

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC STAR HERALD

JANUARY 23, 2015

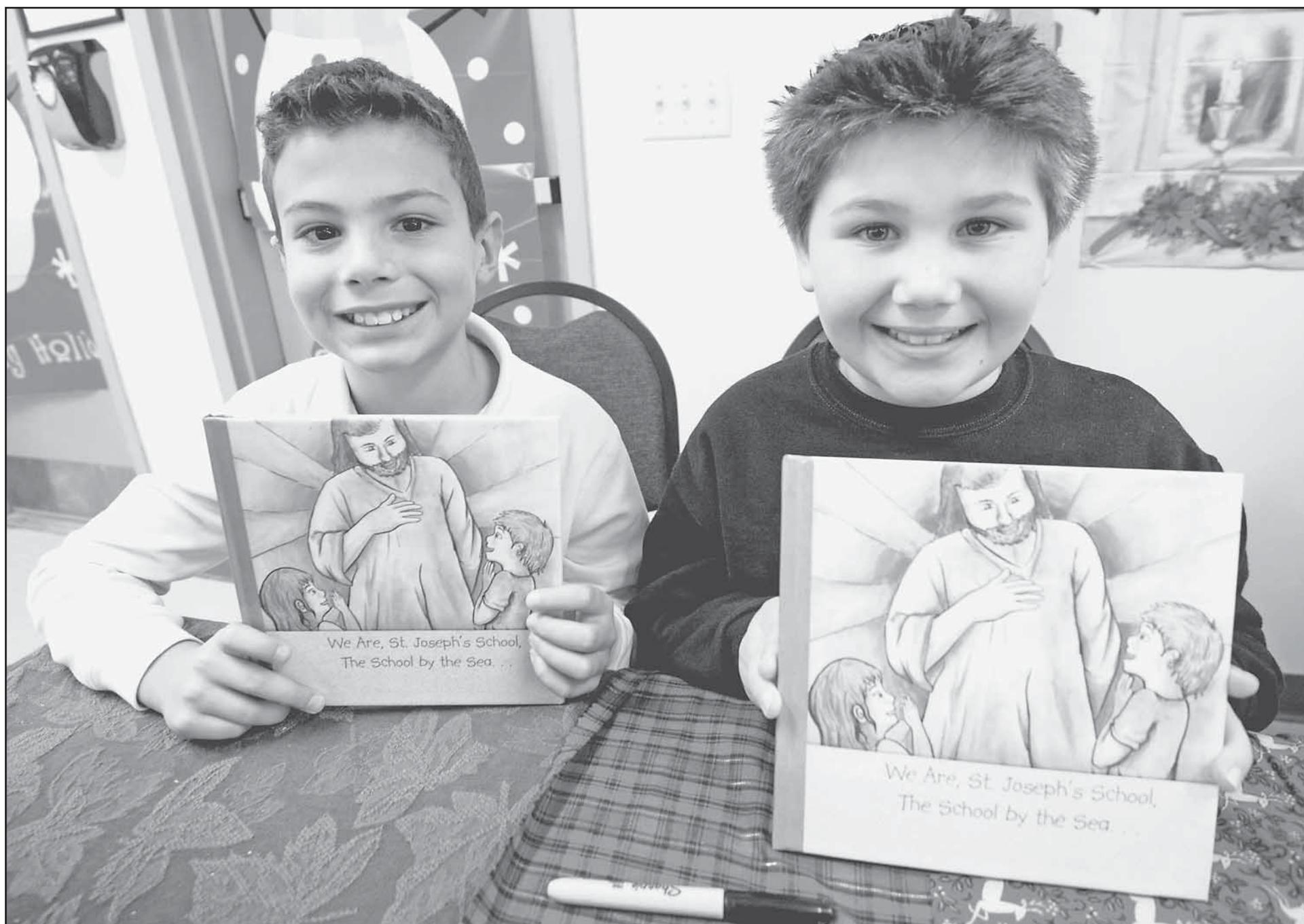


Photo by Alan M. Dumoff

Christopher Catona and Domenic Kenny, St. Joseph School students, with "We Are, St. Joseph's School, the School by the Sea," the book they co-created with fellow students.

Writing the book on Catholic education

By Peter G. Sánchez

Watch out, J.K. Rowling and Stephen King. Students at St. Joseph Regional School in Somers Point might someday knock your books off the bestseller list.

Recent 15 students in grades 3-6 and a school alumna released "We Are, St. Joseph's School, the School by the Sea," which they created, wrote, illustrated and self-published.

The book is "about who we are as a school, what makes our school special,

and what it means to have a Catholic education," said Sylvia Mary McFadden, third grade teacher and mentor for the school's summer writer's workshop, where the idea for the publication was first conceived.

Students in the writer's workshop formed another club, Students for Social Responsibility, and began work on the book.

A book launch was held during the school's Secret Santa sale in December, and 100 percent of the profits have

gone to charity, consistent with the students' desire to "give back to the school, and to a local hospital."

Fifty percent of the profits go to St. Joseph's Annual Fund, while the other half goes to Shore Memorial Hospital's Cancer Center.

In addition to building "confidence and (achieving) authorship" among students, the project demonstrated the "process of going from blank page to published book, and the importance of social responsibility, and how we

can make a difference," McFadden said.

As an educational project with both religious and charitable components, it's a good example of this year's theme for Catholic Schools Week: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

The book is available at St. Joseph School, in Shore Memorial Hospital's Gift Shop, or by e-mailing McFadden at Read4McFadden@gmail.com. The cost is \$25 hardcover, \$15 softcover.

School business and enrollment management specialist

The Diocese of Camden's Catholic Schools Office has hired Rosemary Schamp as school business and enrollment management specialist.

In her position, she will work with the superintendent of schools and the Budget Office to communicate and review all budgets and other



ROSEMARY
SCHAMP

fiscal reporting requirements established by the Office of Finance and the Schools Office, and collect and analyze enrollment data and fundraising activities.

