



FALL 2024

The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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

**\$650,000 Net from the
Event Rockets Past Last
Year's Record \$600,000**

Story on page 4



SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS RISE – FOR THE 4TH YEAR IN A ROW!

The Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools recently announced that overall enrollments in Catholic elementary schools have risen for the fourth consecutive year. In addition, Catholic high school enrollments rose for the third year in a row.

Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Mary Beth Bowling** remarked, "We are so pleased that families are seeing the value of a Catholic education and entrusting the care of their children to us. Thanks to our pastors, principals, teachers, counselors, coaches, staff and volunteers, more families are seeing the impact of a quality Catholic education on the lives of their children!"

The Archdiocese of Louisville sponsors 39 Catholic elementary schools and nine high schools, the fourth

Continued on page 4

TUITION ASSISTANCE SOARS TO REACH ALL-TIME HIGH 3,750 STUDENTS WITH ASTOUNDING RECORD \$8.3 MILLION!

***Foundation Slogan "The Answer is Yes!"
Fulfilled for 10th Straight Year***

For the 2024/2025 school year, the Foundation and its funding partners recently awarded tuition assistance to an ***all-time high 3,750*** elementary students with an ***astounding record \$8.3 million*** in funding, rocketing past last year's previous records of 3,700 and \$8 million, respectively.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "I've never seen anything like it! No matter the challenge – year after year – our donors stand up for our Catholic school families in need without fail. And think about the life-changing access to Catholic education that our donors are providing to thousands of families across central Kentucky. **WOW!!!**"

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Our Message To You

Happy 10th Anniversary!

Perhaps we didn't realize it then, but 10 years ago this month Archbishop Joseph Kurtz and all of his fellow priests decided to double down on Catholic education in central Kentucky and forever change its direction. We even gave the plan a very creative name – "The New Catholic School Plan".....

At the press conference, Archbishop proclaimed a "New Day" for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville as he described a plan in which all 110 parishes in the archdiocese – whether they operated a school or not – would contribute 1% of their revenues annually to provide further tuition assistance to families in need in all 39 Catholic elementary schools. The estimated annual funding increase was \$1.3 million, which at the time **DOUBLED** tuition assistance funding **overnight!**

What a day it was indeed!

The Foundation participated in the press conference, and thanking that the time was right, we unveiled our newfound slogan, ***"The Answer is Yes!"***

The new partnership between the Foundation and the Archdiocese produced immediate results the next fall, with the number of students earning scholarships leaping from 1,480 to 2,400, and overall funding from all our partners (including the schools) rocketing to \$5 million, a sort of unthinkable amount at the time.

And as we celebrate this historic breakthrough, God has provided an outcome for Catholic school families that we all hoped for back then – ***CONSISTENT GROWTH IN STUDENT ENROLLMENTS NOW 4 YEARS RUNNING!!!!***

With our schools performing better than they ever have and the partnership raising record sums each year, more families are seeing the true value of the Catholic school journey. An unequaled educational experience and an affordable access point!!

Let's all give thanks to God and work toward an even better Year #11!





Richard A. Lechleiter
President




Joseph L. Landenwich
Chair




Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Vice Chair

Board of Directors

President

Richard A. Lechleiter

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Joseph L. Landenwich

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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.



Tuition Assistance Soars to Reach All-Time High 3,750 Students with Astounding Record \$8.3 Million!

Continued from front page

"And here's the best news. For the 10th 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!"**"

The **Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre**, Archbishop of Louisville and Foundation Board Vice Chair, 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. **We are overjoyed with the results!**"

The record \$8.3 million of funding was provided by the Foundation (\$4.5 million), parishes and schools (\$2.3 million), and the 110 parishes of the Archdiocese of Louisville, along with Community Catholic Center, (\$1.5 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 Joe Landenwich 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 in need are reaching out to us in search of a Catholic education for their children that they can't afford. To each of them, our reply is always the same. **"The Answer is Yes!"**"

Rich Lechleiter commented, "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 transforming 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!!**" ■



School Enrollments Rise - For The 4th Year in a Row!

Continued from front page

largest school district in the Commonwealth. Student enrollments this fall reached 18,973 students, with 13,291 in the elementary schools and 5,682 in the high schools. Catholic elementary enrollments rose by 184 students from last fall, while the high schools grew by 62 students.

This year's growth was widespread, with 21 elementary schools and five high schools reporting higher student numbers. Dr. Bowling commented further, "The history of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville has been such an important part of establishing strong Catholic communities in central Kentucky for over 200 years. Many of our families make great sacrifices that allow them to invest in their children's Catholic school journey, a true testament to the strength, vitality and value of our Catholic schools!"

