



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

WEEK 2020

National Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, is Jan. 26-Feb. 1. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Schools typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through the events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, communities and nation. See inside for a thriving science program through LabLearner offered to all students of St. Denis-St. Columba School in Hopewell Junction, a centennial celebration at St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island, Touring Tuesdays open house schedules and more.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

EXPERIMENTING AT ST. DENIS-ST. COLUMBA—Top, sixth-grader John Cassidy, center, participates in an experiment involving electricity with classmates at St. Denis-St. Columba School in Hopewell Junction Jan. 10. Above, on the same day, Mairead Gorman, a first-grader, worked on her project under the guidance of teacher Michele Dillon. See story on Page 26.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSES

"Touring Tuesdays" open house and information sessions are being offered at more than 120 elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York. Remaining dates this school year are Jan. 28 (during Catholic Schools Week), Feb. 11 and 18, and March 3 and 24, from 9 to 11 a.m., or by appointment. Touring Tuesdays introduce families to the lifelong benefits and value of a Catholic education, starting with Pre-K/UPK and extending through eighth grade.

Reservations are required and can be made online at <https://catholicschoolsny.org/visit-a-school>, or by calling the bilingual Parent Helpline, (646) 794-2885. School tours can also be arranged to accommodate parents' schedules.

BRONX (34 SCHOOLS)

Christ the King School, 1345 Grand Concourse
Holy Cross School, 1846 Randall Ave.
Holy Family School, 2169 Blackrock Ave.
Holy Rosary School, 1500 Arnow Ave.
Immaculate Conception School (Gun Hill Road), 760 E. Gun Hill Road
Mount St. Michael School (Intermediate) (Boys), 4300 Murdock Ave.
Nativity of Our Blessed Lady School, 3893 Dyre Ave.
Our Lady of Grace School, 3981 Bronxwood Ave.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, 2465 Bathgate Ave.
Our Lady of Refuge School, 2708 Briggs Ave.
Our Lady of the Assumption School, 1617 Parkview Ave.
Santa Maria School, 1510 Zerega Ave.
St. Angela Merici School, 266 E. 163rd St.
St. Anselm School, 685 Tinton Ave.
St. Benedict School, 1016 Edison Ave.
St. Brendan School, 268 East 207th St.
St. Clare of Assisi School, 1911 Hone Ave.
St. Frances de Chantal School, 2962 Harding Ave.
St. Francis of Assisi School, 4300 Baychester Ave.
St. Francis Xavier School, 1711 Haight Ave.
St. Gabriel School, 590 W. 235th St.
St. Helena School, 2050 Benedict Ave.
St. John Chrysostom School, 1144 Hoe Ave.
St. John School, 3143 Kingsbridge Ave.
St. Lucy School, 830 Mace Ave.
St. Luke School, 608 E. 139th St.
St. Margaret of Cortona School, 452 W. 260th St.



JOHN RAIOLA

St. Philip Neri School, 3031 Grand Concourse
St. Raymond School, 2380 E. Tremont Ave.
St. Simon Stock School, 2195 Valentine Ave.
St. Theresa School, 2872 St. Theresa Ave.
St. Thomas Aquinas School, 1909 Daly Ave.
Sts. Philip and James School, 1160 E. 213th St.
Villa Maria Academy, 3335 Country Club Road

DUTCHESS COUNTY (6 SCHOOLS)

The Ark and The Dove Preschool, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction
Holy Trinity School, 20 Springside Ave., Poughkeepsie
St. Denis-St. Columba School, 849 Route 82, Hopewell Junction
St. Martin de Porres School, 122 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie
St. Mary School, 106 Jackson St., Fishkill
St. Peter School, 12 Father Cody Plaza, Poughkeepsie

MANHATTAN (15 SCHOOLS)

Ascension School, 220 W. 108th St.
Corpus Christi School, 535 W. 121st St.
Good Shepherd School, 620 Isham St.

Guardian Angel School, 193 10th Ave.
Immaculate Conception School, 419 E. 13th St.
Incarnation School, 570 W. 175th St.
Our Lady of Lourdes School, 468 W. 143rd St.
Our Lady of Pompeii School, 240 Bleecker St.
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School, 71 Arden St.
St. Ann, The Personal School, 314 E. 110th St.
St. Elizabeth School, 612 W. 187th St.
St. Joseph's School-Yorkville, 420 E. 87th St. (all dates except January 28)
St. Paul School, 114 East 118th St.
School of the Blessed Sacrament, 147 W. 70th St. (all dates except Feb. 18 and March 24)
Transfiguration School, 29 Mott St.