Schamp, a Pine Hill resident and parishioner of St. Simon Stock in Berlin, was most recently Dean of Communications and Enrollment Development at Camden County College, a position she held since 2000.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Douglass Residential College, Rutgers University,

New Brunswick, and a master's in business administration from Drexel University, Pennsylvania. She also has certifications as a New Jersey teacher, and as a school business administrator.

Schamp is an adjunct public speaking professor at Camden County College, and is a member of the Gloucester Township/Pine Hill Rotary Club, where she is a past foundation president, and past club president.

A multi-year initiative to increase math skills

By Dr. William A. Watson

Students across the Camden Diocese are rolling up their sleeves and working together to solve problems, learn complex procedures, think deeply, and debate ideas — about math. These new classroom experiences are part of a multi-year initiative involving all Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the diocese to increase student understanding of and engagement with math.

The initiative began in June 2013 when 50 teachers representing every school across the diocese met for the first of two intensive summer institutes to revamp the math curriculum. The group is led by teacher leaders Barbara Feketics, Stephanie Callahan, Esther Mancinelli and Diana Holland. The leaders were trained as part of a national cadre of teacher leaders by the University of Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education as part of its Collaborative for Academic Excellence. Through the collaboration with Notre Dame, teachers used a process for developing curriculum that balances high standards for all schools with respect for the principle of subsidiarity and principals' and teachers' expertise in developing curriculum, instruction, and assessment that meet the needs of their students.

The curriculum took a year to write and is being used for the first time during the 2014-2015 school year. Principals and teachers are already seeing benefits.

According to Tom McGuire, principal of Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School in Cape May Court House, "The math curriculum has truly enhanced our instruction, allowing it to be broader and deeper than traditional learning. Rather than simply covering the material, the new curriculum approach encourages students to ask and answer the essential questions, which promotes enduring understanding as well as real world application."

The new curriculum is structured differently from traditional math curriculum. Previous versions of the curriculum provided lists of skills to master and knowledge to acquire. The new curriculum puts those elements into a logical sequence and context and sets learning goals that help teachers to push students to tie it all together. The new structure also allows teachers to personalize their instruction to their students' needs and to emphasize the beauty of math as part of God's creation.

Students are rising to the challenge of the new curriculum. "My students know that it is OK not to understand immediately, but once they struggle through learning, they feel so accomplished," says Gina Morreale, middle school math teacher at Our Lady of Hope Regional School in Blackwood. "The new curriculum allows students to continually build on prior skills and connect what they learn to the real world around them."

The roll-out of the curriculum included professional development for teachers to maximize its

effectiveness. Principals from every K-8 school in the diocese collaborated to provide funds and leadership for a four-session mini-course for all teachers of grades 3-5. The course is delivered by the Penn Literacy Network of the University of Pennsylvania and focuses on using flexible strategies to help students understand not just procedures, but how and why those procedures work. The initiative also includes professional development to use a planning template so that teachers across the diocese can share and spread effective units and lessons more easily.

After this year, teacher leaders and principals, in collaboration with the Office of Catholic Schools, will use feedback from teachers who are implementing the curriculum to refine it and make improvements for next year. Principals will use feedback from teachers and student performance data to determine continued professional development approaches for next year, and the Office of Catholic Schools is developing an infrastructure to help teachers share lessons and units across the schools. The goal is constant improvement of what we offer, so that we can continue to help our students meet and exceed our high standards.

Dr. William A. Watson, Ed.D., is director of curriculum and assessment for Catholic Schools, Diocese of Camden.

Tuition assistance for Catholic education in the Diocese of Camden

By Joanna Gardner

When Bishop Dennis Sullivan took the stage, singing with artists Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney during last December's Celtic Twilight Christmas concert at the TD Bank Arts Centre in Sewell, it was for more than the sheer enjoyment of the art.

The concert, the first of its kind, was held to benefit the South Jersey Scholarship Fund (SJSF), dedicated to helping children attend the diocese's 24 elementary and six high schools.

The fund has existed since 2001, but has been without a significant funding source in recent years, until last December and the Christmas benefit concert drew 1,800 people — and raised \$158,000.

"The concert showed us that creating entertainment opportunities that appeal to Catholics and merging that with the need for financial aid for students is a really good package. We hope to be able to do that again as opposed to other ways of fundraising," said George Lynn, president of the SJSF Board of Directors.

"The need for financial assistance in our schools is great, and I think that cause resonates with a lot of Catholics. A lot of us were educated in Catholic schools and we value that education," Lynn said.

The fund is one piece of the diocese's three-part response to financial need in its schools, says director of Development Jim Lanahan.

The diocese recommends that 10 percent of every school's operating budget be dedicated to financial aid, and those dollars are distributed locally. That 10 percent, however, is a hardship for many schools. Few have been able to make the goal.

The other large chunk of diocesan assistance comes from a variety of trusts — gifts made or bequeathed to the diocese with the restriction that the dollars be used to support Catholic education, either across the diocese or in a particular city or school.

Last year, these diocesan endowments, a total of 10, distributed \$261,000 in tuition assistance, a number that fluctuates each year depending on the market and interest rates.

Still, the assistance just scratches the surface of the total estimated need of students across the 30 schools, which was estimated last year at \$8.6 million.

That number does not include the need of the Catholic Partnership schools, a group of six Catholic elementary schools concentrated in and around the city of Camden, which have their own funding processes supported by the diocese to help prevent the

closures of schools in the poverty-stricken region.

Many schools offer significant financial aid to fill that gap through independent fundraising and private donors and alumni, particularly diocesan high schools, that depend almost exclusively on private fundraising to offer tuition assistance to their students.

In 2014 the total tuition assistance given to students across the diocese, including all diocesan assistance and local-given tuition assistance, amounted to \$2.5 million. In the face of the great need facing students and their families who choose Catholic education, Lanahan is encouraged by the recent success and revitalization of the South Jersey Scholarship Fund, what he calls the future of diocesan tuition assistance.

"The fund has the ability to raise unrestricted funds for Catholic education that get distributed throughout all of our schools," Lanahan said.

"Catholic education helps young people establish a set of values that they can use for their whole lives," Lynn said. "Most of what I learned in school I forgot. But you don't forget your teachers, your faith. Those were the things, for me, that set our Catholic schools apart."

