

# Cardinal



Sept/Oct Edition  
2018

## NEW BEGINNINGS

### WELCOME TO THE LASALLIAN FAMILY

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."

- Tom Bodett



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# HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

To all Freshmen: Welcome to La Salle! On behalf of the Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, Faculty and Staff, I want to congratulate you on your accomplishments thus far. You must've done something right to attend La Salle Academy.

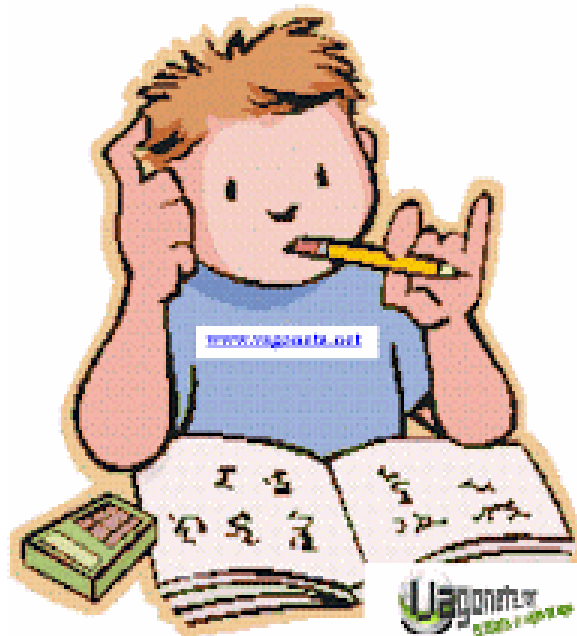
As a Freshman in your very first month of high school, focus on the little accomplishments first, such as learning the names of new friends and teachers, knowing the right classroom numbers, getting to school on time, doing homework on time, and staying out of trouble. It's quite difficult to accomplish some of the things listed, but with enough determination and drive, you can accomplish it. In fact, you can accomplish anything, both in La Salle and in life, with enough determination and drive. If you want to be on the honor roll: all you need is determination and drive. If you want to be the president of the sophomore class next year, determination and drive. Want to get into honors and/or AP classes in the coming years, or want to stay in honors classes for all four years of your high school journey? Determination and Drive. Want to ace every single exam that comes your way? Determination and Drive. I think you get the point. Nothing is impossible here, as long as you truly want it.

Academics should be at the utmost importance for you in your high school journey. However, high school isn't just about academics. It's about creating memories with new friends that you may know for the rest of your life. If you're into athletics, we offer some

of the best teams participating in the best sports in the city. Our basketball, baseball, soccer, handball, bowling and track & field teams are championship teams equipped with championship players waiting for new championship members to join them. Our clubs are some of the finest in the city, Newspaper Club, the Debate Team, and Chess Club are some of my personal favorites. Some groundbreaking programs, such as La Salle Abroad, La Salle in the City, and La Salle Works are some of the many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities offered to students here.

Now that you know some of the basics on how to succeed here, it's time for you to take initiative. The door is open for you here at La Salle. Now is your chance to walk through it.

- Michael Centeno



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

It's that time of year again when we celebrate Hispanic Heritage from September 15th to October 15th. The celebration has been around for five decades and continues to encourage fellow Hispanics to embrace and celebrate their culture. The month is also a great time period to educate our peers on our respective culture. We reflect and remember who we are and we do this by participating in several Hispanic Heritage month events that occur throughout the month. There are several festivals and events that are hosted throughout the month to really capture the spirit and feeling of the Hispanic heritage and embrace our cultures in a positive uplifting matter. A modern tech inclusive way to celebrate the month is by simply spreading the word online. There are several articles highlighting important people and messages that make their way through several social media platforms to educate numerous individuals about the message behind Spanish heritage month. I encourage everyone, Hispanic or non-Hispanic, to really take the time to celebrate and embrace the month whether it's going to see a Hispanic band perform or just simply reading an article highlighting famous Spanish singers like Selena Quintanilla or the famous artist Frida Kahlo. "Feliz mes de la herencia hispana!!"