ROCKLAND COUNTY (5 SCHOOLS)

Sacred Heart School, 60 Washington Ave., Suffern
St. Anthony School, 34 West Nyack Road, Nanuet
St. Gregory Barbarigo School, 29 Cinder Road, Garnerville
St. Margaret School, 34 North Magnolia St., Pearl River
St. Paul School, 365 Kings Highway, Valley Cottage

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSES

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STATEN ISLAND (20 SCHOOLS)

Academy of St. Dorothy School, 1305 Hylan Blvd.
Blessed Sacrament School, 830 Delafield Ave.
Holy Rosary School, 100 Jerome Ave.
Notre Dame Academy School, 78 Howard Ave.
Our Lady of Good Counsel School, 42 Austin Place
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedicta School,

285 Clove Road

Our Lady Queen of Peace School, 22 Steele Ave.
Our Lady Star of the Sea School, 5411 Amboy Road
Sacred Heart School, 301 North Burgher Ave.
St. Adalbert School, 355 Morningstar Road
St. Ann School, 125 Cromwell Ave.
St. Charles School, 200 Penn Ave.
St. Christopher School, 15 Lisbon Place
St. Clare School, 151 Lindenwood Road
St. Joseph Hill Academy School, 850 Hylan Blvd.
St. Joseph-St. Thomas School, 50 Maguire Ave.
St. Patrick School, 3560 Richmond Road
St. Peter-St. Paul School, 129 Clinton Ave.
St. Rita School, 30 Wellbrook Ave.
St. Teresa School, 1632 Victory Blvd.

ULSTER AND ORANGE COUNTIES (9 SCHOOLS)

Bishop Dunn Memorial School,
50 Gidney Ave., Newburgh
Divine Mercy School, 148 Windsor Turnpike,
New Windsor
Kingston Catholic School, 159 Broadway, Kingston
Most Precious Blood School, 180 Ulster Ave., Walden
Nora Cronin Presentation Academy,
69 Bay View Terrace, Newburgh
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School,
205 Wawayanda Ave., Middletown
Sacred Heart School, 26 Still Road, Monroe
St. John School, 77 Murray Ave., Goshen
St. Stephen - St. Edward School,
75 Sanfordville Road, Warwick

WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM COUNTIES (32 SCHOOLS)

Corpus Christi-Holy Rosary School,
135 South Regent St., Port Chester
Holy Family School, 100 Mount Joy Place, New Rochelle
Holy Name of Mary Montessori School,
110 Grand St., Croton-on-Hudson
Immaculate Conception School,
53 Winter Hill Road, Tuckahoe
Immaculate Heart of Mary School,
201 Boulevard, Scarsdale
Iona Prep Lower School,
173 Stratton Road, New Rochelle
John Cardinal O'Connor-School Spec. Ed,
16 N. Broadway, Irvington
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School,
59 E. Main St., Elmsford
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School,
575 Fowler Ave., Pelham Manor
Our Lady of Sorrows School,
888 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains
Our Lady of Victory School,
38 N. Fifth Ave., Mount Vernon
Resurrection Grammar School, 116 Milton Road, Rye
Sacred Heart Grade School, 34 Convent Ave., Yonkers
Sacred Heart School, 59 Wilson St., Hartsdale
St. Ann School, 40 Brewster Ave., Yonkers
St. Ann's Peas & Karrots, 16 Elizabeth St., Ossining
St. Anthony School, 1395 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers
St. Augustine School, 381 N. Highland Ave.,
Eagle Park, Route 9, Ossining
St. Barnabas School, 413 East 241st St., Bronx*
St. Columbanus School,
122 Oregon Road, Cortlandt Manor
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School,
1375 E. Main St., Shrub Oak
St. Eugene School, 707 Tuckahoe Road, Yonkers
St. James the Apostle School, 12 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
St. John the Baptist School, 670 Yonkers Ave., Yonkers
St. Joseph School, 30 Meadow Ave., Bronxville
St. Lawrence O'Toole Early Childhood Learning
Center, 11 Eastview Ave., Brewster
St. Patrick's School, 483 Old Post Road, Bedford
St. Patrick's School, 117 Moseman Road,
Yorktown Heights
St. Paul the Apostle School, 77 Lee Ave., Yonkers
St. Peter School, 204 Hawthorne Ave., Yonkers
Sts. John and Paul School, 280 Weaver St., Larchmont
Transfiguration School, 40 Prospect Ave., Tarrytown

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There's No Place Like Home Court for Bronx School

By DAN PIETRAFESA

Elijah McGhee is shooting a basketball through a rim 10 feet above a gym floor instead of a garbage can sitting on a cafeteria floor now that Our Lady of Grace School in the Bronx has a gym to call home.

