



Futures in Education
FOR BROOKLYN AND QUEENS
Changing Lives Through The Gift Of Education

THE Angel Gazette

The latest good news about our Be An Angel to a Student Program!

Dear Beloved Angel Donor,

We are thrilled to ring in the 2022-2023 school year with the second edition of our *Angel Gazette*! In this edition, you will meet our new Superintendent, Deacon Kevin McCormack, and learn more about the direct impact of the gift you give our students and families! We welcome Deacon McCormack and thank Dr. Thomas Chadzutko for his decades of leadership and service. I also cannot thank each of our *Angel* donors enough for your constant dedication to ensure that generations of students have access to Catholic education.

As always, we continue to collect compelling and inspiring stories about our *Angel* donors, their dedication to Catholic education, and the relationship they share with their *Angel* students. You could be in the next *Angel Gazette*! Give us a call at 718.965.7308 and share your story with us.

I hope you enjoy reading about how your gift directly impacts the neediest of our Catholic school community and the sacrifices that each of us make to preserve the Catholic education tradition. Let us pray for a happy, healthy, and successful start to this school year.

Please know you are in my prayers—please remember me in yours!

Jamie J. Gigantiello

Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello
Vicar for Development



Save the dates!

Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner
Tuesday, October 18th
Cipriani Wall Street

Bishop's Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday, December 7th
Russo's on the Bay

Spirit of Christmas Concert
Tuesday, December 13th
The Emmaus Center

New Superintendent Kevin McCormack speaks on hope, sacrifice, and resilience of Catholic schools

Deacon Kevin McCormack, the new Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Brooklyn, says he ought to be “in the 58th grade by now.” After a lifetime of Catholic schooling, entering his religious vocation as Deacon, and creating a legacy as principal at Xaverian High School, Deacon McCormack is ready to lead our Catholic school community into a new era of hope, reimagination, and togetherness.

Deacon McCormack is excited to integrate his continued passion for Catholic education into his new role. “The Brooklyn Diocese has so many great things going for it,” he said enthusiastically. “Together with Bishop Brennan and working with Dr. Chadzutko, really building on what he and his team did, I think the best is yet to come. I think we're going to see dramatic and dynamic things happening. We will trust in the Holy Spirit, be rooted in strong academics, good discipline, and our Catholic identity.”

While inspired and motivated to lead the diocesan schools in Brooklyn & Queens, Deacon McCormack also acknowledged the tremendous need across our Catholic community. With school tuition on the rise, it is often difficult for our parents to keep up with payments, turning their child's education into an unknown. “There's a mom who's cleaning the dishes in her kitchen, and she's crying because her husband is working three jobs,” Deacon McCormack voiced. “She's watching her young kids and dreaming about where they're going to go to school. She's wondering how she's going to do it. She's saying a prayer right now, ‘Lord, show me how I can get my kids into Catholic school.’ Our *Angel* donors answer the prayer.”

Deacon McCormack reemphasized the need for support in our Catholic school community. Our *Angels* are some of the most inspiring people in our community, and they show just how much they care about the sacrifice needed to provide a child with a Catholic education. He encourages all members of our Brooklyn and Queens Catholic school community to stay involved.

“Get involved with your schools, even with your alma mater,” he said. “Join a school board, represent your graduating elementary class, sponsor a student. But most importantly,” he said, “tell your Catholic education story.”

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Our *Angel*
donors
answer the
prayer
”

“Tell the story of how Catholic school kids, when they go to college, they're ahead of their peers. Tell the story of the sacrifice that your parents made for you, and you made for your kids. We need to remind people of the impact and the only way we do that is through the stories.”



Deacon McCormack has had a lifetime of experience with Catholic education

From the Smiles of Our Students: *Thank you*

Our *Angel* students are among the most inspiring in our Catholic school community. Here's what some of them have to say about the gift of Catholic education that you give:



I really appreciate you for letting me stay in this wonderful school.
- Kaylee S., Grade 6

Thank you for all you've done and may God bless you
- Jaiden R. Grade 7

I am so grateful for all you have done for me during my time in elementary school. I know I am ready for my next chapter.
- Bella F., Grade 8



Having an *Angel* is important because the *Angel* can guide you through tough situations, or whenever you're feeling down, or you can just pray.
- Joshua M., Grade 3



In school we learn about God and I know I can always pray and feel safe.
- Isaiah C., Grade 6

Thank you!

