





Friends,

While many of us are glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror, it's often a good exercise to look back with a somewhat different perspective. I have spoken to parents and educators of our Catholic school students and it's interesting to hear their thoughts after coming through one of the most challenging years of our lifetime. Long laid out plans were changed or scrapped all together, and while there was obvious disappointment, there was no sense of despair or hopelessness. Our Catholic school teachers, students and parents found new ways to succeed. They demonstrated that they are a resilient group filled with purpose and faith.

This past year also presented some unforeseen financial struggles for many of our school families. This only seemed to make the case for the Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation even more compelling. Our mission and vision is very clear. Every student wanting a Catholic school education should receive one and the family's financial ability should never be a barrier to that education.

We know that the need to fulfill this mission amounts to \$4.5 million dollars annually in tuition assistance. The majority of this funding will come from investment earnings from donor endowments. That's an audacious goal but the Foundation's Board is committed to play a major role in seeing this vision become reality.

There are few things more compelling than the future of our youth and a Catholic school education that prepares them for everything that today's world will throw at them.

The future of our church and the communities where we work and live depends upon the future leaders being trained in our Catholic schools today.

As we embark on a more "normal" plan for fundraising in 2021 and beyond, we plan to provide greater opportunity to reach out and explain how you can become a part of this mission too. We hope you will join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Stoecklin".

Dennis Stoecklin, CSEF Board Chair

### DID YOU KNOW?

Students from at-risk backgrounds attending Catholic schools are **42% more likely to graduate** high school than their public school peers.



*Leadership*

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## Notes from Families

Dear Generous Donor,

We are extremely thankful for the tuition assistance. Any year this donation would be amazing but this year especially it comes in great need. My two boys love their school SJB. [St. John the Baptist]

God Bless,  
Lucero, Silvano and Estevan Romero



To Whom It May Concern,

Hello! My name is Jens Hammer and I'm writing in regards to the anonymous donation made to our son's account at St. Francis of Assisi School.

We as a family want to say Thank You! Not only are you a living representation of the generosity espoused by Christ himself, you are doing so in a way that promotes the education of a child, as well as acting as a shining example for us as Catholic parents.

Your generous donation came at a time when we needed a boost the most. This is what I've come to expect of the Lord working through us on Earth. We may not ever see or meet the beneficiary of a good deed done, but that never lessens the positive impact on those who are on the receiving end.

We thank you, and pray that God blesses you greatly,

Regards,  
Jens Hammer  
(and the entire Hammer household)



Catholic schools provide over  
\$24 billion a year in savings for  
the nation\*, over \$168 million in  
Western Oregon alone\*\*

\*NCEA \*\*Graham-Pelton  
Catholic Services report, 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

## Celebrating: Carol Herman

When Archbishop Sample was considering the idea of an independent foundation for Catholic schools and the families who choose them, one of the first people he thought of to join the effort was Carol Herman. Carol is known for her work as a philanthropist and a board member of Catholic institutions across the Portland area, including Providence hospitals and the University of Portland.

Archbishop Sample soon invited Carol for lunch and shared his thoughts with her. After the meal, when he asked her just how committed she could be to the idea of CSEF, she replied matter-of-factly: "100%—and you?" Archbishop Sample agreed!

For Carol, there are two key virtues at the heart of Catholic school education: loving God and loving your neighbor. Those two principles, "lay a foundation for kindness, serving others, and being happier and more confident later in life," Carol said. The quality of academic instruction, as well as the personal connection between teachers and their students, also sets Catholic school education apart. "We each have our own unique gifts," reflected Carol, and the role of the teacher is to help bring those gifts to fruition.



*Carol Herman is one of the founding board members of CSEF.*

Carol's passion and enthusiasm for Catholic school education come from her fond memories of her own education, which began at Holy Rosary school in Tacoma, Washington. Years later, Carol returned to Holy Rosary with her fellow alumnae for a class reunion. Like many Catholic schools across the nation, Holy Rosary had run into financial difficulties with falling enrollment and uncertain economic times—so Carol and about 15 of her old alumnae friends came together to offer a small donation to help. Joining the board of CSEF was a way of doing that all over again—except on a larger scale!

## A Principal's Perspective:

# Kelli Braud

In the 16 years that Kelli Braud has served as Principal at St. Paul Catholic school, one complaint she heard from a student stuck with her: “You can’t fly under the radar here—everybody pays attention and they know your name!”