The Jaguars hosted their first basketball games Dec. 22 after playing all road games a season ago when the fifth- and sixth-grade and seventh- and eighth-grade boys' teams went undefeated against opponents from the Bronx and Westchester County.

Elijah was a member of last season's fifth- and sixth-grade team.

"When I found out a gym was coming, I was excited," said the seventh-grader of the new gym. "It's nice to have your own gym to practice and have games in there. I never thought my school would have the chance to get a gym."

Our Lady of Grace Church was renovated into a gymnasium and three classrooms—music room, art studio and STREAM lab—to meet the growing needs of the school with 400 students in pre-kindergarten 3 through eighth grade.

The renovation was made possible by a grant from the Shea Family Foundation.

"It was a dream to see a gym and it has come true," said Leon Gorham, a 2005 graduate who is the school's physical education teacher and basketball

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MARIA R. BASTONE

TEAMWORK—Coaches and players from the fifth- and sixth-grade and seventh- and eighth-grade boys' teams at Our Lady of Grace School in the Bronx gather around the school's Jaguars logo at center court with principal Rich Helmrich, far right, in the school's new gymnasium in the Bronx Jan. 8.



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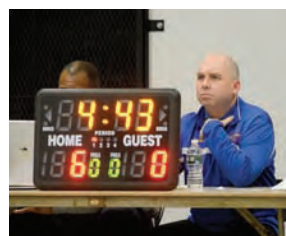
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NEW HOME— Left, a wide view from one end of the new Our Lady of Grace School gymnasium as a free throw is taken during Our Lady of Grace's game with St. John the Baptist of Yonkers in the Bronx Jan. 8. Below, principal Rich Helmrich operates the scoreboard at the scorer's table.



PHOTOS BY MARIA R. BASTONE

hosted school graduation ceremonies in 2018. Renovations soon began to accommodate the needs of the school, which has nearly doubled in enrollment since Rich Helmrich became principal nine years ago. Elements of the original church building, most notably stained glass windows, remain.

Students use the 4,972-square-foot gymnasium for physical education classes and recess as well as the school's basketball and volleyball teams.

"When I came here, there was no sports program at all," Helmrich said. "I looked at ways to implement a sports program in our school and always envisioned a place for kids to play."

Before the gymnasium opened, physical education classes and basketball practices were held in the cafeteria. Students ran laps in the hallways and stairways. Garbage cans were used as makeshift basketball hoops as the cafeteria ceiling was not high enough for a regulation 10-foot rim with backboard.

"Instead of denying them the opportunity, we'd see what we had onsite and make the best possible use of it," Helmrich said. "We'd teach them with hard work, teamwork and determination, you can overcome any obstacle."

Helmrich said the school is planning an official opening celebration in the spring for the gym and classrooms with representatives from the Shea Family Foundation and archdiocesan personnel.

"This is a Christmas gift that will last for generations to come," the principal said. "The thing I'm most proud of is I found the facility to reflect the character of the students we have."

Home Court...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

coach. "When I walked in after it was done, it was awesome. I didn't want to leave.

"Sometimes I wake up and I feel in awe we have a gym in our building...I can't put into words how I feel about the gym being there. I'm pretty excited."

In August 2015, the merged parish of St. Frances

of Rome, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony and Our Lady of Grace was formed as part of the archdiocese's Making All Things New pastoral planning initiative. Father Georginus E. Ugwu, M.S.P., is the pastor.

Our Lady of Grace Church, which was used only for special occasions following the merger, last

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Another Bicentennial Blessing, This One for Catholic Schools

Last issue, this space featured a report about a Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Manhattan marking the bicentennial of the birth of Father Isaac Hecker, C.S.P., the founder of the Paulist Fathers. This time, it features another marked anniversary—the opening of the bicentennial year of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the founder of the

Sisters of Charity and the first American-born saint.

Her feast day, Jan. 4, was observed with a Vigil Mass for the Epiphany celebrated by Cardinal Dolan at St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street in lower Manhattan. St. Eliza-

beth Ann Seton died on that date in 1821 at age 46 in Emmitsburg, Md., where she established the first American congregation of religious sisters and the first Catholic girls' school in the United States.

There will be many celebrations as her 200th anniversary nears, in Emmitsburg, and in other dioceses in the United States where her sisters still serve, including New York.

In 1817, Mother Seton, as she was known, sent three sisters to New York to staff the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum on Prince and Mott streets in lower Manhattan, which was in its early stages. Laymen had approached Bishop John Connolly to ask him to request that Sister Elizabeth Ann Seton send her sisters to New York to serve the orphanage.

So began the work of the Sisters of Charity here, where it continues more than 200 years later, said Sister Regina Bechtle, S.C., who co-edited "The Collected Writings of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton," published by New City Press.

Sister Regina said she often pauses to consider the differences encountered by the first three Sisters of Charity, Rose White, Cecilia O'Conway and Felicité Brady, when they arrived in New York. The dirt, noise and craziness of early 19th century New York City must have been a shock compared to the rural hills of Maryland, she said.

"Talk about coming where you are led, where you are sent, and doing what is before you to do," Sister Regina said.

In 1810, St. Joseph's Academy and St. Jo-

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JOHN WOODS

Editor's Report



CHRIS SHERIDAN

SAINTLY HISTORY—A portrait of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity, occupies a place of honor in St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street in lower Manhattan during the Jan. 4 Mass offered by Cardinal Dolan to mark the opening of the bicentennial year of her entrance into eternal life. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton entered the Catholic Church at St. Peter's in 1805.

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Cathedral High School Students Interning at Sloan Kettering Program

By **ARMANDO MACHADO**

Taiana Corchado, a junior at Cathedral High School in Manhattan, was one of four Cathedral students selected to participate in a two-year internship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The students' science enrichment program began last June, will go into next summer and throughout their senior year.

"My favorite part of the program is being able to meet new people who have the same career interests I do, and being able to learn about different medical careers," said Taiana last week in an interview at school with CNY.

"I didn't know there were so many different careers that could be implemented in the medical field. We've been learning many new things about cancer."

Taiana, 16, plans to be a nurse. Memorial Sloan Kettering is a renowned cancer research institute on East 68th Street in Manhattan.

The other three Cathedral juniors who are interns are Thais Peña, Skyla Collado and Annette Malan. All are 16, and they each plan to become a

doctor. The four girls expressed gratitude for the MSK program coordinators and instructors.

Thais called her internship "an opportunity to learn more about the medical field and to advance. I feel thankful, and I appreciate that they're taking their time to teach us about what they do in their field."

The internship program at the MSK Cancer Center helps high school science students learn fundamental skills in a clinical environment to explore career paths in medicine. In the first year, the students take weekly courses in cancer, biology, lab skills and professional development. In the second year, they participate in lab work and clinical research/trials.

The students were nominated for the program by Cathedral's Medical

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ENRICHMENT PROGRAM—The four juniors from Cathedral High School in Manhattan participating in an internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan are, from left, Skyla Collado, Annette Malan, Taiana Corchado and Thais Peña.



COURTESY OF CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

6

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St. Joseph Hill Academy Celebrates a Century Educating ‘Gems’

By CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE

Stella O'Brien, a senior who serves as student council president, has called St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island her “home away from home” since she was a 4-year-old pre-schooler.

“It fills your mind academically, it fills your soul spiritually and it’s really been able to fill my heart because of the community that I’ve found there, and just socially the uplifting atmosphere,” she said. “It’s really allowed me to become a whole and complete person.

“It’s been one of the best decisions to continue my educational career at St. Joseph Hill,” Stella added. “My mom went here, a lot of my aunts went here.”

St. Joseph Hill Academy, which has a co-ed pre-k and elementary school and an all-girls high school under the direction of the Daughters of Divine Charity, is celebrating its centennial this year. Cardinal Dolan offered the Vigil Mass at the school Oct. 19 to commemorate the milestone.

“It’s a joyful, happy time,” said Sister Mary Coffelt, F.D.C., provincial superior of the congregation and school president. “Our greatest gem for the future is the fact that the students are our life.”

On behalf of the Daughters of Divine Charity, she said she is “very proud of the educational contributions that St. Joseph Hill Academy has provided to the families of Staten Island during these past 100 years.”

“It’s nice to see that generations of Hilltoppers are here in the high school,” Sister Mary said. “That’s a nice reflection...In the elementary, they’re also very proud of who they are, to know that they went to St. Joseph Hill Elementary.”

In all grades, Catholic identity is a priority, Sister Mary said.

The elementary school has an enrollment of 530 and the high school has 468. The elementary school principal is Lawrence Hansen. Maria Molluzzo is the high school principal.

The Academy’s history began in March 1919, with the purchase of the 14-acre estate of William Knauth by Mother M. Kostka Bauer. That May, the Daughters of Divine Charity arrived on Staten Island and in the fall, inaugurated tutoring classes for a group of 25 children who had come to them during the summer. Those classes grew and eventually led to the institution of the Academy.

The elementary school officially opened in 1923 with an enrollment of 36 students with classes being held in the convent. In 1925 the first Academy building was erected and dedicated as both a day school and boarding school. In 1930 St. Joseph Hill Academy High School was opened with six young women graduating in 1934. At the time, the Academy was affiliated with The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

A new elementary school building was dedicated in 1953, followed by the high school wing in 1958. A pre-kindergarten program was inaugurated in 1991. A capital campaign began in 1998 resulting in a new elementary school wing containing additional classrooms and a second gymnasium.

For the high school, a new construction project begun in 1999 was completed during the 2000-2001 school year. A new gymnasium, four additional

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SCHOOL SPIRIT—Clockwise, from top: The Hill Centennial Choir of St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island sings before the Vigil Mass Cardinal Dolan offered Oct. 19 in conjunction with the school’s centennial year. A nighttime view of St. Joseph Hill Academy shows a statue of the school’s patron, St. Joseph, gracing the campus. Cardinal Dolan greeted Sister Mary Coffelt, F.D.C., provincial superior and school president, as he processed to the altar. To the left are Lawrence Hansen, principal of the elementary school and Maria Molluzzo, high school principal.



'Community' of Pierre Toussaint Scholars Learn About Reaching Goals

By **ARMANDO MACHADO**

Ramses Peña, 18, was among dozens of archdiocesan Pierre Toussaint Scholars who gathered at the New York Catholic Center in Manhattan to receive advice from program coordinators and alumni on the significance of career networking during college and being involved in extracurricular projects.

The scholars were advised to stay in contact with people who support their professional goals and aspirations, such as the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund coordinators; give back to the community via their parish and in other ways; and trust in the Lord.

"It has allowed me to deepen my faith, with the retreats and all," Peña, a freshman at Georgetown University, of the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund, said in an interview with Catholic New York after the fund's annual Winter Workshop Dec. 30.

"And it has allowed me to go to college, the money helps. There is a lot of support; you feel welcomed," said Peña, who is studying justice and peace at Georgetown. The parishio-

ner of St. Charles Borromeo in Harlem is considering studying law and becoming an immigration attorney.

The five-hour workshop drew more than 60 Pierre Toussaint Scholarship recipients. The day began with Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church.

The Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors of diverse backgrounds from public, private and parochial schools in the archdiocese to assist them with college fees and expenses. Students are chosen based on their strong academic record, active participation in parish and school communities and demonstration of good character and leadership abilities. The fund also provides mentorship and advisement to support college student leaders spiritually, professionally and personally.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, the executive director of archdiocesan Catholic Charities, told the scholars about the mission of Catholic Charities.

"In the name of Jesus, we provide help for people who need help, and we create hope," Msgr. Sullivan said.

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ARMANDO MACHADO

GOD AND GOALS—At the annual Winter Workshop of the archdiocesan Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund were, from left, scholarship recipients Reginald Asia-mah, Ramses Peña and Alexis Rosales-Hernandez. The Dec. 30 gathering took place at the New York Catholic Center in Manhattan. The workshop focused on reaching academic and career goals, and maintaining trust in God.

Salesian High School



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Toussaint Scholars...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

"We welcome immigrants and refugees from over 100 countries each year." Workshop coordinators encouraged the students, as young leaders in the Church, to refer people in need to Catholic Charities.

Tiffani Blake, a Pierre Toussaint Scholarship alumna, served as facilitator during an alumni panel discussion, during which panelists offered career advice to the current scholars. She told the students to persevere when faced with personal or societal obstacles in pursuit of academic and professional goals. The overall message was work hard, keep the faith and always seek guidance from a supportive person, such as a family member, a close friend or a mentor.

"This is about sharing insights, what's in your hearts and minds," said Ms. Blake, who is dean of students at the Long Island and New York City campuses of New York Institute of Technology. She is also a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo.

Also offering encouragement were Brother Tyrone Davis, C.F.C., director of the archdiocesan Office of Black Ministry, which sponsors the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund; Father Kareem Smith, parochial vicar of Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima parish in Crestwood; Deacon Michel Hodge of St. Charles Borromeo parish; and Richard Espinal, associate director for parish and community engagement at New York Catholic Charities.

Brother Tyrone reminded students they are leaders in the Church, not just in the future "but in the

now." Also present was Leah Dixon, associate director of the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund.

Workshop participants Kerry Egan, 21, a parishioner of St. Clare's, Staten Island, and Elizabeth Hasfal, 18, a parishioner of St. Joseph's, Bronxville, shared their thoughts with CNY.

Ms. Egan, a senior studying nursing at Boston College, said the Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund "is a lot more than scholarships."

"We've really formed a community. I feel like I have a great support system."

Ms. Hasfal, a freshman at Georgetown University studying political science and French, said the program "brings students together who have similarities through their faith, but come from a diverse array of backgrounds, schools and perspectives."



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Revitalization Plan Set for Long Island's Catholic Grade Schools

The Diocese of Rockville Centre last week announced the Morning Star Initiative, a plan to revitalize Catholic elementary school education on Long Island. In partnership with the Marianists, who operate four schools on Long Island, the diocese will undertake a comprehensive review of its elementary schools in 2020, leading to an action plan to restore a robust Catholic culture, academic excellence and fiscally sustainable schools.

Bishop John Barres of Rockville Centre believes the initiative is critical to the strength and longevity of Catholic parishes, communities and education on Long Island since most Catholic elementary schools have struggled with enrollment, building maintenance and teacher salaries in recent years. A number of schools have closed. "The core of this initiative is to foster the educational and spiritual development of our students," said Bishop Barres Jan. 10. "We owe it to our parents, families, teachers, parishes, alumni and communities to provide a robust, evangelizing Catholic education for Long Island children.

"The Morning Star Initiative establishes four pillars to renew and transform Catholic education on Long Island," the bishop said. "A robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, moral and liturgical life of the Church; safe and supportive communities recognizing the dignity and potential of everyone; academic excellence built on a Catholic faith-based model of individual growth and development; and that we are here to stay to meet the changing needs of the community, and to ensure sufficient resources for an improved educational environment and the financial stability of the schools."

Bishop Barres said, "The Marianists have two centuries of Catholic educational commitment and expertise. With a reputation for academic excellence, they bring 90 years of experience running the Marianist schools on Long Island, including Chaminade High School, Kellenberg Memorial High School, the Brother Joseph C. Fox Latin School and St. Martin de Porres Marianist Elementary School.

"These schools have a combined enrollment of 4,500 students and have educated and formed in the Catholic faith generations of young men and women, who provide outstanding leadership in our Church and communities."

Brother Thomas Cleary, S.M., president of Chaminade High School in Mineola, will serve as chief revitalization officer. His fellow Marianists will assist him. Feedback and ideas will be sought from everyone with a stake in revitalized Catholic elementary school education.

The diocese will also engage with Alvarez & Marsal, a global management consulting firm known for transforming educational organizations.

The Morning Star Initiative will begin with stakeholder engagement during the first half of the year and should be completed before the end of 2020.

Editor's Report...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

seph's Free School both opened in Emmitsburg. The funds the academy earned for the sisters' instruction paid the way for poorer children to attend the free school. The successful pattern was repeated at Sisters of Charity schools across the country, Sister Regina said, as requests flowed in for the sisters' Catholic education.

Sister Regina was asked to consider why St. Elizabeth Ann Seton remains such an enduring figure in the Catholic imagination even now, two centuries later.

"Her way of seeking and doing what she believed to be God's will," she responded. "Trying to align her life with where God was leading her was one of the driving passions of her life."

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's story began in New York, where she was born in 1774. Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born into a prominent New York City family. At age 19, she married a wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton, and they soon moved into a residence on Wall Street. They were members of the Episcopal Church. The couple had five children. Her husband succumbed to tuberculosis in 1803.

Elizabeth was introduced to the Catholic faith by the families of her husband's Italian business partners. In 1805, she was received into the Catholic Church at St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street. Father Jarlath Quinn, the pastor of St. Peter's, in remarks at the Jan. 4 Mass, said the parish was proud to honor St. Elizabeth's entrance into the Catholic Church as part of "the great tradition in the Church of converts to the Catholic faith."

During his homily at the Jan. 4 Mass, Cardinal Dolan recited a list of holy Catholic people who, like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, prayed at St. Peter's. They included Venerable Pierre Toussaint, the former slave in Haiti who became a paragon of charity in New York; Venerable Father Felix Varela,

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENCE—High school students, from left, Lena Sidell, of Dominican Academy in Manhattan, and Alexander Jaffres-Bell, Michael McGreal and Daniel Arco, all of Xavier High School in Manhattan, offered the Prayer of the Faithful at the Jan. 4 Mass in St. Peter's Church honoring St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.



CHRIS SHERIDAN

a native of Cuba who served as vicar general of the then-Diocese of New York; and Servant of God Dorothy Day, a social justice activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

It's like that in New York, especially at a church like St. Peter's, which has been around since 1785. Today, the parish is called St. Peter's-Our Lady of the Rosary, reflecting the 2015 merger with Our

Lady of the Rosary on State Street, which houses a shrine to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

If you've never seen St. Peter's for yourself, I highly encourage you to make a visit at some point during this bicentennial year the marking St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's entry into eternal life. You will be astounded by the church's beauty, and by the New York Church history within its walls.



