcedo	Alexandra Michelle Thomson
			Kiefer Ross Salva	Gabriel Bennett Catacutan Tiqui
			Christopher Ricardo Sanchez	Lorenzo Limjoco Tobias
			Jonnah Alejandro Sanchez	David Fernando de la Torre
			Elle Katelyn Santamaria	Jane Joana Touze
			Hannah Marie Santiago Ortega	Cole Robert Uguccioni
			Miguel Angel Santiago-Martinez	Esteban Umana
			Anthony Sanz	Yuvraj Vaswani
			Kamren Isaiah Sawney	David Michael Vazquez
			Michael John Scalzo	Jannia Tajhan Vega
			Emily Janet Schellenberg	Santiago Velasco
			Christian Aiden Schoenbohm	Sophia Torres Velasquez
			Avery James Schwieger	Sofia Nicolle Velt
			Ryan David Scott	Jennifer Rodriguez Victoriano
			Evan Tyler Scruggs	Lauren Isabel Vintilla
			Lea Marie Shank	Ava Marie Viravong
			Sarah Kathryn Shinn	Andrew James Voltolina
			Ava Lett Simonelli	Phillip Vu
			Cara Simons-Tully	Christopher Joseph Wasson
			Sofia Mercedes Simpson	Beatrice Marie Wermuth
			Gabriel Alexander Simpson	Addison Nicole Wilds
			Andrew Dakin Smith	Ethan Anthony Wong
			Jackson Nicklaus Snyder	Kjell Yosy Yu

Bishop Moore Catholic
HIGH SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE CLASS OF 2024

“Catholic education allows me to be part of a community where the people around me strive to be the light of Christ in the world; to live truthfully and with integrity.”

Jake Conti 2024 St. Joseph Award Recipient

3901 Edgewater Drive · Orlando, FL 32804
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FLORIDACatholic
MEDIA



Santa Fe High School, Lakeland

113 graduates

Celina Elayna Abetrani
Giovanna Catherine Adente
Jenevieve Jolie Aguirre
Stefanni Maria Eglantina Alcala Cieri
Marcos George Allaire
Matias Christian Allaire
Hope Ann Barrieault
Emma Katherine Barrios
Jadin Parker Bates
Andrew James Beatrice
Emily Ann Beltran
Damian Santiago Benitez
Julian Alexander Blanco
Simon Robert Bonini
William Richard Boser
Meredith Anne Brenner
Ben Cong Bui
Delia Lee Bumgarner
Alondra Nichol Chamorro Cotto
Avery Judith Cobb
Gabriella Alyssa Corelli
Katie Paige Covitz
Christopher Ethan Crawford
Emily Kim Dang
Watson Pearce Draper
Ashlyn Faith Dreyer

Elizabeth Virginia Duce
Hudson Reed Dykhuizen
Justin Aldridge Eady
Elijah Kirill Elkins
Noah Abraham Englebrecht
Lorelei Rebecca Fairall
Jayden James Fedderly
Ashley Cecelia Fedderly
Madison Hannah Fetherhuff
Iselie Fils-Aime
Charlotte Katherine Follenus
Logan Allen Foltz
Julian Christopher Franzino
Bradyn Frank Fulco
Breckan Joseph Fulco
Mateo Gomez Matarranz
Evan Michael Goodman
Thomas James Gordon
Jack Patrick Griffin
Nicolas James Hardigan
Zack Stevenson Hatch
Elizabeth Abigail Heekin
Sophia Elise Heisey
Conor Scott Herrera
Logan Blaine Hughes
Keegan Allen Hurtt
Zoe Maria Karatzas
Sarah Ann Keshishian

Jacob Raymond Knisley
Connor David Koepfel
Alexander Conrad Larson
Diani Marie Larson Correa
Lucy Kate Lazenby
Audrey Faith Link
Alaina Lisette Magnole
Nicolas Joseph Massaro
Mariah Philomene Masson
Neha Mathew
Kassidy Ann McHenry
Jayden Robert Francis McPherson-Thomas
Yasury Mejia-Trochez
Joseph Robert Monk
Cristina Nicole Montealegre
Olivia Denae Odom
Liam Michael O'Toole
Mary Martina Feliz Panaguiton
Benjamin Parra Quevedo
Sarah Michelle Pawnee
Aaron Paul Pedersen
Kim Thien Pham
Hoa Thi Thu Pham
Arianna Lynn Phillips
Amelie Rose Popoca
Luigi Michael Pugliese
Shanti Maria Rahming
Diego Armando Rodriguez Velez

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Alexander Larson



Salutatorian
Emma Barrios

Araix Romero
Victoria Monica Romero
Marcus Vasily Rondon
Iris Roque
Solinell Nyeska Rosario Laboy
Joseph Arthur Christian Sanchez
Maisy Olivia Schiller
Anne Carol Schroeder
Bryce Austin Seoane
Erhik Edward Oghenerume Sido
Sunny Jay Singh
Katherine Suzanne Skiles
Sean-Patrick Smith
Onix Soto
Danilo Stankovic

Bryan Anthony Tejada
Christopher Jerome Thomas Jr.
Tobiasz Wojciech Tolpa
Landon Nhat Tran
Yu Tu
Christian Isiah Valente
Joe Neill Valentin
Christopher Lee Vargas Jr
Bethzy Vazquez Miranda
Ximena Marisol Veliz Escobar
Julio Cesar Villalobos
Takira Shanae Watson
Daniel Scott Welling
Olivia Michelle Wiggins
Mikolaj Aleksander Woroch
Antonio Chappelle Wright




Congratulations

Class of 2024




FLORIDACatholic
MEDIA



Saint Andrew
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Building Faith, Hearts and Minds

Congratulations and Blessings
to our 2024 graduates!

