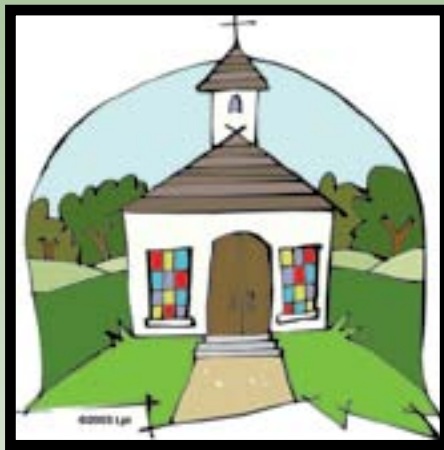


# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2012



Our Schools... Our Parishes... Our Education

## MESSAGE FROM LUCIA McQUAIDE

SUPERINTENDENT OF  
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Every year, Catholic schools nationwide celebrate Catholic Schools Week, beginning with the last Sunday in January. This is a joint project of the

National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), a professional association that represents educators of students at all levels of Catholic education, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the national public policy organization of the bishops in the United States.

This year, schools in the Diocese of Columbus will once again celebrate Catholic Schools Week under the banner of "Our Schools ... Our Parishes ... Our Education" – a theme that points to the symbiotic relationship that makes our schools both unique and successful. It is a relationship that permits us to become people who live in communion, a part of the living body of Christ, allowing us to become our best selves.

Catholic schools stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith – not just the basics of Catholicism, but how to have a relationship with God. High academic standards help each child reach his or her full potential. And at a crucial time in the lives of young people, the Catholic school community makes Christ's presence known by teaching students to be caring. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught as an expression of both faith and good citizenship.

Accordingly, Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life. It is education that prepares students to live a Catholic life. It celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools in our diocese and across the United States, and is an opportunity to thank those whose generosity makes them possible.

"Catholic schools provide good things for students and families—high expectations and daily experience of faith," said Karen Ristau, NCEA president. "In these challenging times ... there is no better way to invest in a child's future—or the future of our world."

Schools typically observe Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community at large. It is also a way to communicate the blessings of Catholic education to families who may be considering making the investment for their children. My hope is that every Catholic in our diocese will take the time to visit his or her parish school or diocesan high school to observe firsthand all the good that is going on there. Check your parish bulletin or the school website for upcoming opportunities to witness them.

# Catholic Times Salutes our CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

Education that draws on  
faith, reason, service,  
and  
love of God and neighbor

## DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN HONOR ROLL

The Diocese of Columbus is one of fewer than 400 school districts nationwide being honored by the College Board with a place on the second annual Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll.

Those districts increased access to advanced placement course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on the tests. Achieving both these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's advanced placement program because it indicates the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from AP course work.

Since 2009, diocesan schools increased the number of students in AP courses from 579 to 677,

while still enabling more than 70 percent of AP students to earn scores of 3 or higher, the score typically needed to earn college credit or advanced placement at the majority of the nation's colleges and universities.

The AP Honor Roll is made up of only those school districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance. The list includes 367 school districts across 43 states and Canada.

Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy to improve college readiness. These efforts have resulted not only in more students earning scores of 3 or better, but also in more students earning scores of 1 or 2. Accordingly, there has been

a slight decline since 2001 in the percentage of AP students scoring a 3 or better – a decline that can be expected in any program attracting a broader cross-section of students.

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP students to district and school administrators to college professors. Many are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to expand access and improve student performance simultaneously.

"The diocese has achieved something very remarkable," said Trevor Packer, College

See AP, Page S4

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## Columbus St. Mary students help Uganda students



Columbus St. Mary School eighth-graders are shown with Father Shawn Corcoran, diocesan chancellor, just before he left Columbus for a visit to Uganda to see his niece, Laura Corcoran, who teaches at a school in the African nation. The students raised money and bought books for the school  
Photo courtesy St. Mary School

### AP, continued from Page S2

Board senior vice president of advanced placement and college readiness. "It managed to open the doors of its AP classrooms to many more students, while also increasing the percentage of students earning high enough AP exam grades to stand out in the competitive college admission process and qualify for college credit and placement."

Inclusion on the AP Honor Roll is based on the following criteria: examination of AP data from 2009 to 2011; increase during that period in participation in or access to AP by at least four percent in large districts, six percent in medium districts, or 11 percent in small districts; a steady or increasing percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and either maintenance or improvement of performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2011 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2009, or attainment of a performance level in which more than 70 percent of AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

## COMING – A NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A new Catholic high school with a focused mission and a unique approach is coming to Columbus. Work is under way to open Cristo Rey Columbus High School in 2013. Cristo Rey will be a Catholic, college preparatory high school for economically challenged students. The school will be part of the national Cristo Rey network of schools. The first Cristo Rey school was opened by the Jesuits 15 years ago in Chicago. Since then, the number of Cristo Rey schools has grown to 24. These schools are intended to address the fact that a Catholic college preparatory education has become completely unaffordable to the poorest in our society.

Every year, about 1.3 million students drop out of high school, with students from low-income families dropping out at six times the rate of students from affluent families. Similarly, while 59 percent of students from families in the top half of income levels in America are college graduates, only 12 percent from the bottom half are.

