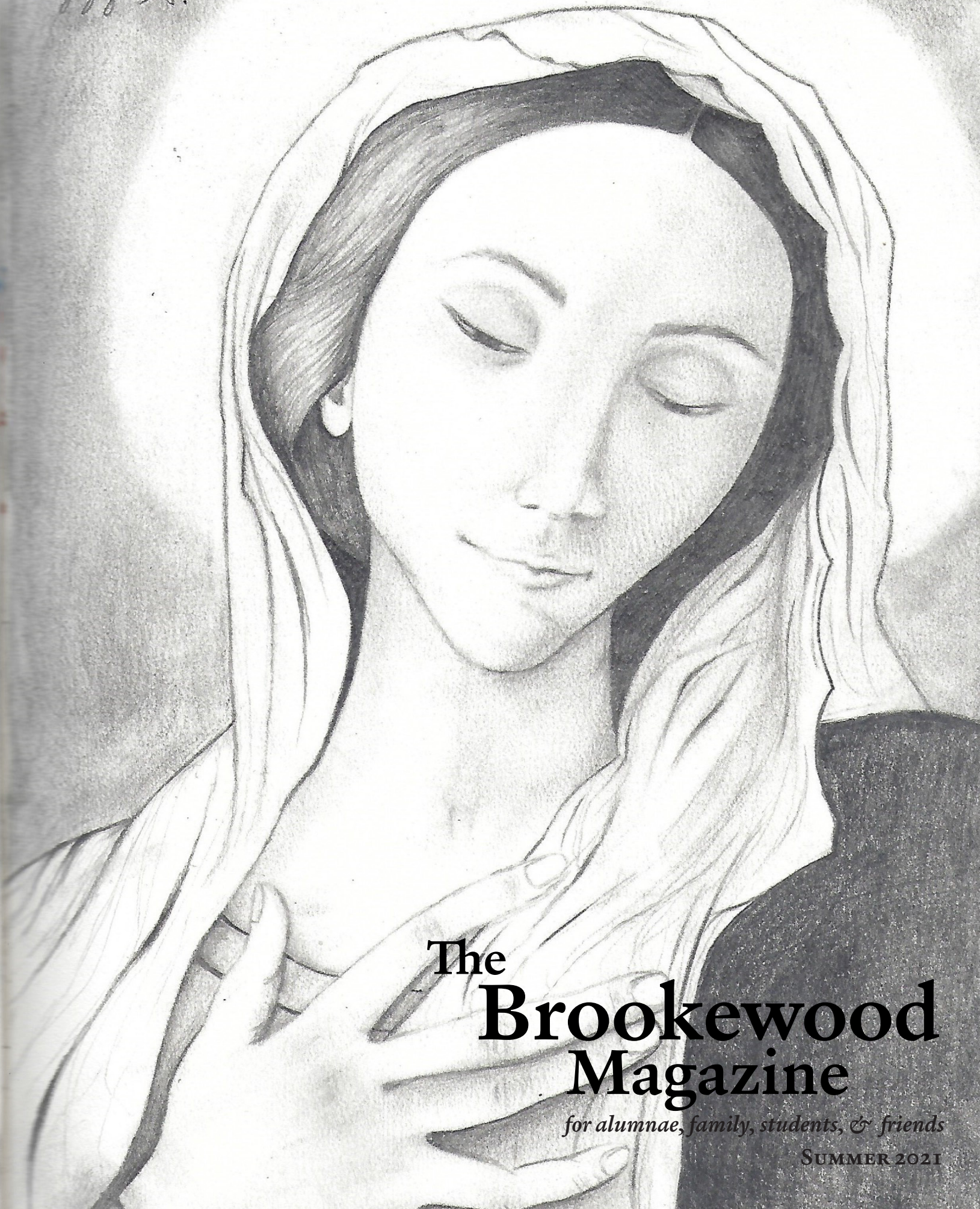


*Lynzy S.*



The  
**Brookewood  
Magazine**

*for alumnae, family, students, & friends*

SUMMER 2021



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*for our*  
**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE**

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Brookewood  
SCHOOL



Summer 2021  
BROOKWOOD SCHOOL

R. J. Hawley  
Executive Director

Richard B. McPherson  
President, Head of School

Cherie Walsh  
Upper School Director

Andrea Francois  
Lower School Director

Charmie Vince  
Director of Advancement  
and Alumni Relations

Brookewood School, established in 2006, is an independent day school for girls, grades K-12, located in Kensington, MD. Brookewood School admits students of any race, color, creed, and national or ethnic origin.

THE BROOKWOOD MAGAZINE

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From the

## PRESIDENT & HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Richard McPherson*

June 2021 marked the completion of the School's 15th year of educating young women and sharing this great, living adventure called Brookewood.

It has been a privilege to watch Brookewood not only grow but also thrive. Brookewood opened its doors on Sept. 8, 2006, with 56 students; this September we anticipate a student body of more than 180. When we first entered the St. Paul's school wing, it seemed like a large, empty, maze-like museum with unexpected staircases, nooks, and halls that echoed with long-departed voices. Now the building is near capacity and the sounds of joy echo throughout the school.



G. K. Chesterton once observed, "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." The present culture, in many ways, has made for a formidable stream to swim against! The pandemic left many people paralyzed with fear, stunned by uncertainty and inconvenience. But Brookewood remains a living entity. Day to day, our studies in poetry, Italian, and natural history distinguish us from other schools. The House System, along with our tradition of songs and festivals, adds to our uniqueness. In the face of COVID restrictions, a re-imagined, virtual Spring Gala brought together the Brookewood and Avalon school communities, and the "Gala magic" was still evident, through the efforts of students, teachers, families, and friends. Nor was my favorite annual event, the May pilgrimage for Our Lady, deterred by COVID, with more than 300 masked (and unmasked) members of the Brookewood and Avalon communities

walking, praying, and singing on the day-long trek from St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill to Old St. John's in Silver Spring.

Keeping our mission alive during this extraordinary year, to Be Not Afraid\*, has kept Brookewood going against the stream.

Pope Benedict XVI once told a gathering of young people in St. Peter's Square, "We must have the courage to create islands, oases, and then great stretches of land of Catholic culture where the Creator's design is lived out." Brookewood School is our attempt to build that island, that oasis, right here in Montgomery County. It is our hope, that through your help, it will one day turn into "great stretches of Catholic culture where the Creator's design" will be realized. The curriculum we teach has stood the test of time. The ideals we believe in are worth believing in and worthy of striving towards. The faith, the Catholic Faith, our greatest treasure, will continue to sustain us in this great adventure. *Nolite Timere!*

\*Be Not Afraid (*Nolite Timere*), the Brookewood School motto

*From the*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*R. J. Hawley*



The focus of our Summer 2021 *Brookewood Magazine* is Faith in Action. Fifteen years ago, the women and men who founded Brookewood prayed fervently, placed faith at the heart of the school, and cultivated a joyful and hopeful tone. Today we continue the practices begun in 2006. Visitors to Brookewood still quickly discover the happiness and liveliness of our students and faculty, and they sense the lived Catholicity of Brookewood.

Faith in action means Brookewood is Catholic and committed to serving students and families of diverse faiths who seek what we offer. In working with families over the years, we have found that families which follow an Abrahamic faith tradition instinctively grasp the language we use, our hopes for our children, and the balm that faith in God can bring to the mind and soul. All who come to Brookewood receive a thorough education in the Catholic faith. Some non-Catholic students choose to enter the Catholic Church. Many engage and grow more deeply in the faith of their families. All find that faith permeates life at Brookewood. *Nolite Timere* (to be not afraid) is fully attainable only when it is grounded in faith in God.

Faith in community for many Brookewood families and faculty means they center their lives in parishes and in Catholic movements (such as Opus Dei, The Neocatechumenal Way, Regnum Christi, and Communion and Liberation). Each of these Catholic communities answers the deep need of families to live a faith that extends Church into times and places beyond Sunday morning. The faith and hope alive in our school is grounded in the lives of the families of



our school.

Over the course of his life, founding head of school Joe McPherson met Saint Teresa of Calcutta multiple times. Saint Teresa impressed upon Mr. McPherson her conviction that we must never lose sight of the individual person God has placed in front of us. Mr. McPherson and the founding teachers built this also into the fabric of the school. No program or good deed is more important than attending to the individual people we serve. Faith in action means love in action, in the celebration of the Holy Mass and in the classroom, on the playground, in the lunchroom, and outside of school in the wider world.

Thank you,  
 RJH



# MARISOL ON MISSION

by Glencora Pipkin

**M**arisol Alicea was part of the fourth graduating class from Brookewood. She had joined for her tenth grade year, and she was surprised that Brookewood could change her understanding of school: “Before I came to Brookewood, I never thought I would be good at school. Brookewood really helped me—[it] met me where I was.”

I recall my own interactions with Marisol from when I taught her English literature in the 12th grade from 2012–2013. Liked by students of all ages, she often had a guitar at hand on the

off chance that others would enjoy singing with her. Much like Joe McPherson, she craved a joyful learning community, and she was usually encouraging other students to find ways to love their time together. Particularly in 2013, I remember an English class being interrupted by the upcoming announcement of the new pope (now Pope Francis). Marisol and the other high school students helped gather the other girls into the multi-purpose room, and they sang and prayed together while waiting for the announcement. The air was full of excitement, and Marisol and

“My class of 2013 are like sisters. We are all striving to be saints, all in different ways.”