From all at
St. Andrew Catholic
school and parish.

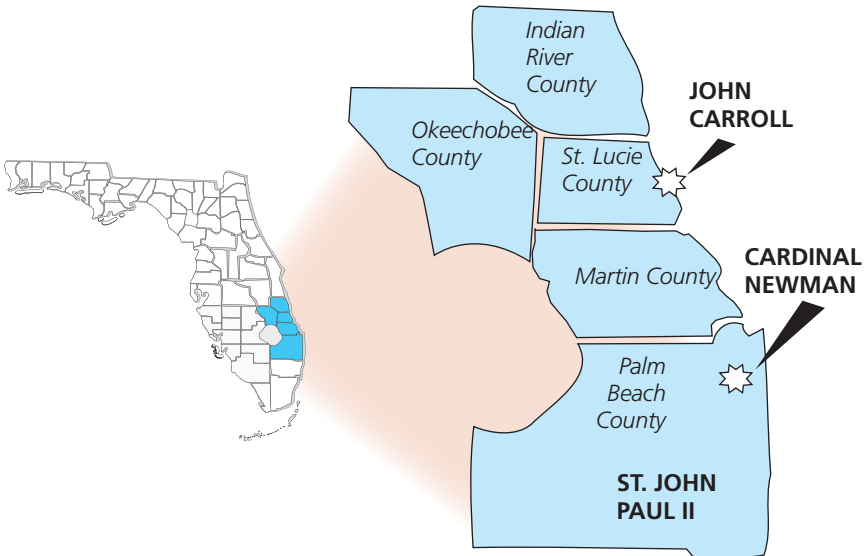


1509 SE 27th Street | Cape Coral, FL | (239) 772-3922 | www.standrewcs.org

Palm Beach Diocese

School listings

- Cardinal Newman, West Palm Beach, B13
- St. John Paul II Academy, Boca Raton, B14
- John Carroll, Fort Pierce, B15



Cardinal Newman High School, West Palm Beach

133 graduates

Jake Acosta

Natalie Acosta

Claudgena Alcime

Siam Alisetti

Vincent Amato

Jaydin Archer

Daniel Armas

Jake Barnwell

Graciela Barr

Mackenzie Bickel

Naima Bien-Aime

Daniella Birmelin

Rebekah Brimlow

Lillian Broglio

Quinn Brown

Lily Budke

Patrick Burford-Marzan

Minooka Bureau

Devon Byrd

Maria Cadena

Matthew Cadet

Michaela Chisholm

Thomas Braden Chisholm

Seneca Cicerchia

Elizabeth Clementes-Ocana

Sophia Colangelo

Gage Cooper

Miguelangel Corredor

Jermaine Council Jr.