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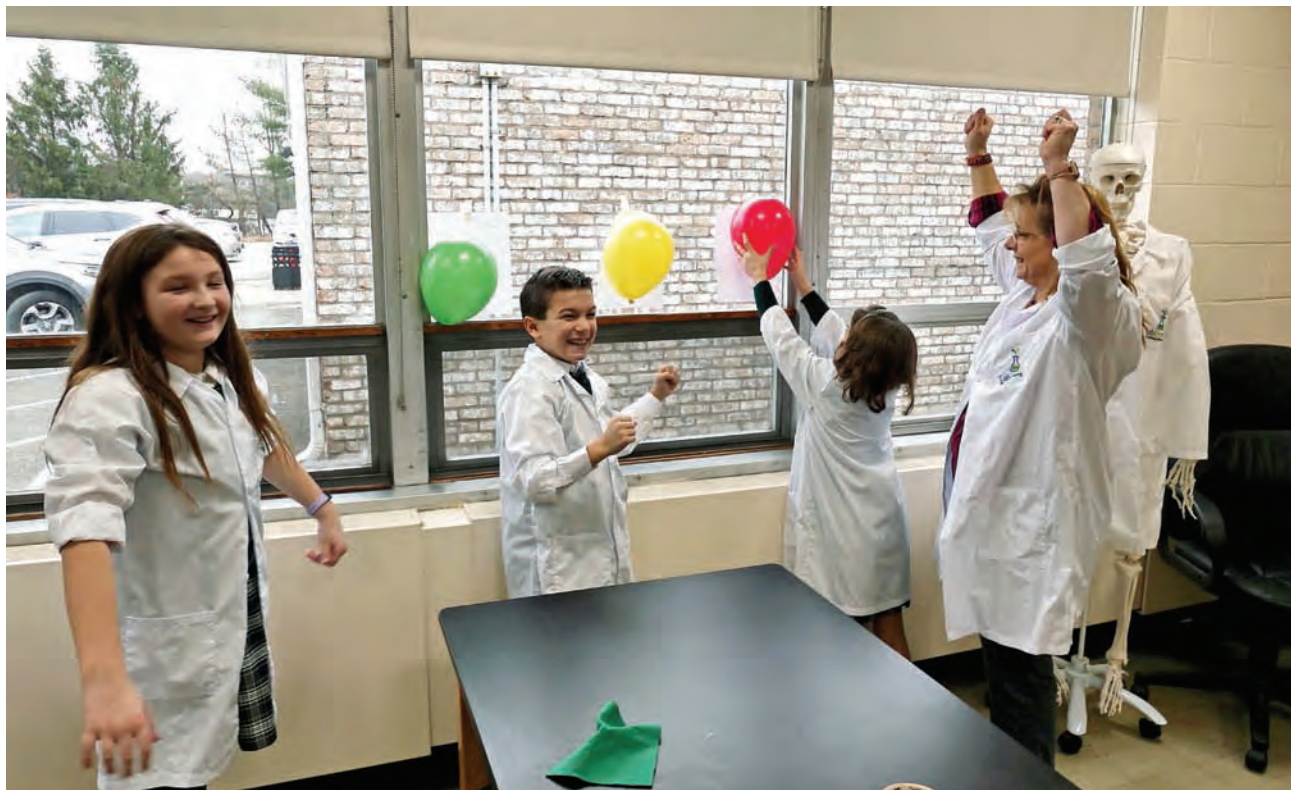
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Lab Lessons Are for All Students at Hopewell Junction School

By DAN PIETRAFESA



CHRIS SHERIDAN

SUCCESS—St. Denis-St. Columba School third-graders Charlee Quimby, Tristan Albra and Grayson Maggio celebrate their experiment with their teacher Jeanne Barber in Hopewell Junction Jan. 10. Students used a wool cloth to create static electricity on the balloon, making it stick to a sheet of paper taped to the window.

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Jadyn Menuau is an 11-year-old with an understanding of what LabLearner is all about.

"You can experience what you're learning," the sixth-grader at St. Denis-St. Columba School in Hopewell Junction told CNY.

St. Denis-St. Columba is now in its fifth year of using LabLearner—The Science of Learning for its 254 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It all began with an email to Sister Kathleen Marie Gerritse, C.R., the school's principal.

"For a couple of years, our vision was to have a hands-on science program where we can encourage our students to develop their critical thinking skills, and we were looking at different ways to do that," Sister Kathleen Marie said. "One day I got an email from LabLearner and I made the phone call. When I talked to them, it was everything we were looking for."

