



SPRING 2025

The Answer is Yes!

A MESSAGE FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SALUTE DINNER EVENT HITS NEW ALL-TIME HIGH!

**Astounding \$1.7 Million
Net from the Event
Rockets Past Last Year's
Previous Record**

Continued on page 4



Local Catholic school graduate and University of Louisville Head Football Coach Jeff Brohm served as the keynote speaker at the 35th annual Salute dinner event.

Foundation Announces Bold \$100 Million Capital Campaign!!

***\$80 Million of Commitments Gained Thus Far
Campaign Slogan – The Answer is Yes! For
Everyone. Forever.***

At the Salute dinner event, the Foundation unveiled an unprecedented campaign to raise \$100 million in support of Catholic education across central Kentucky that will benefit thousands of families for generations to come.

Campaign Chair **Joe Dougherty**, Chief Executive Officer of LPX Group, announced, "The campaign has three very important deliverables. First, we are aiming to provide tuition assistance to as many as 5,000 Catholic elementary students annually, significantly more than the 3,750 we assist today.

Second, we're seeking more tuition assistance funds for our nine Catholic high schools, eventually doubling the \$650,000 we split among them each year. And third, our permanent endowment fund, now standing at \$40 million today, must be doubled to provide the financial resources to carry on the Foundation's mission forever."

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Bourbon Raffle Adds \$300,000 of Tuition Assistance Funds!

The Foundation's fourth annual online bourbon raffle event produced an impressive \$300,000 in tuition assistance funding for Catholic school students in need when they return to school in the fall.

This year's exciting event produced 30 winners who will claim their respective share of the best-ever 144-bottle rare bourbon raffle prizes.

Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** exclaimed, "Wow, what a fantastic outcome for our Catholic school families who are reaching out to us in record numbers for our help! Now in our fourth year, this event's net result will create a Catholic school experience for 300 students whose families can't afford it – how awesome is that!!"

"This event was so much fun! And we couldn't have pulled it off without the incredible generosity of folks who donated this amazing bourbon inventory for the benefit of our young students. What a debt of gratitude we owe to each of you."

"And finally, to everyone who participated in the raffle event, may God bless all of you! Because of you, we can say with confidence to every Catholic school family in need, **"The Answer is Yes!"** ■

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Our Message To You

He Knows The Way

It was five years ago, in March 2020, in the midst of an unfolding pandemic that halted most everything you can imagine, we cancelled our Salute to Catholic School Alumni dinner – who would have ever thought! What followed was an outpouring of support for our mission from our event sponsors and patrons that literally kept our ship afloat for our students in need the following fall. Miraculous indeed!

That summer, Archbishop Kurtz boldly decided that Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville would reopen in August for in-person instruction. For some, a controversial decision, but for Catholic school families a game-changer and true blessing. Bold indeed!

As time went on that year, it occurred to us that we must be equally bold in our thinking about the Catholic school families we support and their long-term future. In short, we needed to be financially stronger so that we would ***always be there*** for our families in need – ***“The Answer is Yes! For Everyone. Forever.”***

Praise be to God, our capital campaign that began behind the scenes in 2021 has now evolved into its public phase with great excitement and endless possibilities for our young students both today and generations from now. Who would ever dreamed that this community would vault the Foundation to such heights, or that so many more families will gain the gift of a Catholic education never before imagined?

He knows The Way indeed!

May God bless all of you abundantly and often,



Richard A. Lechleiter
President



Joseph L. Landenwich
Chair



Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Vice Chair



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Jennifer M. Stinnett
Very 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 2025 **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, honored at the recent Salute dinner event, will each receive \$10,000 in college scholarships.