Cristo Rey is part of the solution to this problem. Cristo Rey high schools have a 15-year track record of taking in low-income students from poor-performing schools, graduating them from high school, and sending them on to college. Cristo Rey schools do this in percentages far higher than public schools with children from similar backgrounds. In recent years,



98 percent of the seniors in Cristo Rey high schools across the nation have graduated and were accepted into college. Cristo Rey schools do this by providing a high-quality, Catholic, college preparatory education in an environment of high expectations. The Cristo Rey Network's rigorous academic model gives students the teaching, tutoring, and supervision necessary to achieve those high standards.

Cristo Rey students will participate in a unique work-study program that gives them the opportunity to work five days a month at white-collar businesses such as law firms, insurance companies, banks, universities, accounting firms, and hospitals. This innovative arrangement allows students to pay for most of their tuition, and it gives them exposure to a profes-

sional world they would never have experienced without Cristo Rey. The experience, knowledge, and self-confidence they gain from their jobs will complement their education and help them graduate from high school, go on to college, and succeed there. Cristo Rey is a chance to steer underprivileged eighth-graders to a Catholic high school and then on to become the first in their families to graduate from college.

Cristo Rey Columbus program director Barbara Brown has been working for the past three years to do the work necessary to give the school a firm foundation. A board of directors for the school has been appointed by Bishop Frederick Campbell. The board is chaired by Tom McAuliffe. This month, Cristo Rey Columbus' first two employees have started work to bring this school to life. Jim Foley, the school's president, will be in charge of overall operations. Development director James Ragland will be in charge of fund raising efforts. The school will be hiring a principal and other members of the leadership team this summer.

The Cristo Rey team will begin meeting with potential students and their parents later this year and will conduct informational meetings at schools and churches throughout central Ohio. For information, contact Foley at jimf@cristoreycolumbus.org or (614) 395-1505.

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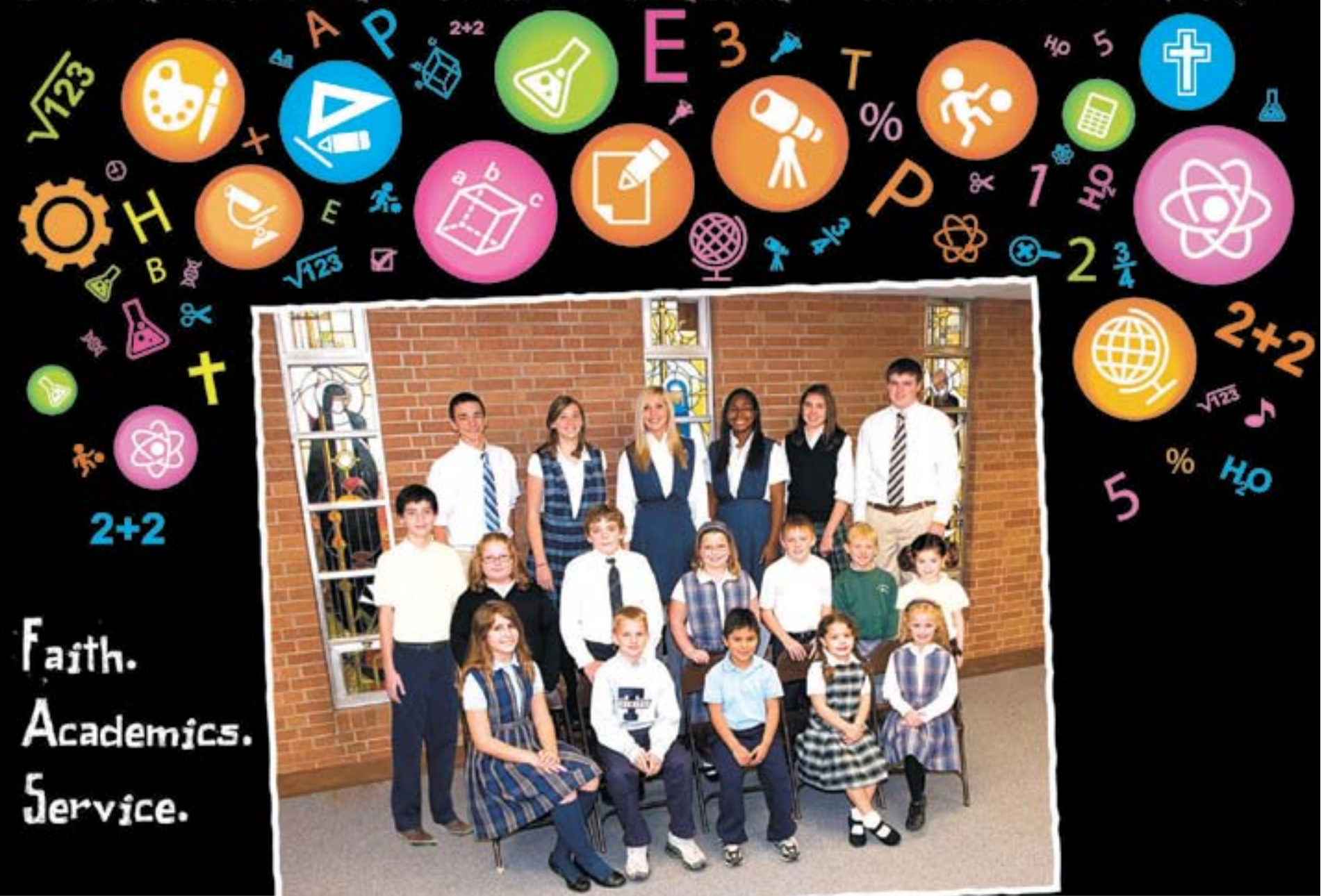


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# Catholic Schools Week : January 29-February 5, 2012

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## Hartley Community Answers Call to Service

"People are good." Those were the only words Lisa Eckstein of Johnstown could say outside a conference room at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School in early November after receiving thousands of dollars in gift-card donations from Hartley students.

