



(Evan Barraza makes friends with a young boy during his Mexico Mission Trip last spring.)

Evan Barraza – Class of 2012

Our April Alum of the Month is Mr. Evan Barraza. Evan entered Bourgade Catholic High School in 2009 and graduated in 2012. Following Bourgade Catholic, Evan attended Arizona State University for one year before studying as a seminarian for the Diocese of Phoenix at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Evan has since returned to Arizona State University to study philosophy and Spanish and he plans to graduate in 2017.

Evan was involved in many different things at Bourgade Catholic including National Honor Society, student government, and an area where he may be most familiar, athletics. Evan holds BCHS records in the 1000-Pound Club for weightlifting and he also completed his high school career as a 285 weight class state champion in wrestling. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Evan also served as Student Body President his senior year. Evan commented on how wrestling had an impact on him, "...winning is awesome and rewarding; being on top is great but it only comes with the hard work and dedication needed to get there. I've never worked harder for anything in my life, but the payoff is sweet like candy."

Amidst the athletic accolades and his status within the student body government, it was Evan's junior year Sacraments class that he first started thinking about the priesthood. In addition to serving in the seminary for a year and a half, Evan continues to practice his faith today by altar serving and assisting in high school retreats. At ASU, Evan is involved with Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) acting as a leader for bible studies.

The Barraza presence is still felt on the campus of Bourgade Catholic High School as Zane Barraza, Evan's younger brother, is currently attending as a freshman. Evan says that Zane often gets annoyed when Evan preaches about Bourgade Catholic High School, but it is all out of wanting the best possible high school experience for Zane.

Evan Barraza continues to be a proud alum of Bourgade Catholic and has followed a unique path to growing in his faith and as a person. Although Zane walks the sidewalks that Evan once did, he is no stranger to campus often returning to watch his brother wrestle or play football, and even participating in campus activities such as our Priests vs. Student's basketball game during Catholic School's Week. Evan's high school days are in the rearview mirror but the lessons and the memories he experienced at Bourgade Catholic are not forgotten. When asked what his favorite part about high school was, Evan responded, "I remember near the end of my senior year, I reveled in the fact that we (group of friends) were inseparable. I also loved the teachers, the sports and the Golden Eagle pride, which still lives on among some fellow alum that I keep in touch with."

Thank you, Evan. We are proud of your accomplishments and hope that you continue to share your Golden Eagle pride in all that you do!