To make a contribution to the South Jersey Scholarship Fund, visit <http://bit.ly/SJSFund>.

Clubbing students have fun developing skills

By Peter G. Sánchez

Every other week, St. Augustine Prep students gather together at the school to engage in a fabled, worldwide practice: sports debate.

The current professional sports landscape may indicate the worst of times (“I’m a big basketball and 76ers fan, which means there’s not much to talk about now in that regard,” said co-president Gregory Battschinger), but that doesn’t stop the 30 passionate members from following in the footsteps of Chris Berman, Angelo Cataldi and almost any red-blooded American. Recent debate has included the college football playoffs, and the NFL playoffs.

Discussion is “healthy and lively,” says club moderator Michael Boody, who is also an English teacher and assistant football coach at the Richland school.

St. Augustine Prep’s sports debate club is just one of many school groups around the Diocese of Camden which veer away from the more well-known, common subjects such as art, drama or music.

While the Prep students are talking sports, students at other schools may be meeting to crochet, learn karate or play the ukelele.

At Wildwood Catholic High School, it’s the Power Kite Club.

“It’s really relaxing, once you learn the motions,” says Wildwood Catholic senior Amanda Rossi. “It’s a really different thing,” she says.

In about two months, Wildwood Catholic students will be back on the beach, as the Power Kite Club continues.

Sitting in karts, and using their feet for steering, students will use their hands to control parachute-like kites, which range in size from 1-19 meters.

Harnessing the wind’s power, they will ride along the five-mile stretch of Wildwood’s shores, at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour.

It’s a workout. “Your arms are hurting at the end,” says moderator and school board member, Joe Catanoso, adding that it usually takes students several weeks to learn proper hand-eye coordination, and how to control the kite.

The three-year old club meets after-school, or during weekends, when weather permits.



Photos above and below left by Alan M. Dumoff, <http://ccdphotonlibrary.smugmug.com>

Students work intently on a computer at a Jan. 9 meeting of the Future Engineers Robotics Club at St. Peter School, Merchantville. In addition, the school also has art, computer, jump rope, karate and Marian clubs. Assumption School in Galloway offers clubs in crocheting (below left) and woodworking, while Wildwood Catholic High School students can join the Power Kite Club and hit the beach.



“If it’s 45-50 degrees outside, and the winds are blowing the right way, I’ll send the students a text message,” Catanoso says.

Meanwhile, at St. Peter School in Merchantville, advancement director Kathy O’Callaghan is teaching school students the art of karate, once a week.



“Students love it; it’s very different from what (they are used to learning),” she says. “It’s a combination of physical and mental fitness,” she says.

O’Callaghan, a first degree black belt in Taekwondo (she is currently working on her second degree), began the program for students in grades 3-8 in the fall

of 2013 and today leads three different sessions, once a week. She is aided by her children, also black belts, sixth grader Mary Kate and fourth grader Ryan.

At the end of their training, she takes them to the dojang where she practices, the Arts and Leadership Academy in Cherry Hill, for a session and graduation, complete with presentation of their white belts.

From the dojang to the Poconos, the Ski Club of Absecon’s Holy Spirit High School has been gliding down snowy slopes for almost 50 years.

Deb Phillips, co-moderator and literature teacher at the school, remembers being a member of the club when she was a student in 1968.

With approximately 80 active students currently taking weekend trips to the Poconos or New York State, with their own or rented skis and snowboards, “it’s a great time,” she says.

The trips usually begin in early December, and go until February or March. Phillips also moderates the school’s Surfing Club which, as part of the National Scholastic Surfing Association, competes against other teams.

The clubs all are the result of student interest and supervisor expertise, and provide more than recreation.

The sports debate club at St. Augustine began five years ago at the Richland school as student demand for an official forum to discuss current sports issues and events. The group has structured, civil meetings, words that might seem alien to listeners of some of today’s sports television and radio commentators.

Students ask the club’s leadership if they can debate a certain team or topic; if the leadership agrees, they allow him to hold the group baseball, which gives the student the sole opportunity to speak. After the student states his opinion, the ball is then passed to another student to make a counter-opinion, and to the leadership to make a statement on the team or topic.

Students “listen to one another express an opinion with which all might not agree, but with which all will hear out quietly,” he says.

“It is not unusual to find a freshman exposing his fandom for the New York football Giants through his opinions, while multiple fanatical senior supporters of the Eagles frown, yet listen with respect, as he talks.”

Stratford school honors Dr. Martin Luther King with service project

St. John Paul II Regional School, Stratford, honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a school-wide service project Jan. 19. While the school was closed for the Dr. Martin Luther King Day, families came to school to join in

making sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, Camden. Over 500 sandwiches were made by students, parents, teachers and administration.

“I felt this was a perfect opportunity for St. John Paul II school families to

live our school mission by showing how each of us can make a commitment to a better society. I was pleased to see the number of families who gave their time on a day off from work and school to serve others, and it says so much

about the community we have here at our school. All families generously donated lunchmeat, Arnold Bakery donated bread, and Rite Aid, Stratford donated sandwich bags.” said Helen Persing, principal.

Healey Education Foundation honors St. Peter School

St. Peter in Merchantville is among the schools to receive a School Advancement Grant for Excellence from The Healey Education Foundation.