That’s because creating a tight knit community that builds on Catholic identity has been one of Principal Braud’s main goals as an administrator. “We’re a smaller school and that allows us the opportunity to really connect with each individual child,” she said in an interview. **“I always tell my staff: you can’t have their minds unless you have their hearts.”** By nurturing each student and building one-on-one relationships, the teachers at St. Paul help students discover their own unique talents and grow into the best versions of themselves.

At the beginning of each new school year, faculty and staff create a feeling of unity and togetherness by picking a theme for community-wide reflection. This year’s theme was especially relevant to the turbulent times that we’ve all faced during the 2020-2021 school year: Strength for today, hope for tomorrow. Braud hopes this theme has encouraged students to **“turn to God in this challenging time, while knowing that there’s hope for tomorrow – and that He’s with us in this.”**

In a normal school year, each student would be assigned to a group that spans all the elementary grades, so that one student from each grade level makes up a “family” group. Ordinarily there are about 30 family groups throughout the school, with the eighth graders in each group leading activities related to the annual theme. The goal of these family activities is to put the fruits of the spirit into practice, in everything from manners to accountability and personal responsibility.

Unfortunately, because of Covid-19 restrictions, the family groups haven’t been able to be together this year. But Principal Braud stressed how gracefully the faculty, staff and parents—and the students themselves—have been adapting to life during Covid. Thankfully, since the outbreak was far less severe in Lane County than in other parts of the state, students at St. Paul were able to return to in-person instruction starting in September.



*Kelli Braud, Principal at St. Paul Catholic school, Eugene*

Still, many parents have chosen to keep their children at home, leading to a delicate balance in the classroom between in-person and remote teaching. “Our second grade teacher has 6 or 7 kids still at home but 20 in the classroom,” Braud said, and so they’ve had to be very creative in teaching both at once. In fact, the pandemic has pushed St. Paul to update their technology, such as by giving each student an iPad so that they would be “on the same page” as their remote learning peers. And St. Paul staff came up with a way to give remote learners some of the fun that they’ve been missing, too. With a virtual “lunch bunch” every day, students can laugh and play games remotely during lunch time.

Because of the bond that St. Paul graduates have with one another and with their alma mater, they often return to campus to visit—or even to teach: “One thing that’s pretty unique about us is we currently have 8 staff members working here who actually went to the school,” Braud said. “What they received here in education—they want to pay that forward. They are continuing the legacy of what was given to them many years ago.”

### DID YOU KNOW?

**98% of students** who attend Catholic high school **graduate**. Of those, **88% attend 4-year colleges.**





## CSEF: Creating a culture of generosity



by Peter Corrado, CSEF Director

Oregonians enjoy a reputation for being generous, caring and friendly. In fact, a recent survey from WalletHub ranked Oregon the #4 most charitable state in the U.S. overall—and #1 in volunteering and service. That's something to be proud of! And I don't think it's a stretch to say that the Catholic community in Western Oregon, the second oldest archdiocese in the country (Baltimore being the oldest) played a profound role in creating that culture.

It all begins with Catholic school. Hearing the Gospel's message each and every day at school teaches Catholic school students to be their brothers' and sisters' keepers. It also gives them a foundation in faith to fulfill that obligation to live as Christian witnesses in service to others. As an Oregonian, I believe that we've absorbed these values through the nearly 40 Catholic elementary schools, 10 Catholic high schools, and over 100 years of Catholic school education in Oregon. The more children we educate in the Catholic tradition of loving and caring for one another, the more compassionate our next leaders and volunteers will be, strengthening our reputation of kindness and giving that has come to be expected from Oregonians.

That's one reason why, as director of the Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation of Oregon, I work to make Catholic school education accessible to all. Our singular mission is to provide tuition assistance to families sacrificing to make the gift of Catholic school education possible for their children. CSEF supports families with the greatest remaining need after schools and parishes have shared their available resources for tuition assistance. By contributing to CSEF, you are not endorsing any one school; instead, you are affirming your commitment to Catholic school education and to making it accessible for all,

regardless of the school one attends. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor once said, "Catholic schools have been the pipeline to opportunity" for people like her—poor, Latina, raised by a single mom.

Recently we celebrated our second annual cycle of tuition assistance grants. First, we distributed **\$360,000 in block grants to schools**, in order of their tuition assistance need among enrolled Catholic families. Next, we awarded more than **\$92,000 in individual grants for over 70 students**, a distribution from the CSEF Endowment for Tuition Assistance. Third, CSEF awarded **\$85,000 of pass-through grants** from generous donors who prefer not to invest their gift in the endowment, and would rather have it distributed in its entirety for immediate need. In total, CSEF distributed nearly **\$540,000 for families to enroll or remain enrolled at their Catholic elementary school**.

