



SPRING 2024

# The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## SALUTE DINNER EVENT HITS NEW ALL-TIME HIGH!

*Astounding \$1.6 Million  
Net from the Event  
Rockets Past Last Year's  
Previous Record*

*Continued on page 4*



Ms. Valentina Rocha, an undergraduate student at U of L's Speed School of Engineering, shares her Foundation-assisted Catholic school journey at the Salute dinner event.

**MOST-EVER 25 PRIZE LOTS -  
25 CHANCES TO WIN FOR  
EVERY TICKET YOU BUY!**

**ONLINE EVENT FEATURES  
OVER 100 RARE BOURBONS -  
EVENT ENDS ON MAY 21**

**THE COUNTRY'S BEST BOURBON RAFFLE HAS ARRIVED!  
FOUNDATION'S THIRD ANNUAL RAFFLE FEATURES  
TWO FULL LOTS OF PAPPY VAN WINKLE**

**EACH RAFFLE TICKET TO SELL FOR \$100**

**CEFD.ORG**

**GAMING LICENSE# 0RG0002777  
EVENT LIMITED TO 10,000 TICKETS**

### Inside

**Page 2** Our Message to You **Page 3** Father John Morgan Scholarship Winners **Page 4-7** Salute Dinner Event  
**Page 8-9** Salute Sponsors **Page 10** CSAA Partnership **Page 11** Catholic Schools Week Winners



# Our Message To You

## Catholic School Revival

When we began our renewed journey here at the Foundation nine years ago, we started with a simple promise to each Catholic school family in need that we would accompany them from kindergarten through the eighth grade without fail. At the time, this was a very bold move that carried with it significant financial risks to the Foundation. But we trusted that He knew The Way.

Interestingly, in that first year we focused intently on attracting young families whose first child was entering kindergarten, hoping that the siblings would follow and the family would become part of a Catholic school community. Fast forward nine years. That same student group is now in the eighth grade. And not one of them fell through the cracks!

The year before our renewed journey, we awarded scholarships to 1,480 Catholic elementary students. Last fall, we hit a record 3,700. Indeed, ***"The Answer is Yes!"***

But there's more to the story.... Last fall, for the third consecutive year, our elementary school enrollments rose from the previous year. And as we work through our scholarship awards for this fall and talk with our school teams, it's becoming more apparent that our Catholic school enrollments this fall ***will rise yet again*** – what fantastic news for the future of this community!!

You see, more and more families are realizing the unmatched value of a Catholic education for their children, and it's showing itself in our numbers. Even now, many of our Catholic elementary schools are at capacity in their pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade classes for next fall, a phenomenon not seen in this community since perhaps the 1990s.

Looking back, thank God we took that financial risk nine years ago with that kindergarten class. Like every year since, we're going to do the exact same thing this fall. And our Catholic school enrollments will continue to rise going forward!

Without doubt, He knows The Way!

*May God bless all of you abundantly and often,*



*R.A.L.*

**Richard A. Lechleiter**  
President



*Todd Klimek*

**Todd A. Klimek**  
Board Chair



*+ Shelton J. Fabre*

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

## Join Our New Podcasts!



## Board of Directors

### President

Richard A. Lechleiter

### Chair

Todd A. Klimek

### Vice Chair

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre

### Chair-Elect / Secretary

Joseph L. Landenwich

### Treasurer

Jane C. Morreau

Douglas J. Abell

Dr. Mary Beth Bowling

Robert D. Cecil

Very Rev. Anthony L. Chandler,  
KCHS

Chad E. Dobson

Joseph W. Dougherty

Reverend Shayne R. Duvall

Mary P. Ewing

Diane M. Gahafer

James A. Hillebrand

Stephen C. James

James J. Kirchdorfer, Jr.

Matthew W. Ott

Thomas A. Perrone

Mark W. Raque

Christopher J. Reid

Stephen D. Sautel III

Bradley A. Savko

Charlotte K. Stengel

Jennifer M. Stinnett

Reverend T. Michael Tobin

### 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.*





# Father John H. Morgan Scholarship Winners

The Catholic Education Foundation is proud to present the 2024 **Father John H. Morgan** Scholarship recipients. An archdiocesan priest, Father Morgan 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 \$10,000 in college scholarships.

