PRESS RELEASE
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ROARS PAST $100 MILLION GOAL

Historic $115 Million Result is the Largest Endeavor of its Kind in the Nearly 220-Year History of the Archdiocese of Louisville

Donors Embrace Campaign Slogan: The Answer is Yes! For Everyone! Forever!

(Louisville, Ky.) – The Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville (the "Foundation") and the Archdiocese of Louisville today jointly announced that the Foundation's $100 million capital campaign, the largest such endeavor in the nearly 220-year history of the archdiocese, has exceeded its goal.

Mr. Richard A. Lechleiter, President of the Foundation, exclaimed, "Thanks be to God and our donors, I'm so thrilled to announce that we have gained commitments of an astounding $115 million in support of our mission! When it comes to Catholic education, there is just no end to the generosity of this community and the value they place on the importance of this life-changing and unexcelled educational experience!"

Launched in July 2021, the campaign has three important goals. First, raise more funds so that the Foundation can provide tuition assistance to 5,000 Catholic elementary students annually. Second, double the annual tuition assistance funding to the nine Catholic high schools. And third, increase the funding of the Foundation's permanent endowment to sustain its mission over the long term.

During the course of the campaign, donors considered three ways in which to participate. First, donors were asked to support the Foundation's current operations through its Annual Fund to provide tuition assistance each year to families in need. Second, donors were asked to make direct donations to the Foundation's permanent endowment, the earnings from

which will fund future tuition assistance needs. Third, the Foundation sought gifts from donors through their estate plans, the proceeds from which will eventually be funded into the permanent endowment.

Of the $115 million in campaign commitments, approximately $54 million relate to the Annual Fund, $25 million related to direct endowment gifts, and $36 million was reflected in the estate plans of participating donors.

Campaign Chair Mr. Joseph W. Dougherty, Chief Executive Officer of Louisville-based LPX Group, remarked, "How fantastic is this! We knew from the beginning that our goal was far reaching, but to see the overwhelming response from this community gives us so much confidence in the work that we're doing every day to make a Catholic education a reality for a family who can't afford it. Our home-grown slogan, ***"The Answer is Yes!"***, has never been more resounding for our Catholic school families in need. And our donors said it right back to us! God is great, indeed!"

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre, Archbishop of Louisville and Foundation Board Vice Chair, reflected, "Since my arrival here four years ago, I'm continually amazed at the generosity of this community to our Church and our Catholic schools! Catholic education, as our largest ministry, demands that we reach higher to ensure that everyone who desires this opportunity can do so. What could be more important than the transformational journey that leads our hearts and minds to fervently live Christ's gospel message throughout our lives? What a cause for celebration today as we look forward to a brighter future for our Catholic schools and all the families we serve!"

Foundation Vice President Julie E. Baum exclaimed, "The generosity that our donors extend to us is a direct reflection of their deep understanding and appreciation of the men and women who serve at the heart of our Catholic schools. To our pastors, principals, teachers, counselors, coaches, staff and volunteers, you are the true heroes of this community whose hard work and vocational devotion to your students is transforming their lives and that of their families. To be sure, each of you is the fabric of this campaign and the promises that it brings to so many thousands of families for generations to come!"

Mr. Lechleiter remarked, "The success of this historic campaign is not an end, but rather a beginning. Each day, Catholic school families in need reach out to us in their struggle to provide the greatest gift that they can bestow on their children. And the $9 million of elementary tuition assistance and the $900,000 of high school scholarships that we provided this fall will only be higher next year. Without doubt, the never-ending demand for tuition assistance requires that we continue to raise more funds each year so that we can say to every family in need, ***"The Answer is Yes!"***

About Catholic Schools and the Catholic Education Foundation

For over 200 years, Catholic schools have contributed significantly to the social, spiritual and economic fabric of our entire community. Today, the Archdiocese of Louisville sponsors 39 elementary schools and nine secondary schools with aggregate enrollments of nearly 19,000 students, the fourth largest school district in the Commonwealth.

The Catholic Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to the growth and vitality of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Louisville. Since 1999, the Foundation has awarded over $74 million, including over 54,000 scholarships, in support of Catholic education. Visit the Foundation at www.ceflou.org.