

ALUMNI UPDATE

St. Dominic School

Spring, 2019



Peter & Rita Carfagna Class of 1967

Faith and Family First

While both Peter Carfagna and Rita Murphy Carfagna are successful St. Dominic School alumni in many arenas, it is their love of family and faith that inspires. Together, they are the majority owners of the Lake County Captains baseball team. Rita is a Beaumont and St. Mary's College graduate. While raising her family, she stayed connected to her parish by volunteering as a PSR teacher at St. Dominic. She has served on a multitude of boards including the Jesuit Retreat House, the Murphy Family Foundation, and America Magazine.

Peter Carfagna, her husband of 42 years is a graduate of St. Ignatius High School, Harvard, and Harvard Law School. He is an attorney who specializes in sports law and has been a partner at Jones Day and Chief Legal Officer for International Management Group. He is currently teaching sports law at Harvard in the fall and winter terms.

This impressive couple met in first grade at St. Dominic School and maintained their friendship through high school and college. Their parents, Jerry and Margaret Murphy and Peter and Jeanne Carfagna, were founding members of the parish. The Carfagnas remained friends with many of their SDS classmates (including Dominic and Gaile Ozanne) and just recently celebrated their 50th class reunion.

Some of their favorite St. Dominic memories include, "attending the daily Masses as a whole school, especially the May Crowning of Mary when all of the students of the school formed a human rosary around the inside of the church; dressing up as our favorite saints for the All Saints Day Mass; the annual St. Patrick's Day plays, which were (continued on page 2)

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Leaders Start
Here"

The Carfagnas (cont.)

performed in honor of our then Pastor, Fr. Art Gallagher; walking up to Draeger's ice cream store at Van Aken after school; and playing sports and participating in the CYO basketball tournaments at St. Dominic."

They were married in 1971 and celebrated their honeymoon in Oxford, England, where Peter was studying as a Rhodes Scholar. They have been blessed with four children and seven grandchildren. The Carfagnas enjoy attending Mass with their family at St. Dominic and are grateful to Bishop Amos for baptizing their children and to Father Tom for marrying their children and baptizing their grandchildren.

Their Catholic faith has been a central part of their lives. They have generously supported many Catholic organizations and have served on a variety of Catholic leadership boards, including at their high school alma maters. Additionally, they have both made the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Rita even went on to receive training from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University and now serves as a spiritual director.

According to the Carfagnas, "We are grateful to St. Dominic School and Church for the formation they have given us. Our Catholic faith has always been the foundation of all that we do. We received it from our parents and it was nurtured at St. Dominic and at St. Ignatius and Beaumont. It has given us an awareness of God's constant presence and love in our lives to which the faith community of St. Dominic continues to witness. "Praise God for the gift of St. Dominic!"



ST. DOMINIC
SCHOOL

Tomorrow's Leaders Start Here

Andrew Kaczynski, Class of 2003

Media Master

When Andrew Kaczynski, class of 2003, graduated from St. Dominic School, he had no idea that he would go on to become one of the country's leading investigative journalists, especially since the kind of reporting he does didn't exist then. Kaczynski leads CNN's Kfile investigative team, which, according to his bio on CNN, is known for breaking news by scouring through internet sources and fact checking stories. His team is recognized for uncovering the hypocrisies, lies, and controversial statements of government officials. They are considered the leading investigation team for the social, mobile generation.

After graduating from St. Dominic, Kaczynski attended Benedictine High School and later Ohio University and St. John's University. He got his start in political reporting in 2011 at BuzzFeed, where he made a name for himself by unearthing archived videos that went viral because they exposed public officials' deceptions. Kaczynski joined CNN after the 2016 election cycle. What he loves most about his career is that he gets to learn new things and teach people about the subjects he is covering.

He credits his time at St. Dominic School, especially his religious education for serving as "a good background as a reporter for covering issues related to religion and different faiths." If a student wanted to pursue a similar career, he suggests that they write for their high school and college newspapers. Internships are helpful as well, as past experience factors into hiring decisions.

Kaczynski's favorite memories of St. Dominic School include the friendships he made, playing kickball in the gym, and the Science Fair. He adds, "I enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day show, but it took up one of our two weekly gym classes for practicing for part of the year." As a basketball player, sacrificing gym time for a show was asking too much.

Among other accolades he has received, Kaczynski has been named to Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 list for media and New York Magazine's Most Influential Tweeter in 2014. His Twitter feed has over 306,000 followers. As the 2020 presidential election heats up, our very own Andrew Kaczynski will be covering the candidates and, as he does so well, holding them accountable.