Here are the 2024 Father John H. Morgan Scholarship recipients:



Mattie Rose Whitworth  
*Assumption High School*



John Teagan Adams  
*Bethlehem High School*



Jahari Marshonne Jackson  
*DeSales High School*



Kenzie Ann Trusty  
*Holy Cross High School*



Sydney Rose McDill  
*Mercy Academy*



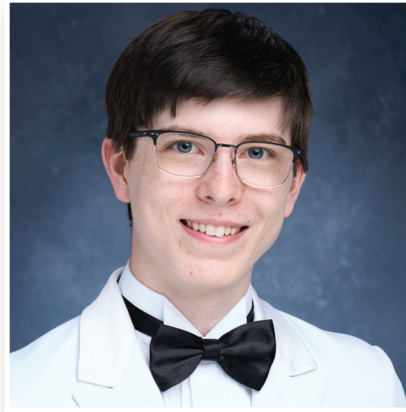
Madison Gabrielle Powell  
*Presentation Academy*



Isabel Joanne Gonzalez  
*Sacred Heart Academy*



Grant Christian Wilson  
*Saint Xavier High School*



Landan Charles Eirk  
*Trinity High School*



## Salute Dinner Event a Blowout!!

The 34th annual edition of the Salute to Catholic School Alumni dinner event once again rocketed the mission of the Foundation to new heights! Hosting a sold-out ballroom of 1,300 guests on March 5 at downtown Louisville's Galt House Hotel, this "one-of-a-kind Catholic school reunion" continued its tradition as a hallmark community event in the Commonwealth.

This year's event soared to an astonishing **record of \$1.6 million in net proceeds**, blowing past the previous year record of \$1.5 million. Foundation President **Richard A. Lechleiter** remarked, "From our humble beginnings in 1990, this unsurpassed event is now lifting the hopes and dreams of thousands of young Catholic school students and their families through the life-changing gift of a Catholic education. We are truly humbled by this amazing result and thank God for its unprecedented success."

"Thanks entirely to our unrelenting donors, this marks the 15th consecutive year in which this event has posted a new fundraising record. And look at what our donors have done for our Catholic school students and their families! It's the kind of result people only dream about!"

All 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. Last fall, the Foundation and its partners supported an all-time high 3,700 elementary students throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville's 39 Catholic schools with a record \$8 million in tuition assistance.

Mr. Lechleiter noted that the organization's home-grown slogan - "**The Answer is YES!**" - has become a mandate to assist every family who reaches out to the Foundation. "In each of the last nine years, every student who reached out to us and qualified for tuition assistance in fact earned an award. **Every single one!** What could be better for our young families and our community!"

**Father Nate Wills** from the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame served as the keynote speaker for the evening, sharing the inspiring stories of young Alliance graduates and their profound impact on underserved Catholic communities across the nation.

In addition, for the first time in the event's 34-year history, **Ms. Valentina Rocha**, an undergraduate at U of L's Speed School of Engineering whose family was assisted by the Foundation at St. Rita School and Mercy Academy, spoke so eloquently of her Catholic school journey and how the Foundation changed the trajectory of her entire family. There was not a dry eye in the house!

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 2024** included:

**Mariah Weyland Gratz** (Mercy Academy) – Chief Executive Officer, Weyland Ventures

**Reverend J. Wayne Jenkins** (Saint Brigid School, Vine Grove, KY) – Retired Archdiocesan Priest

**Honorable Annette C. Karem** (Assumption High School) – Kentucky Court of Appeals

**W. James Lintner, Jr.** (Trinity High School) – President, River Hill Capital

**Matthew W. Ott** (Saint Xavier High School) – Co-Chief Executive Officer, Air Hydro Power

**Charles D. Tewell** (Saint Francis DeSales High School) – General Manager, CDT Real Estate



**2024 Salute Honorees:** First row, left to right: Jim Lintner, Charlie Tewell, Julie Domzalski, Archbishop Fabre, Louis Straub, Matt Ott

Second row, left to right: Todd Klimek, Mariah Gratz, Charlie Dahlem, Father Nate Wills, Annette Karem, Father Wayne Jenkins, Rich Lechleiter



The Foundation also honored **Charles J. Dahlem**, President of Dahlem Realty, with its distinguished Community Service Award.