Gianna DeSanti

Dallas DeSouza

Jeremy Diaz-Berrios

Christopher Dougherty

Joseph Duran

Catherine Eldred

Derek Estefont

Reed Evard

Irvine Exantus

Iveline Exantus

Lucas Falcone

Alysha Fenelus

Vanessa Fisher

Zachary Fragione

Alexandra Frasca

Tomaso Fregonese

Matthew Freites

Brianna Garcia

Arley Gay

Nathaniel David Gonzales

Genesis Gonzalez

Alejandro Grande

Nicolas Grande

Dean Greco

Robert Haines II

Caroline Hart

Jackson Hayes

Jacob Heidelbauer

Daniel Hernandez

Jason Hernandez

Samuel Hernandez

Le Na Hoang

Linley Hodas

Grant Hugus

Daylen Jackson

Jason Jerome

John Johnston

Ava Kennedy

Ricky Knight III

Leah Krawczuk

Anna Leavitt

Venicia Lebrun

Kendall Lee

Ta'Narie Locust

Matthew Mahoney

Ashley Maradiaga

Benavides Shelby Martinez

Cameron Marvin

Makenzie Mason

Lael Maxi

Aiden McCurry

Sebastian Melhado

Parker Meranda

Alessia Messina

Gabriela Miller

Daniele Mischke

Taylor Montgomery

Maria Morales-Martinez

Brandon Murphy

Kelsey Noradin

Michael O'Bryan

Alexis Oms

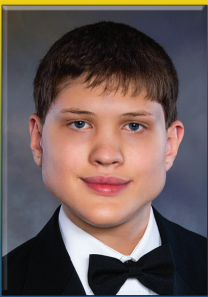
Max Paggetti

Vivianne Parks

Sebastian Peluso

Rafael Perez-Rampersad

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Christopher
Dougherty



Salutatorian
Nathaniel David
Gonzales



Sabino Perez-Vincente

Julia Peterson

Kendall Petti

Emma Pfaffenberger

Joshlin Philostin

Kyle Pientka

Solgiana Pierre-Gilles

Ella Pinsky

Emily Puglise

Mahak Ramani

Cade Randolph

Mariela Rizk

Milda Romanello

Matthew Salomon

Justin Sanchez

Hans Schaub

Liana Segarra-Ondina

Andrew Shiell

Celine Singh

Lauren Slater

James Smeenge

Layne Steele

Jade Stimphil

Carsan Strolla

Lauren Taksey

Nehelee Theliard

Layla Thomas

Andra Tylke

Andrew Vargas

Kayla Vernie

John Vollaro

Olivia Wagner

Mary Frances Wallmeyer

Mary Amelia Walsh

Luke Warnock

James White

Janelle Williams

Noah Zabel

John Carroll High School, Fort Pierce

80 graduates	Leilany Gonzalez	Gabriella Lombardi
Grant Alcalde	Melany Gonzalez	Sophia Loreto
Anya Annone	Samuel Gundry	James Luihn
Sofia Bender	Emily Hall	Jaden Mackey
John Blackwell	Shea Hartnett	Ethan McBride
Ayden Blair	Najai Hazelton	Mia McIntosh
Alexandria Bradley	Gabriela Herrera	Jacqueline Milles
Morgan Brennan	Allie Hogan	Ayonna Mitchell
Riley Butterfield	Mason Hooker	Alexis Moore
Annabella Casares	Juan Pablo Inclan	Alexis Nava
Robert Cheyne	Otis Ingram	Anali Nduku
Jordan Cross	Michael Jacquin Jr.	Alyson Oates
Irelynd Dempsey	Paola Jean Simon	Damian Orr
Ronnie Edmond	Collin Jefferson	Diana Perez
Jacob Ernsberger	Caden Johnson	Michelle Perocho
Angel Esquivel	Kaiden Jones	Noeka Pinchinat
Ava Fell	Chesney Kastrinos	Jesse Priest
Mieca-Eeja Ferguson	Paige Lalicon	Andrew Prouty
Esabella Fretwell	Shaina Lee	John Raneri
Nicolas Garcia Bahamonde	Triston Lemons	Ava Recco
Leila Gonzalez	Danielle Levesque	Nicholas Reinke

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Arielle Rosenberg



Salutatorian
Charles Smith



Breyanna Robinson

Adriana Rojas

Arielle Rosenberg

Drew Schilling

Emilio Segovia-Palacios

Cole Sintes

Marina Skowron

Charles Smith

Mustapha Strachan

Gavin Sucharski

Zack Theberge

Braxton Thomas

Melissa Thomas

Thalia Tibert

Kaden Torres

Anthony Vercillo

Brody Verdegem

Alexander Workman

TWINS

FROM B3

when people don't go beyond looks to see them as distinct people with distinct personalities. For example, Caitlyn is an "amazing cook and baker," and Courtney is the organized "clean freak."

"Caitlyn is very driven in everything she does and every goal she has," Courtney said. "She always meets her goals to the best of her ability. If she falls, she always tries again. She is a really good friend, very empathetic and it's easy to talk to her. You never feel judged by her."

After saying "Ah thank you," Caitlyn shared how her dad had a nickname for Courtney — Spanky, as in the feisty leader of the Little Rascals.

"You know with twins everything it's always about competition. People always compare us. They might say, 'Caitlyn is so smart, and Courtney is the faster one,'" Caitlyn said. "But Courtney is definitely very smart. She is very outgoing and such an entertaining person. She is so effervescent and bubbly and very funny. I'm thankful to have her because she always wants to do what I want to do. It's nice to have someone who is so similar. But I wish I was as funny as her." ■

GRANT

FROM B2

ficult time physically during his freshman and sophomore years. His seizures were not just a disruption of his life, but that of other students as well.

"There were times he had to be physically lifted out of class. That can be difficult for other students to witness," Beth said. "The school was always sympathetic but also wanted to help find whatever solutions could be done."

Having a trained seizure response dog was good for everyone — Grant and the school as a whole. Beth said she was glad she started the conversation with administration, and humbled the conversation was so well received.

"It just shows the love and empathy and the approachability that I've come to experience in a Catholic school," she said. "By allowing Grant to bring Truman to school, it is one more way the school shows that this is a tolerant place, and not a one-size-fits-all place. I hope Grant's story might touch someone's heart if they assumed it wouldn't be a place of compassion. I hope it might help them take a courageous step to say, 'Can you help me.'"

Grant and Truman's routine at the school began about 15 to 20 minutes before school started. When they got to homeroom, Tru-

man — a 45 pound pointer lab mix — would get on his bed that resided there. Then as class started, Truman sat next to Grant as he sat at his desk and worked. During lunchtime, Grant could walk Truman.

"I feel like sometimes having Truman with me is like having that extra part of my personality and life that people can notice. It gives me an upper hand to meeting other people, and I'm grateful for that," Grant said. "We recently got back from a trip, and it was overseas so he couldn't go. But when we picked him up at the clinic where he was staying, he had this great big smile when he saw me. It made me so happy. I can sense that he knows I am there for him, and he is there for me. We have this unbreakable bond."

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

As for the future, both Grant and Truman are ready for their new adventure — this time in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, at Dickinson College.