Thank you for helping my mom and dad so that I can learn and play with my friends.
- Thomas, D., Grade 5



Amidst the loss of his father, a student finds hope in his Catholic school



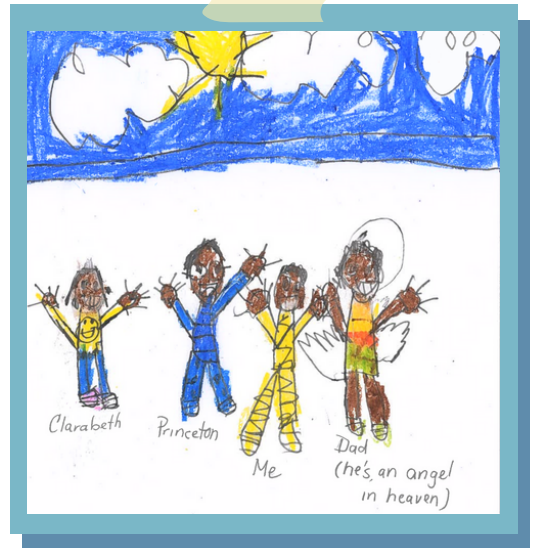
At just six years old, Trenton has had to endure more hardships than most adults. He tragically lost his father to a sudden brain bleed, leaving him, his seven siblings, and his mom alone. The only constant became the support of his friends and the school community at Ss. Joachim and Anne Catholic Academy.

To add more trouble to this young child's life, the loss of his father made his future at his home away from home uncertain. His family did not know how they could afford to continue at Ss. Joachim and Anne without help.

Then, an *Angel* intervened, providing the financial support that has enabled Trenton to continue his Catholic education. In a letter to his *Angel*, Trenton said:

Dear Angel, thank you for all you do for me and my family. You really are our Angel.

Now, like other students his age, Trenton is able to focus on the things he enjoys; math, phonics, playing soccer, and spending time with his family.



Trenton draws a picture of his family, including his dad in Heaven.



Angel student Maria writes a letter of thanks to her lifetime Angel donor as she graduates 8th grade



Dear Angel,

It's been years since my first letter to you. Doing the math, I think I've sent about 32 letters, pictures and drawings to you over the years. Wow! How are you? Your sister? Did you have a Happy Easter?

School has been really challenging. I have been assigned multiple things to get done over the break. I was awarded with First Honors again this trimester and this time we had a ceremony. I'm glad that I got First Honors, however, my goal is to now aim for Principal's List. In my previous report cards I would miss Principal's List by one point in one class. I decided that I should try to aim for the best to end off my year in Eighth Grade. I will be working hard to achieve Principal's List this trimester.

As my year in 8th grade ends, I can't help but be scared of what happens next. I know I should be excited for high school however, I'm nervous. Of what? I'm not sure. It might be the fear of moving ahead or just going somewhere new. I am not entirely scared through. It has been many years and I feel more confident going to high school knowing that you have prayed and have shared your generous spirit with me. I aspire to be like you in the future, to be able to support children in their education, to help give them courage to become the best of themselves and achieve their goals.

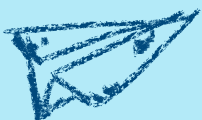
You have inspired and encouraged me to do the best I can. Now I will continue to study and try my best, not only in school, but outside of school as well. For everything you have done for me I thank you. Thank you for being my Angel for so long, I hope we can stay in contact over the years ahead. I will continue to pray for you and do my best to help make it a better world. God bless you and thank you again for all you have done for me and for so many others.

Love, Peace, and Gratitude,
Maria Celeste



Read this heartfelt letter Maria wrote to her *Angel* donor as her last letter before she graduates 8th grade.

Maria's *Angel* donor has been supporting her throughout her entire time at St. Ephrem's Catholic Academy in Brooklyn! The bond between Maria and her *Angel* donor is a special one.



A Note of Gratitude From a Parent In Need



Dear Angel,

We made the decision as a family to enroll my son in Catholic school after we saw the difficulty and tragedy that the schools in our neighborhood were experiencing (crimes, gangs, theft, etc.). We knew that this would be a difficult economic odyssey. However, right at that time, Father Manuel de Jesus Rodriguez at our parish informed us about this beautiful and blessed project of love called Futures in Education. That is the reason why today we have this opportunity after three years to thank you, I thank you from the bottom of my heart as a mother. Your help towards us can only translate into infinite blessings for you in all areas of your life dear Angel.

After this three year journey, I have seen how my son has transformed his life into better grades, he now plays sports, is surrounded by a healthy environment, and above all, he became knowledgeable of God, which for me is so valuable.

For all this, perhaps I do not have the precise words to thank you for so much kindness. But I can only say to you that may God bless you and may you continue to do as much good as you have done until today.

Sincerely,

Sandra B.

Mom of Carlos, attending Cathedral Prep and Seminary

This letter was translated and abbreviated for context and clarity from it's original Spanish



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From Our Executive Director

As a proud dad of three young children attending Our Lady of Hope Catholic Academy in Middle Village, Queens, nothing excites me more than sending them back to school in September! Of course, all my fellow parents breathe a sigh of relief getting their kids back into a routine (and out of the house!), but there is more reason to be excited. The new school year, in any of our Catholic schools in Brooklyn and Queens, brings new hope for the students – in learning new things, in developing new skills, in building friendships and most importantly in deepening their Catholic faith.

As our loyal and generous Angel donors, you provide that hope for children whose parents need some assistance to pay their tuition. The impact of your gift is real, immediate, and long-lasting. You change lives and ensure that the children and families you support share in our collective excitement at the start of the school year. Thank you for making a difference!

Sincerely,

John Notaro

John Notaro
Executive Director
Futures in Education



SCAN ME



Learn more on our website!

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