Eckstein, her husband, Mike, and their three children, Tiffany, Matthew, and Autumn, lost their Johnstown home to a fire in October. No one was home at the time. The Ecksteins are unable to live for at least another two or three months because damage from the flames, soot, and smoke were severe enough to make the house uninhabitable and the belongings inside of it unusable.

Tiffany and Matthew attend Hartley, and when their fellow students learned about what happened, they immediately began working to provide assistance through the school's house system.

Each of the six houses had a focus donation area. The Springs House provided Hartley spirit wear, with Aquinas House concentrating on restaurants, and other houses on specific stores. Sacred Heart House went to Best Buy and Dick's Sporting Goods; Victory House, Kroger and Walmart; Rosary House, Kohl's; and Wehrle House, Target.

Tiffany, a junior softball player, and Matthew, a freshman honors student, were also presented special gifts from the student body, including a new varsity letter jacket for Tiffany and technology and electronics lost in the fire.

"My family and I are blown away to see the response from Hartley. It is unbelievable," said Tiffany, the oldest of the three children. "I hope everyone knows how thankful we are for their support," said Autumn, an eighth-grader at Columbus Holy Spirit School.



Members of each of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School's six houses helped the family of Mike and Lisa Eckstein of Johnstown recover after fire destroyed their Johnstown home in November. Pictured are (from left) school captains Austin Albert and Katie Thivener, school principal Mike Winters, and vice captains Laura Schlagheck and Max Gentile. Students choose the captains through elections in the six houses, each of which consist of about 120 students from ninth through 12th grade  
Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

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# Bishop Watterson Students Participate in Parish Life

What is the most common way students are of service to their home parishes? Most Catholics would probably say "altar serving," and they would be correct. But there are many teens who have discovered other talents and interests God has given them, and they are using these gifts to assist their parishes while they continue their education at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School.



Columbus Bishop Watterson High School freshman Gino Dettorre

Many students are altar servers, while others are in music or youth ministry or engage in assisting or teaching at Parish School of Religion classes and events.

"I began serving Mass in seventh grade," said Watterson senior Erik Oman, who attends Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. "I just thought it would be something good to do for my church. My parents

have encouraged me to get involved in helping my parish and grade school as a way to give back."

"I feel it's important to be involved in the Mass because that's what we are called to do," said senior Alec Brown. "As members of the 'new church,' we are going to be the ones who run the church sooner or later. I feel like the

sooner we start helping out, the better. It won't be long until we are helping the next generation step up and begin where we left off."

Brown serves at Columbus St. Peter Church two or three times a month. He also is a lector and usher, and sings in the choir at his parish and school. He plans to carry his love of singing to college and major in music at the

University of Dayton. Brown also teaches a kindergarten class every Sunday at St. Peter.

"Singing has always been a huge passion of mine," said Watterson senior Madeline Simmonds, a member of Columbus St. Christopher Church, "but I was always nervous about having to sing in front of people. One day, I realized that the singing wasn't about me. It was about God and glorifying Him, all for the greater glory of God. My mom encouraged me to not be afraid and try it out."

Watterson junior Maddi Rasor began cantoring for all-school Masses as a sixth grader at Columbus St. Andrew School and continued through eighth grade. She recently began cantoring for weekend Masses at St. Andrew Church and all-school liturgies at Watterson.

"For me, Mass becomes more

real when I'm singing it than when I'm sitting in a pew," she said. "Being involved means I have to really think about what the songs say and why, and often they're reflections on the readings or advice about life."


Gino Dettorre, a freshman from Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, has also experienced the deepened understanding of the faith that comes from firsthand musical involvement.

"As a Catholic, I have an obligation to practice my faith and a responsibility to serve others, and playing piano for Mass helps me do this," he said. "I've also been able to develop a better understanding of how the liturgical calendar influences the music selection for each Mass."

During the summer before he started eighth grade, he was

See PARISHLIFE, Page S9


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PARISH LIFE, continued from Page S8

recruited to accompany a parishioner's singing at a Catholic liturgy at the Wesley Glen Retirement Community. Since then, he has made monthly trips to Wesley Glen to play. Dettorre went on to perform a prelude for all-school Masses at Our Lady of Peace once a month. A year ago, he began playing at one Sunday Mass each month.

Students such as Brown and Simmonds have also stepped into other roles, such as that of Eucharistic minister.

Zoe Dinehart, a senior from Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, is a member of the CORE team which plans, organizes, promotes, and runs meetings of the parish youth group.

"I love going to youth group and have wanted to be on the CORE team for a few years now, but because I previously played soccer year-round, I was not able to commit to the amount of time this entails," she said. "Being involved at my parish helps me to stay closer to God. I am able to focus all of my CORE team planning on Him, and to do that, I have to be focused. Being involved keeps my faith strong, and it keeps me strong, too."

