



February 2, 2016

Dear School, Business, or Community Leader,

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Mr. Joel Feldman. Joel visited Saint Joseph Prep on Wednesday, January 27, with his wife, Diane, to offer a presentation to our entire school community on the dangers of distracted driving. Joel's presentation, an outgrowth of the organization his family has founded called End Distracted Driving (<http://www.enddd.org>), was outstanding.

Combining data and statistics with personal insight and stories, Joel connected powerfully with our students and teachers. Somehow, through a unique combination of courage and compassion, Joel managed to mix humor with horror, helping young people to see, at once, the absurd lengths to which some people will go when (allegedly) "multi-tasking" in the car and the unspeakable losses suffered by those families who have been horribly affected by needless deaths.

As I shared with Joel and Diane after the presentation, I stand in awe of them. They are so exceptionally gracious and generous; truly, it is beyond me how they are able to do what they do, each and every day, and especially in such a public way. There is no trace of judgment or condemnation, no sign of bitterness or resentment; they are authentically approachable, accepting, and engaging. They give freely and fully of themselves—and of their story of their beloved daughter, Casey—so that none of us will ever have to experience the reality that they experience.

The presentation is an effective balance of videos, slides, anecdotes, and reflections. Joel engages the audience in a way that is comfortable and affirming, yet direct and challenging. Even in the "skits" and "role-plays" that Joel has the young people act out, they know they are discussing a most serious, even deadly, topic. Joel held all of our attention, not just by the importance of his message and the gravitas of the subject, but more importantly, by his genuine presence. There was an undeniable strength we saw in Joel, and yet there was an emotional pain that we felt in Joel. Joel was somehow vulnerable enough—generous and brave enough—to give us a brief glimpse of the cross that he carries. Because Joel was willing to "let us in" to this raw, dark place, without losing his composure or straying from his intended course, Joel's message was truly impactful.

The entire assembly was "heavy" to be sure, but it was never "too much" or too overwhelming for our community. Indeed, it hit just the right notes. And Joel's thoughtful, challenging, honest, and humble way of interacting with our students, faculty, and staff called each of us to examine how we must choose to drive more safely. From the wristbands to the driving contracts, Joel pushed us, in all the right ways, to make better decisions—as passengers and as drivers.

We are most grateful to Joel and Diane for sharing their story, for continuing the legacy of their daughter Casey, and for making a difference in our Saint Joseph Prep community. It is with much enthusiasm that I recommend Joel to any school, business, or organization. Let's all resolve to end distracted driving. Take care.

Sincerely,



Tom Nunan, Jr.

Head of School

617 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02134-2460 | 617-254-8383 | fax 617-254-0240 | [www.SaintJosephPrep.org](http://www.SaintJosephPrep.org)

*Saint Joseph Preparatory High School is a Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston*