



FALL 2023

The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION



SALUTE TO "THE GAME" LUNCHEON EVENT ROARS TO NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD!

**\$600,000 Net from the
Event Rockets Past Last
Year's Record \$550,000**

Story on page 4



HISTORIC \$10 MILLION GIFT TO CATAPULT FOUNDATION IMPACT

One-Half of New Fund to Benefit Saint James School in Louisville's Highlands Neighborhood

On September 20, the Foundation and Saint James Catholic School jointly announced that **Sarah and John Lechleiter** plan to donate \$10 million to establish a new tuition assistance endowment fund for Catholic elementary school families across central Kentucky, one-half of which will be dedicated to helping families in need at Saint James School in central Louisville.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, "The single largest endowment addition in our history, this truly amazing gift represents a huge leap forward in our plans to provide a Catholic elementary education to more

Continued on page 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUTION ASSISTANCE SOARS TO REACH ALL-TIME HIGH 3,700 STUDENTS WITH ASTOUNDING RECORD \$8 MILLION!

Foundation Slogan "The Answer is Yes!" Fulfilled for 9th Straight Year

The best word to describe our donors – **"UNRELENTING!!"**

For the 2023/2024 school year, the Foundation and its funding partners recently awarded tuition assistance to an **all-time high 3,700** elementary students with an **astounding record \$8 million** in funding, rocketing past last year's previous records of 3,600 and \$7.7 million, respectively.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "The momentum that our donors are building year after year for the benefit of Catholic school families in need is simply without equal! Look at what we can all do together to change young lives – **forever!!** While the demand from our families increases each year, our donors have

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Our Message To You

Valentina's Story

Now in my 10th year at the Foundation, I'm not sure we've ever seen a time when the news is this overwhelmingly good! A record 3,700 students earning tuition assistance awards this fall. A sold-out Salute to **THE GAME** luncheon event that netted an astounding record \$600,000 for our mission. And an off-the-charts endowment gift of \$10 million to bolster the futures of thousands of families in need for generations to come.

Wow!! It's hard to think that things could get any better!

But they will. How do we know that? Because of a young student whom we introduced at the **Salute** luncheon event named **Valentina Rocha**.

Several years ago, as a young girl, she and her parents immigrated to the United States from South America, where they joined Valentina's uncle here in Louisville. From there, the family started from scratch, with little resources and lots of needs.

Her mother cleaned houses, her father was a mechanic, and the two of them worked nights with their start-up cleaning business – all to gain a used car and a small apartment.

For Valentina, a Catholic elementary education was not even on the radar – until she discovered the Catholic Education Foundation at St. Rita Parish in Okolona. With scholarship in hand, she began her Catholic school journey in the fifth grade, assimilating into a new culture, growing academically, and forming in her Catholic faith.

That small start at St. Rita School later landed her at Mercy Academy, where she graduated in 2022 through the financial assistance program there including a special fund for Hispanic students in need.

Today, she is a sophomore at the Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville, thriving as never before. She has great ambitions, wanting to land a career in the automotive industry and perhaps starting her own business in the future.

Of even greater importance, she wants to help her parents and, over time, provide the gift of a Catholic education to someone else. Just like the one she received.

You see, for Valentina and thousands of our students like her, things have only just begun to get better. For each of them, the best is yet to come.

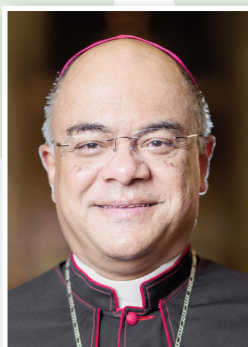
May God bless all of you abundantly and often,



R.A.L.
Richard A. Lechleiter
President



Todd Klimek
Todd A. Klimek
Chair



+ Shelton J. Fabre
Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Vice Chair

Board of Directors

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Richard A. Lechleiter

Chair
Todd A. Klimek

Vice Chair
Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre

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Christopher J. Reid
Stephen D. Sautel III
Bradley A. Savko
Charlotte K. Stengel
Jennifer M. Stinnett

Our Vision:
Every family has access to a Catholic education.

