

PATRICK COMER COURAGE FOUNDATION

GIVING BACK TO SAINT JOHNS

February, 2009

Patrick Comer knew that he wanted to be a Pioneer at an early age. When he was in the 8th grade he said to his Dad, “I want to go to Saint John’s High School.” His desire for a Saint John’s education was fueled by knowing a few alumni in his neighborhood. John Spellane ’86 and Dennis ’87 & Mike ’90 Foley grew up near Patrick and he looked up to them as successful student-athletes. Jim Comer, Patrick’s dad, said “This is a father’s dream, having your son come to you wanting to go to Saint John’s High School.” According to Jim, “Patrick was a good student, but he knew he needed structure. And he knew the school would provide that. He did well at Saint John’s and beyond.”

Sadly, Patrick passed away in March 2008 after a courageous two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. In January of 2008, his boss, Chris Fiacco, established the Patrick Comer Courage Foundation as a way to support families struggling with cancer. A few months later, Jim Comer approached Saint John’s wanting to do something in memory of his son. “Patrick was proud of his Irish heritage and being a Saint John’s graduate.” After hearing about the Saint John’s commitment to the Nativity School of Worcester, Jim decided this is what Patrick would want. “The older generation immigrants benefited from Saint John’s and now it’s payback time. Patrick would want to help the new generation of inner city kids and immigrants come to Saint John’s. That is why we started, through the Comer Courage Foundation, the Patrick Comer Fund at Saint John’s High School. The intent of the scholarship fund is to support one or more Nativity School boys to attend Saint John’s. “Chris Fiacco raised the bar for the foundation and through their support we are contributing to Patrick’s alma mater in an effort to help these young boys from inner city Worcester mature into young men, just as Patrick did.” “Patrick would want us to give these kids an opportunity for a great values-based Catholic education.

“Patrick was successful after Saint John’s. He advanced rapidly in the business world. My wife Cheryl and I know what we did to foster that, but we also know and appreciate the difference Saint John’s made in Patrick’s life. And the school has made a difference in our life since his passing. We entrusted Patrick to Saint John’s for 6-plus hours a day without reservation. I pray there is a Saint John’s High School in life for every young man who wants a great values-based Catholic education.”