- David Matos





# HISPANIC HERITAGE ASSEMBLY

This year for La Salle Academy's 2018 Hispanic Heritage Assembly there were numerous esteemed guests and performances. The assembly began with a prayer and speech from a guest priest. The assembly's entertainment featured a spoken word by the President of Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, who told us about his Cuban roots and shared several memorable remarks to the young Lasallian men. Later, a pianist wooed the student body with a fantastic performance that displayed his remarkable speed and rhythm. Furthermore, two representatives from Governor Cuomo's office, including a Puerto Rican woman gave a speech on cultural diversity, and presented a proclamation on behalf of Governor Cuomo. During the assembly, three Lasallian gentlemen received awards for the students who participated in La Salle's Hispanic art competition. President/principal Dr. Guerriero also gave a brief speech acknowledging the large Hispanic population in the school. Last but not certainly not least, the NYPD band performed several Hispanic songs by several artists such as Marc Anthony, Luis Fonsi, and Carlos Santana. This was without a doubt the highlight of the entire assembly. The singing along with all the musical talent displayed was excellent. The boys loved the performance giving the band a strong Lasallian applause. The assembly truly celebrated Hispanic culture and music in fabulous fashion.

- Steven Dumeng



# WELCOMING THE NEW FACULTY

## MR. ROSICH

Many new teachers and faculty have joined us at La Salle this year, so we feel it's important to get to know all of them as well as possible. Some of our readers may have already been taught by or spoken with him, but we asked Mr. Rosich a few questions so we as students could get to know him better, as a teacher and as a person. We began by asking him where he worked before coming to La Salle. He said, "I have worked at several Catholic schools in Westchester and NYC. Each time I moved it was to be of help to my family. He came to La Salle because of family circumstances and he wanted to continue to work in a Catholic school that fosters the principals of Catholic education. Mr. Rosich said once he stepped into the school and met the people here he knew it was the right place for me."

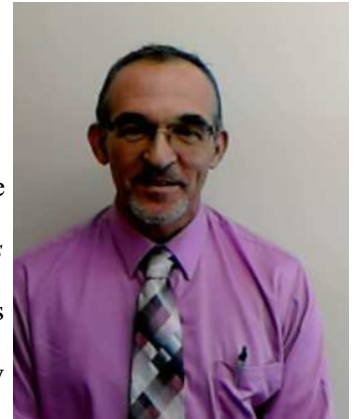
While he is new at La Salle, he is certainly not new teaching. He has worked as a teacher for over 20 years teaching every kind of science with the exception of physics. He is incredibly experienced and knowledgeable in his craft. Though he's committed to his work, he finds himself going to the gym and performing high-octane exercises, as well as learning his fair share of martial arts. He's even a black belt in Kenpo Karate Jiu-jitsu.

We proceeded to ask him a few other questions about his personal tastes and style that went along with his hobbies. He's an avid reader and enjoys a variety of books, though mostly fiction novels. When it comes to cinema, he enjoys the classics such as *It's a Wonderful Life*, which he says is his favorite film as it highlights just how important we are to each other. Musically, his tastes vary, but he mostly listens to cool R&B, some 50's classics and a bit of old rap here and there. Additionally, his favorite sports team is the Yankees, as it should be for any self-respecting New Yorker. As he says it himself, "They call it the World Series, but it's usually played in the Bronx."

While he's visited a variety of places, his very favorite has been Bermuda thus far, which he calls 'Heaven on Earth.' Despite this, his choice of food varies, and he's confident in his cooking skills. When asked about his favorite food, he says "Cuban. Love Spanish food. Italian is a close second. I can cook anything."

Finally, he was asked one of the most important questions a new teacher could be asked: what was his hope for La Salle students going forward? Confidently, he says "To learn the value of hard work and have fun doing it." This is a statement that should show more than enough confidence that he'll give his best as a teacher at our school.

- Joel Dominguez



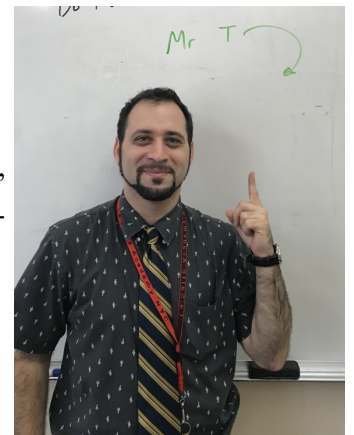
## MR. TEDESCO

Mr. Tedesco is teaching for the first time in the Math Department at La Salle Academy. He came to La Salle because he is an alumnus and he has a strong relationship with the LaSallian community. Therefore, when he heard that La Salle had an opening for a math teacher, he gladly took the offer. Before coming to La Salle, Mr. Tedesco worked at Kaplan and taught SAT test prep for a few years.