Our Mission:
To promote the growth and vitality of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville.



Tuition Assistance Soars to Reach All-Time High 3,700 Students with Astounding Record \$8 Million!

Continued from front page

stepped up like never before and answered the call!"

"And here's the best news. For the ninth year in a row, every family who reached out to the Foundation and demonstrated a financial need in fact earned an award – every single one! Indeed, "The Answer is Yes!"

Archbishop Shelton Fabre reflected with gratitude on the continued progress to improve access to Catholic education. "**The Answer is Yes**" is much more than a slogan. It's a sincere invitation to families who only dream of a gift of a Catholic education for their children. Let's all give thanks to the Lord that a record number of families can have access to this life-changing opportunity called Catholic education."

Dr. Mary Beth Bowling, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, commented, "The collaboration between the Catholic Education Foundation, the Archdiocese of Louisville and our Catholic schools is propelling so many families to heights they never imagined for their children. What could be better!"

The record \$8 million of funding was provided by the Foundation (\$4.3 million), parishes and schools (\$2.3 million), and the 110 parishes of the Archdiocese of Louisville, along with Community Catholic Center, (\$1.4 million).

The Window Never Closes!

The Foundation continues to receive calls from families who are seeking a better opportunity for their children.

Foundation Board Chair **Todd Klimek** commented, "While we are elated that the Foundation and our partners are supporting another record number of families, our work is never done. Each day, families are reaching out to us in search of a better educational pathway for their children. Without a doubt, our message of growth, outreach and inclusion in Catholic schools is working. To every family who yearns for the great gift of a Catholic education, "**The Answer is Yes!**"

Mr. Lechleiter continued, "I couldn't be more proud of our 48 Catholic primary and secondary schools across central Kentucky! What a huge debt of gratitude we owe to our priests, administrators, teachers, counselors, coaches and staff! Their work each day to transform the lives of young students through the Gospel message will empower each of them for the rest of their lives. Spread the word – **Catholic school enrollments are on the rise!!**" ■

Planned Giving

A planned gift to the Foundation is a great way to make a lasting impact and ensure that families in the community are afforded the opportunity to attend a Catholic school. Gifts planned for the future can be structured in a number of forms: bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, or life insurance. For more information, or if you already have the Catholic Education Foundation in your estate plans, contact Julie Baum at jbaum@ceflou.org.

Legacy Society Members:

Mitch Barnes
Dutch & Diane Boehnlein
Roger Costello
D3 Foundation
Charlie & Lisa Dahlem
Reverend Patrick D. Delahanty
Greg & Margie DeMuth
Joseph & Sherry Dougherty

David & Cathy Durik
Diane M. Gahafer
Gathof Family
Drs. Gregory & Linda Gleis
Deacon Scott and JoAnn Haner
Steve & Mary Ann James
Todd & Shannon Klimek
Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
The Landenwich Family
The Richard Lechleiter Family

Lincoln Lewis Jr.
Rev. Joseph T. Merkt
Thomas & Shelley Perrone
Paul & Sue Schulte
Leisa & William Schulz
Stephen & Robin Sedita
Len & Susan Spalding
Gil & Teresa Wentzel
Carol & Stuart Woolsey for Jennifer Egelsky

We appreciate our Legacy Society Members and everyone who contributes to The Foundation!

Historic \$10 Million Endowment Gift to Catapult Foundation Impact

Continued from front page

and more deserving students each year. When fully funded, the new fund will provide \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually in new tuition assistance funding – **forever!** How God-blessed is this organization by Sarah and John's generosity!

Saint James School holds a special place in the Lechleiter family history, with John's late father, **John Howard Lechleiter**, a proud member of the Class of 1942. Founded in 1906 in Louisville's Highlands neighborhood, the school has produced an array of community leaders in business, government, the professions, education, religion, and not-for-profit organizations throughout its rich history.

