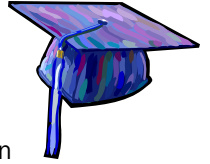


Connections

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester
Stephen A. Perla, Superintendent
SPRING 2008

Bound for Success

Class of 2008 Soars Ahead



Elementary Schools

St. Mary, Clinton
St. Anthony, Fitchburg
St. Bernard, Fitchburg
Our Lady of the Rosary, Gardner
Sacred Heart, Gardner
St. Anna, Leominster
St. Leo, Leominster
Milford Catholic, Milford
Assumption, Millbury
St. Bernadette, Northboro
St. Mary, Shrewsbury
Trinity Catholic Academy, Southbridge
Our Lady of the Valley Regional, Uxbridge
St. Anne, Webster
St. Joseph, Webster
St. Louis, Webster
Our Lady of the Angels, Worcester
St. Mary, Worcester
St. Peter Central Catholic, Worcester
St. Stephen, Worcester
Venerini Academy, Worcester

High Schools

St. Bernard C.C., Fitchburg
Holy Name C.C. Jr.-Sr., Worcester
St. Mary Jr.-Sr., Worcester
St. Peter-Marian C.C. Jr.-Sr., Worcester
Notre Dame Academy, Worcester
Notre Dame Jr.-Sr., Fitchburg
St. John, Shrewsbury

As a Catholic school community, we congratulate each of our graduates on their achievements. And, for virtually all of our graduates who are college-bound, this is just the beginning!

“Our schools have high standards in terms of academic and faith formation,” said Superintendent of Schools Steve Perla. “Every graduate has demonstrated an exceptional level of academic commitment and achievement.”

Dozens of our graduates will be heading off to the Ivy League this fall. Dozens more will be attending Catholic colleges including Holy Cross, Boston College, Stonehill, Merrimack, St. Anselm,

Emmanuel, Salve Regina, Assumption and Catholic University.

A number of graduates have elected military service. Some are joining the ranks of professional sports! Most of our students, however, will take their place at top-tier schools all across the nation or at one of our many great public colleges.

Valedictorians and salutatorians at our schools set a standard of excellence that place them among an elite group of young scholars nationally. The Catholic Schools Office congratulates the 2008 graduates and their families for the sacrifices made to achieve this milestone!



Valedictorians of the Class of 2008 (left to right) Devon Magglozi Holy Name Central Catholic Senior High School; Thomas Somi, St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Senior High School; Robert Alario, St. Bernard Central Catholic High School; Katherine E. Pierce., St. Mary Senior High School.

Pope Benedict XVI in America

Marking a Historic Visit



Pope Benedict's visit this April marked a spiritual milestone in the lives of the faithful. Catholic schools across the Diocese took time to educate students on the historical significance of this visit and the role he plays in guiding the Church.

For example, students at St. Bernadette Elementary in Northboro watched the Pope celebrate Mass on TV. Fifth and sixth graders began each day with a prayer service for the Pope to have a successful trip. Seventh and eighth graders learned about Benedict's life, viewed symbols of the papacy, watched a video on the Vatican and studied character traits of St. Peter that they could apply to their own life. The entire school community put their faith into action by donating 975 service hours on projects such as writing to seminarians, planting flowers around the church and visiting nursing homes as a way to honor the Pope's birthday.

Additionally, students at St. Mary Elementary, Worcester, created a learning game called, “Where in the United States is Pope Benedict?” Each morning during announcements, students were asked a question regarding the Holy Father's visit. “It was a fun and creative way to learn more about the papacy,” said Patricia Smith, principal. Each class received one point for a correct answer, with grade six emerging as the winner.

Events Raise Support for Students & Schools

Two recent celebratory events raised tens of thousands of dollars to support Catholic school students within the Diocese of Worcester.

The **Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner** was the first of what will become an annual event to honor Adopt-A-Student scholars and the donors who make this scholarship program possible. Gathering at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worcester on March 27, more than 360 attendees listened to remarks by Bishop McManus, current students, and recent graduates in college or in the workforce who benefited from a Catholic education through Adopt-A-Student. The Holy Name Central Catholic High School Chorus and Ensemble provided entertainment.

"The event far exceeded our expectations," said Robert Pape, chairman, Adopt-A-Student. "Our donors saw first-hand the impact that Adopt-A-Student is making in young lives."

Four students were presented with awards named in honor of Adopt-A-Student patrons recognizing excellence in Service, Leadership, Academic Excellence and Exemplifying Adopt-A-Student Values. For details visit www.worcesterdiocese.org and click on Departments; Catholic Schools, News & Events.

"There's a need for over \$400,000 annually if we were to serve all the students who are deserving and interested," said Mr. Pape.



Photo courtesy Jonathan Phillips, Sentinel & Enterprise

Rev. William Leahy, president, Boston College, with Connor Malone, grade three student, St. Leo Elementary School.



Destinee Lucier, a seventh grader at St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary, received the Paul and Dorothy Kervick award for Leadership.

The **St. Paul Catholic Schools Consortium Dinner** held last November also was the first of what will be an annual event. Held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Leominster, the dinner featured an auction and performances by the newly formed St. Paul Catholic Schools Consortium Choir. It was hosted by Bishop McManus and raised over \$40,000 to support Consortium students.

Rev. William Leahy, S.J. president of Boston College, as well as Rev. Joseph O'Keefe, S.J., and Dr. Michael James, Lynch School of Education at Boston College received the St. Elizabeth Seton Award on behalf of the College from Bishop McManus for their extraordinary support in preparing the North County for the consortium model.

The event also gratefully acknowledged the dedicated religious communities who founded the schools in the North County. Pastors and parents were in attendance at the event. Catholic colleges who support the mission of Catholic elementary and secondary schools also participated.

"You could really feel the Holy Spirit's presence in the room that evening," said Pat Halpin, former associate superintendent and Consortium board member.

Speech Declamation Builds Skills and Confidence



On April 5, 120 students from 14 schools participated in the Annual Speech Declamation Contest held on the campus of St. Peter-Marian Senior High School.

Seventh and eighth graders from across our Diocese were selected for participation in this event, having received top scores for classroom assignments in one of six categories: Duo Interpretation; Original Oratory, Children's Literature, Play Reading, Prose, and Poetry. Students at this regional event then competed for top honors by grade in each of the categories.

"It's an opportunity for students to speak in front of peers and judges, refining a skill that is so essential to their success in all areas of life," said Sr. Marguerite Timothy Young, SND, Associate Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Diocese of Worcester.

Judges are selected from each of the participating schools and students are judged by teachers from other schools, so all students are speaking before an audience they do not know.

"Students don't wear their uniforms, and they don't know the students or teachers to whom they will be presenting — so it keeps the process very even," said Sr. Marguerite.

Because of the event's continued success, the goal for next year is to include sixth graders. For a complete list of this year's winners, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org and click on Departments; Catholic Schools, News & Events.

School Annual Report

New for 2007 | Online now
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Departments;
Catholic
Schools;
News &
Events



Holy Name Turbine Operational this Fall

After years of study, planning and fundraising, the wind turbine project at Holy Name Central Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School will be operational by the start of next school year. Expected to supply all the school's energy needs, this

innovative effort positions Holy Name as a green leader and a good steward of the environment. "The educational value generated for both our students and the community is priceless," said school president Mary Riordan.