When Mr. Tedesco is not teaching nor grading papers, he spends a lot of time with music. He sings and edits music. His favorite kind of music is Rock and Roll from the 1960s – 1980s. He is also interested in music from "The Great American Song Book." His favorite musician is George Harrison, the lead guitarist of the famous band, The Beatles. Neil Young on the other hand is the singer of his favorite song, "Old Man." This is his best song because his dad passed away and that song reminds him of his father. It gives him an idea of what he would say to his father if he were here. With reference to sports, Mr. Tedesco likes basketball and his favorite player is John Starks. John Starks is his preferred player because he likes his story on how he made it to the NBA.

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." This quote is Mr. Tedesco's favorite motto. He also has a quote of his own for the LaSallian family. He says, "Stay positive even when time gets rough."

- Daniel Bainbridge





# WELCOMING THE NEW FACULTY

## MS. BU

The Spanish department has had a near-total remodel and I am very pleased to introduce two new instructors to the Lasallian student body. One of the two new Spanish department teachers is Ms. Bu, who came to La Salle after teaching at The University of Connecticut for two years and ‘accidentally’ came across a La Salle teaching position when speaking to one of her former colleagues. However, the deep-rooted works of the Lasallian brother is never accidental. In her home country of Cuba, Ms. Bu recalls family friends being involved with Lasallian colleges (she did not specify which one, but currently there are four locations throughout Cuba; Colegio De La Salle in Panama City, Colegio San José De La Salle in Colon, Colegio La Salle (de Margarita) in Colon, and Colegio San Miguel Febres Cordero, in Los Lagos, Colon). She understands the core of the Lasallian institution and is excited to be working at La Salle Academy. She teaches Spanish I, Spanish II, and AP Spanish. Ms. Bu explains that while teaching us new things she is always open to learning new things herself. In her spare time she loves to go to the theatre, read books, and devotes her time to preparing lessons for her classes.

She has a deep love for theatre and the arts and has expressed this through starting a Drama Club at La Salle on Thursdays. She is prepared to give the Drama Club some meaningful insight into the world of Theatre and Arts. Her favorite actors are Meryl Streep and Ryan Gosling. She loves all types of music, most notably classical music. Her favorite musician is Beethoven. In sports, she used to love playing Volleyball and supports the Cuban volleyball female team.

Before starting work at La Salle this Fall Ms. Bu had travelled to Spain to visit her family, and remembers being at the edge of Spain and seeing Africa from where she had been standing. Being able to see another continent with the naked eye is truly mesmerizing. To end the interview I asked Ms. Bu what was her favorite motto and what was her hope for La Salle students. She responded with a simple and honest “Nobody’s Perfect”. Her hope for La Salle students is that they understand more than just the Spanish language, but the many cultures that are behind it. She wants all of us to try our hardest to succeed.

- Michael Suarez

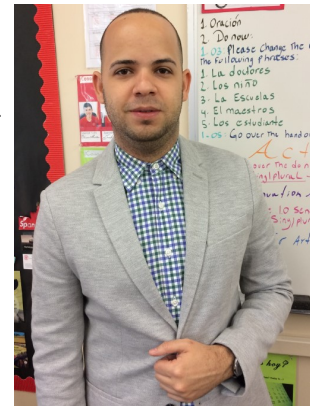


## MR. ALONZO

I also interviewed Mr. Alonzo, who is my homeroom teacher and teaches Spanish as well. He came to La Salle because it was a renowned school with disciplined students and ultimately, seemed like a fun place to work. Previous to La Salle, Mr. Alonzo worked at Ethical Culture Fieldstone School in the Bronx, which also has a campus on 59th and Lexington. His first year at La Salle marks the second year of his teaching career. He teaches Spanish I, Spanish II, and Spanish Native (AP). In his spare time he loves to read and decorate, the latter being shown in his classroom. His decor shows his true dedication and love of his workspace. He reads passages of Don Quixote also in his spare time, and his favorite author is Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He likes Gabriel because he likes the way he gives fresh perspectives on modern day social problems. Mr. Alonzo likes the old-fashioned way of reading and has amassed a collection of over 300 physical copies of books.

