

# The Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



Stations of the Cross – March 27, 2024

## Stations of the Cross

By: Briana Patrick

As part of our Easter Mass on March 27, 2024, students at Nazareth Regional High School presented the "Stations of the Cross," a play showing when Jesus made the greatest sacrifice for us by dying for our sins.

We have had a presentation of the Stations of the Cross as one of our

Easter traditions for many years. Ms. Batista, a wonderful teacher, helped organize this play, and the students did not disappoint us!

London Hippolyte and Briana Patrick, two members of our Dance Club, also did a praise dance at the end of the play to bring the whole production together. From the costumes to the students' delivery on stage, the tech crew, the readers, and others who made this presentation possible, it was a moving production. They showed dramatically how Jesus died and why He gave His life for us. The audience was captivated, and we look forward to another powerful presentation next year.



April 2024 - Issue 2

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Easter Edition

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Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

*Happy*  
EASTER

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- Special Events -

- 2/14 Ash Wednesday
- 3/3-7 XBSS Retreat
- 3/12 Black History Month Celebration
- 3/12 Art Gallery
- 3/21 Underclassmen Awards
- 3/24 Palm Sunday
- 3/27 Stations of the Cross
- 3/31 Easter Sunday
- 4/18 Career Day
- 4/25 Science Fair
- 4/26 Fine Arts Show

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# XBSS Student Retreat 2024

By: Jazmyn Leger

Happy Easter! As we reflect on what Christ has done for us during this season and throughout the year, remember that God loves you no matter what! If you pay attention, you will see that He is guiding you every day, even when you think He is not.

## XBSS (Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools) Background

Nazareth is a private Catholic school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers. On June 15, 1839, Theodore James Ryken founded the Brothers of Saint Francis Xavier in a small Bruges home with the blessing of François Boussem, the bishop of Bruges in Belgium. Ryken founded the society with the intention of educating young people, with a special emphasis on those from working-class families. Since then, the Xaverian Brothers have expanded throughout the globe, establishing schools in the United States and Africa. These schools adhere to the educational philosophy and ideals set forth by Ryken, placing a strong emphasis on spiritual growth, community service, and academic achievement. Their goal is to educate the whole individual, encouraging moral, spiritual, and intellectual development.

Currently there are thirteen Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools in the United States, including Nazareth Regional High School, which was established in 1962. These schools are in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Kentucky. The ongoing mission of these schools is to educate leaders who will have a heart of service.

## XBSS Retreat (March 3-7, 2024)

Every year representatives from the thirteen U.S. schools meet at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut for our annual XBSS Retreat. The group from each school includes an adult Campus Ministry leader, a senior leader, and six junior leaders. This year Nazareth was represented by:



Left to right: Ms. Michel, Breanna Pierre-Toussaint, Robert King, D'Andre Collins, Leiya Lockett, Jazmyn Leger, Zariya Edwards, Kino Vitet, Jr.

Adult Leader - Ms. Sandy Michel  
 Senior Leader - Breanna Pierre-Toussaint  
 Junior Leaders - D'Andre Collins, Zariya Edwards, Robert King, Jazmyn Leger, Leiya Lockett, and Kino Vitet, Jr.

## Day 1 Theme: Created by the God of Love

When we arrived on Sunday, each group was asked to make a board for their school that included pictures, information about their school community, and items that represented their senior and junior leaders. After admiring each school's handiwork, we had our first meeting, where we were introduced to the program for that evening and the rest of the week. After an opening prayer that was given by Xaverian Brothers High School (located in Westwood, MA), we had dinner, and then we went into our small groups! There I met some of the most wonderful people and enjoyed getting to know all of them over the next few days. It was just the first night and we were already so open with one another, thanks to our senior leader, Angelo Centeno, and our adult

(cont. on p. 3)

## XBSS Student Retreat 2024

(cont. from p. 2)

leader, Bro. Tom Puccio. They made us feel welcome and created a safe space for all of us to connect and relate to those things that helped us come together. After our small group time, we participated in a Mass that was prepared by St. John's High School (located in Shrewsbury, MA). Just from the first night, I knew I had a blessed experience coming my way!

### Day 2 Theme: In God's image

We woke up early to get our day started! We usually had our meals with our small group, giving us the opportunity to interact and learn more about each other. We had a morning prayer led by Xavier High School (located in Middletown, CT), and then we had more small group meetings, which included several fun icebreakers.

Each small group has students from different schools. My small group consisted of students from Xavier High School, St. John's High School, St. Mary's Ryken High School, Lowell Catholic School, and Mount St. Joseph High School. Our senior leader is from St. Xavier High School, and our adult leader is from Malden Catholic School. Being in this group and participating in these activities helped me become comfortable quickly.

The people at this retreat all looked out for each other, and we developed a strong bond during our time together. The second day was more of a day to settle in, as some students went outside to play sports, some enjoyed playing the instruments they had brought, and others just enjoyed going for a short stroll in the beautiful setting. The day ended with a prayer service led by Xaverian High School (located in Brooklyn).

*Editor's Note: This article will be continued in the next edition of The Excalibur. Jazmyn will share what she experienced during Days 3-5, which focused on the following themes:*

*A Unique Expression of God's Love  
Manifest God's Love to the Peoples of the World  
Stand Ready to Answer God*

## Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024

By: Analiz Ortiz

On April 8, I had the amazing opportunity to witness a solar eclipse from the rooftop of our high school. My technology teacher, Mr. Trama, and two of my friends, Marcus and Isabelle, joined me for this incredible event. We had a high-powered telescope set up to get a closer look at the sun. As the moon started to move in front of the sun, we could see the light dimming and the temperature dropping. The sun turned into a crescent shape, and we could see bright spots around the edges, known as Bailey's Beads. During the whole event, the sun's corona was visible, creating a breathtaking sight.



