The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SALUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI EVENT ROCKETS TO RECORD $1.3 MILLION

In a Pandemic, Community Support More Resounding Than Ever – “The Answer is YES!”

The Catholic Education Foundation’s 31st Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni event extended its record-setting streak of funds raised in support of its mission – and not by just a little bit!

Aired live on “WAVE Country with Dawne Gee” on March 24, the Salute was seen by thousands of local viewers and continued its tradition as a hallmark community event in the Commonwealth.

This year’s event soared to a historic record of $1.3 million in net proceeds, rocketing past the previous year record of $1.25 million. Foundation President Richard A. Lechleiter remarked, “Who would have ever dreamed that a virtual event in the midst of a health pandemic would raise so much to brighten the futures of so many families! We are truly humbled by this amazing result and thank God for its unprecedented success.”

All of the funds from the Salute will be used to provide tuition assistance to families who cannot afford the full cost of a Catholic elementary education for their children. The Archdiocese of Louisville sponsors 39 Catholic elementary schools in central Kentucky with aggregate enrollments of 11,800 students.

The event’s astounding financial result will allow more students and their families to access a Catholic elementary school journey that they cannot otherwise afford by themselves.

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Retired Catholic School Teacher Creates Lasting Legacy

Mary Alice Lawler was a fourth-grade teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School in St. Matthews for an amazing 42 years, forming and transforming young minds and spirits all the while.

She didn’t just teach them. She gave everything she had to her young students. She never married or had children. The way she saw it, all of those kids at

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Our Message To You

The Transformation Begins

Will wonders never cease!

Looking back over the past year, it’s truly amazing what has happened at the Foundation and in our Church – all of which has lifted the hopes of thousands of families right here in our community!

Let’s start with a world health pandemic that began a year ago. How awesome it was to witness the courage and dedication of so many to bring all of our students back into the classroom. To extend relief services to families in crisis. To provide tuition assistance to every student in need.

And in a year in which our fundraising results were at such risk, what did we see? Record annual fund participation and results. All-time records set at both of our fundraising events. New highs in the value of our permanent endowment. And the highest number of families earning tuition assistance awards in our history.

And now, after a journey that spanned over three decades, a school choice bill has passed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky! While we don’t yet have all the answers, we know one thing for sure. This new legislation is a GAME CHANGER for low-income families who yearn for a Catholic education for their children.

Indeed, the transformation of our mission is right in front of us. And that home-grown slogan we hatched seven years ago – “The Answer is YES!” – will empower young families in need like we never dreamed possible!

Strap yourself in. This ride is about to get a lot more exciting!

May God bless you and your family abundantly and often,
School Choice Bill Passes!!

*Kentucky Legislature Creates New Possibilities for All Students*

After a journey that spanned over three decades, the Kentucky legislature recently passed House Bill 563, commonly referred to as the *School Choice Bill*.

Effective July 1, 2021, the bill establishes a $25 million annual state income tax credit program available to both individuals and businesses who make qualified donations to “Account Granting Organizations” (AGOs) who in turn use those funds to assist low-income families with educational costs specifically defined in the bill. One of those costs relates to tuition assistance for families in non-public schools in eight Kentucky counties, including Jefferson and Hardin Counties. The Catholic Education Foundation expects to qualify as an AGO.

Under the new program, each prospective donor must apply to the state for approval of the credit in advance of their donation to the AGO. Once approved, the donor must fund their qualified gift within 15 days. The amount of the state income tax credit will be equal to 95% of the qualified gift (97% for commitments of more than one year) and will be realized by the donor when the tax return is filed for the year in which the gift is made.

Generally, the tax credit is limited to the taxpayer’s state income tax liability for the year in which the gift is made. The maximum annual tax credit available to a single donor is $1 million. The credit will be administered by the Kentucky Department of Revenue on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Foundation President Rich Lechleiter exclaimed, “This historic bill is **FABULOUS NEWS** for the Foundation and its mission to support Catholic school families!! The word “unprecedented” is an understatement! And what I particularly love about this bill is its potential widespread impact across the Commonwealth for students attending both public and non-public schools. **Everybody wins!!**”

Foundation Board Chair Charlie Dahlem remarked, “While we can’t yet predict how much the bill will affect the Foundation, the real story here is that there is a whole new reality for our lowest income families who dream of their children in a Catholic school. Under this bill - like never before - we can turn to our families in the greatest of need and proclaim to them with confidence, “**The Answer is YES!!**”

Archbishop Kurtz shared his excitement about the possibilities created by the passage of the bill, “Our Church wants everyone to be successful in every aspect of their lives regardless of the school they attend. The new choices provided under the bill will strengthen low-income families everywhere who want and need a better educational pathway for their children. I’m both elated and humbled that God has blessed this Commonwealth with such a gift!”