Marisol Alicea  
Class of 2013

other seniors were the leaders who helped create the atmosphere of palpable joy. Even then, Marisol was a community builder.

After graduating from Brookewood, Marisol attended Benedictine University (Kansas) and graduated in 2017 with a B.A. in Theology and Psychology. Equipped with faith, reason, and compassion, she moved to Nashville and joined an intentional lay community for young adult Catholic women. She prays and lives with many other women, helping them infuse their faith into the quotidian practices of life: cleaning, eating, working, etc. Asked if the community of Brookewood had prepared



Marisol (on the far right) with other members of her intentional Catholic lay community

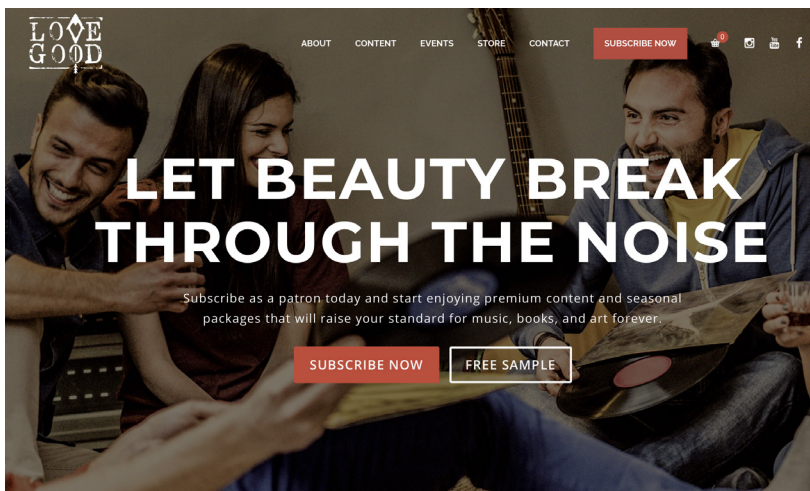
her for this season of life, Marisol exclaimed, "Brookewood prepared me so well for living in community with other women. [It] showed me how you can be friends with people [who] are so different from you; you become like sisters. My class of 2013 are like sisters. We are all striving to be saints, all in different ways. We are constantly encouraging one another in our different tasks to be more saintlike."

Marisol has also deeply enjoyed the culture of music-loving Nashville. She is currently the Director of Operations for Love Good, a subscription-music company based in Nashville. Love Good offers a curated list of music to promote what is "good, true, and beautiful" while helping independent artists in the Nashville area. Marisol not only helps with the daily operations but also produces the company's podcasts. Marisol began working as part of the team

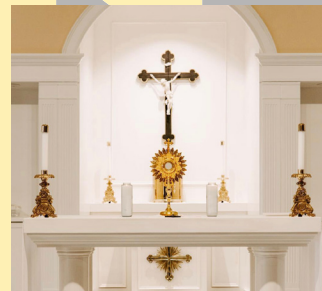
for this company, but she quickly was able to show her ability to adapt and learn new skills, becoming the Director of Operations this past year.

Outside of her work for Love Good, Marisol works for the Nashville Catholic Diocese in directing a program called "Totus Tuus," which are missionary teams of four, consisting of college-aged students and seminarians who bring the gospel to Nashville youth for a week. Marisol runs the program, hiring missionaries and sending them out to nearby parishes.

In addition to these enriching works, Marisol has chosen the vocation of marriage, joining Garrett Ross for the holy sacrament of matrimony in the Fall of 2021. On the side, she is also planning to become a real estate agent. Congrats, Marisol!



*Pictured clockwise from the top left: the homepage of the Love Good; Marisol and her fiancé Garrett Ross; Marisol in Nashville, and a few members of the class of 2013 at a beach trip.*



*Non enim timemus* \*

## Members of Brookewood's Class of 2016 on University of Maryland's Catholic Student Center

The Brookewood Magazine editor Glencora Pipkin virtually sat down to talk with class of 2016 alumnae Mary Joseph (M.J.) Acevedo and Sarah Rivas about their experiences participating in and leading the Catholic Student Center at The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). M.J., Sarah, fellow Brookewood alumna Maggie McPherson, and several Avalon alumni, led a robust student ministry program from 2016 to 2020 at UMD's Catholic Student Center.

*Pipkin: What was the transition like from Brookewood to UMD?*

*Rivas: When I started at UMD, I was very excited to meet thousands of new people. Although the basis for education at UMD is not Catholic, I found myself unable to escape the Catholic faith. My freshman year,*

*I met many young men and women through classes, the dining hall, etc., and one night I attended a dinner at the Catholic Student Center (CSC), where we all saw each other's faces and laughed at having this shared identity. We had never spoken about our faith, but it was clear that God wanted me to know that I was not alone.*

*Pipkin: Tell more about the CSC. What was it like living your faith in action on campus?*

*Acevedo: UMD has an incredibly active Catholic Student Center (CSC) on the southern corner of campus. They have about 20 student ministries and over 40 student leaders, not including the countless students also leading*

\**Non enim timemus* is Latin for "We are indeed not afraid."



Bible studies. The CSC is always busy with various service, social, prayer and worship opportunities. The center is always open for prayer, studying, hanging out, eating random food in the kitchen, etc.

I came to college knowing that being Catholic was the source of my identity. At UMD I really learned what it meant to put that faith into action. I've always told people that being Catholic isn't something you just do on Sundays or even a decision you make when you wake up in the morning. It really requires you to say "yes" every moment of your day and not just in the chapel or during Mass. I am so grateful I went to UMD to learn this crucial lesson because this is what it's like in the "real world."

Rivas: One aspect of college is that you are surrounded by students who are "finding themselves." Amidst this uncertainty, the CSC stood as a little home that offered stability. God was always there, and I could tell that God was drawing me there.

"Be not afraid' is not an invitation to do things without concern for their consequences, but it is an invitation to ingenuity, creativity, strength in the face of hardship in order to seek the good."

Sarah Rivas  
Class of 2016

As I was making my journey through premedical requirements, I was confronted with questions about social teaching in relation to medicine. Living out my faith required that I pay attention to what was going on at school and allow questions about Christ and reality to arise. The CSC was filled with other students who were grappling with the same questions and concerns, but the priests and ministers there had taken the time to understand Catholic social teaching and readily answered our questions.

*Pipkin: Was there ever a time you felt the motto from Brookewood, Nolite Timere, come in handy for you?*

Rivas: For me, it wasn't so much that *Nolite Timere* came in handy. Rather, through our adventures at Brookewood I was able to adopt a more fearless or *nolite timere* mindset, which had its fruits in college. Let's just say that this mindset helps you to stand out among others. "Be not afraid" is not an invitation to do things without concern for their consequences,

Cont'd on pg. 34



Rivas '16 holding a little girl during one of the CSC's mission trips.



Acedo '16 plays with a little boy during a CSC mission trip.

# Joseph W. McPherson Memorial POETRY CONTEST



## A POET IS HONORED

by Ellen Clifford

On Saturday, May 1, ten finalists took to the stage at The Avalon School in Wheaton to share their original poems in the first Joseph W. McPherson Memorial Poetry Contest. Hosted by The Avalon School and by Brookewood School, in honor of its founder and first Headmaster, the competition in its inaugural outing drew more than 60 contestants from 20 private and public schools as well as homeschooled students from throughout the metropolitan area.

Although Mr. McPherson was particularly known for the more than 3,000 sonnets he wrote over his lifetime, contestant entries were not limited to any fixed form. The 2021 contest asked student poets to submit a poem, 25 lines or fewer, on the theme, "What has provoked wonder in you?" The initial submissions were judged by a panel composed of Cherie Walsh, AP English and Poetry teacher at Brookewood; Tom Tobin, AP English teacher at Avalon; and Sally Rosen Kindred, an award-winning poet whose third full-length collection of poems, *Where the Wolf*, is scheduled for publication this year. The finalist panel who selected the first, second and third place winners was comprised of Mrs. Madlyn McPherson, widow of Joe McPherson and a lifelong English teacher, in addition to Mrs. Walsh and Mr. Tobin. Entries were judged on both the quality of the poem itself and on the skill of the recitation.



Winners Lara Alarapon (1st), Sofia Ghosh (2nd), and Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro (3rd)

Although the competition was open to all students in grades nine through twelve, the finalists were young women from private, parochial, and public high schools. First place and a cash award of \$1,000 went to Ms. Lara Alarapon, a freshman at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Bethesda, for her poem entitled, "Those Sunny Saturdays." Sofia Ghosh, a junior at Brookewood School, took second place with her "Sonnet 18 B-Side," and Brookewood freshman Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro's "One Day I Will Run Across the Universe" placed third.

*Busy old fools, surely some  
Why dost thou thus*



Mrs. Cherie Walsh presents the ten finalists of the first Joseph W. McPherson Poetry Contest on May 1, 2021

Sponsored by the McPherson family, the Joseph W. McPherson Memorial Poetry Contest was established to honor the life and work of Joseph W. McPherson (1948–2019) who loved poetry, especially its capacity to reveal the true, the good, and the beautiful. He wrote several thousand sonnets during his life on themes including history, religion, art, and natural history. He continues to inspire the mission and culture of Brookewood School and The Avalon School, including their commitment to the study and recitation of poetry.



