



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 Angel Donor,

As we enter 2023, a new year full of opportunity, hope and joy, I would like to thank you for all you have done. You have provided students and families with the gift of a Catholic Education - an opportunity that lays the foundation for the future of our Church and our world. With the start of Catholic Schools Week, we remember the importance of our **ABC's: academics, belief and character**.

In this issue, you will find examples of how our students use their **ABC's** to give back to their communities. Our students are the pinnacle of the future of our Church.

I hope you enjoy reading how your gift directly impacts the neediest of our Catholic school and academy community and the sacrifices that each of us makes to preserve the Catholic education tradition. Let us pray for a happy, healthy, and successful new 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!

*** New Spring Date! ***
Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Cipriani Wall Street
6:00 PM

A Round for Kids Golf Outing
Monday, June 12, 2023
Westhampton Country Club
12:00 PM

The Most Important Gift of All

How Caleb, an 8th grader at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy, defines gratitude

When we think about Catholic Schools Week, we of course celebrate the joy and gift that Catholic education brings to thousands of students across the country. However, for most of our *Angel* donors and scholarship recipients, it is also a reminder of the great sacrifice parents make to ensure that their children are able to attend the Catholic school of their choice.

No one knows this sacrifice better than Andrea, *Angel* scholarship recipient and parent of Caleb. Andrea immigrated to the U.S. from the Caribbean, with hopes for a better life she could build for her family. Her son, Caleb, was born in the U.S., and Andrea and her husband knew they wanted him in a Catholic school to receive the best education. Caleb has spent his elementary years at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy in Queens, learning about what he loves the most- science.

My favorite subject is science because I think it's so interesting to learn about biology and mechanics," Caleb, now an 8th grader, said enthusiastically. Divine Wisdom's STEM program has deepened Caleb's curiosity for all things mechanics and construction.

In 2016, Caleb's dad passed away. Andrea knew that continuing without him would be difficult. "As a single mom, I knew how hard the rest of my life would be. I did my best to cut anything out of my expenses to fit Caleb's school in, even cutting the cable bill, just so he could stay at Divine Wisdom." Andrea worked hard, together with Caleb's grandmother, to make sure nothing changed in his education. Caleb's *Angel* eased the financial burden.



Caleb is an 8th grader at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy and graduates this June!

When asked about what gratitude means to him, Caleb mentioned how it's not just about helping people in need. "It's about giving back," he said. Caleb often helps younger students with their homework at Divine Wisdom. He also makes sure no student is left out, and that someone always has a friend to play with. "Caleb just got accepted to Xaverian High School!" Andrea added, "We are very excited for him; this is where I want him to go." Caleb feels well prepared for high school, mentioning how Divine Wisdom has shaped him to be the best person he can be. "Divine Wisdom gave me confidence to know I can achieve anything," Caleb added.

"The *Angel* Program changed my life, and my son's even more so," Andrea expressed in gratitude.

A...B...."C" for Character

Catholic school students give back to their surrounding communities during the holiday season and all year round!



"Soup"-er Bowl

Ss. Joachim & Anne School, Queens Village

With migrants coming into the Diocese of Brooklyn in increasing numbers, Ss. Joachim & Anne School in Queens Village has made a special effort to open its doors to newly-arrived children and help with basic family needs -- like food!

Principal Linda Freebes believes it is the school's mission to help in every way they can. "With our Superintendent Deacon Kevin McCormack encouraging schools to help educate migrant children who are here in Queens and Brooklyn, we want to help these families, because, after all, we are the Diocese of Immigrants. We made every effort we could to have clothes such as pajamas and toiletries to help them when they arrived," she said.

One (PBJ) Sandwich at a Time

St. Patrick Catholic Academy, Bay Ridge

The 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at St. Patrick Catholic Academy conducted their annual "One Sandwich at a Time" event where they made 918 sandwiches to feed the homeless. This year, St. Patrick's donated their sandwiches to City Harvest, who distributed them to those in most need. The service project also provides students with opportunities to self-govern and take on leadership positions.

MaryKate O'Neill, the teacher involved in coordinating this service event, spoke about the importance of school service projects, saying, "The students don't always know where their food comes from. It's important that we teach them to give back to their community, and especially those less fortunate."