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**Stay Connected to the Foundation!**

[Icons for Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn]

**Come Join the Journey That Lasts a Lifetime!**

A Catholic School Within Your Reach?
At the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville, **The Answer is YES!**

[www.ceflou.org]
Foundation Names Father Morgan Scholars

The Catholic Education Foundation is proud to present the 2021 Father John Morgan Scholarship recipients. **Father John H. Morgan**, an archdiocesan priest, established a charitable trust now run by the Foundation to provide a college scholarship to one senior in each of the nine Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Scholarship recipients have each selected a course of study in college leading to a profession in law, medicine, religion, science or education and were chosen based on their academic achievement, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and service to others. These distinguished students will each receive $8,500 in college scholarships.

Here are the 2021 Father John Morgan Scholarship recipients:

- **Macie Marie Bell**
  - *Mercy Academy*

- **Aliana Marie Conway**
  - *Assumption High School*

- **Lauren Ann DeBold**
  - *Bethlehem High School*

- **Enri Omar Diaz**
  - *Trinity High School*

- **Alise Lane Fenwick**
  - *Sacred Heart Academy*

- **Ethan Thomas Harned**
  - *Saint Xavier High School*

- **Nicholas Zion Meiman**
  - *Holy Cross High School*

- **Justin Callahan Ogle**
  - *DeSales High School*

- **Avery Claire Williams**
  - *Presentation Academy*
Salute Event Rockets to Record $1.3 Milion

Continued from front page

Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville and the annual Honorary Co-Chair of the event, commented, ”I want to express my sincere thanks to Ken Selvaggi, Dawne Gee and the entire team at WAVE 3 News for producing this incredible event. You have truly enhanced the lives of so many families in our community whose hopes and dreams of a Catholic education are dependent on the success of the Salute fundraising event!”

During the telecast, Mr. Lechleiter noted that the organization’s slogan – “The Answer is YES!” – has become a mandate to assist every family in need. “Thanks entirely to our ever-generous donors, every single student who reached out to us and qualified for tuition assistance in fact earned an award – for the sixth year in a row!”

The Salute also was highlighted by its recognition of six distinguished honorees whose success in life was nurtured by their Catholic education. The Salute Class of 2021 included: Elizabeth C. Arnett (Presentation Academy); Reverend Joseph T. Graffis (Saint Thomas Seminary); James J. Kirchdorfer, Jr. (Saint Xavier High School); F. Loueva Moss (Saint Monica School); L. Russell Read (Trinity High School); and Laura M. Schwab (Sacred Heart Academy).

In addition, Mr. Randall J. Bufford, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trilogy Health Services, received the Foundation’s distinguished Community Service Award. Dr. Lisa C. Wieland, an English instructor at Assumption High School, was recognized as the outstanding educator in the Archdiocese through the prestigious Father Joseph McGee Award.

Archbishop Kurtz remarked, “We are so deeply thankful to our entire central Kentucky community for their enormous generosity to the mission of the Foundation. This ever-increasing support will enable us to help thousands of families provide the gift of a Catholic education to their children. The unique Catholic school experience that connects Faith, Family and Learning truly provides an education that lasts a lifetime. In a year when so many faced uncertainty in their lives, I am proud to say once again, “The Answer is YES!” at the Catholic Education Foundation!”

Foundation Gains Historic Bequest

Continued from front page

Lourdes were her kids. By our count, she impacted the lives of over 1,200 children as their beloved teacher.

On August 3, 2020, Mary Alice passed away at the age of 78. And then it was time for her Second Act in Catholic education.

Under the terms of her will, Mary Alice Lawler bequeathed the single largest gift to the Foundation’s permanent endowment in its 25-year history. And the earnings from that fund will be used to assist at least 35 students each year who can’t afford to go to a Catholic school.

FOREVER!!

Foundation President Rich Lechleiter commented, “What an amazing life Mary Alice lived and what an inspiring legacy she gave to this community! In fact, next fall she’ll will be supporting about the same number of children in Catholic schools as she taught each year at Lourdes. Her teaching career didn’t end when she retired from the classroom. It just got restarted in a more profound way from her new home in Heaven.”

Mary Alice attended St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School and graduated from Assumption High School in 1960, after which she earned her undergraduate and master’s degrees from Spalding University.