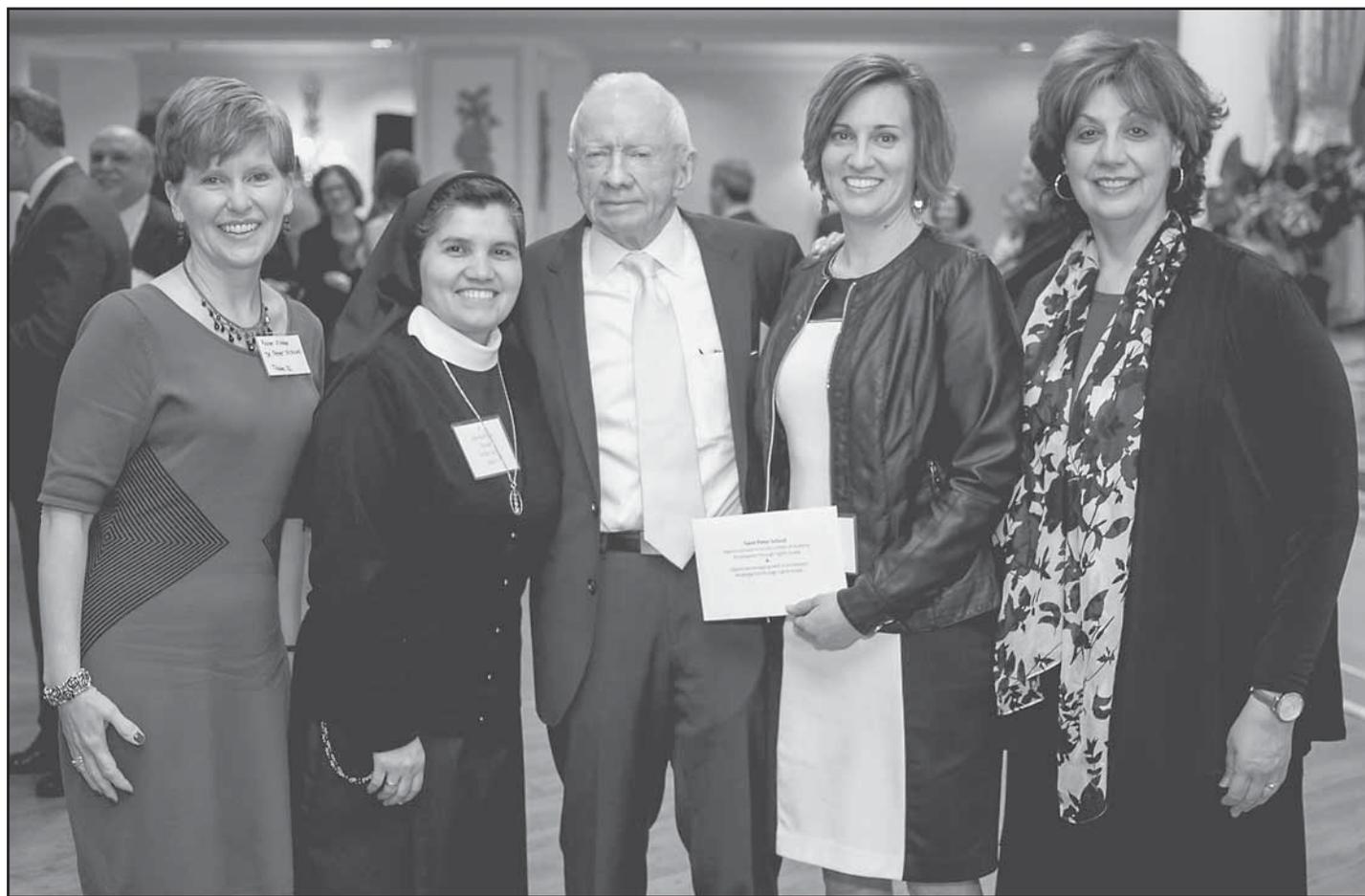
Schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Allentown also received commendations for outstanding work in advancing their schools' missions, including achievement in enrollment management and fundraising.

St. Peter was awarded a grant of \$5,000 for "highest increase in actual number of students — elementary school and highest percentage growth in enrollment — elementary school." St. Peter enrolled 41 new students, a 15.8 percent growth, for the 2013-14 year.

The honors were presented at the second Celebration of Achievement hosted by the Healey Education Foundation on Nov. 20, 2014 at the Hyatt at the Bellevue, Philadelphia.

Father Timothy R. Scully, CSC, co-founder of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Hackett Family Director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), spoke at the event.

"America's Catholic schools matter more now than they ever have," he said in describing the benefits of Catholic education and a turnaround through nationwide work for Catholic school sustainability. "Catholic schools are sacred places serving important civic



St. Peter School, Merchantville, was awarded a School Advancement Grant for Excellence at a Celebration of Achievement event hosted by the Healey Education Foundation on Nov. 20, 2014 at the Hyatt at the Bellevue, Philadelphia. Pictured from left are Karen Fisher, board vice chair; Sister Rosa Maria Ojeda, St. Peter principal; Robert T. Healey, founder and chairman, Healey Charitable Trust; Kathy O'Callaghan, St. Peter advancement director and Barbara Roccia, board member.

purposes.... Our story is not an obituary; it's a renaissance."

As a strategic partner to dioceses and

schools, Healey Education Foundation provides seed grants and coaching and training services through a staff of

experts focused on helping schools help themselves. See www.healeyeducation-foundation.org for more information.

Summit on 'The Promise of Education' March 23

On Monday, March 23, Catholic Partnership Schools will host its third annual education summit at Burlington County College, focusing on "The Promise of Education." The event will bring together teachers, administrators, academics, social workers and parents for presentations and dialogue.

The all-day event, at the Mount Laurel campus' Enterprise Center, will touch on

important topics integral to education, and attempt to answer questions:

— "Why are some kids learning so much and others so little?"

— "What do we need to understand?"

— "What do we need to do?"

Four internationally-recognized experts will share their experiences and engage participants in conversation:

Amanda Ripley, Baruti Kefele, Pedro Noguera, Ph.D., and Laurence Steinberg, Ph.D.

— Ripley is an investigative journalist for "Time," "The Atlantic" and other magazines, and the author of "The Smartest Kids in the World — and How They Got That Way." At the summit, she will explore her research into learning in other cultures, and address such questions as "How do other countries create 'smarter' kids" and "What is it like to be a child in the world's new education superpowers?"

— Kafele, an internationally-renowned education speaker, works with hundreds of schools and districts to assist them in addressing and closing the "attitude gap," between those students who have the will to strive for academic excellence, and those who do not. His work focuses on motivating black males to achieve in school and in life, and transforming the attitudes of at-risk student populations.

