



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,

As we enter into a new year full of hope and joy, I wish to express my immense gratitude for you, our *Angel* donors. It is because of you that we are able to provide our students and families with the gift of a Catholic education.

We are excited to share the first edition of our *Angel Gazette* with you. This publication gives a snapshot of great stories about the gift you bring to our students.

Please help us make the *Angel* program even better! Contact us or fill out the brief survey attached so we can discover more about your Catholic education story!

We are excited to welcome our new Bishop of Brooklyn, Bishop Robert J. Brennan! We look forward to growing under his leadership and we thank Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio for his tireless efforts in being a champion for Catholic education.

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

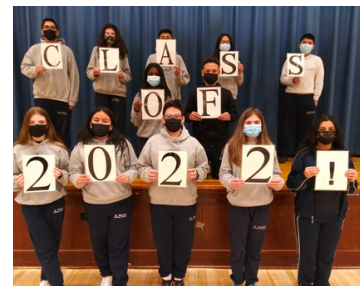
In Christ's Peace,

Jamie J. Gigantiello

Msgr. Jamie J. Gigantiello
Vicar for Development

Bishop Brennan pledges support for Catholic education

Continuing the good news of increased Catholic school enrollment in Brooklyn and Queens in 2021 for the first time in decades, our new Bishop Robert Brennan has demonstrated his strong support for Catholic education and appreciation of our *Angel* donors. At the Bishop's Christmas Luncheon in December, he said: "I have been able to see up close the difference you are making in the lives of students. Catholic education is about a partnership... it also involves a network of people who really believe in our children... that if they are given the chance, they will be making a real difference in the world in the days to come." Thank you, *Angels*, thank you for the hope you have given our children and the world.



John Loconsolo - The Original Angel

In honor of our original Angel, 103 new students received support in 2021

John A. Loconsolo, one of our founders and best-known contributor to the *Be an Angel to a Student* program, passed in the spring of 2021. He made the program what it is today and he inspired so many to give. In honor of John, we launched a Board initiative to secure support for 101 new *Angel* students, to celebrate what would have been his 101st birthday. We surpassed that goal and presented John's daughters, who are also *Angels*, with an award in his memory. We are so grateful for John's dedication and his legacy lives on!



John supported 100 students every year!



John Loconsolo's daughters at the 2021 Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner.

From the Hearts of Angels

A few of our Angels tell us what inspires them about the Be an Angel to a Student Program - What inspires you?



Angel Patricia is an Angel to support the future of the faith.

“The value of a Catholic education is how it strengthens the future of the Catholic Church. If our children don’t learn the faith, they are not going to continue to go to our Church.”



Angel Jeff was inspired to become an Angel donor after meeting a person in our Diocese, who was herself of very modest means, and learning that she was donating partial tuition for 4 Angel students.



“Seeing how good people are, and how good Catholic people are, just makes me feel better. That first Angel really made me understand that even when things are difficult, God always takes care of us, sometimes through others.”

“I can tell from their grades, how much our students are improving, and even if something is going on in their lives. But I am very gratified that all the students seem to be working so hard.”

- Angel Michele

“I have been involved in education most of my life, in the New York City schools, and I have a great deal of faith in the benefits of our Catholic schools.”

- Angel Robert

“I want to give kids a chance.”

- Angel Richard



Angels Joe and Maureen write a letter to their Angel student.

Dear Khloee:

It is wonderful to receive your warm letters. We are so happy to hear that you enjoy St. Rose of Lima. Yes, it is great that your family is safe and healthy from COVID and that you often praise God for your wonderful family and School.

I went to Catholic elementary school in Brooklyn, Catholic High School in Manhattan, and Catholic college in the Bronx. My wife went to both Catholic elementary and high school in Rockaway. Therefore, we appreciate the beauty of a Catholic education, and we want to help you have that experience. We will continue to be your Angels for next year. Good Luck in all you do.

God bless,
Joe and Maureen



A Legacy for Generations of Students to Come

Angels create a legacy of learning with gifts that support Catholic students far into the future

Angel Doris has a long history of dedication to Catholic education. She started Catholic school at Holy Cross in Flatbush in the 1930s, and she knew that her parish’s financial support was critical for her education there and at Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School. *Angel Doris* has been an *Angel* for decades, and to ensure that her legacy of giving lives into the future: she has endowed an *Angel* scholarship with a planned gift in her family’s name.

“Every year during my high school years when my parish took up a collection for Catholic education, in gratitude, I would donate 25 cents, all I could, and I vowed that when I was working, I would put in \$4, which then was an enormous sum! I always knew the value of a Catholic education, and it has helped me with my career as a Vice President of an insurance underwriting firm.”

