

NAZARETH

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Graduate of Nazareth,

I returned to Nazareth H.S. a few years ago, after completing some forty years of other Xaverian Brothers' ministries in a variety of capacities and places. The impetus for the Nazareth option for me was occasioned by the rather unexpected decision, publicly conveyed, to close the school as it approached its golden anniversary year and by my own initial response of surprise and disappointment. Apparently, the students, their families and the Flatbush area as a whole shared in this disappointment and decided to reject the closure decision, and to regroup and organize efforts to set the school towards a more promising future.

Several of us from Nazareth's past joined with the current leadership of the school to plan for and, hopefully, come to realize a better future for the school. For me, personally, my thirteen years at Nazareth were a gift that has remained with me throughout my years as a Xaverian Brother. I was fortunate to be assigned to Nazareth, a brand new school, along with a team of outstanding Brothers and Laymen, to share in the teaching and direction of the school. As a young brother, completing a stage of personal formation as a Xaverian Brother, fresh out of Catholic University, I considered myself extremely blessed and lucky! I simply could not stand by and accept Nazareth's closure without making some attempt, along with others, to see what could and should be done to keep the school going.

You all will recall your own time as a student of Nazareth Regional and I am really thrilled to realize that God had blessed me with some share in your experiences over these incredible years. Our lives together beginning in 1962 and the times so well-captured in the annual Nazareth Yearbooks reflect well the vision and strength of the entire school community. We did have our moments of challenge, however, that continually kept "The Phoenix Rising..." Recall the delay in moving to the actual site of Nazareth for almost a year...the fire that nearly consumed the chapel, library and classrooms...the near-riot at the 1970 graduation, and other examples, as well.

What may not be part of your past recollections, dear graduate, occurred in the 1970's, when Nazareth, despite being an extremely strong and effective secondary school faced the first crucial test of its continuing existence. In the early 1970's the Diocese of Brooklyn declared its inability to continue providing for the several recently built diocesan high schools. Accordingly, Bishop Mugavero approached each Congregation of Sisters and Brothers with the proposal to take control of their schools from that of the Diocese. According to our leadership at the time, the Xaverian Brothers did not allow for such a decision for Nazareth to become a totally sponsored Xaverian school, with the alternative, seemingly, that of closure as a school.

475 East 57TH Street Brooklyn, NY 11203

phone: 718-763-1100

www.nazarethrhs.org

fax: 718-629-5382

NAZARETH

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Fortunately, we had been anticipating such a development and had prepared a document for the establishment of Nazareth as a Regional Catholic High School, governed by a Board of Trustees. Bishop Mugavero accepted this proposal, and Nazareth Regional High School became an independent secondary school in the Diocese of Brooklyn in the fall of 1974. While unique at the time, this model eventually became the pattern for many Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn and the entire Country.

To complete our futures picture, we made the decision, with the concurrence of most of the Schools educating young women, to allow Nazareth Regional to become coeducational.

Mention is made of these historical vignettes to underscore, as forcefully as I can, that a secondary school, of the quality and importance of Nazareth Regional, deserved, or rather necessitated, that all appropriate steps be taken to assure a future existence.

When I first returned to Nazareth two years ago, following the wise decision to keep the school open, I was amazed by what I experienced there. True, the incredibly ill-kept physical plant nearly brought tears to my eyes, when I first returned from Africa, but I was, without exaggeration, so impressed by the hard working teachers and the students on my first visits to see the school in operation. A new generation of young millennials, to be sure, now populate the classrooms and corridors you once made use of, but there is indeed so much of the quality of your presence and the incredible spirit you displayed still present in the school in considerable abundance.

Our added assistance to the work of the Board of Trustees, as well as our membership on the various committees focused on specific problems, has contributed to some very positive results. The current principal, an outstanding leader of the school, along with an extraordinarily gifted faculty, have worked with the Board in bringing the school population to near the three-hundred plus mark, with four and five hundred students a real possibility in a few years. The operating budget is under control and judicious decisions are being made relative to the annual allocations based on need. Finally, we continue to house two organizations – a pre-school and charter school – for added income for the school's operations. Perhaps in future years with alumni financial support and increases in enrollment, Nazareth will no longer be dependent on income from ancillary entities that share building space.

I am writing this rather lengthy letter, dear graduate, to make a request of you. We are grateful, indeed, for your voluntary donations made in response to mail requests, and when we had the

475 East 57TH Street Brooklyn, NY 11203

phone: 718-763-1100

www.nazarethrhs.org

fax: 718-629-5382

NAZARETH

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



wonderful chance to see several of you at the early class reunions. However, the reality of many years of neglectful supervision, I fear, has rendered the school extremely limited by what it can accomplish simply through tuition income. Let me expand on this a bit.

First, the tuition income is somewhat compromised by the need of the school to reduce some tuitions simply because the young man or young woman is unable to pay the full amount. Our fund raisers are helping us realize some income but not enough to address what the school continues to face as it plans for the future. Put simply, the school's anticipated annual income covers only the most basic of costs, minimizing our ability to expand faculty to accommodate a growing school population and to address ongoing emergencies that the school faces when trying to bring a neglected school building up to standards. The creation of an endowment, the necessary key for a viable future for all our schools, is almost totally beyond our abilities to even envision.

In other words, dear graduate, I am writing to request, most sincerely, your financial assistance to Nazareth Regional High School as we continue to move and plan a viable future for the school. Accordingly, I have included in this letter, a copy of some of the major costs that face the school – mostly involving building repair costs.

If you are interested in discussing any portion of the letter or of the requests made, I stand ready to meet with you. As Nazareth continues to try and build an accurate data base for better communication, you can certainly help the school's Development Office at gbrasco@nazarethrhs.org or (718) 763-1100 ext. 232 with names and phone numbers of any of the alumni from your years or other years. Mr. Gary Brasco ('78) is the school's Development Director; Mr. John Wuestman ('68) is the Director of Development for the Board of Trustees.

Thanks so very much for so much! And God bless you and your family,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bro. Matthew Burke, CFX".

Brother Matthew Burke, CFX

475 East 57TH Street Brooklyn, NY 11203

phone: 718-763-1100

www.nazarethrhs.org

fax: 718-629-5382

N*AZARETH
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Nazareth RHS's Annual Appeal Wish List
2015-16 School Year

Science Lab Balance (\$25,000)

Bleachers (\$60,000)

Team Uniforms (\$4,000)

Entrance Doors (\$20,000) - \$4,000 per Door

Marching Band Uniforms

Weight Room Equipment

Cafeteria Table (\$1,500)

PA System (\$15,000)

Curtains for Stage (\$5,000)

Kindles for our Library/Media Center (\$70)

Basketballs, Footballs, Soccer Balls, Any Sports Equipment

475 East 57TH Street Brooklyn, NY 11203

phone: 718-763-1100

www.nazarethrhs.org

fax: 718-629-5382