The LabLearner program gives students an opportunity to grow as critical thinkers by using STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and offered all St. Denis-St. Columba students the opportunity to participate.

"That was the exciting part of it," said Sister Kathleen Marie of LabLearner having programs for students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

"We wanted a program that did it from beginning to end. When we came across this program, it did just that and met the national standards."

Diana Spera, who has been teaching at St. Denis-St. Columba for 20 years, teaches science to students in grades five through eight. Her science students are in the lab twice a week and spend the other three days in the classroom with their lab groups preparing and analyzing their work. Students use LabLearner workbooks and are graded based on lab assessments and participation, quizzes, and application tests in which they are given lab scenarios and asked to analyze them.

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade visit the science lab once each week with their teacher. Students in these lower grades are separated into two groups, with one going to the science lab and the second to a specialty class.

"For the students, it's been successful because they're learning and gaining a skill-set of analyzing, not just measuring and observing, but what we do with those measurements and observations and analyze them to come up with the scientific concept," Mrs. Spera said. "So they can take that skill-set and apply it to real-life applications."

Sixth-grader John Reilly welcomes what LabLearner offers students.

"It helps us show, instead of using books, you're actually physically doing the project," he said. "It helps you see what's going on...You can visualize it and see what happens."

Drew Cornax said the labs the past four years prepared him for his eighth-grade labs, which will set him up for high school this fall.



CHRIS SHERIDAN

CLOSE-UP—Deidre Connolly, left, and Jillian Beresford, students at St. Denis-St. Columba School in Hopewell Junction, use a microscope as science teacher Diana Spera looks on Jan. 10.

“The labs help us all a lot with just being able to come into the lab and really seeing the concepts we’ve been studying in science,” he said. “It’s really cool when we go through the trials and we get the end results. It’s really good to see things we predicted come true or even if we get proven wrong in our predictions.”

Tristan Albra demonstrated an experiment being done by third-graders in which they wiped a wool cloth on a balloon to create static electricity, allowing the balloon to stick to a piece of paper taped to a window.

“You’re testing things to make them do things you didn’t know they can do,” Tristan said.

Olivia Enny, 5, shared what she enjoys about her visits to the science lab with her kindergarten classmates.

“Everything,” she said.

Archbishop Stepinac to Hold Annual SOUPer Bowl

Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains is holding its annual SOUPer Bowl with the winning grade level earning the 2020 championship and a day off from school Feb. 3, the day after Super Bowl LIV.

Students are being asked to bring non-perishable food items to their homeroom teachers, who are adding up the items being collected. Stepinac is hoping to collect 12,000 non-perishable food items. The winning grade level will be announced Jan. 31.

“Each year at the end of the holidays, the local soup kitchens become depleted of food items,” Roxanne Calvello, director of Stepinac’s campus ministry, said in a letter to parents. The school launched its first SOUPer Bowl in 2012.

This school year, Archbishop Stepinac had its most successful blood drive with 140 participants, and 158 students raised \$17,000 to help the homeless in Westchester County and New York City by participating in the Cardboard Box City Campaign.

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Cathedral High School Students...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Gateways Academy staff based on academic eligibility. Memorial Sloan Kettering reviewed all applicants and named finalists last June. Eleven students are participating in the MSK program this school year, including the four Cathedral girls.

The other students are from Brooklyn Latin High School and Lincoln High School in Yonkers. In the past, students from Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx have participated.

Taiana, Thais, Skyla and Annette have attended professional development talks and discussions, faculty luncheons and created LinkedIn pages in addition to their scheduled classes focused on building their awareness of cancer research with a laboratory setting. They will conduct a research project next summer and submit a paper in August.

Maria Spagnuolo, principal of Cathedral High School, said programs such as the MSK internship dovetail with the school's Medical Gateways and STEM academics to provide avenues for students "into profes-

sional pathways for future success in college and beyond...These girls are pretty impressive. I'm really proud of them. Once we put in all the applications (a dozen or so), they were the ones who were chosen by MSK to be part of the program."

Dr. Debyani Chakravarty, assistant attending and one of the Science Enrichment Program teachers, told CNY that the enrichment program "gives options to underserved students; they may say that they want to be a doctor or a nurse, but there are so many opportunities that lie in the field of cancer research, and in the scientific field, that they may not even be aware. It opens their eyes to many opportunities."

"It's such a pleasure to be part of something big; it's a very well-known institution," said Annette, whose medical pursuits may end up in pediatrics. "MSK opens barriers into my future."

Skyla noted, "My favorite part has been the seminars and the talks. The researchers and doctors give lectures, and they have Power Points laid out. They explain their research, and what they have found."

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