Joseph W. McPherson, 1948–2019



**Those Sunny Saturdays**  
by Lara Alarapon

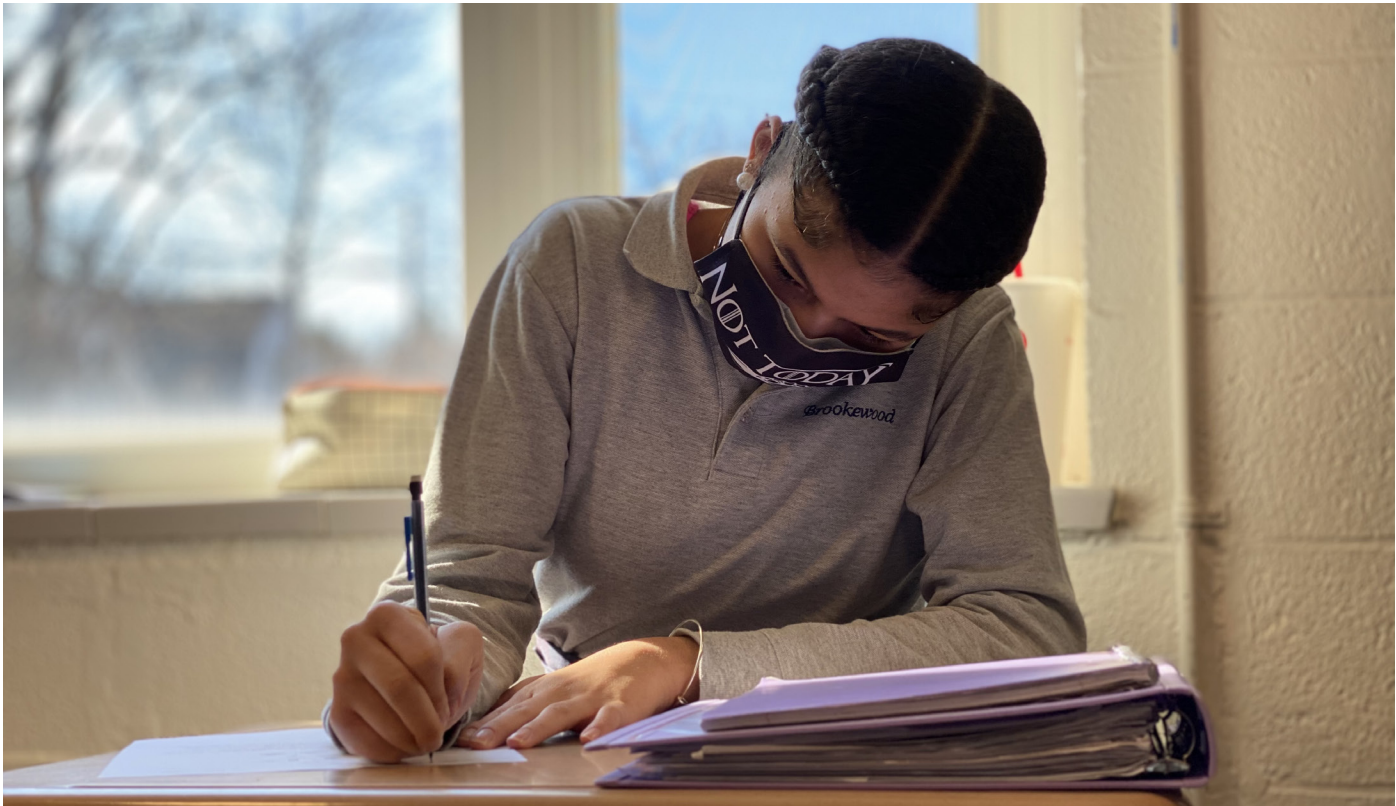
**Those Sunny Saturdays**  
Now starting to feel like a haze,  
I knew that my lyrical obsession was not just a phase  
My dad was leaned back one arm on the wheel  
rehearsing and reciting every verse he'd hear  
He would look in the mirror and see my eyes gleaming  
pleading to me to look in the lyrics  
to find the deeper meaning  
Luther, Whitney, The Sugarhill Gang  
taught me what it meant to be humble with my fame  
singing about life and rapping about pain  
I still hope that amongst them will be my name  
Stevie his lectures taught me quick thinking  
Michael taught me to love and life will forever be linking  
I learned humility and patience from TLC  
I learned to slide and move from the unforgettable Humpty  
Now I write about my pain, my triumphs, and my love  
hoping the past masters will guide me from above,  
my dad still recites his lyrics  
remembering them back over and under  
I will never forget  
on those Saturdays  
how he showed me  
music and its wonder.

# Faith in the Upper School

## From the Teacher's Perspective

### Why Study Theology?

by David Booz, Upper School Theology Teacher



In an age when STEM and college preparation dominate high school curricula, when one measures certitude by the consensus of experts or empirically verifiable studies, a high school subject that cannot be empirically verified yet claims to have wisdom beyond human understanding and proposes to answer the deepest questions of the human heart appears at best over-eager or optimistic, at worst pretentious or closed-minded. Yet, the subject matter of theology claims to do precisely this because the subject matter of theology is not so much a what, but a Who. Theology is the science of God as He has revealed Himself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ.

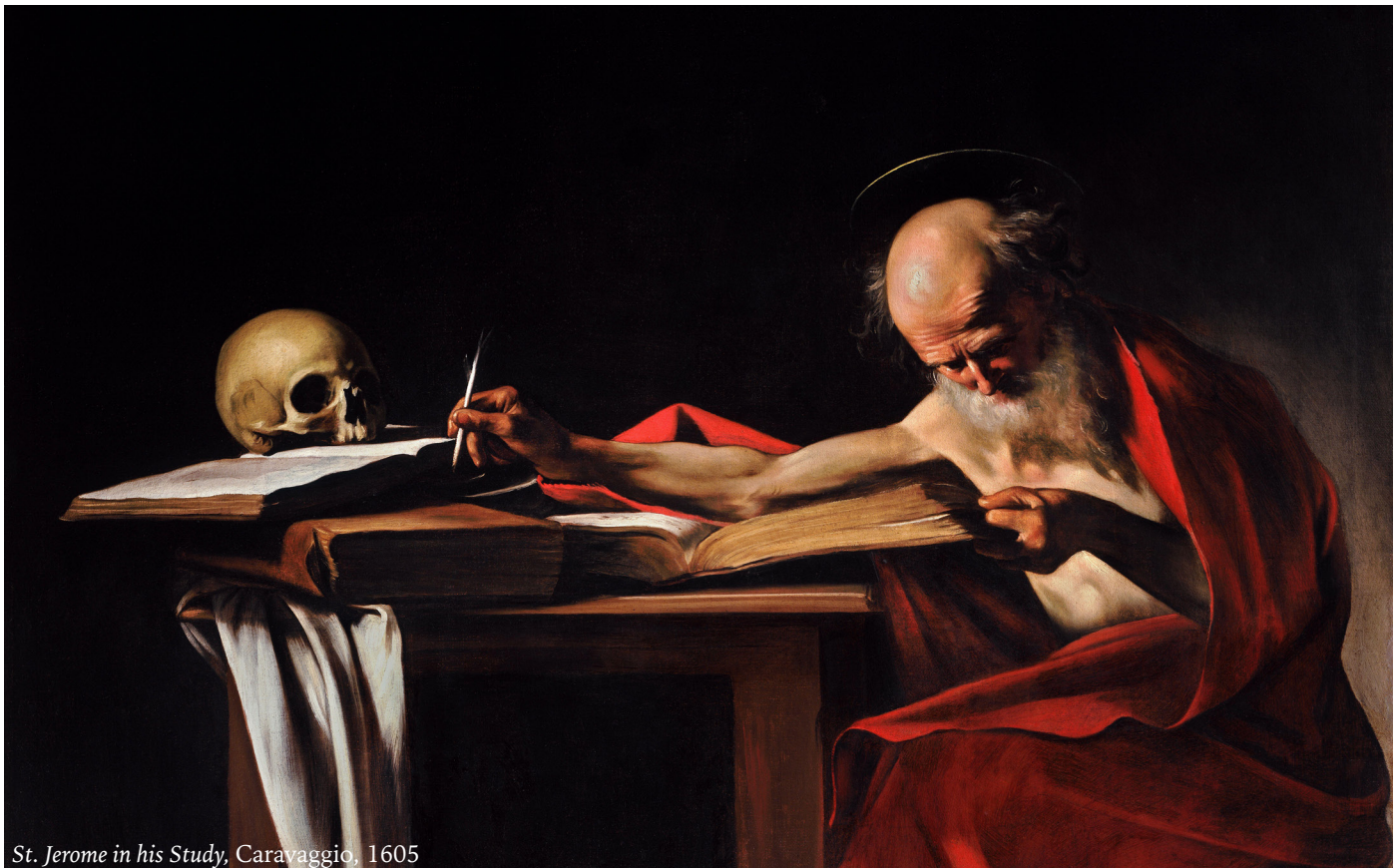
Referring to theology as a science may seem strange to modern readers. However, the Latin word *scientia* comes from the verb *scire*, meaning "to know." Theology seeks to understand God's own knowledge that He has communicated to us. Rather than limit science only to that which is empirically verifiable, the Church proposes that we can know the true meaning of life, happiness, and existence itself because He who is Life, Happiness, and Existence has spoken. This claim that God communes with man goes beyond our natural powers. Yet, to say that He does not, or cannot, or will not is to repress our natural powers.

The longing for the infinite in us, the desire for fullness of life does not come to us from ourselves, but

is the natural movement of our very existence, which comes to us from another.<sup>1</sup> In theology, the student affirms that it is this Other who has created her and exists, speaks, and speaks to her, inviting her to into a relationship with Him.

But how can one build an academic discipline on a relationship? Can one arrive at certain knowledge if the premise for such knowledge is the testimony of another, indeed, another that we cannot see? Such questions cannot be ignored. Joseph Ratzinger and Joseph Pieper propose an answer by drawing an analogy between faith and theology on one hand, and human relationships on the other.<sup>2</sup> How can one obtain certitude of the love or care of another? Yes, there are external signs, but when one declares to another, “I love you,” such a claim cannot be subject to empirical analysis. Yet such a claim does indeed convey meaning that the hearer can be certain of and delight in.

In this comparison between the phrase “I love you” and faith we begin to grasp the importance and role of theology. In both the act of faith and in hearing that we are loved, we are invited into union with another. In faith we hear that God loves us, allowing us to be made one with Him through loving Him in return. However, one cannot love what one does not know. Theology is the response to God’s offer of love. Just as in a relationship the couple engages in conversation to know more about one another to deepen their intimacy, in theology we embark on a conversation with God. We desire to know Jesus Christ better, and through Jesus Christ, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. Theology is built upon the procession of the Word from the Father, the Word that is knowable, and, in being knowable, is lovable. Love is never satisfied but always desires to know more about the beloved in order to join more intimately in union with the beloved. We study theology so we can become one with Love Himself.



St. Jerome in his Study, Caravaggio, 1605

<sup>1</sup>See St. Thomas Aquinas, *De Ente et Essentia*, Ch. 4. Students study this proof of God’s existence during their senior year.

<sup>2</sup>See Joseph Ratzinger, *Faith and Theology*; and Joseph Pieper, *Faith Hope Love*. Both texts are read by Brookewood students during their studies.

# Students on Faith in High School

By Glencora Pipkin

reprinted from January 2021 issue of *Our Parish Times*

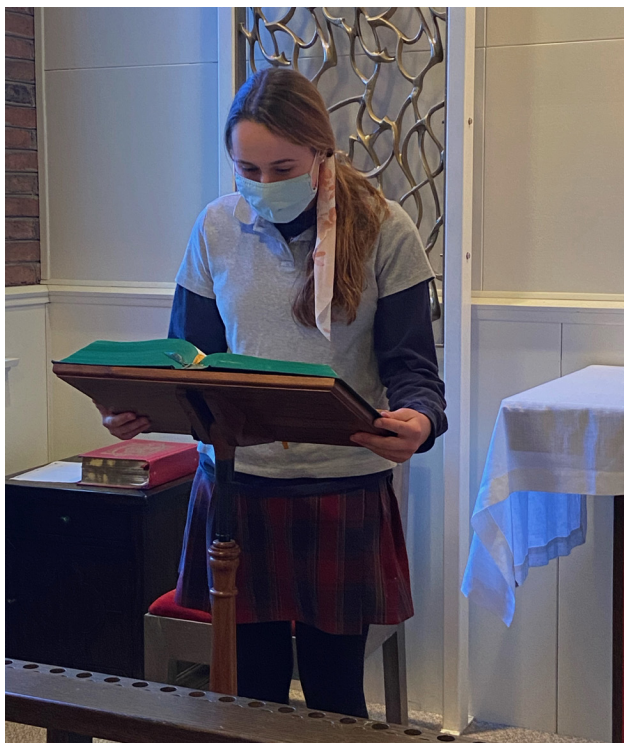
The Catholic community of Brookewood School is an outgrowth of its rigorous curriculum and in-person interactions, in and out of the classroom.

According to junior Lupe Garvey, the study of theology is particularly unique at Brookewood. “[Our religion classes are] serious and go in depth into the faith, and they help us apply it to daily life. [We learn] Trinitarian theology but we also talk about logic, proving our faith by reason. [We] really get to understand what we’ve been taught. When we’re having conversations with people who aren’t Catholic, we’re able to explain it in a way that they can understand, too.”

But Catholicism, for this community, is not merely an exercise in logic; it is a way of living life to the fullest, being a cheerful, pious, and welcoming young woman. When freshman Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro came for a shadow visit to Brookewood, she noticed almost immediately the kindness and attention other girls offered one another: “People all had such different personalities, but I immediately felt welcomed and accepted.”

Students and teachers have also benefited from a deeply faithful community, especially in times of crisis. In 2019, after Brookewood’s founding Headmaster Joseph McPherson passed away, the school community grieved together, and they continue to pray for him. The school’s deep religious bonds have helped students, teachers, and faculty process the sadness of losing Mr. McPherson, in light of our eternal hope in Christ. And especially now during the COVID crisis, students find solace in Christian texts read in the classroom. According to junior Maggie Tobin, “My English class’s study of Dante’s *Purgatorio* helped me understand waiting through crisis. [Brookewood sophomores] read this work during Lent, but it felt particularly pertinent now, as we wait.”

The community, in particular, helps reinforce what girls are learning in the classroom. “We help spread the faith by living it out with joy,” said Tobin. According to her, teachers and students alike are “witnesses of the faith,” offering a mirror to each other of respect, dignity, humility, and virtue.



11th grader Lupe Garvey is a lector during Brookewood’s daily Mass.



Upper School students Gabri Kushner, Isabella Sechler, Katya Parker, and Maria Stohlman carry the statue of Mary during the May 2021 pilgrimage.

# *Faith in the Middle School*

## Lessons Learned from Fr. José Medina

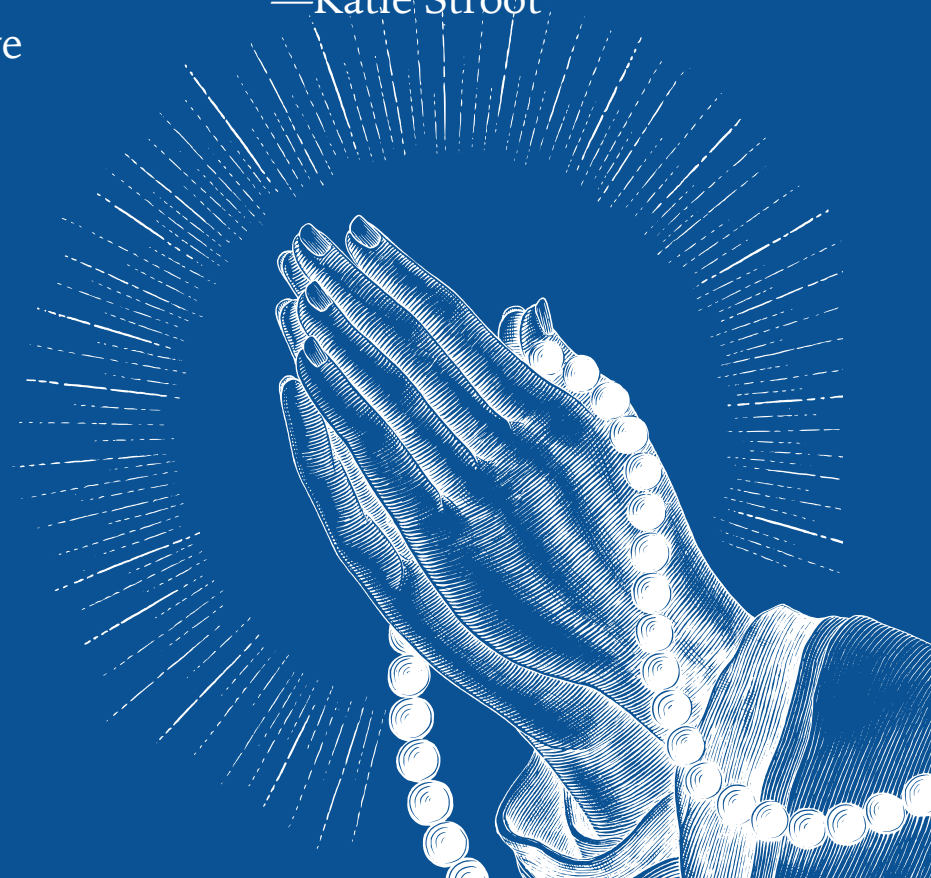
**I** "I've learned to open up more and stop having barriers that keep me from having deep relationships. My relationship to my mom has grown so much closer after what Fr. Medina taught us."  
—Kennedy Williams

**2** "We learned that ethics isn't so narrow. Fr. Medina helped us compare the Greeks' understanding of happiness to the modern understanding of happiness to the Christian understanding of happiness."  
—Kennedy Williams

**3** "Fr. Medina helped us create a cohesive community in the 8th grade. By organizing a field trip to Mount St. Mary's, he created a space for our class to open up and to love and trust one another."  
—Katie Stroot

**4** "Learning about happiness—I've been a happier person this year after taking Fr. Medina's class."  
—Katie Stroot

**5** "The 8th grade religion class has helped me understand my faith and own it. I've been able to enjoy a freedom knowing that you can sin and still be a good person."  
—Bella Dmitriev



# Faith in the Lower School

## “By This All People Will Know”



Students begin the St. Joseph pilgrimage with a running start.



Mollie Mendelson prays the rosary during the feast of the Annunciation (Maryland Day) festival.

by Andrea Francois

Fr. Winthrop Brainerd often included in his sermons John 13:35: “By this all people will know you are my disciples; if you have love for one another.” Fr. Brainerd had a knack for clear, concise, and comprehensive sermons. With just a few words he communicated especially well to the youngest Brookewoodtonians their purpose in life: to follow God. And it is clear to see by their love for one another that Brookewood Lower School girls follow God.

