

Mr. Lou Santos

Lou Santos, a New York City native, is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier Grammar School and Power Memorial Academy. He holds a BA in secondary education from St. John's University as well as a Master's in Spanish from Iona College. After earning his Master's, he returned to St. John's for a PD in Administration and Supervision for grades K-12.

Mr. Santos started his teaching career in January 1970 at St. Raymond High School for Boys in the Bronx. Though he had a Spanish degree, he first taught biology and health. He later accepted a position at St. Michael's High School for Girls in Manhattan, where he taught Spanish and typing. He spent 18 months at St. Michael's before joining the foreign language department at St. Helena's High School in the Bronx. This was also his first opportunity to work alongside the Marist Brothers, who have since played a significant role through his present-day career. Mr. Santos taught Spanish at St. Helena's for six years, and in 1978 was encouraged by his close friend, Brother Declan Murray, to apply for a teaching position at Archbishop Molloy High School. He was accepted and started his Molloy career that fall. During his tenure at Molloy, Mr. Santos has taught Spanish, run the Student Activities Committee (SAC), served as Foreign Language Department Chair, initiated the AP Spanish program, and founded the long-running "International Day" event, which is still celebrated today.

Mr. Santos has earned a nickname during his long and respected career: Coach Lou. He showed an interest in coaching as early as age 16 and has coached every year of his life since. His coaching credentials include the Greater New York Sandlot Athletic Alliance, St. Raymond's, St. Helena/Msgr. Scanlan High School, Christ the King High School, Queensborough Community College, Sandlot Football, St. Michael's, St. Mary's Immaculate Hospital (basketball), the Flushing Tigers, Concordia College, CYO softball, and of course Molloy. Among his greatest coaching achievements, Coach Lou is the winningest baseball coach in the history of Queensborough and has led Molloy's JV softball team to two city championships, ten division titles, and playoff appearances in each season he has been at the helm. Mr. Santos has also been honored in the MCU Park Hall of Fame in recognition of his commitment to Sandlot youths. "Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves," he tells his players.

There is yet another key element in Mr. Santos' inspiring career: service. He serves on the Boards for Msgr. Scanlan High School and the Greater New York Sandlot Athletic Alliance and is a founding member of Molloy's Brother Ronald Marcellin Committee. The Committee has raised over \$450,000 in scholarship support for students experiencing extraordinary circumstances that might otherwise prevent them from attending Molloy. It is one of the school's most critical scholarships.

"It's important to be involved in the community," says Mr. Santos of his affinity for service and volunteerism. "It comes from my upbringing. My parents were Puerto Rican, and neither went to high school, but when they came to New York they worked hard to keep me in Catholic school. I've been Catholic school educated my entire life, and with that I've been inculcated with the idea of giving back." Mr. Santos has coordinated countless fundraisers, volunteer and donation efforts involving Wounded Warriors, the HHS Foundation in the Dominican Republic, D3 Sports & Recreation Inc., Ronald McDonald House Charities, and many more.

Mr. Santos was inducted into Molloy's Stanner Hall of Fame on March 25, 2017.