

22nd Annual Scholarship Dinner



San Miguel Academy of Newburgh recently hosted its 22nd Annual *Scholarship Dinner* at the Westchester Country Club Beach Club in Rye, New York, bringing together approximately 300 guests in support of its mission to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Founded by **Father Mark Connell**, the faith-based educational program provides scholarships and comprehensive educational support to students and families in Newburgh and is funded entirely through private donations. Among the evening's guests were members of the **Mara family** of the **New York Giants**, longtime supporters of San Miguel. **Ann Mara Cacase** and **Sheila Mara** served as Co-Chairs of the event.

Guests enjoyed a special rowing demonstration on the Long Island Sound by members of the San Miguel Academy crew team. The Academy's competitive rowing program is an important part of its educational mission, providing students with opportunities to develop discipline, confidence, and leadership while opening doors to athletic opportunities at the high school and college levels.

The evening was hosted by New York Times bestselling author **Adriana Trigiani**, who entertained guests with her warmth and wit while leading a special auction. Among the auction highlights was the opportunity to name a character in her forthcoming novel, *Connie*, commissioned by the Mario Puzo estate. Also featured was an original work of art created especially for the evening by acclaimed artist Lynn Mara.

The Annual *Scholarship Dinner* is San Miguel's largest fundraising event and provides critical support for the Academy's scholarship-driven educational programs.

For more information visit newburghsanmiguel.org.

FIRST ROW: Sheila Mara, Father Mark Connell, Adriana Trigiani and Ann Mara Cacase; Frank Mara, Tim Cacase, Lynn Mara, Paige Durkin, Mara Durkin, Maureen Mara Brown and Doug Brown; **SECOND ROW:** Bella Krasniqi, Vera Tomaj, Ann Mara Cacase, Julianna Cacase, Brooke Emmerick and Molly Cacase Viger; The live auction featured original artwork by Lynn Mara; **THIRD ROW:** Adriana Trigiani with members of the San Miguel Academy Crew Team; Lisa and Nick Predde with Edwin Sotelo; **FOURTH ROW:** Andy Gomez-Moller, Mary Cobble, Ilana Gomez-Wolfson and Jamie Giuseppi; Rowing demonstration on the Long Island Sound. PHOTOS: SIMON FELDMAN