Lawler was a long-time St. Raphael the Archangel parishioner who truly loved her Catholic faith and her Catholic education. Her dear friend and companion, Louie Welch, fondly recalled, “Mary Alice loved the children she taught as if they were her own. Every day she went to work, she tried to connect with her students in a way that let them know she truly cared about them.”

Archbishop Kurtz remarked, “From beginning to end, Mary Alice’s life was completely devoted to God. How amazing it is that her faith propelled her to keep on giving to others after she left this world! We couldn’t be more grateful for her resounding testament to the gospel message of Jesus Christ!”
2021 Salute to Catholic School Alumni Event

The event was broadcast live on “WAVE Country with Dawne Gee” on Wednesday, March 24, 2021

RIGHT: Father Joseph McGee recipient Dr. Lisa C. Wieland

LEFT: Reverend Joseph T. Graffis

RIGHT: Salute to Catholic School Alumni host Dawne Gee.

RIGHT: James J. Kirchdorfer, Jr.

Laura M. Schwab

Foundation President Rich Lechleiter

Rich Lechleiter (left) with Betty Arnett and Foundation Senior Director Julie Baum
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It’s as Simple as 1,2,3!
Giving to the Foundation has never been easier!

1. Donate to the General Fund by visiting our website www.ceflou.org and click on the donate tab or return the envelope provided in this newsletter.

2. To support the 14th Annual Salute to THE GAME Luncheon set for September 23, 2021, contact Julie Baum at jbaum@ceflou.org.

3. For information on stock gifts, planned giving, or bequests, contact Kevin Woodward at kwoodward@ceflou.org.
Planned Giving: Your Way of Making a Lasting Impact on Our Community

One of the most common questions we hear at the Foundation is, “What can my family do to make a lasting impact on Catholic education in this community?” Donors are often looking for simple ways to leave a lasting legacy to an educational experience that deeply impacted their lives, and they want to pay it forward for generations of families who yearn for the same experience but can’t afford it.

Several families have chosen to establish endowments during their lifetime that they can fund over many years. And here’s an important message. Establishing an endowment at the Foundation doesn’t require a huge initial outlay. In fact, some of our current named endowments were started with original investments of $10,000. Each year thereafter, families can make additional gifts to their named fund which will create a large endowment fund over time.

Some families have decided to make their lasting impact through their estate plans. While deferred gifts like charitable remainder trusts and charity lead trusts usually involve an attorney, a financial planning specialist, and a fundraiser with specific planned giving experience, not all planned gifts have to be complicated. Here are two easy ways to include the Foundation in your estate plans:

- **Life Insurance:** Life insurance policies enable donors to make a significant financial commitment for a fraction of the cost by naming the Foundation as the beneficiary of the policy.
- **Bequest:** Support our mission by naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will.

In six short years, the Catholic Education Foundation endowment fund has grown from the original founding endowment to 16 endowments. During that same period, the value of the endowment fund has skyrocketed from $15 million to nearly $28 million. WOW!!!

And the best news is this. Each year, earnings from the endowment provide approximately $1 million in tuition assistance to Catholic school families. Forever!!

Won’t you consider joining us in this very meaningful venture?

If you have already included the Catholic Education Foundation in your estate plans, we would love to know about it. If your family is interested in establishing an endowment or if you would like to include the Foundation in your estate plans, please reach out to Kevin Woodward at 502.585.2747 or kwoodward@cefouro.org.

Catholic Schools Week Contest Winners Celebrated

During Catholic Schools Week, the Foundation annually sponsors two contests for students throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville to highlight the theme of the national celebration. This year’s theme was entitled, “Catholic Schools - Faith. Excellence. Service.”

For grades K through 8, students were invited to create posters depicting their school’s role in achieving the theme. Each winner received their poster neatly framed and a cash prize of $250 from the Foundation.

Winners of the poster contest were:
- **Katelyn Besik,** 1st grade, St. James School (Elizabethtown)
- **Ella Craig,** 6th grade, St. Michael School
- **Will Klein,** 4th grade, St. Raphael School

The Foundation also sponsored an essay contest for Catholic high school students in which they described their school’s relevance to the celebration theme. The winner was **Gracie Bartley,** a junior at Assumption High School. She earned a cash prize of $1,000 from the Foundation and her essay was reprinted in the February 4 issue of The Record.

All the contest winners were publicly recognized for their achievement at the Catholic Schools Week Mass held on February 2.
The 14th Annual SALUTE TO THE GAME LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 23, 2021
The Galt House Hotel

For information, call (502) 585-2747 or visit www.ceflou.org

To benefit the Catholic Education Foundation