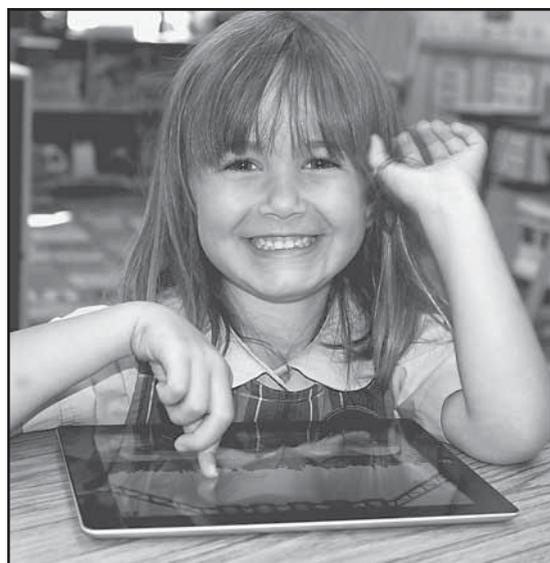
— Steinberg is one of the world's leading experts on adolescence and

brain plasticity, and in his latest book, "Age of Opportunity," he argues that the brain remains "plastic," or changeable, well into one's early 20s. The adolescent period of brain development, from the ages of 12-25, is a second, and last, chance, and indicates a period of opportunity that educators and parents can tap into and nurture.

— Noguera has been a strong voice for public urban education in the United States, and has looked at ways in which the academic performance of students in urban areas is linked to social and economic factors.

Catholic Partnership Schools, the sponsor for the conference, helps educate and manage more than 1,000 children in five K-8 schools: St. Cecilia in Pennsauken and Holy Name, Sacred Heart, St. Anthony of Padua and St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, all in Camden.

The full-day conference is \$100 a person, with discounts for groups of 3 or more, and students. For more information, go to www.catholicpartnership-schools.org/summit, or call Keith A. Lampman at 856-338-0966.



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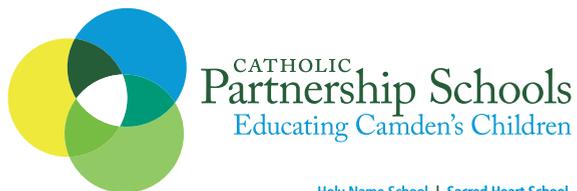


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Well into its **sixth year**, Catholic Partnership Schools (The Partnership) is **stronger than ever**. With sustained enrollment and robust programming, The Partnership continues to impact the City of Camden with its replicable model of Catholic urban education, envisioned within our Diocese of Camden. The Partnership's five schools — **Holy Name, Sacred Heart, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Cecilia and Saint Joseph Pro-Cathedral** — collectively educate 1,000 of Camden's young, promising students. Each student benefits from a high-quality education that is academically rigorous, **deeply rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith**, and exposes them to a variety of educational opportunities including athletics, orchestra, choir, robotics and aviation.



The Partnership's goal is to continue the sustainability of all five of its schools, helping the children of Camden to break the cycle of poverty and violence. **Help us give our students the chance every child deserves.** Catholic Partnership Schools is a separate, **501 (c)(3) non-profit organization**. Your financial support will ensure that The Partnership can continue to serve the children of Camden for generations to come.

Catholic Partnership Schools celebrates Catholic Schools Week. We are CPS Strong!

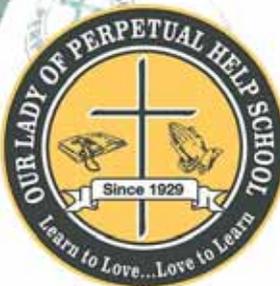
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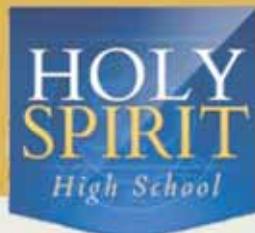
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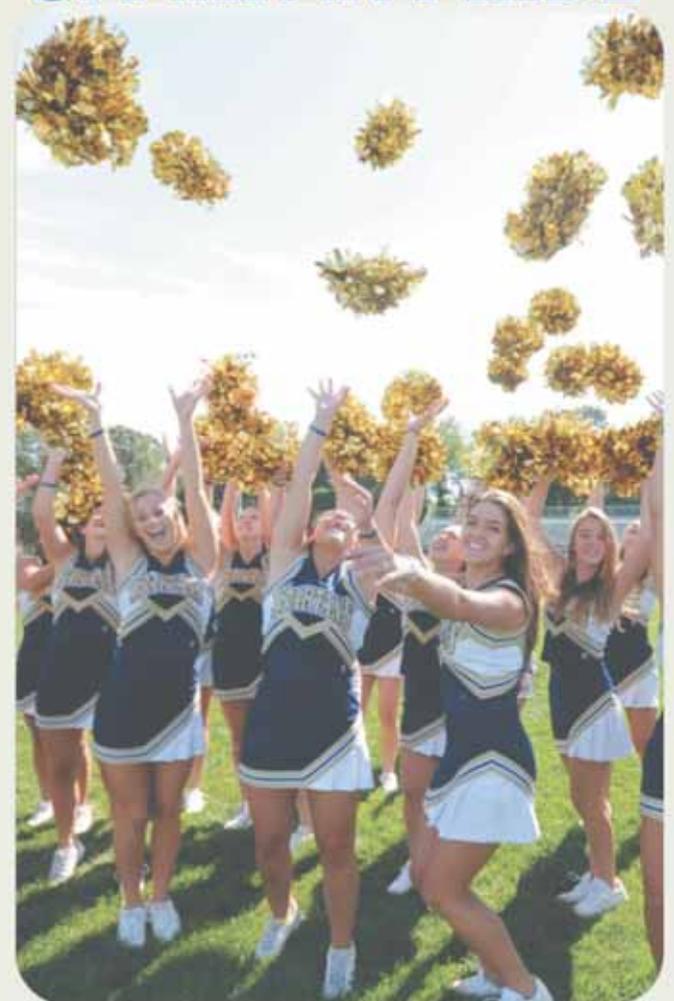
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Surviving to cook another day

By Peter G. Sánchez

Twelve-year-old Andrew Zapple, West Deptford resident and seventh grader at Holy Trinity Regional School in Westville Grove, is still competing on the Fox Network's "MasterChef Junior" cooking competition, which pits the best young chefs in America against each other.