**Julie M. Domzalski**, a first-grade teacher at Louisville's Saint Margaret Mary School, now in her 33rd year in Catholic education, received the *2024 Father Joseph McGee Award* as the outstanding Catholic school educator in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

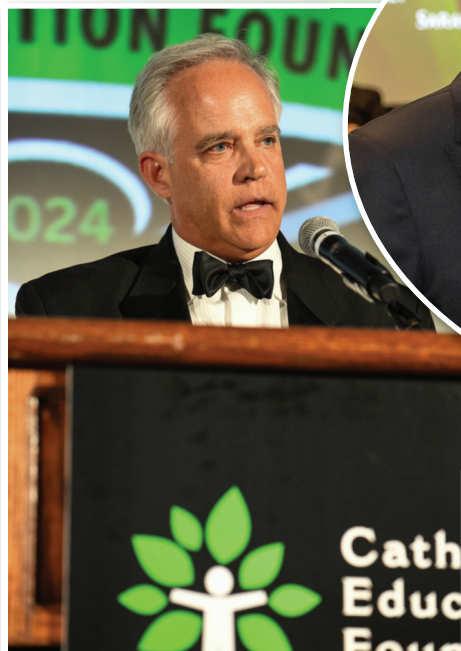
For the third consecutive year, Louisville-based **ISCO Industries** served as the *Presenting Sponsor* of the event with a record-high investment of \$100,000. **Mr. James J. Kirchdorfer**, ISCO's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, noted, "My brother Mark and I are thrilled that our company could serve as the Presenting Sponsor of this prestigious event. Here at ISCO, many of our team members are Catholic school graduates and we think it makes so much sense to invest in one of our community's greatest treasures – Catholic education!" ■



LEFT: Louis Straub,  
Jim Lintner,  
Archbishop Fabre



Kaitlyn VanZile,  
Kelley Mathis,  
Dave and Jamie  
Calzi, and  
Cameron Mathis



Community Service Award recipient  
Charlie Dahlem



Rich Lechleiter  
and Julie Baum  
with Mark  
Kirchdorfer  
of ISCO  
Industries



Jim Lintner, Charlie Tewell and Mariah Gratz



ABOVE: Dr. Mary  
Beth Bowling,  
Superintendent of  
Catholic schools



Chuck & Karen Krill with Joe & Angie Krill



Father Nate Wills with Father Martin Linebach and Father  
Anthony Chandler





Charlie Weyland, Mariah Gratz, Bill & Edith Weyland

Foundation staff, left to right: Ashley Eifler, Valarie Fowler, Rich Lechleiter, Angie Higdon, Julie Baum, Michelle Dohrman, Gil Wentzel



Louis Straub, Matt Ott and Archbishop Fabre



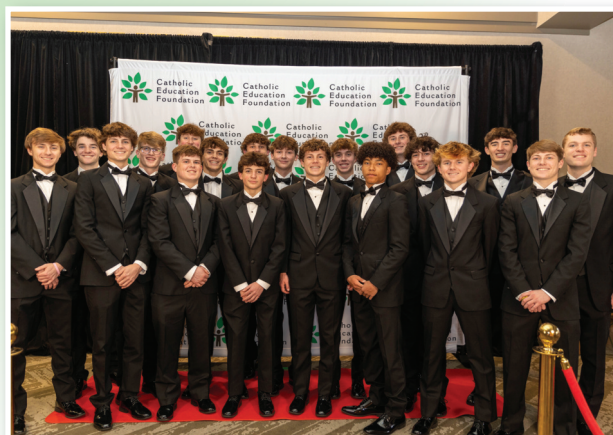
Father Shayne Duvall, Father Nate Wills and Julie Baum escort the Salute honorees to the event



Congratulations to the Fr. John H. Morgan Scholars!



Miles Mussetter, Penny & Bill Dougherty, Grace Mussetter and Sherry Dougherty



Thank you to the ushers from Saint Xavier High School!