The formal Brookewood theology curriculum for the Lower School includes the Faith and Life Series, sacramental preparation, prayer formation (including the foundational prayers, the Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet), study of the Saints, and field trips to various sites for devotion (such as the Grotto at Mount St. Mary’s) and service (such as singing at Kensington Senior Living). This formal curriculum gives them the vocabulary and the practice to begin to know their faith, the words that correspond to the reality they experience, and the beginning of the appreciation they must have for God’s gifts that will allow them to mature in their faith. Their faith is informed by knowledge. But

their faith is expressed in their love.

All of the Lower School teachers have remarked at some point this school year how friendly and kind the students seem to be this year. While any human endeavor is fraught with bruised emotions, unintentional disappointments, and careless mistakes, the spirit of generosity at Brookewood has shone through in a remarkable way this year. After a truncated previous school year, and enforced isolation, the students cannot help but appreciate their time together, even if they don’t know that that is what they are responding to.

Brookewood girls excel at inviting each other into the community, through play, conversation, sports, art, and genuine curiosity. Veteran students teach new students the intricacies of climbing particular trees at Circle Manor, and new students seek out previously unclimbed trees to venture into. Stories of years past are shared, not as an exclusionary tactic, but as an opening for exploring similar or contrasting experiences. And when the inevitable strife of human nature occurs, forgiveness comes readily and is accepted gratefully.

The 3rd and 4th grade daily Mass attendants



have benefited from the knowledge and experience of altar server Maggie Tobin, a junior. Maggie took the younger girls under her wing, training them correctly and ensuring that when she graduates at the end of next school year, the next generation of Brookewood altar servers will be ready for cheerful duty.

The annual Pilgrimage is the best of Brookewood, especially for our younger students. Cheerful and demanding, prayerful and joyous, with opportunities for all to share their unique gifts, the Pilgrimage is a public declaration that Brookewood is a place of outward-directed love. On our most recent Pilgrimage I was walking in

Downtown DC with two 2nd graders who had just both made their First Communion. Gone were the beautiful white gowns and the flowers in their hair. One was decked out head to toe in various shades of camo and the other was doing her best impression of her older brother in oversized sweatpants and crocs. I congratulated the girls on their First Communion and asked them how they felt. One responded:

“Miss Francois, do you know that thing in cartoons, for like prisoners, where it is a chain and there is like a cannon ball at the end?”

“Yes, a ball-and-chain. It’s called what it is.”

“So, before, I felt like I was wearing one of those and it was really heavy. But then I received Communion, and that feeling just went away and I am all light now.”

I almost fell into the street. Without any coaching, or even completely sure of what she wanted to say, a tiny girl put forth the great theological truth that the Eucharist frees us from the shackles of sin.

Brookewood is a place known for freedom. We like to joke that there are not a lot of “rules” and this leads to maybe a misconception that Brookewood is a Wild West of permissiveness and broken arms. (Okay, there are some broken arms.) What

I have seen over the years is that Brookewood is a place of real freedom. The freedom to love, rooted in virtue, and expressed in community.

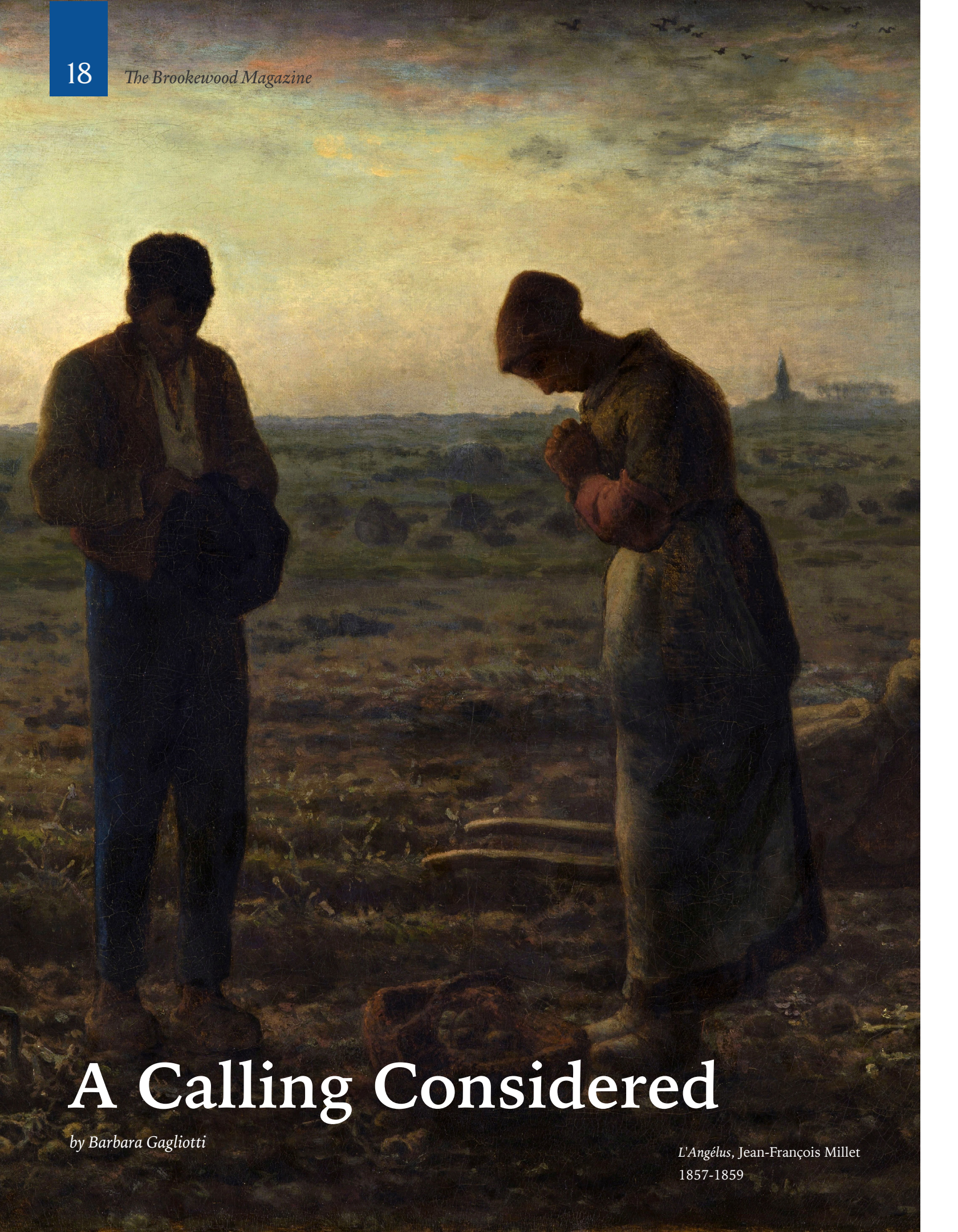
“By this all people will know you are my disciples; if you have love for one another.” Brookewood girls know, deep down and with unwavering conviction, that they are loved. By family, by friends, by teachers, and most importantly by God, they are completely and irrevocably loved. And they give all that love back, to family, to friends, to teachers, and most importantly, to God.

**“What I have seen over the years is that Brookewood is a place of real freedom. The freedom to love, rooted in virtue, and expressed in community.”**

**Andrea Francois**  
Lower School Director



A picture taken in 2013 shows several of the class of 2023 students (Benedetta De Marchi, Faith Packard, Yayfyah Cifuentes, and Abigail Rakow) on a trip to the Marian garden at The Catholic University of America.



# A Calling Considered

by Barbara Gagliotti

*L'Angélus*, Jean-François Millet  
1857-1859

**H**ave you ever wondered about that scene on the beach where Jesus calls a handful of seemingly average men to drop everything? The gesture in itself seems absurd enough, yet we are told they actually follow him!

I've had the privilege of teaching the scriptures to young people over the years, and my favorite thing is to break the Bible open and read, asking just such questions. If you're merely paying attention to one Gospel account, or even to a single episode in the life of Jesus, you may very well get the impression that the disciples' response came out of nowhere. Such is not the case.

Lining up all four accounts, we see that John and Andrew were already disciples of John the Baptist and had heard his teachings about the Messiah. So, when they see the Baptizer point him out—that's Him, the Lamb of God—the two disciples hurry after Jesus to find out more. We learn he invites them to stay with him all afternoon. Afterwards, they run to tell their brothers and friends—Peter, James, Philip, and Nathaniel—who receive the news with varying levels of credulity, but all with interest. Had they really found the One whom all Israel had been waiting for? They all tag along to a wedding feast, where he turns water into wine. Later, they witness the healing of a Roman official's son. Next, Jesus begins to preach publicly about the Kingdom. So, by the time we get the "official" call on the Sea of Galilee, the fishermen are hooked! Imagine spending the next three years with Him—perpetually surprised at what he would do next. Witnessing these daily events will only compound their attachment to him.

From the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we find traces of what is known as the grace of the Encounter and we see the formation of a people that begins to coalesce around this fascinating figure. The Encounter in the flesh with God-made-man gives to each one of those who follow him "a new horizon and a decisive direction." So attractive is this new life that it spreads throughout the known world, and down through the ages, until it reaches us.