The past two weeks have been startlingly different for the aspiring chef and restaurateur (the name of his own restaurant he wants to start? Holy Crepe).

After almost being sent home in the show's second episode, after a pairs competition saw judges Gordon Ramsay, Graham Elliott and Joe Bastianich react unfavorably to he and fellow contestant Cory's chorizo and pork sausage with spinach and spaetzle, Andrew redeemed himself in the next episode.

The opening competition on Jan. 20 saw the contestants make a dish from the contents of a mystery box, with a theme of getting better with age: dry aged New York strip steak, two-year aged Iberico ham, smoked salmon, black garlic, preserved lemon, five-month-aged bleu cheese and a 12-year-aged balsamic vinegar.

Andrew's marinated grilled steak with cheese and prosciutto mashed



ANDREW ZAPPLEY

potatoes, and a fennel salad, was picked as the best, and the judges gave him an advantage: he moved on to the next week, and could pick from three deadly animals the contestants had to cook in the elimination round: alligator, rattlesnake or snapping turtle.

He chose the alligator, and spent the rest of the episode munching on tomato pie while watching his fellow contestants sweat it out.

One of the final 10 contestants, Andrew will continue to keep the success going this Jan. 26 on the next "MasterChef Junior," from 8-9 p.m. on the Fox Network.

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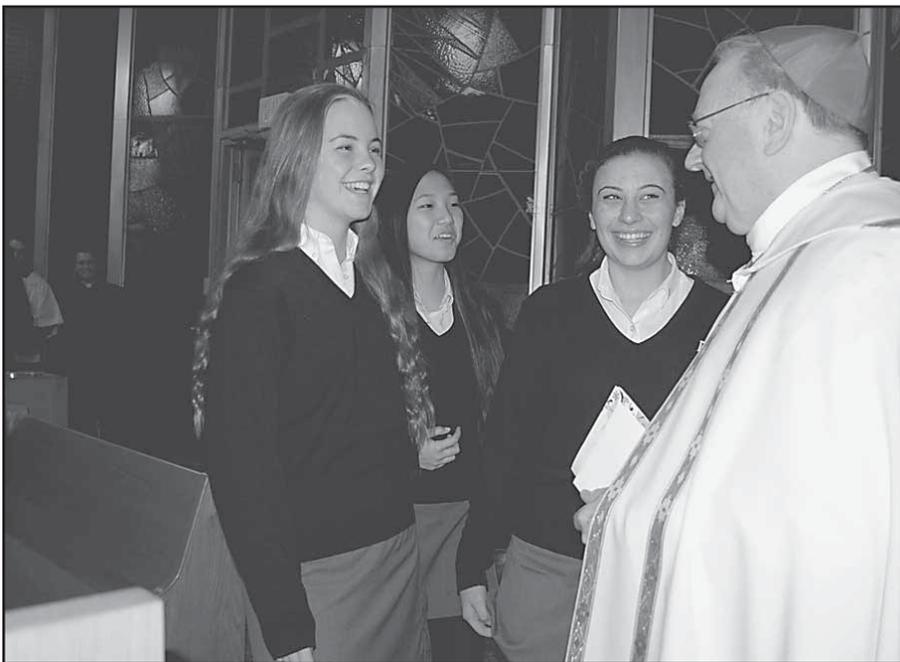


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Bishop visits Bishop Eustace



Photos by Maria D'Antonio

On Dec. 18, Bishop Sullivan visited Bishop Eustace Preparatory School to officiate the blessing of the new organ, which was donated to the St. Vincent Pallotti Chapel by the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers of the Immaculate Conception Province.

Students help people with an unpleasant certainty of life

By Joanna Gardner

Most high school students don't look to the IRS to help them fulfill their service hour requirement. But if you're a junior or senior at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pennsauken and it's tax season, you can spend those hours preparing people's tax returns.

For the third consecutive year, through a partnership with Catholic Charities, juniors and seniors at the prep school have the opportunity to become trained, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers and travel into Camden every Saturday during tax season to help low-income individuals file their taxes.

Catholic Charities is an authorized site for the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. It allows individuals and families who make less than \$53,000 a year to e-file their taxes for free with the help of certified volunteer filers.

"They're amazing kids," said Andy Zmuda, Catholic Charities' director of asset development programs who runs the agency's VITA services. "This is a highly technical and specialized kind of service and there's a lot of training and preparation that goes into it. There's a high degree of responsibility and trust."

Volunteers go through several hours of online training in addition to in-person training sessions staffed by the IRS and held both at Catholic Charities and Bishop Eustace. Catholic Charities' program makes training available to volunteers from the school, Catholic Charities staff and other interested community members.

The tax preparation clinic operates for four hours every Saturday beginning the first week of February and ending mid-April. On those Saturdays,

Students become trained, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers and travel into Camden every Saturday during tax season to help low-income individuals file their taxes.

the majority of volunteers staffing the clinic are school students. Seniors make a commitment to be at the clinic for all four hours every week.

Senior John Brown, who is president of the Bishop Eustace student body, began volunteering through the program last year as a junior, even though he had already completed his service hour requirement, as a way to give back.

"When you think of filing taxes you think about numbers and dealing with mathematical stuff. But it's actually a lot of interaction with people," John said. "It's very personal; the first thing we do is a one-on-one interview. It's rewarding to have that kind of interaction."

The experience came up during college interviews, John said, and impressed his interviewers.

"There are not a lot of high school students who can say they know how to file taxes," Zmuda said. "I think young men and women can do difficult things and have a great capacity to be stretched. They really do rise to the occasion."

people have a sense of competence and confidence around their ability to manage and grow their family's financial legacy," Zmuda said.

Student volunteers said it gave them an insight into poverty in the region.

Senior Emily Quinn is volunteering this tax season for the second year and has been promoted to the role of site manager because of her exceptional work last year.

"You get to see how other people live. It's an eye opening opportunity. You see someone who comes in with three W2's and you realize they're working three part-time jobs. It's nice to know you're helping as much as you can," Emily said.