Giving Back During Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week always brings such joy and fun memories for our students, teachers, and alumni alike. This year, many of our schools are participating in a charity component during their festivities. Below are some of the ways our students will be engaging their communities and lending a hand to others this Catholic Schools Week:



Raising funds for nonprofit organizations, such as the Little St. Nick Foundation, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Operation Gratitude and more



Donating food items, or making lunch for those of service or in great need



Visiting senior centers, and writing letters of thanks or support to veterans, other service members, or children who are sick and struggling

Thanks to your gift, our students can continue to learn about the importance of giving back to their community and their personal impact on the world around them. Thank you *Angels*!

Notes of Love and Thanks

A reminder of your gift from the Angel students you support throughout their academic careers!

Dear Angel,

Thank you for your support. I had such a great time in Third Grade. I won the spelling bee! We had a Christmas Craft fair and the walk-a-thon is coming up in May. I love being a student at St. Joan of Arc. This summer I am looking forward to going to a Mets game. I hope you have a great Summer too!

Love,
Owen

Dear Angel,

Thank you so much for helping me and my family this school year!

My School year has been going GREAT! I made some new friends and I have the BEST teacher in the world.

I hope you have a great Summer!

Love,

Josie



Dearest Angel,

Christmas days are very special and that is why I want to spend them in the circle of family and friends. But this year, Christmas, will not be usual for my family, because we will not celebrate it at home in Ukraine. My aunt and uncle are here, and we will celebrate Christmas together, and that makes me a little happy.

I want to thank you my Dear Angel for supporting our family at such a difficult time for us. We greatly appreciate it and sincerely thank you. May the born Jesus grant you and your families peace and goodness.

Love, Tymofii



Thanks for everything



Me and my family like to go to my Aunt's House and open gifts and eat Food we also like to Travel when we can to go see family out of state. I am Thankful for my angel. Thank you for putting me in a school that I can learn more and get Better at things I was not the Best at.

"Going to a Catholic School is an honor and a gift that I will forever treasure."



Dear Angel,

When we first applied for Futures in Education, it was a very dark time for us. My husband, at the age of 44, got diagnosed with Stage IV Colon Cancer, and was given less than one year to live. Rosa was 4.5 years old. I knew without my life-long partner, my financial provider, I wouldn't be able to send Rosa and my younger child, Raffaella, to a Catholic school.

The Principal at St. Bernard mentioned that I should apply to Futures in Education for an Angel Scholarship. I did. And for the past seven years, we have received Angel Scholarships.

Next year, Rosa starts a new chapter in her life. She will be attending St. Edmund's Preparatory High School. I still can't believe it; she is actually going to High School. My husband is gone eight and half years, there is not a day that goes by that I don't miss him and wish he could be here for all the milestones my girls have reached.

I feel saying thank you, and how much I appreciate what the Angel Scholarships has done for me and my girls is so little compared to what I feel in my heart. I can't begin to say and tell you how much we appreciate it. Going to a Catholic School is an honor, and a Gift, that I will forever treasure.

Both my girls will pay it forward one day, when they grow up to be successful adults.

God Bless you, and may He shine his face upon you; for your selflessness; in giving to the Angel scholarship.



Sincerely,
Roseann

Parent and Angel recipient, St. Bernard Catholic Academy

From Our Executive Director

Catholic Schools Week presents the perfect opportunity for us to rejoice and reflect on the everlasting gifts that Catholic education provides us. Through your involvement in our Angel program, you know the difference a Catholic education makes on the passion for life-long learning and the values that lead us to be like Christ every day.

Decade after decade, we can see that students within our Catholic schools have broken barriers, rising to the top of their classes and becoming leaders for change and bettering our world through Christ's love. Look around the diocese this Catholic Schools Week and you'll see the transformational difference our teachers, faculty, and curriculum have on our students from an early age, all the way through their adult lives.

Thank you, *Angels*, for the inspiring gift you continue to give our students in Brooklyn and Queens!

Sincerely,

John Notaro

John Notaro
Executive Director
Futures in Education



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SCAN ME



Learn more on
our website!

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