

GONZAGA FATHERS CLUB NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2011

Membership in the **Gonzaga Fathers' Club** is open to all Dads, step Dads and guardians of current and former Gonzaga students. Our mission is to serve, support, and advance the ideals of the **Jesuit** community and the student body of Gonzaga. We do that by directing efforts to serve, providing the financial means to support, and creating an environment to advance the spirit of "**men for others**" through the involvement of students and Dads, step Dads, and guardians together.

ITEMS of NOTE:

Kudos to Tom McHugh, Charlie Baumgardner and all GFC volunteers for putting together a great pep rally that was so motivational that the Varsity beat St. Johns in an electrifying overtime game the following day.

Kudos also to all GFC Dads who participated in the Open House November 20. In the words of Father Planning, "The event was an extraordinary success. Numerous visitors commented to me throughout the day that they were extremely impressed by the presence of so many parents who took time out of their weekend to support and promote the school. No one with whom I had spoken had seen anything quite like it at other schools. Thank you!"

Help needed for the **Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive** started by Rick Gannon in the late 80s in honor of his brother Greg, who died of brain cancer. Michael Ficca and Matt Gannon are running the event at Gonzaga this year. Please remember to send your cans to school. There will be collection points through the school the week of November 28th to December 2nd. The goal is 3000 cans for Gonzaga. Thanks so much for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- *Christmas Gala & Raffle, December 3*

December's calendar of events begins early with the Annual Gala on December 3rd and for the GFC this means attending the Gala and returning those tuition raffle tickets. For more information contact Erik Kreil at erik.kreil@eia.gov or 202-557-1186.

- *Christmas Gala Clean-up, December 4 (9:00 am)*

We need help cleaning the school post Gala. Our band of volunteers is responsible for getting the school gym, hallways and Commons back to normal. Please take a moment to check your schedule and see if you can't give us a hand. **When:** On Sunday, December 5th at 9 AM till 11:30. If you need to leave sooner, that's OK. **What:** transporting decorations from the Gym & Commons to the storage rooms and other general cleanup. **Where:** the gym at 9AM. We will have some coffee, donuts, bagels and refreshments. **Who:** Fathers, sons, siblings and even Moms are welcome to join in the fun (ok, work). Send your son if you can't make it. If you can make it, please send us an email to confirm. Contact: Pat McCullough - pjmacc@cox.net or Kevin McGrath - kmcgrath2009@gmail.com

- *Gonzaga Classic Planning Meeting, December 5 (6:30 pm)*

This is the final meeting to plan for a major basketball tournament and critical fund raising event that will take place December 9-11. Last chance to get involved in an important event on the GFC agenda. The meeting will be held in Cleary room 122. Contact John McLaughlin at jmclaughlin@cavlog.com or 703-733-4048.

- *GFC Membership Meeting, God on Eye St. December 7 (6:30 pm)*

The next monthly meeting will start with a meal and be followed by basketball Coach Steve Turner who will provide a view of the upcoming Classic and regular season and Father Planning who will lead us in an evening of reflection.

- *Gonzaga DC Classic December 9-11*

The Gonzaga Fathers Club is proudly sponsoring its 23rd Gonzaga DC Classic Basketball Tournament with four games on December 9th at Gonzaga, followed by four games on Saturday and Sunday at American University. Gonzaga will be seeking its 11th championship and 6th straight. The Tournament's theme of "Great Basketball Supporting Good Works" succinctly describes the tournament. The DC Classic is manned by an all-volunteer corps of Gonzaga dads who contribute their time and talents in operating the Tournament and raising the funds to support Gonzaga service projects. The service projects show our sons that service to others in need is important and that being a "Man for Others" is an essential part of a Gonzaga graduate. Contact John McLaughlin at jmclaughlin@cavlog.com or 703-733-4048.

- *Freshman Father-Son Service Project, December 22*

The GFC is organizing a collective work effort at the [Capital Area Food Bank](#) for the freshman fathers and sons. The Food Bank has asked us to participate during their busiest time of the year, just before the Christmas holidays, during two - 3 hour slots on Thursday, December 22nd. Although this is a work-day, we hope that with enough notice most dads can take a few hours off and spend time with their sons working at the Food Bank. Donations to the Food Bank prior to Christmas are massive and there isn't enough staff or funding to receive, sort and package the food. Working at the Food Bank for a few hours would give our sons an appropriate introduction to the services at the Food Bank and perhaps open their eyes to the significant needs of many others in the metropolitan area. Contact Bob Johnson at bob@natellihomes.com.

- *Gonzaga Business Network Meeting, January 4 (5:30 pm)*

The Gonzaga Business Network is having its next meeting in the lower commons on January 4, 2012. Registration starts at 5:30 pm, followed by the program at 6:30 featuring a GBN sponsored job fair for recent Gonzaga grads.

PARTICIPATE IN THE FATHERS CLUB!!

The Gonzaga Mothers Club and Gonzaga Fathers Club are the sponsors of numerous activities throughout the year (e.g., Christmas Gala, D.C. Classic Basketball Tournament) each with the single focus of helping to make a difference in our sons' high school experience. In addition to the many social and service events hosted each year, the GMC and GFC sponsor several fund raising activities that collectively contribute annually nearly \$250,000 to support various needs of the school.

However, the success of the GMC and GFC can only be achieved through the involvement of the mothers, fathers and guardians of Gonzaga students. As a member of the GFC, you are invited to participate in our monthly meetings, our Father-Son service projects and the multiple opportunities to volunteer at and for Gonzaga. There is a great need to support our many activities and we ask that you choose an activity that is right for you. Our website www.gonzagafathers.com shows what is available and where you are needed. And as a member of the GFC, your efforts to encourage other Gonzaga Dads to join are critical to our growth and ability to serve Gonzaga and our sons. As one who has experienced the benefits of the GFC, you are uniquely positioned to convince other dads to enjoy the rewards of service to others while staying connected in a significant way to your son's life.