His favorite movie is The Passion of The Christ and his favorite actress is Viola Davis. He enjoys Gospel music and his best musician is Andrea Bocelli. He, like Ms. Bu, loves to go to theatres to see plays. His preferred theatre is Repertorio Espanol on 27th and Lexington. Please, do not ask Mr. Alonzo about sports because HE DOES NOT LIKE SPORTS!!! Mr. Alonzo travelled to Puerto Rico to go to school (University of Puerto Rico) in San Juan. He is not Puerto Rican himself, but is Dominican and expresses a great love for Dominican food. Although he LOVES Dominican food, he loves Baby Back Ribs and is a “great cook” (we’ll have to see for ourselves, La Salle). I ended the interview with his favorite motto and hope for La Salle students. Mr. Alonzo has one word, “Jesus”. His hope for La Salle students is that we find the path that is right for us, and hopes that he can help us in discovering ourselves past academics, but using life values that could be used in everyday situations. He hopes that all of us can become professionals in our own respect. The Spanish Department teachers are devoted, and if we give the same amount of effort that they give to us, the possibilities are endless to what we can achieve as La Salle Students.

- Michael Suarez



# WELCOMING THE NEW FACULTY

## MS. PERRONE

La Salle has changed from last year to this year. We said goodbye to familiar faces and we welcome new faces. Fortunately, we are excited to move on with a more positive point of view and appreciate our blessings. We are ready for a fresh new start.

Among the new teachers is our brand new English teacher. Her name is Ms. Perrone. Although she seems more strict than most teachers, she wants what's best for us. She wants to help us work hard to be good writers and achieve our academic goals.

Ms. Perrone is happy that La Salle offered her the opportunity to teach here. Ms. Perrone has worked as a teacher for twenty six years. Prior to La Salle, Ms. Perrone worked at St. John's University for seventeen and a half years, at another educational institution for three years, at Kennedy School for one year, and then finally transitioned to LaSalle. She has been teaching English throughout her professional career.

In her spare time, Ms. Perrone likes to read and sing in a choir for an Italian mass on Saturday nights. Sometimes she goes out to dinner and enjoys long walks.

Ms. Perrone is currently reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Dante's Inferno* by Dante Alighieri but loves to read books about Palestinian and Jewish affairs. Her favorite authors are Machiavelli and Dante and her favorite playwright is Daniel Silva. Dante is one of her favorite authors because as a very young child she remembers reading *Inferno* and other Dante's work with her father. She enjoys collecting and reading the different versions and editions of the *Inferno*.

One of her favorite movies is *Moonstruck* because the relationship between the Americans and Italians are depicted well and the characters are interesting. One of the movies she has recently seen is *Like a Cat on the Highway*. Her favorite actor is Denzel Washington and her favorite actress is Julia Roberts. She enjoys watching "Grey's Anatomy" because of her interest in medicine and health.

Ms. Perrone like all music but dislikes heavy metal and rap. She mostly enjoys listening to Italian music and artists. Her favorite artistes are Elton John, Billy Joel, Garth Brooks and Andrea Bocelli. She would like to see Il Volo perform live; an Italian band that performs a mix of pop and classical music.

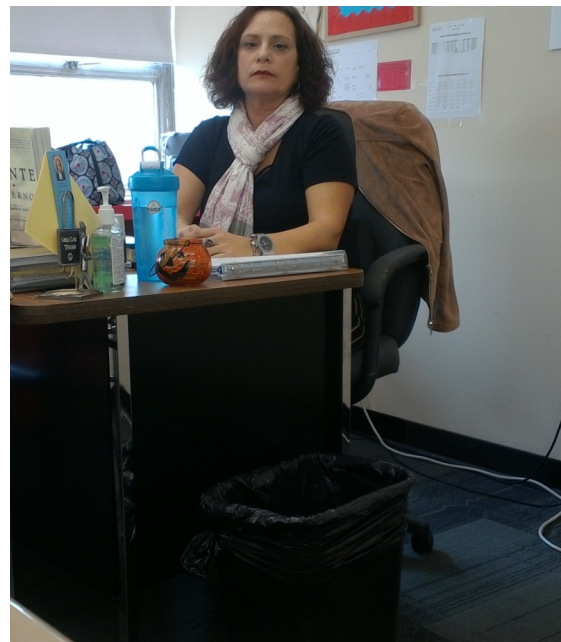
Tennis and gymnastics are her favorite sports, but she doesn't play any of them. Her favorite tennis player is Serena Williams. Ms. Perrone also likes soccer, her favorite team is Juventus F.C. Italy.