Archbishop Shelton Fabre remarked, "I pray that the Catholic school experience, centered in Christ and community, will continue to grow and impact the lives of more families in the future. The life-changing impact of the Gospel message, embedded in every subject, in every classroom, on every field, empowers the lives of our young people like no other educational experience the world over. How God-blessed we are by Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville!"

Dr. Bowling concluded, "We can never say "Thank You" often enough to our pastors, teachers, school leaders, parents and everyone involved in the daily work of our schools who promote excellence in every aspect of our student's lives and bring them closer to the Good News that Christ invites all of us to hear." ■

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 \$600,000 at last year's event alone. Happily, the 17th edition of this amazing event was no exception, setting yet **another fundraising record of an astounding \$650,000** for the mission of the Catholic Education Foundation.

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 26, the day before **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 wide receiver **Kyle Krupp** from Saint Xavier and senior wide receiver **Will DeSensi** from Trinity – who shared their stories about how their Catholic elementary and secondary education has impacted their lives.

Louisville-based **Stock Yards Bank & Trust Company** served as the Lead Sponsor of the event with an investment of \$40,000. Mr. Lechleiter exclaimed, "To **Ja Hillebrand** and all our friends at Stock Yards, **THANK YOU** for your exemplary leadership in making this event 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: the **Bufford Family Foundation; D3 Foundation; David and Cathy Durik; the Dale and Donna Gettelfinger Family; David Graeser; Sarah and John Lechleiter; Charlie and Dolores Leis; Keith and Jeanie Mouser; the Ott Family Foundation; the Ramsey Family; Karen and Hank Robinson; Len and Susan Spalding; Brad and Charlotte Stengel; the Dan Ulmer Family; and the Richard Lechleiter Family.** ■



Planned Giving - The Future of the Foundation

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.

The Foundation has established a Legacy Society to recognize the generosity of donors who have included our organization in their estate plans. A listing of Legacy Society members follows:

*Mitch Barnes
Dutch & Diane Boehnlein
Roger Costello
D3 Foundation
Charlie & Lisa Dahlem
Reverend Patrick D. Delahanty
Greg & Margie DeMuth
The Dobson Family
Dr. & Mrs. Pat Donovan
Joseph & Sherry Dougherty
David & Cathy Durik
Diane M. Gahafer
Gathof Family
Drs. Gregory & Linda Gleis
Deacon Scott and JoAnn Haner
Carl & Carleen Herde
Ja Hillebrand
John A. Hubbuch, Sr.
Steve & Mary Ann James
Todd & Shannon Klimek*

*John & Leigh Ann Koch
The Kramer Family
Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
The Landenwich Family
The Richard Lechleiter Family
Lincoln Lewis Jr.
Reverend Joseph T. Merkt
Thomas & Shelley Perrone
Brad & Leslie Savko
Paul & Sue Schulte
Leisa & William Schulz
Stephen & Robin Sedita
Mary Angela Shannon
Len & Susan Spalding
Reverend T. Michael Tobin
Gil & Teresa Wentzel
Beth & Ron Wiseman
Carol & Stuart Woolsey
for Jennifer Egelsky*

*The Answer is Yes!
For Everyone.
Forever.*



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For more information, or if you already have the Catholic Education Foundation in your estate plans, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org. ■

St. Albert the Great School Wins National Blue Ribbon Award

In September, the U. S. Department of Education announced that Louisville's St. Albert the Great School has been recognized as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by U. S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cordona. The school is now a three-time recipient of this prestigious award, having previously been recognized in 2004 and 2015.

St. Albert the Great is one of seven schools in Kentucky and the only one in Jefferson County to receive this honor in 2024. St. Albert joins five secondary schools and 16 other elementary schools in the archdiocese that have previously received this award one or more times.

Rich Lechleiter exclaimed, "St. Albert was one of only 40 non-public schools across the nation to earn this special honor in 2024. What a wonderful recognition of their great works! We extend our congratulations to everyone in the St. Albert community as we continue to assist your school families and teachers going forward. Enjoy your success – you've earned it!"

Dr. Mary Beth Bowling added, "We are so blessed to have so many exemplary schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville! Including the schools that have earned this honor more than once, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville have gained the National Blue Ribbon distinction a total of 42 times. We are committed to excellence in all that we do and every time one of our schools is highlighted for this award, we all celebrate the outstanding work that is present every day in each of our Catholic communities." ■



Congratulations!

2024 Salute to "THE GAME" Luncheon Event

BELOW: Art Potter and Bill Roby, Sr.



