

# The History of Trinity Catholic High School



For many years, there was a desire for a Catholic high school in Ocala. It was not until 1996 when two surveys, one conducted in the local parishes and the other by the Diocese of Orlando, confirmed that support was indeed sufficient to build and maintain a Catholic high school in Ocala. A group of staunch supporters under the leadership of Father Patrick Sheedy, pastor of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, began making pledges toward the building

of the new school. After 4.1 million dollars was raised and the campaign went public, the push was on to build what would become Trinity Catholic. Bishop Norbert Dorsey strongly supported the campaign and formally approved the name "Trinity Catholic High School" in 1999.

The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers shaped everything about Trinity Catholic in its early years, from the leadership they provided to the teachers and counselors that served the fledgling school to helping get it off the ground. Brother Andrew Prendergast served as the first head of school at Trinity Catholic where he and several other brothers infused the charism of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers throughout the community. The Edmund Rice Christian Brothers served TCHS until 2015.

In April of 2000 over 1000 enthusiastic supporters came to the school site for a ground-breaking ceremony and open-air Mass, and in December of 2000 construction began on the school. The charter class of 2004 began their high school careers on the campus of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church and School in August of 2001 and later moved to portables on the new school site. In January of 2002 construction was complete, and students were welcomed into the new school buildings.

Many additions to Trinity Catholic have been made possible through the generous support of benefactors. In 2005 the field house was added, and in 2006 four additional classrooms were added to the





school. In 2014 the new press box was built at Celtic stadium; and in 2015 renovations were made to the football locker room and athletic meeting center. Additions in 2016 included a baseball locker room and baseball coaches' office, as well as a T.E.A.L (Technology Enabled Active Learning) lab, where technology applications can take classes to a new level. A new volleyball locker room was added in 2017.

Today, Trinity Catholic is a vibrant community of over 500 students, 62 faculty and staff and 5 administrators. A core of excellent Peer Ministers leads an active and vital Campus Ministry. The celebration of the Mass is the highlight of each school week. Retreat and mission opportunities are also available to all students. The school boasts a thriving and rigorous academic program, which includes Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement and Honors courses; a fine arts program which is superior in every aspect includes band, choir, art and theater; a STEM program including aerospace and aviation, computer programming, digital art and a robotics club; a robust athletic program which has garnered 5 state titles in the past 15 years as well as several individual state titles and numerous district and regional titles. Trinity Catholic is a one-to-one iPad school and as such all content is delivered via the iPad; there are no physical text books. Trinity Catholic is accredited by the Southern Association Colleges and Schools, and all of its teachers hold State of Florida teaching certificates.



The future of TCHS is bright. We remained focused on the growth of our students and our school, striving to stay on the cutting edge of technology and keeping our campus a beautiful and state of the art facility. Here we can live our mission, which is to be a Christ-centered community that provides students the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God, to excel academically, and to commit to a life of service to others.