"Having epilepsy I feel like I've been called to study neuroscience or at least influence that field," Grant said. "We've gone to Carlisle multiple times, and I'm actually so lucky that my parents bought a small house close to the campus. On the weekends, I can go there with Truman so he can play in a yard. And my mom might come up for a week once a month just to see how the transition is going. It is just another accommodation. I'm really excited."

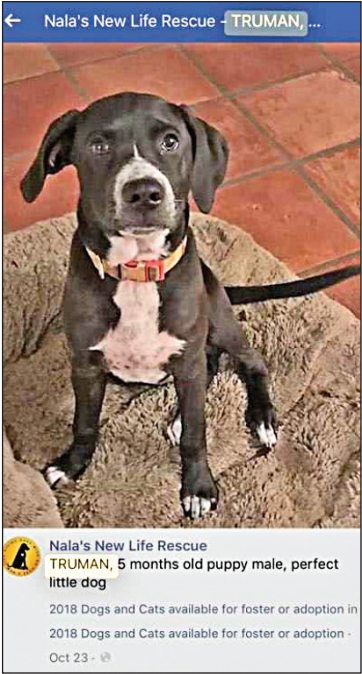
Developing accommodations are familiar ways the family deals with Grant's epilepsy. Beth said when things were at their worst, the family couldn't even envision Grant living independently or going away to college. Now that the opportunity is there, the family wants to seize it, but not without realistic accommodations.

"We have tried to have Grant not to be in a bubble, but he has not had the independence of another 18-year-old. We see the obvious social differences he faces, and the reality of him being sheltered," she said. "He has been clear he wants to be on his own. And early on we realized that since we moved medical care to New York, we knew he would be in that area so we could get on a train and get to the medical team when necessary."

She added the family has always leaned on the side of optimism and faith.

"Parents of similar aged kids have asked me, 'How can you send him so far from home?' But we are trying to think about what is the likely healthy environment for Grant and it might not be in Florida," Beth said. "We know that we have to think outside the box with him."

She added that she, her husband, and Grant's older sister, a student at the University of Georgia, will be spending time at the house in Pennsylvania to keep an eye on Grant. While he will not be as "untethered" as a traditional student might be, the family didn't want to deny



This is the first photo of Truman when he was adopted as a rescue by the Alcalde family. Grant still keeps this photo on his phone. (COURTESY)

his wishes to pursue independence with Truman at his side.

"We try to plan for the best possible chance of success, but it's OK if something changes. And that doesn't mean he has failed, it just means the picture of a healthy environment might have to change. This is not a binary success/failure enterprise," Beth said. "We feel this is the safest way. We don't know what the future holds, but we give grace to the unknown." ■

St. John Paul II Academy, Boca Raton

123 graduates

Alyssa Agramonte

Danielle Almeida

Danilo Asbell

Faith Barta

Nicholas Bellando

Carl Bien-Aime

Mia Blair

Lauren Brinkman

Benjamin Brooks

Karl Chery

Milana Clidy

Sienna Cohen

Carlos Mateo Conde

Nicholas Congero

Timothy Connolly

Andrew Craig

Kevin Crowe

Maria Eduarda De Oliveira

Pedro De Paula

Angelo DeMaria

Matia Derojas

Robert Dexter

Charlotte Donelan

Pierce Dono

William DuBois

Avery Duffy

Emilio Echevarria

Lilian Ercolano

Celeste Espinoza

Juan Espinoza

Anastasia Estilus

Matthew Evans

Michael Evans

Gina Falter

Maria Ferer

Caden Flaherty

Mia Fortugno

Molly Gentile

Chaya George

Hannah Girum

Maya Green

Alexander Grieco

Carlo Guasch

Julianna Guthneck

Audra Hankey

Tyler Hanlon

Valeria Hernandez

Dara Hession

Mason Hunt

Ava Jancura

Valentina Jedlicka

Peter Johnson

Rolph Joseph

Luke Kantarjian

Tyler Kaus

William Keller

Bevin Kubach

Anthony Lattero

Luke Lehmann

Laila Lena

Casey Lightbourn

Sarah-Kent Longley

Lily Lopez

David Lord

Camryn Lucas

Jay MacLaren

Giuliana Mallano

Kayla Mansoir

Ava Marra

Juan Marzo

Brianna Mawhinney

Patrick Mazzamaro

Graham McCleneghen

Shayla McFarlane

Brooke McGrath

Morgan McMeekin

Alberto Medina

Jeremy Meehan

Charles Miller

Peyton Miller

Margaret Murrison

Cameron Nealy

Isabella Nelson

Susan Newstreet

Benjamin Nguyen

Kaelyn Nitkowski

Ruari O'Connor

Tessa O'Neal

Vittoria Pacecca

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Maria Ferer



Salutatorian
Maximus Tirado

Mariana Pagan

Maryann Passanisi

Caiden Paterson

William Pearce

Kevin Petrone

Costas Petrou

George Petrou

Madison Pettipas

Gianna Polizzi

Sofia Polizzi

Justin Pope

Bella Powell

John Press

Emma Reilly

Sophia Rex

Jackson Roberts

Nicole Rodriguez

Gabriel Ruiz

Christopher Ryan

Marc Said

Corina Sandoval Octavio

Antonio Scavazzon

Angelina Segal

Brayden Smith

Tiffany Strelitz

Ava Thomas

Sebastian Thomas

Maximus Tirado

Molly Trefts

Casey Trotter

Gianna Vacha

Nicolas Zabala

Maria Zambrone

Nicholas Zidziunas

'Resilient generation': Celebrating the class of 2024

GREG ERLANDSON
OSV News

It is always hard to predict how a generation is going to be judged by history. When my dad graduated in 1939, did anyone see that his would be the Greatest Generation? Yet perhaps the stress and pressure of the Great Depression and the nation's response to that challenge helped forge the courage that was to come.