I was asked to reflect on vocation—a notion that can seem very odd to us today, used as we are to constructing our own lives. And yet, Jesus calls us—if we are open to him—through our mundane human encounters. Perhaps we are blessed with the example

of a grandparent, uncle, or aunt in whom we discover a spirit of wisdom or loving kindness or a devotion to prayer. We meet a priest who speaks about Jesus with a remarkable familiarity; a teacher, who sparks our curiosity about Christianity; a classmate who always freely gives; or a group of friends who seem to desire more from life than other kids their age. All these are invitations that come to us from Jesus through his living body on earth—Christian community.

Habitually saying "yes" to such invitations prepares us to follow Jesus where he leads and to accept the decisive call in our life: to marry and raise a Christian family, or to dedicate our life to God through ordained ministry or religious or consecrated life. Or simply to live out the fullness of our Baptismal promises. At Brookewood, we aspire to be a community where the life of the Risen Lord can be seen each day, and his call can be continuously heard.

**“And yet, Jesus calls us,  
if we are open to him,  
through our mundane  
human encounters.”**

**Barbara Gagliotti**  
Brookewood Teacher

# The Feast of St. Joseph Pilgrimage

by Maria Stohlman

As the Holy Father declared this the “Year of St. Joseph,” the Avalon and Brookewood Schools decided to have a pilgrimage to honor St. Joseph. The Schools have held an annual Marian pilgrimage in May since 2008; however, amidst the uncertainties of this year it became urgent to invoke St. Joseph and to journey together in prayer. Charmie Vince, Director of Advancement, and Rich McPherson, Brookewood Head of School, organized and planned this pilgrimage, with the hope that it could be a way to show our unity as a community and to be reminded that, as McPherson says, “we are not on our own journey to Heaven alone. We need help. We need each other.”

On St. Joseph’s Feast Day, March 19, 2021, Avalon and Brookewood families and friends came together for a short pilgrimage starting from Brookewood’s campus and ending at the Avalon School for the celebration of Mass and the Italian tradition of blessing the bread.

Before the crowd embarked on the short walking journey, McPherson explained the importance of praying to St. Joseph: “we are a community of families



and St. Joseph is a great model for us as head of the Holy Family.” He focused on St. Joseph as the exemplar of fatherhood, reminding the schools that through their fervent devotion to St. Joseph, the traditional family will be bolstered.

As the crowd processed down Connecticut Avenue, people stared from their cars and a young girl stood and observed from her yard with a look of confusion and wonder. Using a microphone, McPherson led the rosary in the front of the group. Some who were too far back to hear him started saying a rosary with those around them as a way to remain united with the whole crowd. After two miles of walking, they all arrived at Avalon and were applauded by the Avalon football team who created a passageway and gave the group high fives as they took their final steps. Fr. Roberto, Fr. José, and Fr. Bill prepared the altar for Mass and the statue of St. Joseph was placed on the table along with the loaves of bread. The blessing of a breezy spring day made the Mass outside possible and the student ensemble was able to play the “Ave Maria” on the flute. As families left, they took home blessed bread to enjoy and be reminded of this Feast of St. Joseph. Charmie Vince called to mind that our schools were





founded “with joy-filled students who love and live life in a beautiful way together within an active community, and the St. Joseph pilgrimage and Mass are the perfect way to honor our founding families and their purpose for our schools!”

McPherson ended the feast by reminding us, “St. Joseph gives a great example of the dignity and joy of work. He does it quietly and in an unnoticed manner.” Let us hope and pray that we continue to serve greatly in our small and big tasks with humility and joy.

“Now more than ever  
is the time for a  
journey in prayer and  
celebration of the Mass.”

Fr. Roberto Amoruso  
*Avalon Chaplain*





# Brookewood Athletics

2020-2021



Pictured clockwise from upper left: The 2021 Varsity basketball team; Allison Pulanco and Gracie Armstrong cheer on their basketball teammates; Sofia Ferrante and Georgia Armstrong jog during one of their cross country practices; Brookewood dad Lorenzo De Marchi and mom Ilaria De Marchi embrace their class of 2021 senior, Chiara De Marchi; Cristina Aldrette pitches to the opposing team during Brookewood's inaugural softball game.



## BASKETBALL

Coached by Mr. Rich McPherson, Brookewood's basketball team played only two games. However, they showed grit under the senior leadership of Gracie Armstrong, Chiara De Marchi, Allison Pulanco, and Ellie Downey.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Ellie Downey '21 prepares a free throw shot; Coach Jen Davern and the 2021 softball team; the softball team displays the fruit of some hard workouts.



## SOFTBALL

by Jen Davern, Athletics Director

### A Historic Moment, the First-Ever Softball Team

In the Fall of 2019, several Brookewood High School students asked me if the school could start a softball team. I was hesitant to start a team since we didn't have anybody who could fastpitch, and I wasn't sure we had enough girls interested in playing. After determining that we indeed had enough players and assurances from a few girls that they were learning how to fastpitch, we decided to start the team in the Spring of 2020. But unfortunately, after four practices, everything was cancelled because of the COVID shutdown.

Then in early February of 2021, when the COVID-positive cases began to decrease in Montgomery County, the decision was made to go ahead with Brookewood spring sports. The softball season started on March 22, and the first game took place on Tues, Apr. 20, at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C. Two players, Chiara De Marchi and Cristina Aldrette, bravely committed to learning how to fastpitch and did an amazing job this season. They even readily agreed to take pitching lessons on a few Sunday afternoons. Abigail Rakow and Katie Stroot shared the duties of catcher—one of the dirtiest, most thankless, and hardest positions in softball—and they did a fantastic job. The only senior, Chiara De Marchi, will be missed. Although the team did not have a victory during the 5-game season, the girls learned many skills and will be ready for a new season.



Gabby Stanley steps up to the plate.

# LACROSSE

by Jen Davern, Athletics Director

The Varsity Lacrosse team needed a coach and thankfully, alumna Rosie Wilson '16 stepped in and saved the team's season. Rosie recruited the help of Maggie McPherson '16, who was also a tremendous help. We were not sure that we were going to have enough players, so we recruited three homeschoolers and allowed the 8th graders to play up. Then some 9th and 10th graders joined the team late, and we ended up with more than enough players.

The season began on April 12, and the first game took place on April 21 against Oakcrest School. The team had a total of four games and finished the season 2-2 with an exciting win in their last game. They defeated Oakcrest 16-12 to make up for the earlier loss in the beginning of the season. Our three seniors—Gracie Armstrong, Allison Pulanco and Ellie Downey—will be missed.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Coached by Rich McPherson, Brookewood held its second-ever cross country team, with students from the Middle and Upper Schools practicing with long-distance runs. This year there were no meets scheduled, but the team got great practice and training for next year's competitions.

*Pictured from top to bottom: Gracie Armstrong '21 runs with the ball during a lacrosse game; the 2021 Varsity Lacrosse team with alumnae coaches, Rosie Wilson and Maggie McPherson (both '16); Mr. McPherson with a few members of the cross country team: Ana Maria Pantoja Alvaro, Micaela Katambwa, Sasha Deyonou, and Aggie Baum.*





# Pilgrimage May 2021



Head of School Rich McPherson led upwards of 300 members of the extended Brookewood and Avalon communities from downtown Washington, D.C. to St. John the Evangelist Historic Catholic Church during the 15th annual May Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady. The walk of more than 14 miles included six stops: St. Joseph Catholic Church on Capitol Hill, Immaculate Conception Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, St. John Paul II National Shrine, Our Lady of Sorrows in Takoma Park, St. Michael the Archangel in Silver Spring, and finally St. John the Evangelist in Forest Glen for Holy Mass and a Cookout.



# Going the Distance

by Maureen Boyle

*This article was written in August of 2020 about Brookewood's pivot to online learning, at the Governor's request, for the final quarter of the 2019-20 school year. We opened in person for the year on September 3, 2020.*

Although Brookewood School is a place of learning steeped in the classics of ancient Rome and Greece, the works of Shakespeare and the heroines of Jane Austen's novels, its faculty and students seamlessly embraced the 21st century's latest technology and communication platforms during the recent COVID pandemic shutdown.

As all academic institutions in Maryland and the District of Columbia closed in mid-March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Brookewood School transitioned well and without interruption to remote education for its 147 female students in grades 1 through 12.

"Our smallness is our superpower," said Cherie Walsh, Brookewood's Upper School Director and English teacher, praising Brookewood's effective use of a mixture of live, recorded and written instruction on a number of different platforms that enabled students to successfully complete the 2019–20 school year.

"Our faculty was amazing! Teachers learned

new skills quickly and taught one another, and they maintained their personal connections to students and families throughout," said R.J. Hawley, Brookewood's executive director.

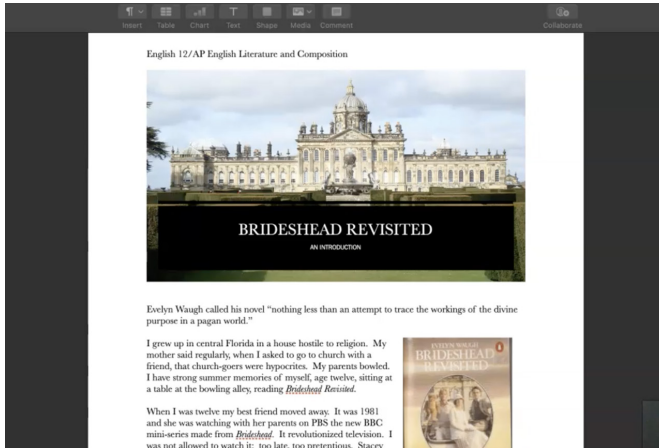
"It was also great to see the evidence of how students engaged with their new work in this new format."