Today, the school's students come from many parts of the community, including Louisville's West End and Portland neighborhoods. Saint James is the Foundation's fourth highest-funded school, with approximately 90% of the students receiving aggregate tuition assistance of over \$350,000 annually. John noted, "It's important to Sarah and me that the unique mission of Saint James School continues. The new \$5 million fund dedicated to the school and its students in need will help ensure that families can send their children to the school with joy and confidence in its future!"

The other half of the new \$10 million fund will provide tuition assistance to students in need across the Archdiocese of Louisville. The administration of the new fund, including the investment management and annual allocation of student awards, will be managed by the Foundation.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre exclaimed, "This is a major breakthrough in the Foundation's strategic plan to expand its impact and perpetuate its mission! How blessed are we to have such generous benefactors as Sarah and John – both Louisville Catholic school graduates who share their blessings with others."

Foundation Board Chair **Todd Klimek** remarked, "Gifts like Sarah's and John's give great hope to thousands of families in need who only dream of a Catholic education for their children. As we look forward, this gift will turn that dream into their reality. Indeed - like never before - at the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville, "The Answer is YES!"

Both raised in Louisville, Sarah and John attended Catholic elementary schools and went on to graduate from Sacred Heart Academy and Saint Xavier High School, respectively. Their family has resided in Indianapolis since 1979, where John spent a 37-year career with Eli Lilly and Company, retiring as its Chief Executive Officer in 2016 and its Board Chair in 2017. Today, they enjoy spending time with their three children and nine grandchildren. ■

Join Our New Podcasts!



Salute to "THE GAME" Event Roars to New Fundraising Record

Continued from front page

Since its beginning in 2008, the Salute to **THE GAME** luncheon event has set a new fundraising record every single year, raising a then-record \$550,000 at last year's event alone. Well, the 16th edition of this amazing event was no exception, setting yet another fundraising record of an astounding \$600,000 for the mission of the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "The long-running success of this event is all made possible by the generosity of the Saint Xavier and Trinity communities who allow us to benefit from their storied football rivalry! Who would have ever guessed that this event would become such a hallmark gathering for the entire community, propelling thousands of young students to new heights in our Catholic elementary schools!"

The event was held in the sold-out Grand Ballroom of The Galt House Hotel on Thursday, September 21, the day before the **THE GAME**. Trinity alumnus and local radio personality Tony Vanetti served as the master of ceremonies. The event was highlighted by a student-athlete from each school – senior center **Carter Guillaume** from Saint Xavier and senior linebacker and wide receiver **Brady McEnaney** from Trinity – who shared their stories about how their Catholic elementary and secondary education has impacted their lives.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Independence Bank** served as the Lead Sponsor with an investment of \$40,000. Mr. Lechleiter exclaimed, "To President **Louis Straub** and all our friends at Independence Bank, **THANK YOU** for your exemplary leadership in making this even the largest of its kind across the Commonwealth! You are true heroes to so many families in this community."

Major benefactors of this year's Salute luncheon, each of whom donated \$25,000 to the event, were: **Air Hydro Power; The Bufford Family Foundation; The D3 Foundation; David and Cathy Durik; Sarah and John Lechleiter; the Ramsey Family; Karen and Hank Robinson; Len and Susan Spalding; Brad and Charlotte Stengel; the Ulmer Family; Tom and Rhonda Wimsett; and the Richard Lechleiter Family.** ■

2023 Salute to "THE GAME" Luncheon Event

BELOW: Brady McEnaney and Carter Guillaume



ABOVE: Holy Trinity parish staff



RIGHT: Game night!



ABOVE: Brian Reynolds, Archbishop Shelton Fabre and Rob Mullen



ABOVE: Diane Gahafer, Heather Montgomery and Halle Pittman

Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media



2023 Salute to "THE GAME" Luncheon Event



ABOVE: Father Tom Gentile, Will Harrison, Megan McGrath and Rick Arnold

BELOW: Independence Bank President Louis Straub (right) with Bill Weyland



LEFT: Little Sisters of the Poor joined in on the fun!