I am going to be more than a little interested to see how the graduating class of 2024 turns out, but in my mind, theirs may be our Resilient Generation.

It is easy to forget what 2020 and 2021 were like. We have lost 1.2 million Americans to this disease (so far), with the majority dying in those first two years. It's almost three times the number that died in World War II when the Greatest Generation made its reputation.

Of course, it was the Greatest Generation that paid the highest price in our fight with the pan-

demic as well. The elderly, particularly those in nursing homes, were hard hit. We may have forgotten the refrigerated trucks where bodies were stacked because morgues were overflowing, but those families who lost loved ones during these years have not. And in many of those families were the students who entered high school in 2020.

These students had to adapt to a new way of doing school. At the beginning, public gatherings were taboo as we struggled to find out what would keep us safe. Classrooms were seen as potentially dangerous. Remote learning and Zoom classes, then-hybrid learning, were substituted for the normal educational experience. Incoming students were often strangers to their classmates for at least the first year.

I had the rare honor to speak at one commencement ceremony for the University of St. Francis, a small liberal arts school in Fort Wayne, Ind.

I didn't talk to them about the

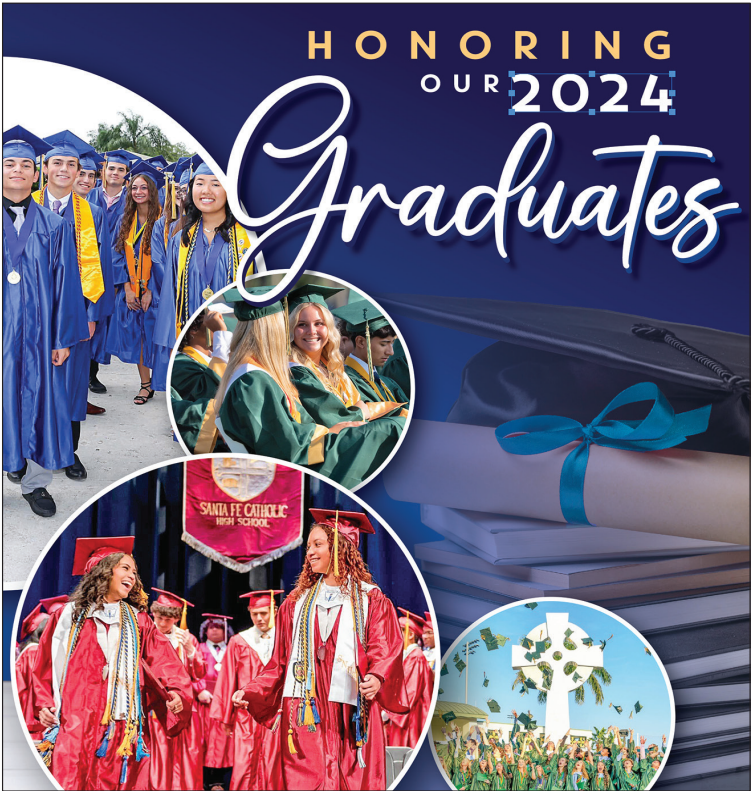
state of the church or the role of women or the proper liturgy they should attend.

My advice was simple: Care for others. Be grateful for what they have. Never stop learning.

This generation seated in cap and gown before me has experienced so much stress and anxiety, and I assured them that they don't have to have everything figured out as soon as they graduate.

I believe the Covid pandemic will be the defining event of their generation, I told them. What I did not want them to forget is that they rose to the challenge. They were not deterred. They were resilient. And their resilience and their determination are what our country needs right now and in the years ahead.

If there are any marching orders I think they need, it would simply be: Care for the family you have and the family you may one day have. Care for the weakest and most defenseless, the youngest and the oldest. Be grateful. Be resilient. ■