Here are the 2025 Father John H. Morgan Scholarship recipients:



Caroline Paige Pringle
Assumption High School



Christopher Blake Spalding
Bethlehem High School



Garrett Lee Craig
DeSales High School



Breaze Kennady O'Neal
Holy Cross High School



Kyndall McCann Wintergerst-Weston
Mercy Academy



Marie Clare Laracy
Presentation Academy



Arabella Rose Guerrero
Sacred Heart Academy



Henry William Corbell
Saint Xavier High School



Jaiden Hercules Robinson
Trinity High School ■

Salute Dinner Event Leaps to New Heights!! *Continued from cover*

The 35th annual edition of the Salute to Catholic School Alumni dinner event once again rocketed the mission of the Foundation like never before! Hosting a sold-out ballroom of over 1,300 guests on March 18 at downtown Louisville's Galt House Hotel, this "one-of-a-kind Catholic reunion" continued its tradition as a hallmark community event in the Commonwealth.

This year's event soared to an astonishing record of \$1.7 million in net proceeds, blowing past the previous year record of \$1.6 million. Foundation President **Rich Lechleiter** remarked, "This unsurpassed event is a true lifeline for our mission, continuing to lift 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 16th 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 3,750 elementary students throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville's 39 Catholic schools with a record \$8.3 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 ten 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!"

Local Catholic school graduate and University of Louisville Head Football Coach **Jeff Brohm** served as the keynote speaker for the evening, sharing inspiring and humorous stories of his Catholic school years and their impact on his life, family and coaching career.

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 2025** included:

Gregory A. DeMuth (Trinity High School) – Louisville Market Executive, German American Bank

Jennifer Black Hans (Presentation Academy) – Retired Senior Legislative Analyst, KY Legislative Research Commission

Donna L. Heitzman (Sacred Heart Academy) – Retired Senior Portfolio Manager, KKR Prisma Capital

William E. Mudd (Bellarmino University) – President and Chief Executive Officer, Churchill Downs Incorporated

E. John Raque, III (Saint Xavier High School) – Retired Vice President, O'Conner & Raque Office Products Company

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding (Bethlehem High School) – Twelfth Bishop of Nashville

The Foundation also honored **Charles H. Leis**, Board Chair of EdChoiceKY, with its distinguished Community Service Award, recognizing his years of courageous leadership of educational choice for families across the Commonwealth.



2025 Salute Honorees: First row, left to right: Joe Landenwich, Emily McCarty, Archbishop Shelton Fabre, Donna Heitzman and Bill Mudd
Second row, left to right: John Raque, Charlie Leis, Jennifer Black Hans, Bishop Mark Spalding, Greg DeMuth, Jimmy Kirchdorfer and Rich Lechleiter

Emily H. McCarty, a middle school math teacher at Louisville's Holy Spirit School, now in her 35th year in Catholic education, received the 2025 Father Joseph McGee Award as the Outstanding Catholic School Educator in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

This record-breaking event was chaired by **Mr. James J. Kirchdorfer, Jr.**, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Louisville-based ISCO Industries. In addition, for the fourth consecutive year, ISCO served as the **Presenting Sponsor** of the event with an investment of \$100,000. "At ISCO, we're proud to help provide educational opportunities which allow individuals to grow, become productive members of society and reach their full potential. We're deeply grateful to the Foundation team for the work they do in helping over 2,500 families each year in this community have the opportunity to receive an excellent Catholic education." ■



LEFT: Greg DeMuth, Bill Mudd, Jennifer Black Hans, Donna Heitzman, Bishop Mark Spalding and John Raque



Neil Ramsey, Charlie Dahlem, Tom Perrone, Shannon and Todd Klimek



John Raque



LEFT: Rich Lechleiter, Mark Kirchdorfer, Julie Baum and Jimmy Kirchdorfer



Molly and Phoebe Fulton



ABOVE: Jim and Cathy Dahlem



Jimmy Kirchdorfer, Donna Heitzman and Archbishop Fabre



Stacey Cohen, Emily McCarty and Archbishop Fabre



Jimmy Kirchorfer, Jennifer Black Hans and Archbishop Fabre

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



David Heintzman, Meredith Lintner Metzmeier and Kathy Lintner



Father Shayne Duvall, Ja Hillebrand, Joe Dougherty and Julie Baum escort the Salute honorees to the event



Congratulations to the Fr. John H. Morgan Scholars!