Lynne Link, Leah Mullen,  
Tim Adams



Stacey Cohen,  
Julie Domzalski,  
Archbishop  
Fabre



Louis Straub, Father Wayne Jenkins  
and Archbishop Fabre



Rich Lechleiter,  
Julie Baum, Valentina  
Rocha and Father Nate Wills



Harriet Lair, Barry Youngkie and Trinity Givens



Sister Mary Grace, Father Tony Cecil, Father Dustin  
Hungerford



The group from  
ISCO enjoyed  
the evening



Angela Porter, Alex & Elizabeth Hinkebein, Jim Porter



Keynote Speaker Father Nate Wills



Honoree Judge Annette Karem



## WE SALUTE OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

*Presenting Sponsor*



**FIFTH THIRD BANK**

*Founding Benefactor & Community Service Award Sponsor*



**NORTON  
HEALTHCARE**

*Father Joseph McGee Award Sponsor*

*Award Sponsors*

*Benefactor \$25,000 - \$50,000*



**JILL &  
CHRIS  
BURCKLE**



**JOSEPH &  
SHERRY  
DOUGHERTY**

**DAVID &  
CATHY  
DURIK**

**THE  
FORD  
FAMILY**



**THE DALE & DONNA  
GETTELFINGER  
FAMILY**

**DAVID &  
JENNIE  
HEINTZMAN**

**THE  
KLIMEK  
FAMILY**

**THE  
KRAMER  
FAMILY**

**THE RICHARD  
LECHLEITER  
FAMILY**

**SARAH &  
JOHN  
LECHLEITER**

**KEITH &  
JEANIE  
MOUSER**

**MICHELLE &  
BILL  
MUDD**

**THE  
RAMSEY  
FAMILY**

**KAREN &  
HANK  
ROBINSON**

**THE  
SAUTEL  
FAMILY**



**STEVE &  
ROBIN  
SEDITA**

**THE  
SHANNON  
FAMILY**

**LEN &  
SUSAN  
SPALDING**

**BRAD &  
CHARLOTTE  
STENGEL**

**THE  
DAN ULMER  
FAMILY**



**TOM &  
RHONDA  
WIMSETT**



## WE SALUTE OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

### *Chairman \$10,000*



**FULTZ MADDOX DICKENS**  
PLC  
ATTORNEYS

**DRS. GREGORY &  
LINDA GLEIS**

**SYLVIA & STEPHEN  
HAMILTON**

**JOE & KELLY  
LANDENWICH**

**JIM & KATHY  
LINTNER**



**THE MACKIN  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**DAVID H. &  
LINDA A. MILES**

**THE MUSSELMAN  
FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**WOODY & ANNE  
NORTHUP**

**MICHAEL PAYNTER &  
DONNA HEITZMAN**



**TODD & ALICE  
TAYLOR**

**THE VARGA  
FAMILY**

**LARRY &  
KATHLEEN WALKER**

### *Leadership \$7,500*



**THOMAS & JILLIAN  
DAVIS**

**PAT & JEANNIE  
DONOVAN**



**STEPHEN  
LANNERT**

**THE W. BRUCE LUNSFORD  
FOUNDATION, INC.**





# Foundation Teams Up with Catholic Schools Athletic Association

For the second year in a row, the **Catholic Education Foundation** served as the **Presenting Sponsor** of both the **Toy Bowl** and the **CSAA basketball championships** with an investment of \$50,000. This unique partnership helps to defray the costs that families pay for their children to participate in the many sports programs offered at Catholic schools.

Foundation President **Rich Schleiter** exclaimed, "So, what do the Catholic Schools Athletic Association and the Catholic Education Foundation have in common? In a word, plenty! You see, at the CSAA, there's a really resounding message for all our young children who want to play sports in our Catholic schools. It's called, **"Everybody Plays."** And at the Foundation, there's an equally important message for any family who wants their children to attend a Catholic school but can't afford it. It's called, **"The Answer is Yes!"**

CSAA Executive Director **Rick Arnold** shared his gratitude for the new partnership. "The truth is, Catholic schools and Catholic school sports are THE BEST. And the CSAA and the Foundation are working together to create a better pathway for any family who yearns for the irreplaceable gift of a Catholic education. We couldn't be more excited about our partnership with the Foundation and the amazing impact it's having on our Catholic school families!" ■