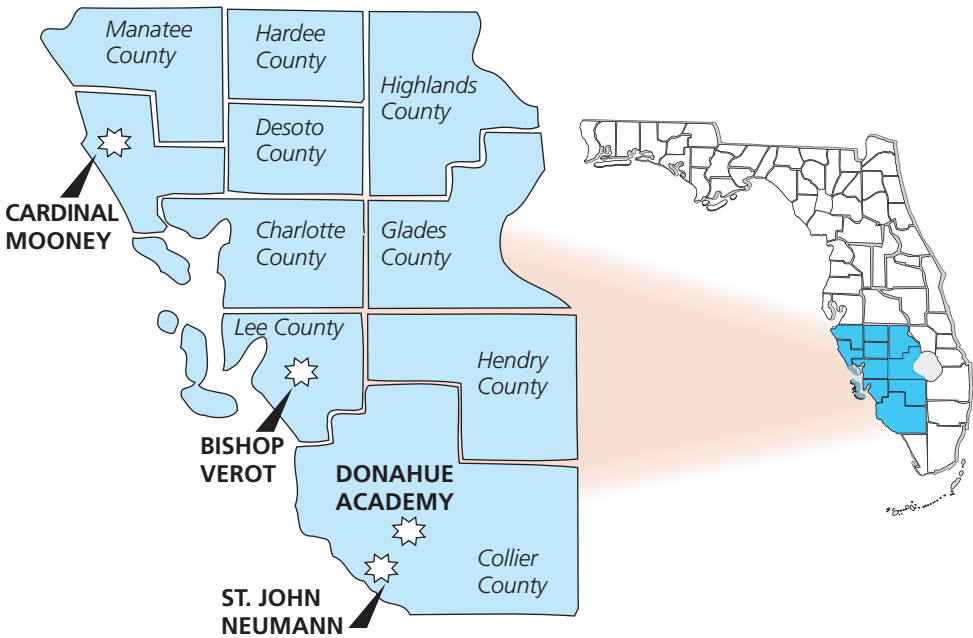


ON THE COVER: From top, a glimpse of grads from John Carroll High School in Fort Pierce; identical twins Courtney and Caitlyn Hisey of Trinity Catholic High School in Ocala; two graduates of Santa Fe High School in Lakeland (FARMORE PHOTOGRAPHY); and the graduating class of 2024 of St. John Neumann High School in Naples.

Venice Diocese

School listings

- Bishop Verot, Fort Myers, B3-B4
- Cardinal Mooney, Sarasota, B5
- Donahue Academy of Ave Maria, B5
- St. John Neumann, Naples, B6



TOP 16 GRADUATES WHO ACHIEVED SUMMA CUM LAUDE HIGHEST HONORS



Taylor
Brindley



Ava
Byrd



Curtis
Couillard



Molly
DaSilva



Carter
Davis



Patrick
Dendis



Bridget
Horlbeck



Ava
Irion



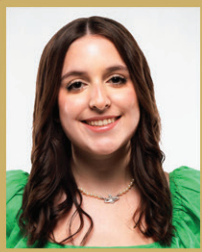
Ava
Lewis



Aliza
Litvak



Mara
Lodwick



Daniela
Luna



McKinley
Parker



Joseph
Stross



Lindsey
Walsh



Stephen
Zell

Bishop Verot High School, Fort Myers

182 graduates

- Diana Akhmetova
- Sebastian Alconero
- Lawson Robert Allen
- Ava Lauren Aloia
- Marckovsky Ambroise
- Eric M. Avin
- Trissa Evelyn Babcock
- Shea Barbato
- Sara Barrise
- Caylee Nichole Baschieri
- Jason A. Bello
- Peyton Nicholas Bender
- Joseph Alexander Benitez
- Madison Delaney Bennett

- Lily Catherine Bobin
- Chase Thomas Boddison
- Brooke Martina Brazley
- Taylor Claire Brindley
- Tyler James Bromwell
- Liam Patrick Brophy
- Chloe Rose Brown
- Isabelle Buhain
- Zanah Burbar
- Gianna Julia Busa
- Ava Elizabeth Byrd
- Kaily A. Calderon
- Bennett Luis Calvo
- Adyn Marie Cassell
- Savannah Lynn Chase

- Caycie Renee Chitwood
- Jamilah Clement
- Lucas Mitchell Collier
- Kayla Anne Collins
- Nicholas Joseph Constantino
- Taylor Rhonda Copeland
- Jacob Austin Corr
- Curtis Reid Couillard
- Olivia Alexandra Cross Overton
- Alexis Marie Crowe
- Kaylei Thu Cunniff
- Carly Ann Curiano
- Molly Angelina DaSilva
- Carter George Davis
- Kaleb Alexander Davis

- Jeremiah Jaki Dean
- Patrick Dendis
- Declan Derba
- Francesca Patricia Margherita Donalisio
- Ava Diana Dusold
- Kylie Dutton
- Logan Lawrence Edwards
- Naissa Elmanite Rose Esperance
- Justin Nicholas Evers
- Brayden Fairchild
- Brett Allen Flock
- Luke E. Ford
- Morgan Wynne Franklin
- Dashiell Fu

- Ryan Ashton Gadson
- Michael Vincent Gaeta
- Brandon Reid Gebauer
- Taylor Greenwood
- Leanora Grace Gusmano
- Kerrigan Grace Habing
- Alyssa Sandell Hansen
- Taylor Suzanne Hedge
- Jack Helgemo
- Ralph Robert Hendry
- Colin Samuel Hill
- Jasmine Ann Hoffman
- Bridget Anne Horlbeck
- Cael Matson Horton

PLEASE SEE VEROT, B14

St. John Neumann High School, Naples

74 graduates

Nicholas Aladics
Kaiya Arilli
Gabrielle Armentano
Megan Ayan
Catherine Baier
Joseph Bergsma
Beata Blood
Gabrielle Bobzien
Wylder Brown
Isabella Camina
Mason Ceccarelli
Virginia Chachere
Alessio Cirino
Tatum Costantini
Decker Crosby
Mariella De Simone
Adriana DePaolis
Alicia Eichelbaum-Perez
Alex Enos