Senior Jordan Holsten of Delaware St. Mary and sophomore Sarah Boyne of Hilliard St. Brendan use their talents to work with younger children in their parishes.

Boyne, who started volunteering as a catechist and aide in the preschool religious education program at St. Brendan eight years ago with her parents, is also an altar server, Eucharistic minister, and usher. She has been on the planning team for the parish's vacation Bible school for the past two years and was co-organizer for one section of the program.

"I believe you lead by example," she said. "People may get involved, too, when they see what others do. I have experienced an amazing feeling of accomplishment from the work I've done for St. Brendan."

After confirmation, Holsten became a Eucharistic minister and joined the parish youth group leadership team, serving as a counselor for the junior

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School sophomore Sarah Boyne



high summer service camp and a leader for confirmation retreats.

"St. Mary's has a very strong confirmation program, which really prepared me to take the next step in my faith," said Holsten. "This has been a great experience for me to pass on what I have learned through my faith journey by being a witness to the kids I work with. But more than anything, they teach me and inspire me with their faith and their understanding and the questions that they ask. My youth group has been a family to me. I have developed strong relationships that I think I will have for a very long time."

"The Bible says that wherever two or more are gathered, Jesus is present," Simmonds said. "Essentially, in community we find Jesus. I love being able to give back to my parish and the church in return for all the things they have done for me."

*Catholic Times congratulates the Diocesan Catholic Schools*

## H2O for Life

By Susan Donovan

Principal, Grove City  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

God provided the alarm clock when a great clap of thunder woke most of Grove City on the morning of Nov. 22. He was setting the tone for Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's kickoff day for H2O for Life, which partners schools and businesses, faith organizations and individuals with schools in developing nations. We were spending the day studying water. As students arrived in the downpour, we thanked God for the gift of water.

Students and teachers were out of uniform and dressed in shades of blue to celebrate water. Blue socks, scarves, and jeans accented the outfits. Each participant contributed a dollar that will go toward a new well for the students in our adopted school, St. Paul Primary School in Uganda. Our display case in the school entryway featured a large world map highlighting Uganda so our students could easily locate St. Paul's. Next to the map was a seine net filled with fish. Each fish was labeled with a use that we have for water – essential and recreational. There was also a display of books, from picture books to those for older readers, which dealt with water and the water crisis in many parts of the world. One book we are reading with our middle school students is "A Long Walk to Water." It vividly describes how the daily search



Left: Father Denis Kigozi shares a story with our students about his homeland of Uganda, Above: A water filtration system to filter out impurities

for water impacts the lives of children.

We gathered for an all-school Mass at 8:30 a.m. as part of our Thanksgiving celebration. One of the items that we gave thanks for, along with our parish, our school, and our families, was water.

Our keynote speaker was Father Denis Kigozi from St. Thomas the Apostle Church, at the corner of Cassady and East Fifth avenues in Columbus. He is a native of Uganda and spoke to the children about his childhood and life there. When a student asked him how his family got water, Father Denis said he caught rainwater that ran from the roof of his home into containers.



His section of Uganda had not suffered the drought of some areas. Father Denis also said the job of seeking and carrying water falls to girls of the family. Some girls walk miles to get water, and then carry the heavy water jugs back home every day. This is time-consuming, hard work, and prevents girls from attending school in some areas.

Four activity centers were planned for the rest of the day: two in science and one each in art and literature. The students were going to spend the day with their classroom buddies and worked in teams of four. One of the science activities was set up in the gym and was staffed by parent volunteers. It involved constructing a landfill. Its goal was to show how soil, gravel, and clay were most effective in building a landfill to control groundwater contamination. Half of the students then rotated to a presentation by Linda Pettit from the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation Department. She read "Crawdad Creek" and had the students add the "critters" they found at their seats to the creekbed she had built in our music room. It let the students experience the ecosystem of a stream and the effects of pollution in our streams.

The next step was a scientific investigation of water filtration. Students used coffee filters to strain impurities from polluted samples. Next, the students taste-tested four water samples and graphed results on the doors of the cafeteria. They were selecting from distilled water, spring water, water from our drinking fountain, and well water. They also used this opportunity

to work on packets that contained word finds, searches, water facts, puzzles, and mazes. The groups rotated every 40 minutes. Literature was the focus of an upstairs station. Mrs. Welch, our media specialist, read "Water" to the students. They worked with their partners to write similes and "Water is ..." statements in the computer lab.

The art stop created a lasting artifact of our day. Every student painted a portion of a mural that was designed by one of our fifth-grade teachers, Mrs. Freeman. It was divided into four panels that were in different classrooms. It amazed us all as the panels were assembled. The mural depicted a large water jug pouring down the precious resource of water upon the earth. Students at that station also wrote water facts and illustrated them on large raindrops that will be on display later in the year. The mural was hung over the doors at the exit of the school on the south end of our building. Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Freeman, and Ms. Hartley were our teacher leaders who organized this hands-on day of exploring water. They and other teachers and aides worked together to make this a memorable experience for our students. Many thanks go to our parent volunteers who came to staff the different stations.

We are planning a walk for water in the spring to continue fund raising for the well (\$5,800) and to let our students see how difficult it is for students of St. Paul Primary to get a drink. The nearest water is one kilometer away – more than half a mile. We are raising awareness for the blessings of water.



Students Creating a mural for H2O for Life by each student who participated in the program

## STUDENTS MODELING SERVICE

SMS stands for Lancaster St. Mary School, but beginning this year, it also stands for "Students Modeling Service," the motto of the middle school's new house system.

"We developed the house system to foster community among sixth, seventh, and eighth graders," said eighth-grade teacher Kathleen Van Evra. "We hope the older students will become more like mentors to help ease the transition into sixth grade and the rigors of middle school."

There are eight houses, each named after a particular saint and based on a trait of that saint. Students researched their saint and brought information to the first house meeting. House members then developed a coat of arms to embody the traits of the saint. Students are encouraged to focus on those traits and to model their life and decisions around them.

Service projects at the school are both short-term and long-term, said school principal Carlton Rider. Some houses conducted collections for food, toys, and clothing for the Christmas season. Other

houses, such as the House of St. Joan of Arc, are collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup labels throughout the year. Any money earned is used to benefit the school.

The House of St. Francis of Assisi will sponsor a service project in the spring which ties into the house qualities of compassion and respect for nature. Students will raise money to sponsor a cage at the Fairfield County Humane Society for a year. This will ensure that every animal placed in that cage will have food and medical care until adopted.

The school's music teacher, Laura Wetterston, is the sponsor for the house. "Because St. Francis concentrates on protecting nature, my house has been really aware of recycling around the school, and unneeded waste. They've been trying to conserve and recycle on a day-to-day level," she said.

The house system replaces the former student council. Each house has an elected governor, and the governors meet with Rider each month to report on house activities.

Houses meet for a full pe-



Members of the St. John House of Lancaster St. Mary School with items collected for a local food drive. The school's houses, named for saints, include sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students

riod during the first week of the month. The governor is in charge of the meeting and a captain serves as an aide, taking notes and assisting. The houses meet again for a shorter time during the second week and eat lunch together

during the third week.

Eddie Lanning, an eighth-grader who is governor of the House of St. Stephen, said of the house system, "It brings students together. I would like to see the house system continue over the years."

His house, whose quality is courage, is planning a fund raiser to benefit the Miryante orphanage in Uganda, which St. Mary School has supported in the past.

Sixth-grader Logan Gaib said he likes having meals with his house, St. Francis of Assisi. He says everyone has a say in his house and, without it, he wouldn't know as many eighth-graders.

This feeling is echoed by eighth-grader Sarah Theller of the House of St. Therese of Lisieux. "The house system lets me get to know the younger kids. I never really talked to the sixth- or seventh-graders. It promotes unity," she said.

"It has brought us together – sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. We're not so separate," said Colton Jones, an eighth-grader and member of the House of St. Peter. "Like Mr. Rider says, 'We're all one community.'"

When St. Mary students move up to high school, they will enter new houses at Lancaster Fisher Catholic, which also has adopted the system.



Members of St. Stephen House, one of St. Mary School's eight houses

Photos courtesy of St. Mary School

"Hartley is a wonderful college preparatory program in a family atmosphere. The addition of the house system adds a unique dimension which compliments the academic rigor. We can't imagine our girls spending their formative high school years anywhere else."

Linda and Tom, Vorisek,  
Columbus Bishop Hartley High School parents

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## St. Joseph Montessori Focus Projects

At Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School, the focus for Catholic Schools Week will tie in with the work of Maria Montessori and the basic needs she worked to develop.

On Monday, Jan. 30, since Maria Montessori was a doctor, the focus will be health and communication. Students will create cards and letters for the elderly and the ill. Visits to Nationwide Children's Hospital and assisted-living centers are planned. There will be an all-school assembly to showcase Maria Montessori's work.

Nourishment will be the focus for Tuesday, Jan. 31. A canned-food collection for the needy will take place. Bird feeders will be created, using pine



cones and recycled water bottles, for serving hungry birds.

Shelter for the homeless is the theme for Wednesday, Feb. 1. An exhibit of forms of shelter will be displayed in the gymnasium.

Defense and self-acceptance will be the focus for Thursday, Feb. 2, including a service for the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.

To finish the week, a clothing drive is planned. Items such as mittens, hats, and baby items will be requested.

**Pictured is Gabrielle Eismann, an eighth-grader at the school, posing behind a cutout of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.**



## Flaget students visit the zoo

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School second-grade class members visit the Columbus Zoo to learn more about the world by getting the opportunity to see animals they have never seen before. Photo courtesy Bishop Flaget School

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## ST. MATTHEW BETA CLUB




Members of the Gahanna St. Matthew School Beta Club present a replica \$1,000 check, representing a donation of that amount to the Youth Empowerment Program, to St. Matthew Church youth minister Megan Thompson. The money was raised through a candy cane sale in December. YEP is a local organization which provides homeless teenagers with a place to eat, shower, hang out, and pick up clothes and toiletries

Photo courtesy St. Matthew School



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## Parish Involvement a Strong Commitment at Bishop Ready

The Catholic Schools Week slogan "Our Schools. Our Parishes. Our Education" is a living example of what Columbus Bishop Ready High School students commit to each year.

The school's campus ministry program oversees the Living the Gospel Message (LTGM) service learning program in which all students participate. A special emphasis is placed on doing volunteer work and remaining active in the student's parish. The school recognizes that a Catholic high school and its theology classes do not replace a parish community and involvement.

In keeping with the Ready mission of maintaining a close relationship between student and parish, many, if not most, Ready students spend a significant amount of time working with their parishes through youth ministry and other outlets.

Freshman Taylor Foresta belongs to Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and works at the fish fry, the parish festival, and sporting events for grade-school students. She also helps out at Mass by setting up flowers, singing, and serving and is a member of the parish Life Teen group. In addition, she involved in her parish's sports program and is on the Ready freshman volleyball team.

Sophomore Lauren Rivera and her sister Meghan, a senior, are also mem-



**Father Stanley Benecki, pastor of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene church, visits with Columbus Bishop Ready High School students to discuss the opportunities and challenges of volunteering at their parishes**  
Photos courtesy Bishop Ready High School

bers of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. They volunteer with the White Christmas program, the youth choir's garage sale, the parish festival, and Vacation Bible School. Lauren is also a Eucharistic minister and member of Life Teen. At Ready, she is a member of the Student Council, Beta Club, Environmental Club, and St. Vincent De Paul Society, and plays volleyball. "Doing service at my parish is very rewarding. I enjoy the feeling, after completing service, that I have done my part to be an active member of the Catholic community," she said.

Meghan, who also volunteers at the Our Lady of Guadalupe food pantry, is a member of the Beta Club and the liturgical choir, and is a Eucharistic minister, a Ready ambassador, a member of the track and field team, a Kairos leader, and a participant in the school's theater productions. "Being able to give back to my parish means a lot to me because my parish gives me new life every weekend at Mass," she said. "Most of my volunteer work involves helping children, and I feel that I am making a difference because they are the future church."

Junior Eric Knapke is a member of London St. Patrick Church. He is an altar server, a Eucharistic minister, and a youth group member and leader. He also volunteers at HELP House in London, which provides food and clothing,


household items, and emergency assistance to people in need. At Ready, he is a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, the Environmental Club, the Ski Club, the Beta Club, and the boys soccer team. "From working at my parish, I get a chance to work in the community and help others while also deepening my faith," she said.

Senior Eddie Weeks, also from London St. Patrick, helps out at the parish's grade school with the eighth-graders' school trip, the middle-school dance, the wreath sale, and football games. He recently was co-chair of a benefit for a friend who was diagnosed with leukemia in the spring. More than \$8,000 was raised to help defray the friend's medical expenses.

"Working in my parish is very rewarding and also fun," he said. "London is a small town and everyone knows everyone else. I love helping and serving others, and I know that the work I do in my parish is appreciated." At Ready, he is an ambassador and a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Environmental Club, and is a Eucharistic minister. During his years at Ready, he has been a member of the school's golf and tennis teams.

Senior Kevin Montgomery of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church has been an altar server for almost eight years and has served as a master of ceremonies for events such as the Easter vigil. "I try to serve St. Mary Magdalene any way that I can," he said. "Whenever I get a call from the parish office, I go to help." He also volun-

*See READY, Page S16*



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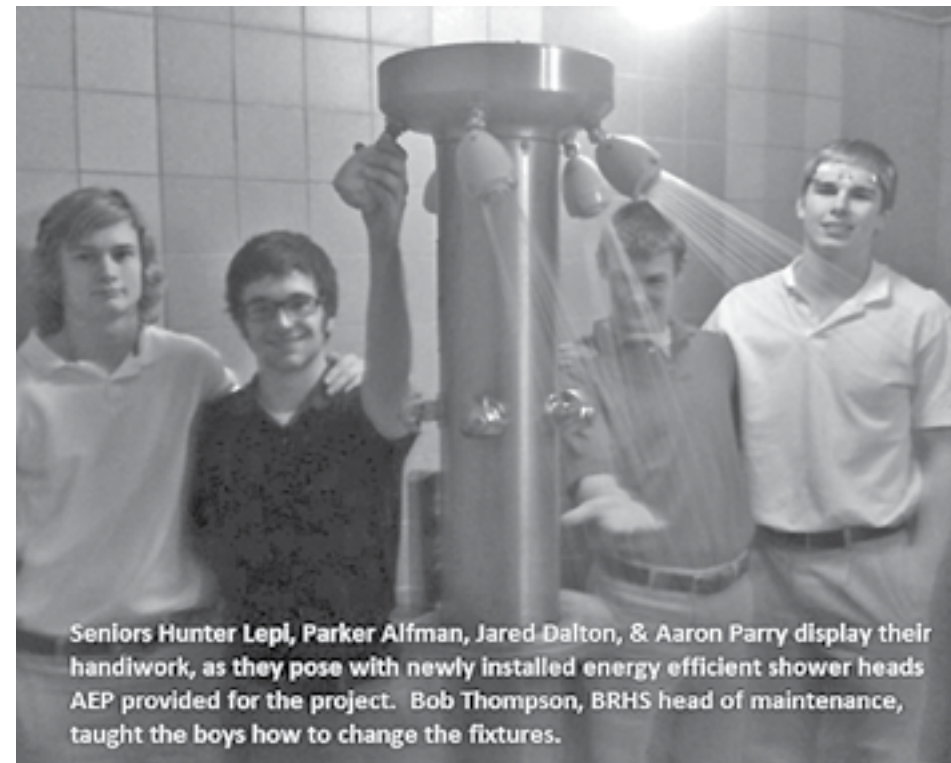
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Seniors Hunter Lepi, Parker Alfman, Jared Dalton, & Aaron Parry display their handiwork, as they pose with newly installed energy efficient shower heads AEP provided for the project. Bob Thompson, BRHS head of maintenance, taught the boys how to change the fixtures.

### Rosecrans students' energy conservation

Senior physics students at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School participated in a project sponsored by AEP Ohio to help them understand energy and its connection to physics, including energy transformations and energy conservation.

The students had to present experimental data in a formal lab report and show they could intelligently write conclusions. During the second semester, groups of students will produce scientifically based commercials that show evidence that they are leaving their mark on the world. The commercials also will be designed to educate people about a particular topic and to persuade them to make conservation-related changes that could leave God's

creation a better place.

Projects include conserving water by changing old shower heads to new, more efficient ones in the school's locker rooms; examining electric bills before and after making efforts to eliminate standby power; examining various types of power utilized by various generations of I-phones and different generations of video games and computers; studying energy related to golf-ball composition; analyzing consumers' knowledge of how tire pressure affects energy consumption; understanding citizens' knowledge of possible community contamination; and discovering how applying weatherstripping and outlet draft stoppers can significantly reduce energy bills.

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### READY, continued from Page S15

teers at the parish festival and for community dinners and trick or treat.

He is a member of Ready's band and liturgical choir and is working on his final steps toward Eagle Scout rank. His sister, Katie, is a freshman at Ready and his brother, Brian, is a Ready graduate who is now a freshman at The Ohio State University's school of engineering.

"Service has really opened my eyes to the needs of God's people right here in my own city. It has made me realize how truly blessed I am," said senior Marisa Ross, a member of Columbus St. Christopher Church, where she has served as an altar server since fifth grade and as a lector and Eucharistic minister since eighth grade. During her high school years, she has volunteered as a kindergarten and seventh-grade PSR teacher and has participated in Gospel Road mission trips to Portsmouth, Circleville, New Philadelphia, and Columbus.

She belongs to the Rock Youth Group and is a small-group leader for St. Christopher's and Hilliard St. Brendan Church's confirmation retreats. She also helps with service projects for Rebecca's House and the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and is vice president of the

Student Council executive board, an ambassador, a member of the Beta Club, a peer tutor, varsity soccer captain, and a freshman retreat small-group leader.

Senior Samantha Daniels of St. Mary Magdalene Church teaches a second-grade religion class every Thursday evening with her older sister. In addition, she volunteers at the parish's annual Vacation Bible School, where she is in charge of all crafts. She also works at the parish festival and at parish dinners. She is a leader for the parish religious education program's youth group and a small-group leader for the Confirmation retreat, is a Eucharistic minister, assists at St. Mary Magdalene's First Communion ceremony, and does all of the face painting at the parish's annual picnic.

She founded the Knights for Life pro-life club at Ready and is a member of the French Club, the Environmental Club, the Bake Club, the liturgical setup team, and the Art Club, plays tennis, and works on theater productions. "One day, when I look back on my life, I want to see the faces of the lives that I have changed and the people who inspired me to want to make a difference in the world," she said.

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Invasive species are a major threat to natural diversity because they can change an entire habitat, placing an ecosystem at risk. They also crowd out or replace native species that are beneficial to a habitat.

Hilliard St. Brendan School eighth-grade students took part in a service learning project by removing an invasive species from a park adjacent to the school. The invasive species is Japanese honeysuckle. Students were divided into teams which were assigned a designated plot and planned removal of the honeysuckle from their area. This project showed the teams how to plan, collaborate, develop leadership skills, and take responsibility.

The project was incorporated into several curricular areas. For the science curriculum, students learned how invasive species hurt the environment. In religion classes, students justified how they as Catholics are to follow the Catholic social teaching of stewardship of the earth. For math classes, students evaluated the plot assigned to their team to determine measurements and the best way to tackle the Japanese honeysuckle issue. Their research of the invasive species involved the technology and library components of their education.


At the completion of the project, one student said, "An eye-opening experience I had was the way our little class, as a community, could make such a big difference. We really helped out our wildlife. I think as a class we showed how well we can work together."



Photos: Hilliard St. Brendan School eighth-graders participated in a service project to eliminate invasive Japanese honeysuckle that was threatening trees in a local park. Shown are (from left) Joseph Gonca, Gina Greenhalgh, and Ryan Sarver (top), and Catie Woods, Abby Lowry, Isaac Bowles, and Mason Russell (above)  
Photos courtesy St. Brendan School

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## DESALES LINKS WITH PARISHES

**Julianne Panzo and Matt DiCesare, members of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School's Italian IV class, talk to sixth-grade students at Columbus St. Matthias School about Christmas in Italy**

*Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School*



Taking note of the diocesan theme for Catholic Schools Week, "Three Ours: Our Schools, Our Parishes, Our Education," Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has partnered with several of its feeder parishes and schools to share their time and talents with the Catholic community.

DeSales students, directed by school principal Dan Garrick and English teacher Bill Kerwin, will mix history and storytelling this month as they work with Westerville St. Paul Church in preparation for the parish centennial celebration.

These mini-historians, with the assistance of St. Paul parishioner and DeSales alumnus Tim Kane, parish administrator Jerry Nieman, and Father Charles Klinger, pastor at St. Paul's, will create a book to help tell the story of how the parish has evolved and how it has impacted the lives of members of its community. They will begin by interviewing about 40 parishioners and compiling their experiences. Students will receive academic credit for their hours of research through this independent study.

DeSales Italian IV students visited Columbus St. Matthias School before the

holiday break to teach pupils in various grade levels about Christmas in Italy. They taught vocabulary, greetings, and the Italian version of "Frosty the Snowman (*Pupazzo di Neve*)". The students at St. Matthias were excited to learn about something new, and their counterparts from DeSales had the opportunity to share a bit of the knowledge they acquired after studying the language for almost four years. The Drama I class also visited St. Matthias to read stories to students in kindergarten and first and second grades while dressed as characters in popular children's books.

DeSales social studies teacher Steve Ulry travels to St Paul School each spring to discuss the Holocaust and the Holocaust Museum in Washington with seventh- and eighth-graders before their visit to the nation's capital. Theology teacher Mary Porretta comes to the school several times a year to give talks to students and parents on topics including confirmation, morality, and decision-making.

The Peer Ministry Team, along with campus ministry director Andrea Pore, is in charge of confirmation retreats for St. Matthias and Columbus St. Anthony School.

**Please join us during our Catholic Schools Week Open House!**

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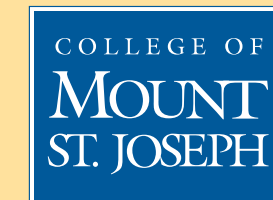
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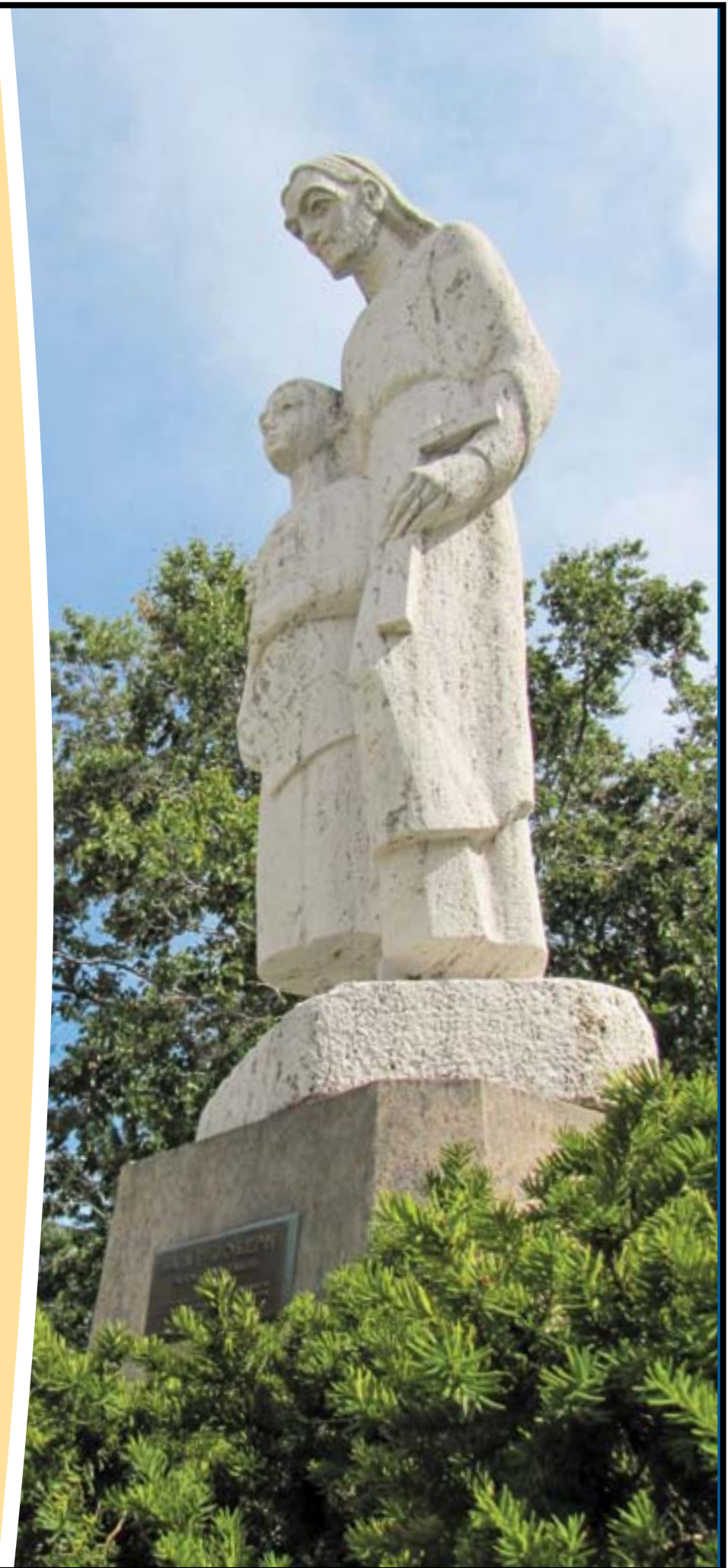
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