

# Foundation News

Spring 2007

## Archbishop's Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast — March 16, 2007

### 'Twas a Grand Mornin'

In just 7 short years the Foundation's Archbishop's Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast, chaired by Laura Flynn Baldini, has become a grand new tradition for the Greater Hartford community.

This year was a blockbuster! The event attracted over 1,000 participants who braved the threat of a blizzard to enjoy a fabulous breakfast, see old and new friends, enjoy Irish entertainment provided by students from East Catholic HS and Northwest Catholic HS and, at the same time, support the work of the Foundation for the Advancement

of Catholic Schools (FACS).

Due to the generosity of the participants and supporters we realized over \$122,000 from the breakfast, which will be used primarily to provide scholarship support.

Speakers included Laura Baldini, Event Chair, Peter Carey, President of the Board of Trustees, Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell, Archbishop of Hartford and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and M. Jodi Rell, Governor of Connecticut.

Our featured speaker was popular TV personality and anchorman for WFSB Channel 3, Dennis House who shared his

experiences as a student in Catholic schools. It was clear that he considered that lessons learned there contributed to his success today. He also warmed the hearts of the

audience with his love and appreciation of his family-wife Kara Sundlund and their new daughter Helena. The event concluded with a benediction offered by the Most Reverend Christie Macaluso.

*Planning is starting for the 2008 Breakfast. If you would like to help, please call Carol Mack at 860-242-4362.*



L-R top row: Dale Hoyt, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Peter G. Carey, President of FACS, Laura Baldini, V.P. of FACS and Event Chair, Kevin O'Connor, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Carol Mack, Exec. Director of FACS, Archbishop Henry J. Mansell, Bishop Christie Macaluso, Aux. Bishop of Hartford. L-R Bottom row: M. Jodi Rell, Governor of Connecticut, Kara Sundlund news anchor/investigative reporter WFSB, Dennis House, news anchor WFSB.



## Getting to Know Our Schools

**Carol Mack, Executive director**

As the new Executive Director of FACS one of my first projects is to visit all our schools. I am looking forward to experiencing the energy of the students, seeing where the "magic" happens and understanding first hand the needs that they have and challenges they face. I thought that you might

enjoy learning about the schools you support right along with me.

What impressed me right away was the common commitment to excellence and growth.

### St. Thomas the Apostle School

On February 9, 2006 I visited St. Thomas the

Apostle School in West Hartford. St. Thomas is a pre-K3 through 5th grade school of 233 students.

Walking through the main doors I was greeted by a beautiful hand painted mural of a vine on whose leaves were inscribed...

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## St. Thomas the Apostle School - West Hartford...continued

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the names of donors, a warm and lovely tribute to those who support the school. At the top of the stairway is a niche containing a statue of the Blessed Virgin—a gathering point for school prayer activities.

I happened to visit during the 100 day celebration which celebrates the 100th day of the school year. The celebration was a great way to liven up a dreary winter day and inspired all sorts of creative, interesting math projects.

I learned that St. Thomas will cele-

brate its 70th anniversary in 2007 and that it is privileged to have as its Pastor, Rev. Arthur J. Murphy who also happens to be one of the first graduates!



**Happy 70th Birthday  
St. Thomas the  
Apostle School!**

Principal Colleen Whitty DiSanto told me how the school is currently engaged in a major fundraising effort to upgrade the electrical and

other infrastructure systems in order to improve the quality of the current educational experience for the students and to prepare for the future increased use of technology in school curriculum and administration. I was impressed with the vision and energy and the warm happy atmosphere that permeated the school (as well as the smell of fresh, hot brownies that permeated the cafeteria)!

If you want to congratulate St. Thomas the Apostle on 70 great years and wish them at least 70 more they are located at: 25 Dover Road, West Hartford, CT 06119

## St. Mary Magdalen School - Oakville

The excitement at St. Mary Magdalen School was palpable when I visited in April with construction about to begin on a new 12,000 sq. ft. addition to the school. The addition will house a gymnasium which will also serve as a parish and school meeting center and special event space. Also included in the project is a two-level addition which will house an integrated early learning center and comprehensive library-media center including state of the art computer assisted reference tools. Pre-K classes will move to the new space allowing for the



Expanding horizons using technology

expansion of music and art programs, the health office and the extension program for children of working parents in the current facility. This project is slated to be

finished late Fall 2007.

Development Director/PE teacher, Karen Ciarleglio is grateful to the generosity of the community and is working hard to successfully complete the final \$300,000 phase of the \$1,400,000 campaign. They will be raising an additional \$350,000 to complete the second story.