Contact Jeanne Mulry at 718-965-7308 x1621 for information on making a gift to the Angel program that will leave a lasting legacy!

Your Help Gives Hope for the Future

Former Angel Student Camela inspired to become an Angel herself!

Twenty years ago, *Angel* student Camela was in 7th grade attending Ascension School in Elmhurst, Queens. Camela's dad was a single parent struggling to make ends meet for his family and he was faced with the decision to take Camela out of the school she loved. Then, her *Angels*, a couple deeply grateful for their own success, stepped in to help.

— “

I felt so blessed and thankful to have been given an opportunity to continue attending a school I loved. Having an *Angel* made me want to do better in school, and I am so grateful for that.”



Camela graduated college magna cum laude and works for Johnson & Johnson!

Since graduating from Ascension, Camela attended The Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates, Queens and then moved to New Jersey where she finished high school. She then graduated *magna cum laude* from Seton Hall University in 2011. Camela now works for Johnson & Johnson and has been with the company for ten years. Camela's *Angel* experience and the foundation of faith from her Catholic education stuck with her. **Inspired by her *Angel*, Camela is now not only a member of Futures in Education's junior board, Future Leaders, but is also an *Angel* donor herself.** “The *Angel* Program changed my life, and I'm now happy to help Futures in Education in any way possible.”

Who are our *Angel* students?

We all know our *Angel* students have financial need, but here are some anonymous but very real details of what our students and their families have faced this past year:



Sweet child suffering pandemic losses

Divine Wisdom CA, Queens

This [5th grade student] has always been a kind and sweet child. This year has been extremely difficult for the family. [His parents] lost their business due to the pandemic. But even more heartbreaking is that the children lost both their grandparents.



Loss of father, mother with medical issues

St. Bernard CA, Brooklyn

[Two sisters] lost their father to cancer when they were only 3 and 4 years of age... This year their mother was hospitalized with severe kidney illness... An *Angel* is needed for the girls to continue at St. Bernard.



New immigrants, deep poverty

St. Ephrem CA, Brooklyn

This [8th grade girl's] family is extremely poor. They live well below the poverty line. They are hard-working, thoughtful, faithful people who yearn to give their child a Catholic education.

Angel Student Stats

All 70

Brooklyn and Queens Catholic elementary schools have *Angel* students

\$45,000

median household income

50%

of recipients are receiving meals through free and reduced lunch programs

Foundations for Life

Angel Program Alumnus Manuel Hernandez shares his story



Manuel's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico, hoping to build a better life for themselves and their children. "Although my early years started in public school, my parents quickly learned the value of sending their children to Catholic school where we could

learn about our faith in a safe, nurturing environment," Manuel explained in his speech at the 2021 Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner. Mr. And Mrs. Hernandez would eventually meet Sister Peggy, who at the time was the principal from St. Michael's School in East New York, Brooklyn. Sister Peggy welcomed the Hernandez family into her parish with open arms and made them feel welcomed in the United States for the first time. "Not only did my parents eventually marry in the Catholic church because Sister Peggy encouraged them to do so," he continued, "she also encouraged them to send their children to Catholic school. I truly believe that God worked through the church to motivate my parents to keep moving forward even when all hope was lost," Manuel said in his speech.

Unable to afford full tuition, the Hernandez family was granted an *Angel* as Manuel started the second grade at Salve Regina Catholic Academy. Manuel's *Angel* donors, a couple from the diocese, saw so much improvement in the years that he attended Salve Regina, that they decided to continue to support him through his high school years at Christ the King! Now, Manuel is the first in his family to attend college, studying mechanical engineering at New York City College of Technology.

— “
“To all of you here tonight, thank you for giving opportunities for a better life to children like me. I wouldn't be here where I am without you.”

Learn more on
our website!



A Note of Gratitude

With a new year comes new and exciting opportunities to connect with our generous *Angel* donors! We are thrilled to share this very first edition of our new *Angel Gazette* with you and show you just how far your gift reaches.

Because of your generosity, 2021 was one of our most successful fundraising years ever! We are so thankful for your constant love and dedication to the students of Brooklyn and Queens. You inspire us all!

I also want to thank our Board Chair, Veronica Tsang, for her outstanding leadership during such a critical moment for Catholic education.

I wish you a happy and healthy year ahead and thank you for all you do for our students!

Sincerely,

John Notaro
John Notaro
Executive Director
Futures in Education