Ms. Perrone enjoys travelling to Italy. She was born there in a little village in the mountains by the beach until she migrated to the United States with her parents. She usually enjoys going to meet her old friends and her family that reside in Italy. She prefers to go to Florence, because she does research there where Dante, her favorite author was born. It is a beautiful city with wonderful architecture and art. To her, Italy is her home.

Ms. Perrone's favorite food is Trofie, an Italian pasta dish. Anything that is pasta or pizza along with seafood or roasted chicken with potatoes are delicious for Ms. Perrone. She enjoys cooking but doesn't like baking. Ms. Perrone loves to make split pea soup, lentil soup and minestrone.

Ms. Perrone lives by this motto "to give those who cross you, forgiveness, because grudges only weigh you down". Her hope for all La Salle students is for them to get a good education and take advantage of all the opportunities that the school and teachers have to offer.

-Matthew Cortes



# WELCOMING THE NEW FACULTY

## MR. DI IORIO

Mr. Di Iorio is the Religion 3 and 4 teacher here at La Salle, and has been teaching for 4 years. Prior to La Salle, Mr. Di Iorio taught Freshman and Sophomores at Cardinal Spellman High School. He likes La Salle because it is a smaller environment, an all boys school which allows for more interactivity with students, and it is closer to his home. During the morning, Mr. Di Iorio does the morning prayer alongside Deacon Darrell, and after dismissal he works in the Campus Ministry.



Mr. Di Iorio enjoys reading, and has recently read *Lethal White* by J.K. Rowling. He is into thriller and action books, but he also enjoys reading biographies because they allow him to learn about people's lives. In addition to these genres, Mr. Di Iorio enjoys reading about sports.

He is an immense sports fan, continuously reading the Sports Page of the *New York Post*.

Mr. Di Iorio's favorite sport is baseball, having played it throughout his childhood. His favorite team is the Yankees, a team that he has adored since he was a kid. His father was a huge Yankees fan, and so was his grandfather. Mr. Di Iorio says that the reason his family are such great Yankees' fans was because during the 1930's and 40's the team had many Italian players. Mr. Di Iorio is also a football fan, but says he never played it as a child.

Mr. Di Iorio enjoys watching television shows and movies. Recently, Mr. Di Iorio saw Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan series on Amazon, and his favorite TV show

is "The West Wing" (1999-2006). Mr. Di Iorio has many favorite movies, including *Saving Private Ryan*, *Apollo 13*, and *A Few Good Men*, but certainly his favorite actor is Tom Cruise.

Mr. Di Iorio enjoys spending quality time with his wife, and does so by traveling. His most recent trip was to Belgium and the Netherlands, but he has also visited Myanmar, Morocco, Portugal, Thailand, Israel, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. As a child, he did not have the opportunity to travel, but now he does. Mr. Di Iorio enjoys traveling because he enjoys experiencing new cultures and getting to know the different life styles of people.

Besides traveling, Mr. Di Iorio enjoys cooking with his wife. They will cook at least 4 nights per week, and have a nice Sunday meal. His favorite foods he likes to cook are basics such as pork chops, steak, and Italian sausages with peppers. His favorite foods are pasta and seafood because he grew up eating those meals. For him, seafood has a great taste and is an excellent source of protein.

Mr. Di Iorio is a very modest and honorable man, and looks up to St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Thomas Aquinas, two Italian religious figures who he acknowledges for living moral lives. Mr. Di Iorio wishes the best to La Salle students, hoping we aspire to grow in virtue, courage, bravery and honesty. He would like us to understand the important role we have as men, and would like us to be leaders in our families and communities. Thank you Mr. Di Iorio for coming to La Salle!