Little Sisters of the Poor



Thank you to the ushers from Saint Xavier High School!



Charlie Tewell and Barb Ford



Greg DeMuth



Deacon Mark Rougeux,
Fr. Straton Dithenya, Kim Rougeux and
Fr. John Pozhathumparambil



Tony Vanetti, Coach
Jeff Brohm and Julie Baum



Phil and Shannon Milliner, Elaine and John
Zoeller, Margaret and Nick Cotter



Dalton and Mary Grace Joy



Vinny and Denise
Barry, Dave and
Outhay Glass,
Michelle and
Bill Mudd



Emma, Kelly and Joe Landenwich



Ja Hillebrand, Charlie Leis and Archbishop Fabre



Juan Montano and Swain Beard

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2025 Salute Dinner Event (cont.)

Presenting Sponsor ISCO group enjoyed the evening



Rich Lechleiter



Aubrey Jackson and Betty Kopp



Roy Potts,
Victor Perrone,
Kathy Potts,
Katie Boroughs
and Jude Wolford



Stock Yards Bank & Trust Company team enjoying the dinner



Rich Lechleiter, Archbishop Fabre, Dr. Linda Gleis,
Fr. Anthony Chandler and Joe Dougherty



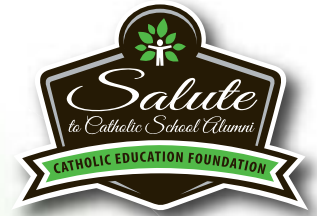
Fr. Matthew Millay
and Fr. Michael
Schultz



Ashley Eifler, Kelly Wesley Taylor, Beth Bell, Elizabeth Noland
and Emily Monarch



Margie DeMuth
and Susan Riggs



Claudia Coffey, Diane Gahafer,
Mary Lang and Jackie Bloyd



Bishop Mark Spalding
with Jillian Davis
and Baby Andrew



Benton Williams, Brian and Ann Arends,
Kristen and Geoffrey Boggs



Bill and Mary Jane Roby



Shelley Perrone,
Rick Black,
Tom Perrone and
Peggy Black



Bill Howard, Anne and Brian Monell
and Jill Howard



Fr. Bernard Timothy and Fr. John Baptist Hoang

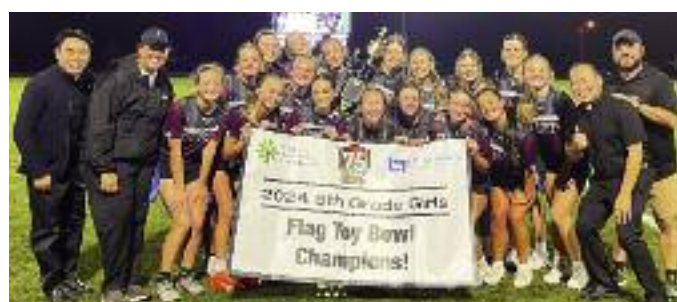
**We look forward
to seeing you
at next year's
Salute Dinner Event
March 10, 2026!**

Foundation Teams Up with Catholic Schools Athletic Association

For the third 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 Lechleiter** 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!" ■



Foundation Announces Bold \$100 Million Capital Campaign!! *Continued from front page*

Now in its fifth year, the Foundation's capital campaign has accumulated \$80 million in commitments through three distinct giving options.

- **Annual Fund** – Gifts used to fund the current needs of the tuition assistance program each year.
- **Direct Endowment** – Gifts made directly to Foundation's permanent endowment, the earnings from which will fund tuition assistance in perpetuity.
- **Deferred Intentions** – Gifts designated through a donor's estate plan for the benefit of the Foundation's permanent endowment.