Walsh commends the school's gradebook/communications platform—Jupiter Ed—for its multiple programs, allowing teachers to implement faculty-wide distance teaching tools, as well as customize certain features to meet students' needs and class goals.

Despite the expedited shift to remote learning, Brookewood teachers met the challenge creatively and reliably to keep their students on track, using platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, YouTube and Microsoft Teams—often doubling the amount of time it usually takes in a regular school year—to prepare for and teach online lessons. The faculty also went the extra mile to offer supplemental

**"It was beautiful as a parent to overhear the girls taking turns reciting a William Butler Yeats poem."**

**Ann Vitz**  
Brookewood Parent



# ...in Learning

and remote resources, such as one-on-one virtual academic help for individual students.

“It’s something we already do—meet frequently with students to discuss progress with papers and give feedback and talk through difficulties,” Walsh said. “The personal relationships we have with our students make it easy to have a conversation via Zoom or to make a screencast to give feedback on a paper in progress, for example.”

Ann Vitz, a parent of a rising 6th grade Brookewood student, said the school’s remote instruction was a positive experience for her family. “Martha so enjoyed the classes on Zoom. Her class size really worked well on the platform. Girls were actively engaged in the discussions,” she said. “It was beautiful as a parent to overhear the girls taking turns reciting a William Butler Yeats poem.”

While some local school districts struggled to rise to the academic challenge of the unprecedented shutdown, Brookewood School parents applaud the school’s faculty for their dedication, flexibility and communication in providing a steady, engaging curriculum in a time of global anxiety.

“The Brookewood difference is that teachers know these girls so well and they deeply care about both their well being and education. That is a radical advantage in the classroom and on Zoom!” said Brookewood parent Jocelyn Houle, whose daughter, Margot, is a rising 10th grader.

A virtual Medieval festival, vigorous physical

education contests, lively poetry competitions, “Wonder Wednesdays,” and fun art projects—all contributed to and remained true to the adventurous spirit of education for the young ladies of Brookewood School.

“As a new family to the school, we were particularly impressed with how Brookewood managed to facilitate the strong sense of community even with the cyber distance,” Vitz said.

Teacher Cherie Walsh recalls a memorable remote 9th grade English class—a table reading in small groups of scenes from a 20th century adaptation of *Antigone*. Students learned both the limitations and possibilities of Zoom, as they found creative ways to work “together” in performing their scenes.

“They showed vocally that they really understood the scenes’ overall emotional effects, and then they made costumes and props from household objects, used mirrors and Zoom backgrounds, mimed passing props to each other through the screen, added music, etc. They found ways to make the scenes really come alive,” she said. “I was surprised by their excellence and am very proud of how they used creatively the obstacles no one would have intentionally given to them.”

One Brookewood class project that stands out for Ann Vitz was her daughter’s eighth grade art assignment to design a sidewalk chalk mural. She

Cont’d on pg. 34

# Alumnae Updates



## Rachel Tanzi, Class of 2012

Rachel received a B.A. in Art History from the Catholic University of America in 2016 and an M.A. in Art History from George Washington University in 2018. She now works in Washington, D.C., at the National Gallery of Art in the education department, facilitating programs to continue sharing the beauty and relevance of art with others.



## Maggie McPherson, Class of 2016

Maggie McPherson graduated in May of 2020 from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in Italian Studies while on a pre-physical therapy track. She is currently working at an outpatient physical therapy clinic and will be attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the Fall. Maggie is pictured with her godson, "Nacho" Teleki.



## Francesca Rusconi, Class of 2016

Francesca is currently in her fourth year of law school in Milan, Italy, at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. She will finish her fifth and final year at Fordhan University School of Law, studying international business and trade law, starting in August of 2021.



## Tricia Davern, Class of 2017

Tricia graduated this May from the University of Dallas with a B.A. in English Literature. Having been well-prepared in Italian at Brookewood, Tricia is planning on teaching English in Italy in the near future.



## Ayomide Ogunsakin, Class of 2017

In May of 2021, Ayomide graduated from Lincoln University with a B.S. in biochemistry. This fall, she will go on to study for a Masters in Public Health (MPH) at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She recently was a co-author on a scientific paper "The Anti-Tumor Effects of Cetuximab in Combination with VTX-2337 are T Cell Dependent" published in the science journal *Science Reports*.



The Avalon School & Brookewood School present

# A BLACK TIE KNIGHT

2021  
Spring Gala

*Thank you!*

Thank you to all our families, friends, faculty, and students who made our virtual Gala possible! Your generosity allowed us to raise more than \$20,000 for our schools!

# CONGRATULATIONS

## *Class of 2021!*



*(Top Row)*

**Mary Grace Armstrong**

**Agatha S. Baum**

**Aleksandra Bilinski**

**Chiara Elizabeth De Marchi**

**Elizabeth Kateri Downey**

**Naniah Jenay Echols**

*(Middle Row)*

**Giuditta Asja Maria Herber**

**Gabriella Ida Kushner**

**Bryanne J. Manley**

**Grace Ann Maria Myer**

**My (Mia) Tra Nguyen**

**Grace Ann Ostuni**

*(Bottom Row)*

**Katerina Maria Parker**

**Allison Muadi Pulanco**

**Maria Luisa Stohlman**

**Aleana de Rocha Vieira**

**Ashna Samadhi Wickramasekera**

## 2021 Commencement

by Ellen Clifford

**O**n May 29, despite chilling temperatures and torrential rain, the nave of Holy Redeemer Church overflowed with the warmth of smiles, good will, and the celebration of Brookewood's Class of 2021 commencement. The baccalaureate Mass and commencement were combined into one event, and following a warm welcome by Head of School Richard B. McPherson, Father José Medina with Deacon Robert Vince celebrated a Mass honoring the graduates. Brookewood's Executive Director R.J. Hawley opened the commencement ceremony, introducing the two seniors voted by both their peers and the faculty to give the Senior Class Remarks.

Agatha (Aggie) Baum and Gabriella (Gabri) Kushner were greeted with cheers from their classmates. Baum related her experience as a sophomore transfer student. "I immediately enjoyed the classes, and all the teachers and students were welcoming, but the aspect that took me in was the way everything was interesting...there was always something adding to the rather chaotic excitement of the school.

"Besides the fantastic Catholic education and community...the aspect of Brookewood that will influence

my future the most is the ability to have fun even when working," she continued. "I know in these next few years we will all be doing a ton of work, whether in our jobs or in college, but one thing I know I will need to remember is that spirit of creativity and excitement I experienced at Brookewood."

In thanking her teachers, Baum concluded by noting that "I learned so much no other school could have taught me."

Gabri Kushner brought the perspective of a Brookewood "lifer" to her observations of 13 years at the School. Planning on pursuing a major in the field of education inspired Kushner to reflect on what it might actually mean to teach: "At first I thought of education as simply tradition being passed on from one generation to another. But when I thought back to my own education, I realized that the lessons themselves were not what I was going to remember and take away from my Brookewood education." (She hastily assured the audience that she had not, in fact, forgotten what she had learned.)

"Rather the things that I feel really made my Brookewood education special were the teachers and students themselves. Teachers were not only passionate about the subject they taught but also passionate about living life in

general."

Kushner concluded her remarks with an assessment of her Brookewood education: "Brookewood has given me the foundation I need to become the teacher I am striving to become, someone who can balance being both fun and strict...and convey to my students my own passion for learning and living life. I am thankful to all who helped me along the way...who supported me and held me to high standards so I could grow to become who I am today."

The bestowal of awards followed the student remarks. Upper School Director Cherie Walsh presented **The Maryland State Merit Scholarship**

**Award to Agatha Baum**; Mr. David Booz, Upper School Theology Teacher, presented **The Cardinal's Award for Catholic Citizenship** also to Baum. **The Vince Family Prize** for the student who best exemplified the qualities of "great-hearted generosity and cheerful liveliness" was awarded to Gracie Armstrong by Mr. Hawley. Head of School Richard McPherson then presented **The Joseph W. McPherson Headmaster's Award**, in recognition of the graduating senior who personified those qualities that



### College Acceptances

Ave Maria University ♦ Barry University ♦ Becker College ♦ Benedictine College ♦ Benedictine University ♦ Canisius College ♦ Christendom College ♦ Drexel University ♦ Franciscan University of Steubenville ♦ Goucher College ♦ Hampton University ♦ Hood College ♦ Loyola Chicago ♦ Montgomery County Community College ♦ Mount St. Mary's University ♦ Northern Virginia Community College ♦ Prince George's Community College ♦ Salisbury University ♦ Seton Hall University ♦ St. John's University ♦ Stevenson University ♦ Stony Brook University ♦ Temple University ♦ The Catholic University of America ♦ University of Dallas ♦ University of Illinois at Chicago ♦ University of Maine ♦ University of Mary (ND) ♦ University of Maryland, College Park ♦ University of Maryland, Eastern Shore ♦ University of South Florida ♦ Virginia Tech ♦ Xavier University



the founding headmaster brought to Brookewood School: "a love for the True, the Good, and the Beautiful as expressed in the ardent exercise of intellectual curiosity, the sharing of ideas, and the capacity to experience the wonder and praise of the Creator in beauty." Maria Stohlman was the recipient of the award, established in 2020 by the McPherson family in memory of Joe.

