

PACELLI CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC APPEAL

SUPPORT MY FAMILY'S \$30,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER CHET RAFLIK

Dear Friend,

Pacelli Athletics is a very long and successful tradition. My family and I are proud to have been a part of that tradition for the past 44 years; it's amazing how fast time goes. I have four brothers - Kevin '80, Ken '82, Jerry '85, and David '87 - and we all went to Pacelli and participated in sports, as did all of our kids, up until my youngest daughter graduated last May; the last Raflik to pitch for Pacelli softball, for this generation at least. We even all met our spouses at Pacelli - Mary (Maes) '80, Ann (Golla) '82, Suzie (Kortenkamp) '85, and Robin (Borchardt) '86 - who were also involved in Pacelli Athletics, too.

I started at Pacelli in the fall of 1979 as a freshman on the football team. After I graduated from high school, I started my coaching career at Pacelli as an assistant in baseball and football while going to college. When I graduated from college, I taught and coached at a couple of other schools before I found my way back to where it all started - Pacelli Athletics - as I became the Athletic Director in the fall of 2005, a position I've held for the past 16 years.

During all those years, I have witnessed and been a part of many successes and a few challenges in Pacelli Athletics. But more important than the successes and challenges, I have been lucky to work with so many incredible athletes and coaches. I have seen these young students grow and mature into not only good athletes but quality people who have gone on to be successful in society. I like to think that athletics at Pacelli played a part in developing and preparing these athletes for life after graduation.

As the years go by since I walked the halls of Pacelli as a student, I am reminded that our athletic facilities are also growing older and are in need of repair and updating, especially here at Pacelli Catholic High School. We have a number of athletic funding needs to help continue the successful athletic tradition at Pacelli.

Our funding priorities are:

- Refinishing the PCHS gym floor
- Enhancing softball practice field and adding baseball practice field at PCHS
- Gym entrance landscaping and signage updates
- Locker room refresh and bench resurfacing
- Gym roof replacement and interior block work
- New updated sideline chairs and scoring table
- LED lighting in the gym

These projects come with a total price tag of around \$250,000+, depending on the scope and scale of the landscaping, signage, and locker room projects and fall outside of the annual athletics budget. **That's why we need your help.**

We are moving forward with plans to refinish the gym floor this summer to get it ready for the rapidly approaching volleyball season. We hope to get the softball and baseball practice fields fixed up this fall to have them ready for our teams come the spring season, and we need at least \$75,000 for these projects alone.



JOHN RAFLIK
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
PACELLI CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

--
1301 MARIA DRIVE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

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PACELLCATHOLICSCHOOLS.COM

That's why my family has stepped up to offer a \$30,000 matching gift challenge in memory of my late father Chet Raflik. My dad was an ardent supporter of Pacelli and Pacelli Athletics through the years and was an active member of the athletic association when I was in school, including serving as president. Despite being one credit shy of graduating from PCHS himself, he and my mom, Darlene, made it a priority to send their children to Catholic schools. He worked hard to afford us the opportunities we were given and could always be seen in the bleachers or the sidelines cheering us on at our football, basketball, and baseball games. Decades after we all graduated, my dad was proud to continue his tradition of supporting Pacelli Athletics and almost never missed an athletic competition of his grandkids.



Chet and Darlene Raflik (center) with their grandchildren (L to R) Leah '07, Laura '11, Bradley '19, Taylor '17, Hannah '15, Jordan '17, Kaitlyn, & Haley '20 after the Pacelli Cardinals won the Division 4 WIAA State Softball Tournament Championship Game in 2015. (Not Pictured: Travis '09 and Michael.)

Will you join me and my family in supporting the longstanding tradition of Pacelli Athletics with a gift in memory of my dad, Chet Raflik? My family is matching every dollar raised up to \$30,000 because it's that important to us and to the future generations of Pacelli athletes. That's right, for every dollar you donate, the impact is instantly doubled thanks to a \$30,000 matching challenge gift from the Raflik Family.

We are counting on your support to fund the projects we have scheduled to be completed this summer and fall and hope to fund our entire wish list of projects by spring of 2022. Help us keep Pacelli Athletics and the memory of my dad, Chet Raflik, alive for decades to come with a gift today. Simply fill out the enclosed pledge card or give online at pacellicatholicschools.com/giving.

Thank you for preserving the tradition of Pacelli Athletics and supporting our student athletes!

Go Cardinals!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Raflik'.

John Raflik '83
Athletic Director
Pacelli Catholic Schools

P.S. Check out the proposed design for our new gym floor, slated to be refinished this summer. We're looking forward to this year's home volleyball and basketball games!