Foundation Vice President **Julie Baum** noted, "The capital campaign is truly a game-changer for both the Foundation and the families we support, and we couldn't be more excited about how our donors have embraced our simple campaign slogan, **"The Answer is Yes! For Everyone. Forever."** Campaign donors have the option of picking among three giving options – or even better, all of them! Of the \$80 million in commitments so far, approximately \$40 million relate to Annual Fund, another \$20 million of gifts have been designated for Direct Endowment, and \$20 million of gifts have been included in donor's estate plans. What a fantastic show of support for Catholic education across central Kentucky! As we introduce the public phase of this campaign, we invite everyone to join us as we all work together to reach the once unthinkable goal of \$100 million!"

Commenting on the campaign's success thus far, Foundation Board Chair **Joe Landenwich** remarked, "I'm so grateful to everyone who has joined the campaign, including our Board of Directors. The campaign's early success is a clear indication of how this community values Catholic education and all the life-changing experiences that it brings to students and their families. It is also a resounding testament to the courageous efforts made by all our schools to re-open their doors during the pandemic and provide an excellent education to our students under very difficult circumstances."

Archbishop Fabre expressed his gratitude. "Now beginning the fourth year of my tenure here, it is so inspiring to see how this community shows its unwavering generosity to those in need. An investment in the Catholic Education Foundation, no matter the amount, creates endless opportunities for families to thrive as they never imagined. And now, onward we march together to provide hope to those who need us the most!"

To participate in the campaign, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org or visit the Foundation's website at ceflou.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, "Listen. Teach. Send. Fostering a Faithful Community."

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:

Madison Bongen, 2nd grade, Saint Michael School

Lillian Goessling, 5th grade, Saint Michael School

Xavier Norris, 8th grade, Saint Athanasius 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 **Colin Wheatley**, a sophomore at DeSales High School. His essay was printed in the January 30 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 28 at St. Margaret Mary Church. ■



Madison Bongen



Lillian Goessling



Xavier Norris



Colin Wheatley

Congratulations To Our Winners!

Shircliff Scholarship Fund Established at Foundation

In June 2023, the St. Edward School community lost a beloved teacher, friend and mentor in the passing of **Charlie Shircliff**, who taught history, religion and Spanish to hundreds of students over a 30-year career at the school. A devout Catholic, he was a pillar of the community and his colorfully decorated classroom reflected his many interests which he joyfully shared with his students.

Charlie loved baseball, the Beatles, board games, reading, and eating Sushi at Drakes. But most of all, he loved coaching and teaching kids! His endless fountain of knowledge, quick sense of humor and enthusiasm for the progress made by each of his students changed the lives of so many families over the years.

To memorialize his amazing legacy, a group of parishioners recently launched a permanent endowment in his name at the Foundation, the earnings from which will provide a scholarship for deserving 8th grade students at St. Edward who want to attend a Catholic high school. Through this endowment, Charlie's unparalleled passion for Catholic education will continue on for generations!

If you would like to learn more about or donate to the Charlie Shircliff Scholarship Fund, contact **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org. ■



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/>!



Catholic
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Foundation



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 **Ashley Eifler** at aeifler@ceflou.org.

Help Us Answer The Call!

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Beth & Ron Wiseman
Carol & Stuart Woolsey for
Jennifer Egelsky ■



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

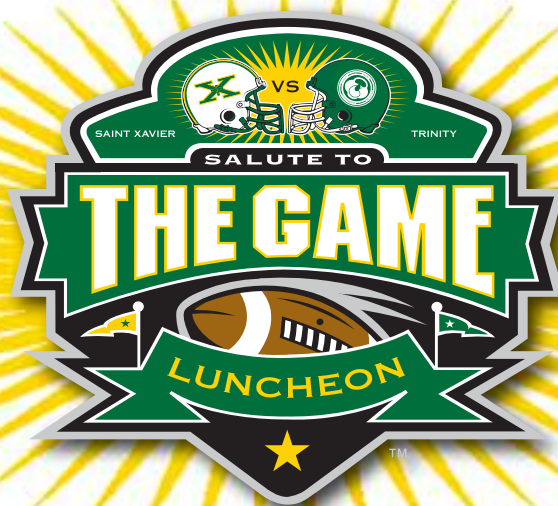


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401 West Main Street
Suite 806
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 585-2747
(502) 583-4929 fax
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