Before the eclipse, we spent several days learning about the celestial bodies involved and the mechanics of the eclipse. We even built our own pinhole cameras to observe the eclipse safely. During the event, we took turns looking through the telescope, making sketches of what we saw, and taking notes. After the eclipse, we discussed our observations and compared them with what we had learned in class. It was an unforgettable experience, and I felt grateful to have shared it with my friends and teacher. The eclipse brought science to life for us, making it more than just a subject in a textbook. It was a moment of awe and wonder that we will remember for years to come.

# Black History Month Celebration

By: Jaenai Tercius

The theme for this year’s annual Black History Month Show was **“Honoring the Past and Inspiring the Future.”**



First, we had a trio dance performance to the song “Deja Vu” by the famous and talented black female artist Beyoncé. Beyoncé has been a major figure in the black community since the 2000s. Her vocals, dance skills, and live performances are exhilarating to many and many songs from her early days bring a sense of nostalgia to those who grew up listening to her music.

Next, there was a majorette dance performance. Majorette is a popular style of dance that mainly takes place at college campuses, most commonly HBCUs. Often, the dancers, who are usually female, are accompanied by live bands. Majorette has been a staple of black college culture, and it continues to bring the community together in these educational and creative spaces.

Up next, there was the Afrobeats performance. Afrobeats is a style of music and dance that has taken the U.S. black community by storm in recent years. Mixing traditional African percussion and rhythms with a modern dash of American hip-hop, this style of music is enough to get just about anybody dancing.



Lastly, there was the “History of Hip-Hop” segment. Hip-hop has been a popular genre of music in the black community for decades. It not only includes music, but also fashion and dance styles. It has had a lot of influence on black youth, especially in urban areas of the U.S., and recently the style has begun to gain popularity worldwide as well. Overall, the Black History Month Show was a celebration of black culture, how far the community has come, and the unity the community must continue to foster.

# Honoring a Great Teacher

By: Liam Smalling

In the previous edition of The Excalibur, I wrote about my experience as a freshman. And I am happy to report that from that time until now, my productivity and socialization have increased tremendously. And for that, I am grateful.

I am writing this article for the purpose of telling you about my favorite teacher, Mr. Anthony Caccamo, or Mr. C (as we affectionately like to call him).



Here are the reasons why Mr. Caccamo is my favorite teacher:

First, Mr. C's teaching style is captivating. He effortlessly weaves real-world examples into his lessons, making abstract concepts relatable and engaging. When he's discussing

historical events, he brings them to life with enthusiasm. His ability to connect historical evidence to practical applications fosters a deeper understanding among students.

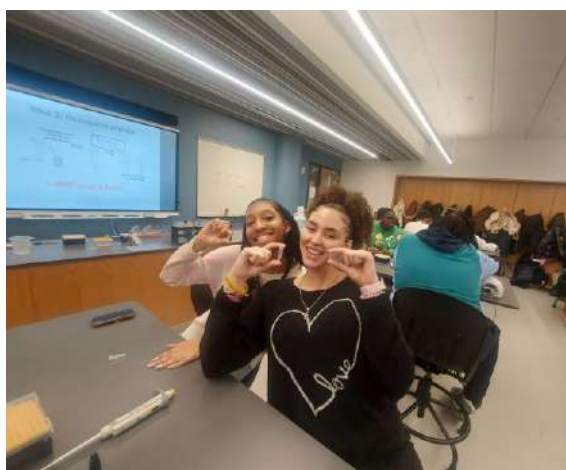
Second, Mr. C's unwavering support and encouragement empowers his students. He recognizes their unique strengths and challenges them to reach their full potential. His door is always open for questions, discussions, or even personal advice. His genuine care for each student extends beyond academics, creating a nurturing environment where growth and self-discovery flourish.

Lastly, Mr. C's commitment to lifelong learning sets an exemplary standard. He stays abreast of the latest educational trends, and his dedication to self-improvement inspires students to embrace curiosity and continuous learning. In Mr. C, I have found not just a teacher, but a mentor who shapes character, ignites curiosity, and leaves an indelible imprint on hearts and minds.

So, those are the reasons why Mr. Anthony Caccamo is my favorite teacher. I will forever be grateful and indebted to Mr. Caccamo for the ways he has impacted my life as a freshman at Nazareth Regional High School.

# What's in Your DNA?

*Editor's Note: On March 19, 2024, Mrs. Recio-Cruz, one of our science teachers, took about thirty of our students to the DNA Learning Center at the New York City College of Technology. As you can see from the photos, it was a great hands-on experience!*



# Art Gallery 2024

*Editor's Note: On March 12, Ms. Allison, the faculty advisor for our Art Club, and Ms. Lebel, our Art teacher, joined their students in hosting an Art Gallery in the foyer on the first floor of Nazareth Regional High School. As you can see from the photos, Nazareth has great artistic and creative talent!*



Above: Ms. Allison, the faculty advisor for our Art Club and a talented artist herself.

To the left: Joana Gomez, one of our talented students.



To the right: Damaris Avila, another one of our talented students.





## The Excalibur Staff



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