VOLUME III ISSUE 1



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

Dear Angel Donor,

Have you kept your New Year's resolution? If you cheated a little on your diet or you didn't quite finish reading that first book, it's OK. You can join the Futures in Education team in helping us meet our resolution!

Currently, our Angel donors are supporting 707 students, with tuition assistance to attend our Brooklyn and Queens Catholic schools. We know that we can do even better! Join us in our goal to help at least 750 students in the upcoming academic year.

If you haven't done so already, please make your commitment today for the 24/25 academic year and help put parents' minds at ease so they don't need to face the sad possibility of not being able to send them to the Catholic school they

Then, join us in fulfilling our New Year's resolution. Support an additional child this year or encourage a friend to join our special program. I am confident this is a resolution we can all feel good about keeping and that will change lives.

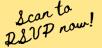
Sincerely,











A Family's Resilience: Navigating Loss and Pursuing Education

The Torre family has experienced a lifetime of profound challenges, loss and perseverance. On a late July day, Charlie Torre, father of four, survived a near-fatal heart attack, often referred to as "The Widow Maker" as most do not survive. Despite being one of the lucky ones, the cardiac arrest left him with lasting damage, rendering him unable to perform daily activities, leading to his permanent disability. Over the years, their family faced the loss of a first cousin and a grandfather, teaching the Torre

children about life's fragility. Little did they know, this was just a precursor to more **heart-wrenching** lessons.

Almost five years later, Charlie suddenly passed away during a family vacation, succumbing to a swift and unexpected tragedy. Despite their frantic efforts, emergency services declared his time of death after administering multiple doses of epinephrine. The heartbreaking task of



The four Torre children.

informing Charlie's four children about their father's sudden demise fell upon their mother Allison. The journey back home reinforced the harsh reality that their father, who had been with them just days ago, would never return.

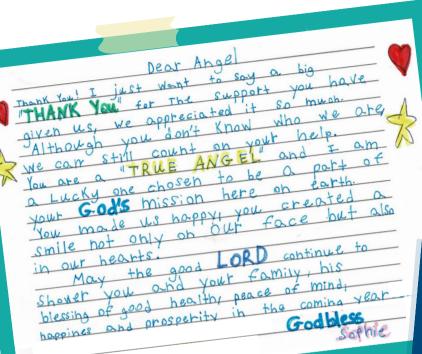
A few days later they bid their final goodbyes to Charlie, a remarkable individual and alumnus of St. Adalbert in Elmhurst, Queens. Despite his medical issues, Charlie proudly served as the Athletic Director for the basketball program, staying active in a parish that meant so much to him. His dream for his children to attend St. Adalbert's was financially unattainable during his lifetime. Now, as a newly single mother surviving on meager social security and disability payments, Allison was determined to fulfill one of Charlie's final wishes, for their kids to attend St. Adalbert Catholic Academy.

In the face of financial constraints, the Torre family found hope through the Angel Program. The youngest three Torre children, Christopher (7th grade), Sophia and Olivia (4th grade) were all able to be admitted to St. Adalbert with some help from our generous Angel donors. Now, all three are thriving at St. Adalbert's! Allison Torre shares, "St. Adalbert's has created a fantastic community for my family, and the kindness everyone has extended to us leaves me beyond words. The community there is like a family and has supported and lifted us up during this time of trial. My husband dreamed of having all his children attend St. Adalbert's, just like he did, and my kids wouldn't have this opportunity without the help of Futures in Education."

Thanks to the support of donors like you, other families like the Torre family are able to receive the gift of a Catholic education.

JANUARY 2024 01

Our students are spreading wings of appreciation and love through *Angel Mail!*







To my bedutifut Angel:

hello my name is kenny mejia, I am eight years old, i am very surphised and

happy to have this scholarship, about god and study more. I do not know you yet but, I want say thak you for all that you done with me.

Play my guitar and inwhote my first song, i call it, - Dream high.

Dear Angel,

I am thankful for my angel for his/her generosity. My family are grateful for helping us to pay for my thition fee.

I would like to pay it forward your kindness to the people who needs help by donating food, clothes, and toys to the kids.

Love, Mckenna



you are my Angel.

This year, I look forward to learning about science and religion. I like science because we can discover and learn about important information.

My favorite subject is social studies. I like learning about our pasts and looking at maps.





thank you for being my Angel and Helping me go to school. From Laila.

Classroom Chronicles:



Message from Mother of Soon to be Saint

Khloe Chavez, 6th grader at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Academy in Corona, Queens, recently received a surprise saintly message! Khloe first learned about Blessed Carlo at her school after they received his relic. She started learning about the teen, how he brought people around the world closer to Christ by creating a website of all the Eucharistic miracles. She never would have imagined that she would receive a personalized video from his mother!

Blessed Carlo Acutis could become the first millennial saint. "It was a blessing because the school exposed them to this, this young boy that was always with a book bag talking about Christ, wearing Nikes, the same clothes that we wear," said Khloe's father, Johnny Chavez. Khloe said, "I admire him because he's young like me, so I can relate to him."

Fighting Hunger One Sandwich at a Time

The 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students at St. Patrick Catholic Academy in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn conducted their annual "One Sandwich at a Time" event where they made over 1,000 sandwiches to feed the homeless. They have been doing this for the past five years and loved being able to help the underfed population of New York City. This past year, St. Patrick's donated their sandwiches to City Harvest, who distributed them to those in most need. The children were able to hear a presentation about the need in the city and the impact that their help could make. After making all the sandwiches, they had some time to reflect on how they were feeling and brainstorm on ways they could continue to give.

MaryKate O'Neill, the teacher involved in coordinating this service event, shared, "St. Patrick's mission statement is serving others. This annual event allows students to have the opportunity to serve, especially during the Advent season. It is great for them to give what they could to others and appreciate what they have."



Change a life and provide the gift of a Catholic Education!

FuturesinEducation.org/donate



SCAN ME!

Futures in Education



Keep an eye out for our monthly Furthering the Mission emails for Futures in Education updates

From Our Superintendent

A new year begins, and with that, a new semester here at our Catholic schools! It's a particularly wonderful time because every January we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As the Superintendent of Schools in Brooklyn and Queens, I see firsthand the faith, academic excellence, joy and friendships present in our schools. It is such an honor and a privilege!

I am amazed at the caliber of our faculties and staff. I am in awe of the passion that is put into sustaining the work of Catholic Education. We are blessed that Jesus Christ is the center of it all!

It's true, isn't it? The reason we are here is to give students the basis of faith to become the future Catholic leaders of this world. To prepare them spiritually, physically, intellectually and humanly, is our goal; to give them the Catholic Imagination to change the World.

Catholic Schools week is one of my favorite times of the year because we celebrate all our schools. It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank you for supporting and celebrating the Grace that abounds in our Catholic schools.

Sincerely,

Deacon Kevin McCormack Superintendent Catholic Schools of BQ



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