Diana Estime
Kevens Faustin
John Fusco
William Gaston III
Victoire Gilloteaux
Ellie Gordley
Parker Gregory
Carlos Gutierrez Lopera
Melanie Hamann
Lauren Hanypsiak
Blake Holbrook
Trevor Holloway
Mary Alice Hussey
Sloane Janopoulos
Adrian Jerez
Jeremiah Joseph
Patricia Joseph
Kevin Joyce
Alexander Kapish
Kaleigh Kouloheras

Alexander Kuenzle
Gavin Lind
Patrick Logue
Christopher Lora
Hunter Lund
Thomas Lund
Michael Maradona
Jake Marks, Jake
Mitchell Marlowe
Sydney Martin
Daniel Mayor
Sophia McCartney
Owen Mitchell
Zachary Molina
Dylan Mullan
Audrey Muller
Jason Neal
Trevor Nikolis
Andrew Nuttle
Benjamin O'Brien

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Alessio Cirino



Salutatorian
Tatum Costantini

Owen O'Keefe
Randolph Olfus
Jacob Perez
Luvinson Pierre
Clark Purdom
Hannah Ramundo
Nicklaus Sakowski
Karola Scancellia

Callahan Seeber
Connor Shea
Wyatt Tesar
Cardin Trinh
Thomas Van Wart
Sophia Van Wyk
Ryder Woodson



VEROT: Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers celebrates the 182 graduates of the class of 2023

FROM B13

Alexandra Kate Howerton
Ashley McKenzie Humann
Sophia Mariana Iglesias
Ava Shea Irion
Jack E. Janeway
Joseph Jesse
Kevin Alexander Johns
Delayna Frances Jones
Jaiden Lamar Jones
Grant Theodore Juda
Jessica Kania
Piper Martine Kelleher
Carlyn Rose Kelly
Alex Ryan Kidd
Joshua Knight
Britney Marie Kreitzer
Olivia Kushner
Anthony LaRosa
David Latell
Timothy J. Lawson
Lillie Anne Layne-Grauer
Shelby Ann Lee
Ava Marie Lewis

Thomas Michael Lilly
Aliza Louise Litvak
Mara S. Lodwick
Amelia Grace Loninger
Daniela Luna
Savannah Shae Lynch
Jackson Cole Mahaney
Sofia Corinne Maitz
Dean David Mancino
Maddox Lee Manzanares
Kenna Martinez
Dominic Anthony Wade Maxwell
Shane Patrick McCarty
Charles Bayne Gerald McGown
Jordan Nikole Mikolajski
Erin Grace Mitchell
Matthew Derick Moreno
Jacob Nicholas Morrisette
Emily Gallagher Mueller
Lillian Elizabeth Murnane
Gabriel Alexander Negrich
Elly L. Newman
Milla B. Newmark
Edward James Nolan

Broderick Paul Norris
Daniel McGrath O'Hara
Daniel Douglas Orr
Renato A. Pantoja-Malaga
McKinley Adelaide Parker
Sylah Thayer Parsons
Thomas James Passanisi
Greg Branson Pearce
Marissa Joy Peck
Analia Louise Perry
Sophia Valentina Piña
Andrew Joseph Pino
Madeline Grace Podgorny
Ella Anne McKenzie Portu
Payton James Printz
Emily Reese Puchalski
Alexandra Carolina Quintana
Charles Joseph Rafacz
Malachi W. Rafacz
Vincent Paul Raphael
Alexa Rose Reichard
Paul William Reilly
Nicholas William Richmond
Brady Alexander Rockwell

Owen Kelly Rodriguez
Renee Margaret Rodriguez
Leroy Rudolph Roker III
Dominyka Aleksia Romero
Sofia Isabella Santiago
Jaida Elizabeth Schwartz
Julianne Eve Schwartz
Delaney LaCoe Shovlin
Maddix Simpson
Madeline Alexandra Smith
Margaret Jane Smith
Nathan Smith
Marisa Estelle Stambaugh
Joseph Lee Stross
Kendall Sullivan
Nathan Reid Swartz
Ava Christina Tedesco
Connor David Thayer
Cadence Elizabeth Timm
Ava Catherine Torok
Trey Austin Toscano
Samantha Kateri Traiger
Felipe Esteban Trelles
Matthew James Turner



Parker William Turner
Zoe Ivana Raquelle Vadas
Gabriela Michelle Vasquez
Andrew Manh Vu
Lia Grace Wade
Desirae Renee Wallace
Lindsey Marie Walsh
Charles F. Watts
John-Paul Weitlauf
Lydia Hansen Whalen
Stephen N. Wheeler
Kendell Kate Wherry
Aidan Nicholas Wuttke
Stephen David Zell
David Matthew Zeszutek



Congratulations 8th grade graduates

May He give you the desire of your **HEART**
and make all your plans **SUCCEED.**

Psalms 20:4

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Donahue Academy of Ave Maria Parish, Ave Maria

