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NEWS RELEASE

2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Seton Catholic To Mark 65th Anniversary During 2019-20 School Year *Chandler Priest Founded School in 1954 To Serve Poor Youth*



Father Joseph Patterson presides over Seton Catholic's first freshman class in 1954. (Photo courtesy of Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill)

CHANDLER, Ariz., July 23, 2019 - Seton Catholic Prep will mark its 65th anniversary during the 2019-20 academic year that begins Aug. 7.

Seton Catholic was founded in 1954 by Father Joseph Patterson. The school's original purpose was to serve the children of Chandler migrant and farming families.

The first graduating class in 1958 consisted of more than 20 students.

Seton Catholic was named in honor of its patroness, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American saint and a pioneer in parochial education. During the school's early decades, a majority of the faculty and staff were members of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

A fire destroyed the original school site in 1980, and the campus was rebuilt in 1983 at its current location at Dobson and Ray roads. After purchasing 13 adjacent acres in 2002, the Seton community embarked on an ambitious building campaign that resulted in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapel in 2008 and the Fine Arts Building in 2011.

"We are proud of our rich history," Seton Catholic Principal Victor Serna said. "For 65 years, Seton Catholic has served the East Valley as the only Catholic college preparatory high school, serving young men and women from all walks of life."

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Seton To Mark 65th Anniversary During 2019-20 School Year – Add One

Over the years, Seton Catholic graduates have earned millions of dollars in scholarships to an array of selective colleges and universities—including state, private and Ivy League schools—and military academies.

In 2017, Seton Catholic was named a National Blue Ribbon School in the “Exemplary High Performing” category by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

As the home of the Sentinels, Seton Catholic athletic teams have distinguished themselves in many sports, earning state championship titles and dozens of Arizona Interscholastic Association awards. The varsity girls’ basketball team, for example, has won 10 state championships.

Notable alumni include Katie Hobbs ’88, Arizona secretary of state; Bob Adlhoch ’87, executive producer, Phoenix Suns Television; aerospace engineer Kate McBryan ’03, principal engineer at Northrop Grumman Corp.; Shane Ortega ’93 of Ortega National Parks, LLC, which owns and operates concessions and lodging in national parks throughout the country; Pete Vlastelica ’99, CEO of Activision Blizzard Esports, a leader in video-gaming leagues; and Fr. Chris Fraser ’89, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Phoenix.

Looking ahead, Serna said, “We look forward to our growth over the next ten years. Seton is going to make significant improvements to our campus and secure our future for generations to come.”

The Seton Catholic community will celebrate the 65th anniversary with several special events during the school year, beginning with Homecoming Weekend Sept. 20-21, a golf tournament in November, and a celebration gala in the spring.

About Seton Catholic Preparatory

A 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, Seton Catholic Preparatory is a diocesan, coeducational high school in Chandler, Arizona, open to students of all faiths and dedicated to academic excellence, leadership and loving service to others. Seton Catholic is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Western Catholic Education Association. www.setoncatholic.org.

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