## The Country's Best Bourbon Raffle Has Arrived!

*Continued from front page*

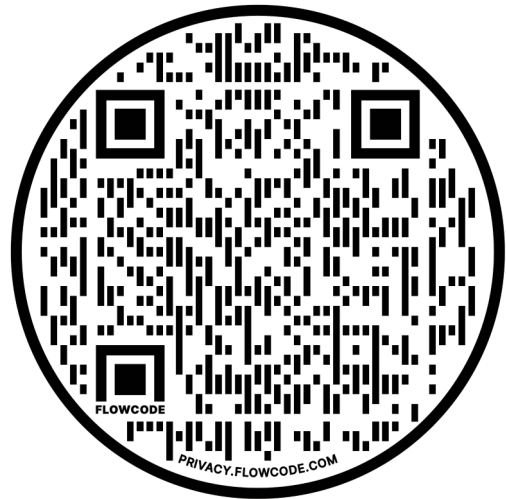
At the Catholic Education Foundation, it's time for our **third annual Bourbon Raffle!** All the proceeds from this fun event will provide even more tuition assistance funding for Catholic school students in need when they return to school in the fall.

The online raffle can be found on the Foundation's website, [ceflou.org](http://ceflou.org), through May 21, with the drawing to be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "This year's prize lots are our best ever, with **TWO FULL LOTS OF PAPPY VAN WINKLE** for the taking!! In all, we have a record-high 25 prize lots, so now you get 25 chances to win for each ticket you buy! Are you kidding me??"

The Foundation extends its deep thanks to those who have helped build this off-the-charts raffle prize, including **Matt and Sherry Ott, Pat and Jeannie Donovan, and the Foundation Board of Directors.**

So come aboard and join the fun before the raffle sells out! And together with you, we can say to every Catholic school family in need, **"The Answer is Yes!"** ■



## 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, "Be Disciples of Christ: Live as a Blessing."

For grades K through 8, young artists were invited to create posters depicting how they, as Catholic school students, can live out these beliefs of the theme.

Each winner received their poster neatly framed and a cash prize of \$250 from the Foundation.

### **Winners of the Poster contest were:**

**Kassidy Stratman**, 2nd grade, St. Gabriel the Archangel School

**Lydia Wilson**, 5th grade, St. Dominic School

**Ethan Lare**, 7th grade, Holy Trinity School

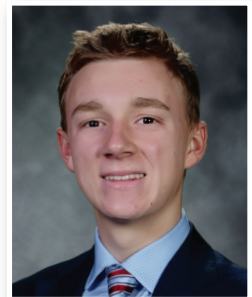
The Foundation also sponsored an essay contest for Catholic high school students in which they described their role in the celebration theme.

The winner was **Tyler Solon**, a junior at *Trinity High School*. His essay was printed in the February 1st issue of *THE RECORD* and he earned a cash prize of \$1,000.

All contest winners were publicly recognized for their achievement at the Catholic Schools Week Mass held on January 30th at St. Agnes Church. ■



*Ethan Lare*



*Tyler Solon*



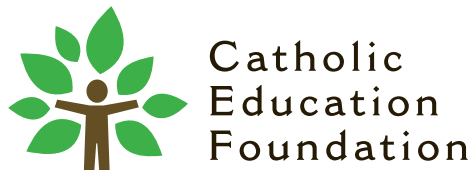
*Kassidy Stratman*



*Lydia Wilson*

*Congratulations To Our Winners!*





401 West Main Street  
Suite 806  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202  
**(502) 585-2747**  
**(502) 583-4929 fax**  
[www.ceflou.org](http://www.ceflou.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LOUISVILLE, KY  
PERMIT #138

DESIGN BY LONNIE WALKER / WWW.PRIMOGRAPHICS.NET



**17th Annual Salute to *THE GAME* Luncheon**  
**Noon, Thursday, September 26, 2024 • Galt House Hotel**  
**For more information, call (502) 585-2747 or visit us at [ceflou.org](http://ceflou.org)**



Catholic  
Education  
Foundation