ABOVE: Kathryn Ford, Father Tony Cecil and Amy Fears



ABOVE: Kevin Doherty, Mike Littell, Paul Colistra and Curt White



ABOVE: Jim Ratterman, Pete Gerstle and Mike Kaelin

BELOW: The Sacred Heart Academy Choir opened the event singing the National Anthem



MIDDLE: Joe Dougherty, Tony Vanetti, Julie Baum and Shannon and Todd Klimek



ABOVE: Jeri Johnson, Roni Witherspoon and Amy Olson



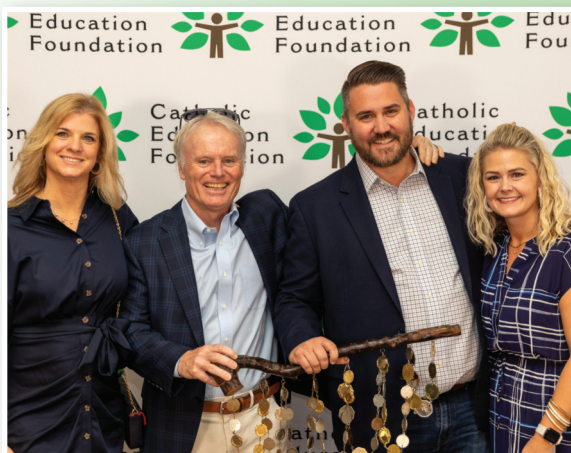
ABOVE: Coach Jay Cobb with local media



LEFT: The Sacred Heart Academy team



MIDDLE: Mercy Academy leadership along with graduate Valentina Rocha



ABOVE: Cathy and David Durik with Ryan and Leslie Sweeney



ABOVE: A packed house enjoys the best Salute luncheon ever!

Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media

The Catholic Education Foundation Innovation Award



Sponsored by The Dan Ulmer Family



The Catholic Education Foundation Innovation Award was established by the Dan Ulmer Family to honor excellent and dedicated Catholic school teachers, with 2-5 years of experience, whose innovative and creative approach to learning inspires outstanding student achievement.

We invited principals in the Archdiocese of Louisville to nominate one teacher from their school community for consideration of this distinguished award.

Recipients of the Innovation Award each received a \$2,500 monetary prize.
The 2022-2023 recipients are:



Emily Clark
Holy Spirit



Mary Kate Determann
St. Stephen Martyr



Katherine Kuhl
St. Martha



Sydney Larkin
St. Margaret Mary



Kelsey Rhea
St. Gabriel

Congratulations to each of these outstanding Catholic school educators!

Foundation Board Continues to Evolve and Strengthen

Going back to our beginning in 1995, the Foundation has had the great fortune to attract men and women who share a common passion for our mission and want to serve the organization as a Board member. On July 1, six Directors, **Father Terry Bradshaw; Kathy Cassidy; Greg DeMuth; David Durik; Father John Stoltz;** and **Jack Sweeney**, retired from the Board.

Foundation Board Chair **Todd Klimek** remarked, "At the rate the Foundation is growing, it's hard to remember where we were when most of these folks began their Board service six years ago. I can't say enough about our donors, our team and our Board, all of whom have risen to the occasion year after year to assist more families than ever before. Now reaching a record 3,700 students, we're all marching forward together to see an even brighter day next fall. May God bless each of our retiring Directors for a job extremely well done!"

The Foundation recently added five new members to its Board. Here's a brief introduction of each of them:



Reverend Shayne R. Duvall - Father Shayne attended St. Lawrence School and then graduated from Holy Cross High School, after which he earned his undergraduate degree in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville in 2005.

In 2007, Father Shayne began his seminary studies and graduated from St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in 2015. While at St. Meinrad, he obtained his Masters in Theological Studies and Masters of Divinity degrees. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz on May 30, 2015.

He has served as an Associate Pastor at St. James Parish in Elizabethtown, St. Ambrose Parish in Cecelia and St. Ignatius in While Mills. In 2017, he was assigned as Administrator of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish and was installed as its Pastor the following year. In 2022, Father Shayne was assigned to Holy Trinity Parish in St. Matthews, where he currently serves as its Pastor.