The keynote address by Dr. Margaret Harper McCarthy, a fellow of the John Paul II Institute and a mother of former Brookewood and Avalon students, told the graduates that the first goal of her speech was to avoid time-worn platitudes.

Dr. McCarthy reminded graduates that

"commencement" does mean "beginning," but that Brookewood graduates do not uproot themselves when they begin their adult lives: "You began not as paupers, but as heiresses."

Adulthood, Dr. McCarthy noted, brings our graduates to another sort of birth and commencement, one that requires women to be mindful of their past: "Commencement is a beginning. That's true. But it is thanks to everything you have been given. Don't forget that. Drink deeply from those roots so that you can really commence—and bear fruit in your lives." She added, "You

are the future of the world! That's also true. But only on one condition: That you not be afraid of

"One thing I know I will need to remember is that spirit of creativity and excitement I experienced at Brookewood."

Agatha Baum  
Class of 2021



Commencement speaker Dr. Margaret McCarthy addresses the class of 2021.



Aggie Baum, recipient of the Maryland State Merit Scholarship Award and The Archbishop's Award for Catholic citizenship, addresses the class of 2021.



Gabiella Kushner, a Brookewood student from 1st grade until 12th grade, addresses the class of 2021.



actual reality; that you look at it— with wide eyes— to receive it and the great Gift that has entered it."

Head of School McPherson then presented a diploma to each senior and shared a tale or two of their Brookewood years with the audience.

Another highlight of the morning was the presentation of the Senior Gift by the now officially graduated 2020–2021

Heads of Houses: Chiara DeMarchi, Arundel House; Gracie Armstrong, Bourbon House; Allison Pulanco, Custis House; and Maria Stohlman, Darnall House: a cup to be engraved with the name of the winning House at the conclusion of each school year, a lasting remembrance of each class's time at Brookewood.

Before the Executive Director's closing remarks, Mrs. Walsh and the assembled seniors and their families took a moment to also remember Joseph McPherson with the recitation of his "Commencement Villanelle."

Mr. Hawley observed that "Sometimes this adventure is difficult, sometimes it is beautiful, but always, at Brookewood, it is worthwhile," noting that the etymology of the school's motto *Nolite Timere* is joined with Avalon's motto *Duc In Altum* by

"Brookewood has given me the foundation I need to become the teacher I am striving to become."

Gabriella Kushner  
Class of 2021



the preposition "to," with the resulting sentence, "be not afraid to put out into the deep."

"This really summarizes our approach to the world," he said. "We are a people of hope, for our culture, for our children, and for our society. We know that hope begets hope. We are a

community that looks to our faith for sustenance. We believe we are educating to help form the type of society we want to live in and that we want our children's children to live in: a society in which young women...are well versed in the formative stories of western civilization and understand virtue and vice, the essentials of human nature, the challenge of trying to improve one's own character, the importance of approaching the world as servant leaders, and the beauty of learning with enthusiasm and living with gratitude."

A fitting postscript for the Class of 2021 who met the challenges and restrictions of COVID with



Naniah Echols receives her graduate diploma from Mr. McPherson.



The 2020-21 House Captains present their Class of 2021 award to the school.

**"Going the Distance...in Learning," Cont'd from pg. 27**

said Martha drew at the end of their driveway a large, colorful butterfly, a subject she chose because of the beauty that comes from waiting patiently after a long period in the shelter of a chrysalis. Underneath the chalk drawing, her daughter wrote the words: "Don't give up hope," an inspiring message she said neighbors and passersby found meaningful during the stay-at-home orders.

Eager to return to the classroom this fall, Cherie Walsh said the valuable lessons learned in the pandemic shutdown not only reaffirm Brookewood's education model, but also will continue to serve the school community well in the future.

"The relationships the teachers had established with the students September to March made possible the successes we have had with online teaching and learning," Walsh said. "We were able to take some of the Brookewood magic to the Internet."

**"Non Enim Timemus," Cont'd from pg. 9**

but it is an invitation to ingenuity, creativity, strength in the face of hardship in order to seek the good. In college, I was surrounded by women who constantly compromised who they were in order to fit in. Nolite Timere gave me the courage to be who God wanted me to be.

Acevedo: When everything came out about former Cardinal McCarrick and the abuse in our own Archdiocese, there were reports on social media about how young Catholics were turning away from their faith and wanted nothing to do with the Church. The Washington Post reached out to the CSC along with other universities to interview students on their response to the situation. I was able to sit down with the reporter along with other students, including one in RCIA. The reporter asked us how the news had affected our faith and we told her that while being totally devastated and disgusted at the situation, we didn't want to run away from our Church. We wanted to run towards our Church that was hurting. We told her about how after the news broke, we held an impromptu town hall and welcomed students into our chapel to ask Fr. Rob questions and share their anger, sadness, fear, and frustration. It was truly one of my fondest memories at UMD as it was such a beautiful representation of a Church Triumphant who would not let the gates of Hell prevail. We told the reporter about this and how we felt stronger in our conviction to be Catholic and how we thought that the Church needs young Catholics who are ready to renew our Church. She didn't want to hear this. She left quietly after the interviews and we anxiously waited for the article to come out. It did, and UMD wasn't even mentioned once. They only included interviews where students at other universities said that they were wanting to disaffiliate from the Church. We were sad but not surprised. We all wrote letters to the editor but got no response. If anything this only encouraged us more and reminded us of the importance of being not afraid.

Pipkin: Has the ministry work from the Catholic Student Center at UMD helped you as you plan your future?

Rivas: There was a moment where I felt unsure if the medical field was a place where I could grow in holiness and I even considered giving up. Since the Catholic Student Center offered adoration each week, I chose to bring my questions to Christ. Through prayer I understood that if Christ wanted me to be a doctor then He would bring me to heaven through it. The CSC, much like Brookewood, gave us the tools to grow in faith, but it was up to us to take responsibility for our faith. This was a valuable lesson in moving forward from college.

# Support Brookewood School



The mission of the Brookewood School Advancement Office is to secure resources for the present and future operation of the school. This undertaking is accomplished by building relationships through organized activities designed to attract and engage support from the school's constituencies. Our connections with current and alumnae families, donors, businesses, and foundations provide the lifeblood and base of support to achieve fundraising and enrollment goals for the school.

## 2021-2022 EVENTS

October	Lower School Halloween Party
November	Autumn Auction
December	Poetry Out Loud
January	Brookewood Alumnae Tea
April	Spring Gala
May	Pilgrimage
June	Alumnae Field Hockey Game

## WAYS TO GIVE

### **NOLITE TIMERE FUND**

Unrestricted gifts to the annual *Nolite Timere* Fund help meet the school's ongoing needs, including faculty salaries, co-curricular activities, testing, books, fees, and maintenance of the buildings. These funds become a part of the operating budget.

Restricted gifts are designated for a specific purpose, such as the athletic program, the Brookewood Players, scholarships, or a particular interior renovation project.

### **IN MEMORIAM GIFTS**

A gift made in memory of a deceased relative, classmate, or faculty member may be designated for the scholarship fund, or for a special project, subject to approval.

### **IN HONOR GIFTS**

A gift may be made in honor of the accomplishments of a living teacher, student, alumna, or friend of the school and can be designated to reflect a specific interest.

### **SECURITIES**

A gift of securities, stocks, or bonds entitles the donor to an income tax deduction; a gift of appreciated securities may also reduce capital gains tax liability.\*

### **BEQUESTS**

A bequest is a gift made through a will. It can be a percentage of an estate, a fixed dollar amount, or specific personal property or real estate. A bequest will reduce the size of the taxable portion of an estate and may lower federal estate tax liability.\*

### **DEFERRED GIFTS**

Various trust and other forms of deferred gifts offer immediate and long-range tax advantages and benefits for both your family and Brookewood School\*.

*\*Consult your attorney or financial advisor for specific information tailored to your circumstances.*

# Congratulations

## National Italian Exam Award Winners



**GOLD**

Ella Bostick  
Anna Ferrante  
Ashley Moran  
Katya Parker  
Abigail Rakow  
Astrid Rosa  
Isabella Sechler



**SILVER**

Rose Armstrong  
Molly Collins  
Benedetta De Marchi  
Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro  
Mariana Rodriguez  
Maggie Tobin



**BRONZE**

Lucy Armstrong  
Rebecca Barnes  
Yahfyah Cifuentes  
Siena Do  
Clare Hawley  
Elif Ozaydin  
Isis Reyes  
Lucia Rosa  
Lily Solomon



**ACHIEVEMENT**

Mary Tifford  
Leanna Torrence

## National Latin Exam Award Winners



**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Georgia Armstrong  
Allison Hunt  
Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro



**MAXIMA CUM LAUDE**

Annamaria Brown  
Isabella Dmitriev  
Siena Do  
Sofia Ferrante  
Clare Hawley  
Sofia Herber  
Natalia Rodriguez  
Katherine Stroot  
Mary Tifford



**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Pia Aldrette  
Elizabeth Bajwa  
Isha Bhandary  
SHannan Croarkin  
Adrianna Guiffo  
Mariana Rodriguez  
Astrid Rosa  
Emily Sechler  
Monica Stohlman



**CUM LAUDE**

Isabella Donohue  
Margot Houle

*By the Numbers...*

**66%** of faculty hold advanced degrees

The average number of students/class:

**12**

**100%** of students accepted to four-year colleges

Enrollment for 2021-22 including the addition of a kindergarten class:

**180**

*Brookewood*  
SCHOOL



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