- David Mena





# WELCOMING THE NEW FACULTY

## DEACON DARRELL

It's that time of year again when students put away their bathing suits and sunscreen and bring out their bookbags and notebooks for the start of the new school year. The beginning of the school year may cause a variety of emotions for the student body and staff. We do not know what the fate of school year has in store for us especially with new schedules and perhaps new school rules. We've had a few changes and additions to La Salle that occurred over the last couple of years, but the most exciting addition is always the new faculty that joins the Lasallian



family. We have a few new faculty members that fortunately joined the Lasallian family this current school year and we are honored that they have chosen La Salle. One of the additions here at La Salle is Deacon Darrell who is one of the new religion teachers that joined our staff this fall.

Deacon Darrell has taught religion for a variety of years, mostly at the parish level. He made the decision to come to La Salle because his previous school, Bishop McCann- Mercy High School in Riverhead, unfortunately, closed this past June. Fortunately for us though we gained a very knowledgeable religion teacher with years of experience. Deacon is currently teaching freshman Religion, Christian Lifestyles and World Religions to our seniors.

Deacon Darrell was ordained as deacon back in 2012. He served at St. Brigid's Church in Westbury, Long Island. He believes that as a deacon he is called to show people Jesus the Servant.

He has been married to his wife, Diane, for 29 years. They have two children, Matthew, who is currently a senior at Saint John's University and his daughter, Jessica, who is currently a freshman at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville, Long Island. He and his family are huge Disney fans. This past summer, in fact, his family visited Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. His family is such a big Disney fan that his son owns a miniature replica of Walt Disney World that currently resides in their garage. It includes nightly fireworks shows to really replicate the proclaimed "happiest place on earth".

Deacon Darrell has a variety of other interests as well. He adores Italian food, specifically lasagna, he

loves watching baseball and is a huge Mets fan. His favorite TV show is "Blue Bloods". He enjoys "Blue Bloods" for the simple fact that it takes place in New York City which is close to home for him since he grew up in Queens. He also enjoys reading books about saints mainly because they provide a model for living a life for God and others.

Deacon Darrell is happy to join the LaSallian family and he hopes to give his students a better understanding of who God is and how God wants to be part of all our lives. He often goes by the motto by Jesus Christ himself that has been repeated numerous times by Saint John Paul the Second, "Be Not Afraid."

We are excited to have Deacon Darren join our faculty and we are thrilled to see him educate the students of La Salle.

- David Matos



# JUDGE KAVANAUGH VS DR.FORD

## OPINION PAGE

On Monday, October 8, 2018, Brett Kavanaugh was officially sworn in as a newest Supreme Court Justice at the White House by President Trump. However, this nomination wasn't perfect. There was multiple sexual assault allegations against Justice Kavanaugh, particularly when he was in high school at Georgetown Prep, and in college, both at Yale University, and Yale Law School. The most notable accuser was Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. In my opinion, this was a partisan issue, where both Democrats and Republicans were at fault. The Democrats were accused of publicly releasing Dr. Ford's story without her consent, while the Republicans were alleged of botching the FBI investigation that followed the hearing. I believe that the Republicans should've led another FBI investigation into the life of Brett Kavanaugh and his alleged wrongdoings, as they have the power to do so. They hold the majority in the Senate. I believe that as the nation's highest court, there should be no person who sits on it with allegations of sexual assault, or any other crime for that matter. However, no matter the opinion, Brett Kavanaugh is on the Supreme Court, as the newest Justice in the highest court on the land.

-Michael Centeno

Polls are a great tool, they can be used to gather data for research and take a consensus on an issue or topic of discussion. There are numerous amounts of variables when taking polls even when extrapolating data from polls. Although polls have been a long-standing component of society and politics, a coin toss seems more reliable in our current climate. And that is for both positive and negative outcomes.

Regardless of the screaming or crying, Brett Kavanaugh is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of The United States of America. He was appointed by the current administration for his political views, and the common perspective they share on many different topics. The vote for confirming Justice Kavanaugh was already decided when Trump became president. This was the same for Justice Gorsuch. Words, whether on paper or spoken, can only do so much. Actions, as the adage says, speak louder than words. Just remember that when you're eligible to vote. Don't let stagnation guide your destiny.

- Juan Angos