We're very pleased to have been able to distribute these awards for schools and families, but we need your help to make even more impact in future years. The cost of Catholic school has become prohibitive for too many families and continues to rise. A gift to CSEF is extending a hand to a family who needs a little extra help to meet that cost. Let's be ever mindful of how fortunate we have been to have a Catholic school education, or to have provided it for our children. It must remain accessible to any family. Sharing now, so that others might receive that same gift, is what we are called to do.

*PS: There are many ways to help families and to help yourselves through a gift to CSEF. In our next publication I will share more about planned gifts and the income and tax advantages they can offer.*

# We asked parents: Why do you send your kids to Catholic school?

by **Thomas Phillips**, CSEF Communications Coordinator

When the economic fallout from Covid-19 wreaked havoc across Oregon, I wondered how many parents would continue to be able to afford Catholic school education for their children. Especially with the transition to online learning and not knowing when kids would be able to get back into the classroom, how could Catholic school be worth the extra expense for working families?

As Communications Coordinator for CSEF, I can list the many intangible benefits of Catholic school education—in fact, it's my job! I mean things like community, academic excellence, service orientation, civic responsibility, spiritual growth, and lifelong achievement. But in this time of crisis, I imagined, parents must have more pressing financial concerns—like rent, mortgage, keeping the lights on and food on the table.

After talking with several parents, I changed my mind completely. "This is not something that only rich people can afford," one parent told me. While the financial pressure of paying tuition is very real, the families I spoke to felt it was worth the sacrifice especially during the past year. Having the community support of faculty, staff and other parents at their chosen schools made the challenges of the past year easier to bear. "I wouldn't use the word community," Deanna Salvo, a parent at Queen of Peace told me. "I would say family."

Deanna Salvo and her husband Mark Salvo are sending all three of their children to Queen of Peace: their oldest daughter Alayna attended kindergarten through 5th grade, son Dominick is currently a 4th grader, and their youngest daughter Nora is in pre-kindergarten. "The expectation for parent/guardian involvement really helps bring everyone together to function as a strong, caring and compassionate community," she told me. "Teachers have that relationship with parents where they can call or email and say, 'hey, so-and-so had a rough day at school, is everything ok?'"

When the Salvo family faced financial difficulties because of Covid, they never realized that they could qualify for financial aid. "On paper we look like we do OK," Deanna told me. "But my husband was having to work a second full



Top photo: Student Aubree Rose Glover Bottom photos L to R:  
Principal Carl Mucken and students Dominick and Alayna Salvo;  
the Salvo Family

time job. The fact that these grants are available meant so much. And the fact that I could feel comfortable enough to talk to our principal about what was going on, I really felt taken care of."

Another parent I spoke to, Shawna Kingery, is a hardworking single mom. Before Covid hit, she was holding down two jobs to make ends meet. When the first lockdown orders came, Shawna was let go from both positions and had to struggle to keep her daughter enrolled at Holy Cross. "It was my first time being out of work since I was 15," Shawna told me.

Shawna considers herself fortunate to have found another job, but when she had to return to work before in-person instruction was available, she had to pay the cost of daycare for her daughter as well as tuition. For Shawna, the tuition assistance made possible by CSEF and her school's fundraising efforts, made an enormous difference. "If I had to pay for tuition on my own, I would never be able to afford it," she said.

And the sacrifices have been well worth it for her daughter, Aubree, a third grader at Holy Cross. "Everyone is constantly checking in, supporting my daughter every step of the way," Shawna told me. "Aubree has been surrounded by love and getting the attention she needs in school. She has always been 100 percent supported in her individual growth."

In the end, Shawna told me, "It's not about the money because the cost of tuition could never overpower the support and everything we get from the school."



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## Become a Monthly Donor

Supporting the mission of the Catholic Schools Endowment Foundation can be seamless with our recurring gift program. With a monthly commitment, donations are automatically deducted from your credit card or checking account. You choose how much to give and for how long, and you can change your amount or cancel at any time.

Monthly Commitment	Total Annual Gift
\$10	\$120
\$15	\$180
\$20	\$240
\$25	\$300
\$50	\$600
\$100	\$1,200

Your generous support will help make a Catholic school education possible for more children, no matter which Catholic school they attend or neighborhood they come from. Please consider a gift before our fiscal year-end on June 30. If you have questions, please contact:

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*We are a 501 (c) (3) organization that operates independently from the Archdiocese of Portland. Our federal tax ID number is 81-4541803.*

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