ABOVE: Matt Ott, Kelly Landenwich, Joe Landenwich and Fr. Pat Dolan



ABOVE: Scott Brinkman, Fr. Anthony Chandler, Chris Burckle and Clark Burckle

MIDDLE: Will DeSensi and Kyle Krupp



ABOVE: Devian Logan, Bill Cubbage and Coach Jay Cobb



ABOVE: Kitty Zink, Susan Riggs, Theresa Dyar and Margie DeMuth



Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media



ABOVE: Brian Monell, John Ryan, Scott Scinta and Jim Beckham

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Yards®**
Bank & Trust
SINCE 1904
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LEAD SPONSOR

BELOW: Matt Palmer-Ball and Charles Paradis



MIDDLE: Paul Colistra,
Rich Lechleiter, Archbishop
Shelton Fabre, Julie Baum
and Rob Mullen



ABOVE: Tony Vanetti



ABOVE: Jesse Cantrall, Chad Lyons and Coach Kevin Wallace



ABOVE: Archbishop Shelton Fabre with members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

BELOW: Prezettes of Presentation Academy singing the National Anthem



MIDDLE: Patrons of THE GAME luncheon enjoying the event



ABOVE: Peter Tompkins, Donovan Sims and James Torra



ABOVE: Ryan and Lesli Sweeney with Tara and Cash Moter



LEFT: Rich Lechleiter presents Split the Pot Raffle check to winner Dana Nicholson

BELOW: DeKarlos Blackmon and Kanobia Russell-Blackmon



MIDDLE: Ancient Order of Hibernians



ABOVE: Claudia Coffey, Rich Lechleiter and Julie Baum



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



LEFT: Rich Lechleiter,
Mary Kate Baum,
Julie Baum and
Erin Lamon



LEFT: Tony Vanetti and
Father Jeff Shooner



ABOVE: Alec Freme,
Victor Peronne and
Brett Mahle



ABOVE: Fr. Jeff Nicholas, Fr. Shaji Joseph and
Trevor Timmerberg



ABOVE: Doug James, Krysteen Cissell, Lisa Benson and
Jess Metzmeier



ABOVE: Bella and Emma DeSensi

Event photos courtesy of Talgrace Mobile Media

St. Mary Academy “Penny War” Benefits Foundation

Last April, the Foundation received a very nice surprise in the mail – a check for \$2,200 from **St. Mary Academy and Ms. Ann Sheehan’s fourth grade class** – the result of an amazingly successful “Penny War” at the school.

After raising the funds, the students decided to donate all of it to the Foundation to support children who can’t afford to attend the school.

Foundation Vice President **Julie Baum** exclaimed, “We were so thrilled to receive this wonderful gift that Rich, Mary Beth Bowling and I visited Ms. Sheehan’s class to personally thank the students and their teachers. We couldn’t have been more impressed with the students and their passion to help other people less fortunate than themselves. Just another example of the great works of Catholic education here in our midst!” ■



ABOVE: Julie Baum and Rich Lechleiter (far right) along with Dr. Mary Beth Bowling (third from left, standing) visiting Ms. Sheehan’s fourth grade class at St. Mary Academy in Prospect.

**Stay Connected to
the Foundation!**





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Foundation's Fourth Annual Bourbon Raffle Launching February 4

The Foundation's fourth annual **Bourbon Raffle** will launch on February 4 and end on March 24, 2025. This exciting online event will feature 30 prize lots with over 100 unique and rare bourbons. So you have 30 chances to win with each ticket you purchase! Raffle tickets cost \$100 each and the event is limited to 10,000 tickets. Last year's record raffle **netted over \$400,000** for the benefit of our Catholic school families in need. Come join in the fun of this great event!

Scan the QR code at right to be added to the Bourbon Raffle mailing list. You can view more information about the raffle at ceflou.org/bourbon-raffle/ ■



Join Our Podcasts!



Keep up with what's happening in our vibrant Catholic community through the Foundation's monthly podcasts! On the first Wednesday of each month, we'll share with you some great stories from guests whose lives have been changed forever through their Catholic faith and their Catholic education. So come aboard and join in the journey at <https://www.ceflou.org/podcast/>!



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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, our Board Chair, **Todd Klimek**, retired from the Board following six years of exemplary service.

Foundation Board Chair **Joe Landenwich** remarked, "My hat's off to Todd for his great leadership of the Board these past two years and his steadfast commitment to our mission over his six-year term. Without a doubt, the amazing momentum of the Foundation and our unprecedented results are a true legacy to him and his family. 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 3,750 students, we're all marching forward together to see an even brighter day next fall!"