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Mary Fairchild

Salutatorian
Matthew Scheck

- 32 graduates
- Joseph Adames
 - Jeison Batista
 - Erling Berg
 - Jacob DeBone
 - Daniela Escobar
 - Mary Fairchild
 - Alexander Franco
 - Benjamin Freeze
 - Elena Gawron
 - Jacob Gordon

- Vivianna Gray
- Elizabeth Guernsey
- Mary Halisky
- Stephen Hart
- Katy Hernandez
- Valerie Hernandez
- Dominic Jahnke
- Teresa Klucik
- Ana Macken
- Aidan Minter
- Maria Paula Moran-Azcarraga

- Patrick Patterson
- Katherine Perona
- Angelina Puthumana
- Matthew Scheck
- Rosaleen Scully
- Carson Shaw
- Isabela Snyder
- Josephina Spengler
- Charlotte Taddei
- John Paul Velasco
- Dominic Williams



Cardinal Mooney High School, Sarasota

- 153 graduates
- Jack Adamczyk
 - Denny Aguilera
 - Theodore Airey
 - Sage Allison
 - Adrian Anoshiravani
 - Francesca Antonio
 - John Antonucci
 - Annabella Augustine
 - Ava Badala
 - Taylor Balot
 - Ashley Bane
 - Carson Beach
 - Dante Benevento
 - Elizabeth Bepko
 - Darling Bergstrom
 - Shelby Bernstein
 - Jacob Brown
 - Nicholas Bryan
 - Lauren Burd
 - Jon Callahan
 - Kate Campion
 - Bobby Cantrell
 - Kathleen Carro
 - Jordan Carter
 - Zeshon Casimir
 - Rafael Castro
 - Pedro Cava
 - Kayla Coddington
 - Chad Conlin
 - Chase Conlin
 - Morgan Costallos
 - Ethan Dapper
 - Addison Dempsey
 - Mario Dentici

- Victoria DeVooght
- Farid Dib
- Christian DiGioia
- Natalie Donaldson
- Keira Donovan
- Joseph Dowell
- Madison Duncan
- Eva Dyer
- Chase Edens
- Gabrielle Fisher
- Brianna Folkers
- Brody Folkers
- Julia Foy
- Alexandra Frank
- James Frankauski
- Leah Garner
- Alyssa Ghanayem
- Kaitlyn Giglio
- Tanner Gilliland
- Daniel Gillson
- Joseph Gontis
- Catalina Grieco
- Roniel Hamilton
- Cameron Hamley
- Alana Handloser
- Matthew Harriman
- Connor Heald
- Helena Hebda
- Lilyanne Henderson
- Broc Hudson
- John Hutchens
- Ryan Jakubowicz
- Madelyn Jessup
- Carter Julia
- Adrian Kaiser-Andrade

- Michael Kipley
- Lily Klemeyer
- Christian Kline
- Samantha Kotasek
- Benjamin Kruse
- Lindsay Kuo
- Alexander Lamb
- Elizabeth Lambert
- Lily LaMorey
- George Leibold
- Annalise Love
- Olivia Love
- Tanner Luria
- Caitlin Lynch
- William MacKinnon
- Violet Marx
- Isabel McCloskey
- Gage McGregor
- Harrison Melby
- Sawyer Michel
- Jonathon Middleton
- Alexander Mitten
- Ethan Moore
- Taylor Morris
- Rhett Morton
- Talan Murphy
- Alexandra Mussey
- Molly Najmy
- Kevin O'Donoghue
- Gracie Oldham
- Cameron Phayre
- Joseph Pizzurro
- Alaina Prima
- Hailey Renner
- Harold Reyes
- James Rieff

TOP HONORS



Valedictorian
Lauren Burd

Salutatorian
Tyler Ruben

- Gia Rizzo
- Drew Roberts
- Gabriella Roberts
- Samuel Romine
- Brianne Roux
- James Rowan
- Tyler Ruben
- Elizabeth Runnels
- Randal Salser
- Bryce Schaeffer
- Nino Schuetz
- Joseph Seifert
- Connor Semeraro
- Hunter Sheffield
- Mason Sheffield
- Izabella Shull
- Emily Simmons
- Joseph Smillie
- Giordana Spagnolo
- Nicholas Sparma
- Marina Squillace
- Abigail Staas
- Reme Stainton
- Courtney Stutzman

- Ryan Sugg
- Cora Thayer
- Charlotte Thompson
- Gina Toter
- Peter Toter
- Santino Trina
- Kennedy Trompler
- John Twilley
- Thomas Tyler
- Yerovi Valdes Alfonso
- Michael Valentino
- Lillian VanderPol
- Riley Vavra
- Lucia Via-Reque
- Lukas Wahlstrom
- Grace Walker
- Ruby Walker
- Lorenzo Walls
- Emerson Warthling
- Carter Westendorf
- Sarah White
- Jacob Williams
- Vincent Wren
- Giovanni Zanon



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!



Congratulations to our Saint Ann Catholic School 8th grade graduates!

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Congratulations!

Orlando Catholic Schools
Classes of

2024

Your hard work and faith have brought you to this incredible milestone. As you step into the future, embrace every opportunity with confidence and compassion. We are proud of you and excited for all the great things you will achieve.

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!!