Bishop Eustace's service program uses an intentional approach that gradually increases students' requirements and involvement over their four years of secondary school. Patricia Arnold, who heads the school's campus ministry department, said opportunities like this one are a way for students to discover their potential.

"It's an opportunity for them to grow in whatever ways they need to: meeting with the public, becoming aware of the needs of people, using their talents," Arnold said.

"The more seeds we plant in them, the more they grow. They're amazed by the people they meet."

VITA tax preparation services through Catholic Charities are by appointment only. To schedule, call 211 or visit www.CamdenAssetNetwork.com. Request Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden as the filing site. For more information about the program and on becoming an IRS-certified tax preparer volunteer, contact Andy.Zmuda@camdendiocese.org.

After 33 years, a school secretary retires

Shortly before Christmas the children of Resurrection School in Cherry Hill were given a 30-question multiple choice quiz on a subject they encountered every day: Pat Naddeo, the school secretary.

The most astute of the students knew that she prefers Wendy's to McDonalds, likes the music of the Supremes, still considers the Sony and Cher Comedy Hour, which aired in the early 1970, her favorite TV show, and that she actually likes liver and onions.

And the really sharp ones knew that her favorite Atlantic City casino is the Borgata.

Dec. 19, 2014 was Naddeo's last day of work at the school, and the students assembled to sing a few songs, wish her well and see Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn, present her with a proclamation. They also presented her with a jar of her favorite candy. (York Peppermint Patties, of course.)

Naddeo worked at the Cherry Hill school for 33 years. She started at what was then St. Peter Celestine School in September 1981 in the Learning Center. She soon became the secretary, where she continued as the school transitioned to become Resurrection Catholic in 2008.

Any principal will tell you that a good secretary is essential to the smooth operation of a school. Secretaries often serve as the voice of the school, beginning with parents who are considering enrolling their child in kindergarten through those who have questions about eighth grade graduation. They are the first impression, the voice on the phone and on the intercom, the presence near the front door and on the school yard.

And then there work most people don't see: getting the copier fixed, ordering supplies, filling out paperwork.

Naddeo, in her more than three decades, helped several new pastors, principals, teachers, students, and parents adjust to the school. Some of the parents who now send their children to the Resurrection, and even a couple of teachers, remember Naddeo from the days when they were students.

As a longtime presence, she helped the school adjust to all kinds of changes, from new school uniforms, to the new identity that came from school



Photo by Alan M. Dumoff, more photos <http://ccdphotonlibrary.smugmug.com>

Pat Naddeo accepts a proclamation from Cherry Hill Mayor Chuck Cahn on Dec. 19, 2014, her last day as secretary of Resurrection School. She worked at the Cherry Hill school for 33 years.

consolidation, to fully entering the computer age.

"But the kids and the parents don't change," Naddeo said. The strength of Resurrection, and other Catholic schools, she said, is the strong feeling of family that exists there. Whenever there was a problem — for example, a house fire or illness — the response of the school community was a unified desire to help. "That is a wonderful atmosphere to work in," she said.

"I think Catholic schools will continue to flourish," she said. "I think they are a wonderful way to raise children."

"What can one say about a woman who has been part of the fiber of a

school for 33 years? She will be missed, she has done it all, knows all, has trained in several administrators, all with an easy smile and pleasant voice," said the school's current principal, Franciscan Sister Lydia Etter.

"She could tell tales of past administrators, but kept them mostly to herself, as a good secretary would," Sister Lydia said. "We wish Pat the best. May she enjoy sleeping in. May she miss the copier jams, the ringing phones and buzzing doorbells, the countless reports for the diocese and state, etc., etc."

(The students' Pat Naddeo Trivia Game gave three choices for her

favorite boss: Sister Lydia, Sister Lydia and Sister Lydia.)

Naddeo, who will soon turn 69, attended Catholic schools herself, St. Bernard's and St. Hubert's High School in Philadelphia, and brought her own two sons to the school where she made her living.

Over the years, she's seen many children come and go, so it's not unusual for her to run into some of them when she's out. She may not know who they are at first — most people look different a few years after their grade school graduation — but they know her.

"It's nice to be recognized and greeted so warmly," Naddeo said.

Governor's proclamation acknowledges contributions of Catholic schools

Gov. Chris Christie recently signed a proclamation designating the week of Jan. 25-31 as Catholic Schools' Week in New Jersey and acknowledging the contributions of Catholic schools to the public welfare of all New Jerseyans.

Dr. George V. Corwell, director of the Office of Education for the New Jersey Catholic Conference, noted that the Governor's proclamation continues the tradition of recognition afforded Catholic schools in New Jersey by the executive branch of state government.

"The Catholic schools of New Jersey represent an investment in New Jersey's future, and the sacrifices made by Catholic school parents save the state's overburdened public school system (and local tax payers) over \$1.3 billion annually," stated Dr. Corwell. "We

hope that all residents of New Jersey recognize the dedicated efforts of Catholic school teachers which contribute to the overall success of our schools. Truly, Catholic schools represent a significant opportunity for parental choice in education."

Msgr. McDermott honored



Photo by Alan M. Dumoff, more photos <http://ccdphotolibrary.smugmug.com>

Current and former players and coaches of the Camden Catholic High School boys basketball team surround Msgr. Robert McDermott on the Cherry Hill school's basketball court prior to the season opener against Shawnee on Dec. 19, 2014. The priest was honored for his more than 40 years of service to the team, first as a head coach in the 1970s, then as an assistant coach from 1975 until 2013. Msgr. McDermott is a 1960 graduate of CCHS and recently retired from St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral Parish, East Camden, where he had served as pastor since 1985.

'Support a Student' at Holy Spirit raises \$50,000

By Joanna Gardner

Father Perry Cherubini plays a dual role for the Catholic community in and around Absecon. He is both pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and president of Holy Spirit High School, located about a mile and a half from each other in the seaside town.

In the summer of 2014, he saw an opportunity to merge the two roles. While not all of his parishioners had connections to the high school or its feeder elementary school, Assumption Regional School, he saw that many placed tremendous value in Catholic education.