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



Jeremy L. Gettelfinger - Born and raised in southern Indiana, Jeremy attended Holy Family School in New Albany and went on to graduate from Providence High School in Clarksville in 2000. He then earned his undergraduate degree in business administration from Bellarmine University.

He began his professional career in the insurance industry, but after three years he pivoted to the medical device field, a career in which he has thrived for the past 20 years. Today, he is an Account Executive for Elite Biologics, working with doctors and nurses to provide the best medical products to the Greater Louisville healthcare community.

Jeremy and his wife, Amanda, have four children, all of whom attend Catholic schools. The Gettelfingers are active members of St. Aloysius Parish, where Jeremy recently led a highly successful \$1.8 million capital campaign.



Juan M. Montano - The sixth of eight children, Juan grew up in Louisville and attended Holy Name School, after which he graduated from Saint Xavier High School in 1987. He then earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Louisville in 1991.

Juan spent the first 11 years of his professional career at KPMG, where his clients included several publicly traded financial services companies. He then joined First Commonwealth Mortgage as its Chief Financial Officer. In 2003, the company was named the fastest growing private company in Kentucky by Business First. He then joined Republic Bank & Trust Co. in 2009, where today he serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Mortgage Banking Officer.

In addition to his involvement at his parish, Juan has served on the Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three daughters and are members of Holy Trinity Parish.



Neil P. Ramsey - Neil has rejoined the Foundation Board following his initial service from 2014 to 2021. Born and raised in Tell City, Indiana, Neil earned both his undergraduate degree in engineering (summa cum laude) and his M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University.

After beginning his career with Boston Consulting Group, Neil founded RQSI, an investment management company, in 1986, where today he serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Ramsey Financial, Inc., the parent company of RQSI.

Neil serves on the Board of Visitors for Vanderbilt Owen Business School and as a Board member of the Kentucky Governor's Scholar Program. Additionally, he is Mayor of the City of Anchorage.

Neil and his wife, Ann, have five adult children and eight grandchildren and are members of St. Margaret Mary Parish. ■

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 2023-2024 honorees are:



Mackenzie Bradshaw
Saint Gabriel



Madison Busch
Saint Aloysius



Rebecca Facktor Pahle
Saint Martha



Hannah Smith
Saint Albert the Great



Victoria Wiech
Saint Mary Academy

Congratulations to each of these outstanding Catholic school educators!

Shannon Klimek Joins Foundation Team



In July, Shannon joined the Foundation staff in the role of Development Coordinator, joining **Rich Lechleiter**, **Julie Baum** and **Ashley Eifler** on the fundraising team. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked in fundraising for several years at Holy Trinity Parish.

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Shannon double-majored in psychology and computer applications at the University of Notre Dame, earning her undergraduate degrees in 1997.

Catholic education has had a profound impact on her life as well as the lives of her three adult children, **Adam**, **Noah** and **Connor**. She is eager to assist the Foundation in providing more opportunities to families in need in our community.

Julie Baum exclaimed, "Now that her husband, **Todd**, has retired from our Board, it's time for the other half of the Klimek family to join us in our fundraising efforts! As we aim higher to assist more Catholic school families going forward, Shannon's a great addition to this organization. She's immersed in Catholic education and her passion for our mission is inspiring! **Welcome aboard, Shannon!**"

The Klimek family are active members at Holy Trinity Parish. ■



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



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At the Catholic Education Foundation, the Answer is Yes!



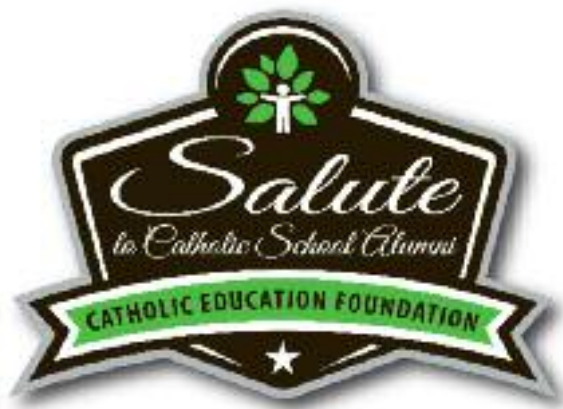
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Save The Dates!



35th Annual Salute to Catholic School Alumni Dinner

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
The Galt House Hotel
Grand Ballroom



4th Annual Catholic Education Foundation Bourbon Raffle

Online Raffle Starts
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Drawing Held on March 25, 2025

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