Mary B. Ewing – Born and raised in Bardstown and the eldest of two children, Mary graduated from Bethlehem High School and went on to launch a successful career in sales, marketing and interior design.

In 1989, she joined Vencor, Inc. as Office Manager and later became Assistant to the Founder, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the company, W. Bruce Lunsford, until his retirement in 1999. Mary now serves as Executive Vice President of Lunsford Capital, LLC, a private investment firm, and as Secretary and Treasurer of the W. Bruce Lunsford Foundation, Inc.

Mary has a long record of service to her community and her church, having served as a Board member of the Louisville Ballet, the Kentucky Derby Festival and Showcase Greater Louisville, among others. Mary and her husband, Jim, have two adult children, Anne and James, and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



James A. "Ja" Hillebrand – The seventh of eight children, Ja attended Holy Spirit School and later graduated from Saint Xavier High School in 1987. He then attended Bellarmine University, earning his undergraduate degree in business administration.

Then it was on to a career in banking, eventually joining Stock Yards Bank and Trust Co. in 1996 where he developed the Private Banking Group. He later led the bank's expansion into Indianapolis and Cincinnati. In 2008, Ja was appointed President of the company and joined its Board of Directors. In 2018, he was named Chief Executive Officer and assumed the additional role of Board Chair in 2021.

Ja's community service is extensive, with Board roles in Boy Scouts of America, Greater Louisville Foundation, Kentucky Derby Museum, Fund for the Arts, Kentucky Derby Festival and St. Joseph Children's Home, among others. Ja has three adult children and two grandchildren.



James J. Kirchdorfer, Jr. – Jimmy attended St. Leonard School and graduated from Saint Xavier High School, where he was a member of the State Championship Golf Team in his senior year. He later earned his undergraduate degree in business from Miami University in 1991.

He then joined the family business, ISCO Industries, leading the company to become a global leader in the piping products industry with more than 35 locations and 600 employees worldwide. Today, Jimmy serves as the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the company.

He is an avid golfer and an advocate for the game's positive impact on young people, serving on the Boards of The First Tee of Louisville, Golf Course Builders of America Foundation, and the Kentucky Golf Foundation. Along with three local partners, Jimmy is the co-owner of Louisville's famed Valhalla Golf Club.

Jimmy and his wife, Dana, have two adult children, Jay and Emma, and are members of Holy Trinity parish.



Bradley A. Savko – Brad attended St. Patrick School and graduated from Trinity High School in 2005. He then earned his undergraduate degree (cum laude) in marketing from Western Kentucky University.

Brad began his banking career at Wells Frago Financial before joining Republic Bank and Trust Co. in 2010. He later joined Independence Bank in 2020 to lead the bank's commercial lending group, building a diverse client base including manufacturing, distribution, and healthcare. Today, he serves as Vice President Commercial Lending of this fast-growing St. Matthews-based organization.

Brad is a community leader, with Board service to such not-for-profit groups as Brightside, St. John Center for Homeless Men, Trinity High School Alumni Board, Trinity High School Annual Fund and St. Patrick's Celtic Athletic Ministry Committee, among others. Brad and his wife, Leslie, have three children, daughters Savannah and Adeleine and son Brooks. They are members of St. Patrick Parish. ■

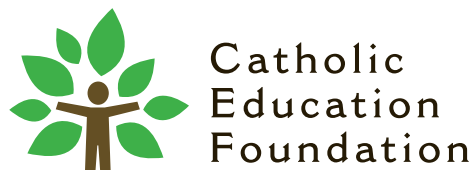


MERRY
Christmas

*M*ay God bless you for your
kindness to our Catholic school families
in need across central Kentucky!

*At the Catholic Education Foundation,
the Answer is Yes!*





401 West Main Street
Suite 806
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 585-2747
(502) 583-4929 fax
www.ceflou.org

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Save The Dates!



34th Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni Dinner

Tuesday, March 5, 2024
The Galt House Hotel
Grand Ballroom



3rd Annual Catholic Education Foundation Bourbon Raffle

Online Raffle Starts
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Drawing held on May 22, 2024

www.ceflou.org