"We'd been successful getting our Holy Spirit High School constituency to support the school. But by going into the parishes, we could take it further, beyond that constituency and into the pews to people who want to make a commitment to the success of our Catholic elementary and secondary schools," Father Cherubini said.

"One of the things we found is that there are people who are going to Father's Masses who have a commitment and a love for Catholic education who may not have a student here. This

"The growing support is a great reflection of how people value Catholic education in our community."

— Sue Werner, Holy Spirit High School

gave them a wonderful opportunity to support it," said Sue Werner, director of institutional advancement for Holy Spirit.

In September, the priest rolled out the program at all of the parish Masses, and was met with a tremendous response of pledges. Students from the school helped mount a cookie sale fundraiser at the parish in December that raised \$8,000 and was matched by a parishioner.

To date, the program has raised \$50,000 in tuition assistance for Catholic school students at the high school and elementary school. One fifth

of those dollars will go to Assumption Regional School students; the rest to Holy Spirit High School students.

When he began the program, Father Cherubini could not have known that by year's end nearby Atlantic City would shed a total of 9,900 jobs when four of its 12 casinos shut their doors. The ripple effects of the layoffs have far-reaching effects on all of the businesses in the region.

"During this difficult economic time, students are able to have a Catholic high school education because [our supporters] understand the tremendous value of it," Werner said. "The growing

support is a great reflection of how people value Catholic education in our community."

Twenty-five percent of students at the high school currently receive tuition assistance.

This school year, the high school's Absecon campus is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The school was founded in Atlantic City in 1922, but soon outgrew the original building. The new campus in Absecon opened in 1964.

"A lot of things are coming together for us during this golden jubilee year. Our recent initiatives have not just stabilized us financially, but really projected us well into the future. There's a lot of momentum, excitement, and good things happening, despite what's going on around us and the ancillary effects of the casino industry," Father Cherubini said.

Similar support a student campaigns were rolled out in September at the other two parishes sending children to Assumption Regional School: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Galloway, and St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Brigantine. They follow the same format as Father Cherubini's appeal and support both primary and secondary Catholic schools in the region.

Champions honored

Before the Lady Rams' basketball game Jan. 17, Gloucester Catholic High School honored its girls' basketball state championship teams of 1980-83. Guided by several former coaches (Jeff Cohen during the 1980-81



season and Tony Ettore, above, from 1981-83), the team won three consecutive state crowns, 1981-83, and had an unbeaten streak of 82 games over several years. Players from that era, such as current Rams' coach Lisa Angelotti Gedaka, were also present for the ceremony. At right, members of the championship teams gather in the school gym.



Photos by Alan M. Dumoff, <http://ccdphotonlibrary.smugmug.com>

'The Amazing Race' winners' aim was to inspire others

By Joseph Kenny
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS — Bryan Kasten, an English and practical arts teacher at Rosati-Kain High School, warmly greeted former student Maya Warren, winner of "The Amazing Race" reality TV show.

"So cool to see a celebrity," Kasten told her as she arrived Jan. 5 at the Catholic school for girls for a talk and question-and-answer with students and faculty.

Warren smiled as she disagreed with his depiction of her, shaking her head and saying, "Oh, Mr. Kasten, I'm still Maya."

Warren and race partner Amy DeJong, a fellow food scientist and University of Wisconsin-Madison doctoral student, officially won the event with the televised finale Dec. 12, though the actual competition ended six months earlier. Racers left the United States May 31 and returned June 22, undertaking a series of challenges in nine countries on four continents and covering 26,000 miles.

The winners collected \$1 million, but their entry wasn't about money, "getting airtime (or) about always getting to the finish-line first — we only got there once," Warren said with a laugh about the last of 12 episodes.

The reason was altruistic.

"It was about being strong women representing the field of food science, representing our homes, our families and friends," she said. "We were trying to make an impact and inspire."



CNS photo/Robert Voets, courtesy CBS

TV show host Phil Keoghan poses with Amy DeJong and Maya Warren at the finish line at Point Vicente Lighthouse in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., after winning the grand prize of \$1 million on the season finale of "The Amazing Race" reality TV program. Warren is a graduate of Rosati-Kain High School, an all-girls Catholic school in St. Louis.

Warren and DeJong, the third female team to win in the show's 25 seasons, encouraged and helped the other racers, sharing a cab or giving them directions.

"Why would you put people down so you can beat them?" Warren asked. "Winning is awesome, but what we're most proud of is staying true to who we are and showing that you can run a hard race and compete without putting people down. You don't have to be nasty, dirty or mean. In life, you can prosper by simply being who you are. Niceness does pay off."

Warren, 29, enjoyed the other competitors, and she gained "friends for a lifetime," part of "The Amazing Race" family of competitors. She even had nice words for a team who lied to the scientists to throw them off course.

A 2003 graduate, Warren credited Rosati-Kain with teaching her the value of education and how to be a strong leader and a woman who does not give up. The student council president her senior year, she is a founding member of the student-led Kairos retreat program, ran track and cross country and was a cheerleader.

"I always knew that no matter what ... I always was accepted," she said. "Rosati-Kain is a place of acceptance of unique individuals; it doesn't matter where you come from or who you are, you always have something to bring to the table, and that is always valued."

At Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where she received her undergraduate degree, the differences in Warren's approach were valued as well. "So, Rosati-Kain taught me how to be a woman who can go into a place that's brand new and take charge," she said.

It was Warren's idea to audition for "The Amazing Race," convincing DeJong, 24, to be her partner on the around-the-world adventure. "Never underestimate who I am and always valuing who I am definitely came into play," Warren said.

The duo wrote a skit for the one-minute audition, believing that they offered something unique as women who are scientists researching ice cream and candy.

Though she just wanted to experience life, have fun and inspire people, Warren said she could see God by her side during the race. A Baptist, her parents instilled that belief in her, and Rosati-Kain reinforced it.

In her presentation, Warren told students that she chose to forego a career in medicine to pursue a field in which she found her passion. Accepting a request at the end of her talk she did a "victory lap" around the gym much as she did on the show. Self-described as super-energetic, she added, "I literally love life."