St. Mary Magdalen is one of the acknowledged area leaders in the use of educational technology. When I visited I saw a demonstration of the Smartboard technology in action. This blackboard of the future can capture and record

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## Our Lady of Mercy School - Madison

This little gem of a school may be the best kept secret in Madison. It is situated down a picturesque road on the shore of Long Island Sound in one of the prettiest towns in Connecticut. OLM transitioned from a private school run by the Sisters of Mercy to an Archdiocesan school supported by St. George Parish in Guilford and St. Margaret Parish in Madison in 2003. Principal Dr. John Alphone (who saw the school

through the transition) gave me a tour of the facility and shared with me the exciting plans for the future. These include moving the kindergarten to a new larger location and creating a spacious new science lab. Also in the works are a library “extreme makeover” including more books, study space, new shelving and more, all financed by the gift of a very generous donor. The most beautiful project I saw at this school

actually brought a tear to my eye. I thought “this is what Catholic education is all about”, educating the whole child and genuine caring about the individual. OLM is the only school in the nation that has been OK’d to use the “PEBBLES” program between school and home. OLM has an 8th grade student who is suffering from...

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## Foundation Facts

### Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools to support and assist the parish schools and the Archdiocesan high schools by providing funding for scholarships and special projects. The Foundation believes that Catholic schools provide students with an "education for a lifetime", especially for the poor and underserved children and youth of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

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### Contact Information

*FACS is enabled only by the generous support of our community. FACS is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Gifts to FACS are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. If you would like to make a charitable gift to FACS, have questions about how you can include FACS in your estate plans or have other question please call or write :*

Carol Mack, Executive Director

Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS)

467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone: 860-242-4362

Cmack@adh-ocs.org

## St. Paul Catholic High School - Bristol

Driving home from my visit to St. Paul Catholic High School all I could think of was the theme from "Cheers"... "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came" ... because that defines St. Paul Catholic High School!

Set on a spacious suburban campus in Bristol, St. Paul is a school where it is impossible for a student to fall through the cracks! The school's motto is "Omnia Omnibus" (All things to all men) and to the teachers and staff at St. Paul these are not just empty words but a way of life. St. Paul certainly cares for the individual academic, spiritual, athletic and artistic development of its students.

For example—next year an innovative eight-period school day will allow students to individualize their schedules with more elective offerings including Marine Biology, Environmental Science and expanded social science offerings. St. Paul already works with the University of Connecticut to offer seniors Advanced Placement and college cooperative courses like physics and calculus that allow qualified students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Principal, Dan Carroll himself a form

er collegiate athlete, shared with me the wide variety of sports programs available to the students. This small school of around 300 students, certainly has its share of gleaming trophies to attest to the to the skill and sportsmanship of its teams!

I was astounded by the professional level of the St. Paul dramatic productions. This is because the school's dramatic artistic director is Mark Mazzarella who is an alumni and a principal in Mazzarella Productions, an Emmy award winning production company. This company also donated a TV studio where students can produce DV television programs.

### **Omnia Omnibus!**

During the visit I passed a bulletin board that indicated where the senior class was headed next year—New York University, Fairfield University, Providence College, Stonehill College, Bentley College, Babson College and Fordham University. These are only a few of the schools that will welcome St. Paul's graduates in the Fall of 2007.

St. Paul Catholic High School is located at: 1001 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010; the website is [www.spchs.com](http://www.spchs.com)

## FACS and You

Archbishop Henry J. Mansell D. D. and the volunteer trustees of FACS are dedicated people, committed to making the kind of education you read about in this newsletter accessible to families throughout the archdiocese. Currently FACS distributes almost \$600,000 a year in scholarship assistance. This is impressive, but it falls far short of the need. With your help we can narrow this gap.

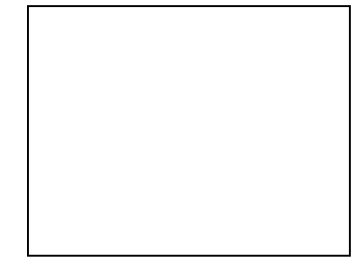
If you think this kind of education is important, or have experienced first hand the benefits of a Catholic education, I invite you to join us with your gift.

During its 24 year history FACS has helped hundreds of students because caring people made charitable gifts in many forms—outright cash, stocks, bequests, trusts—just to name a few. Some donors established funds for a specific school, purpose or region of the Archdio-

***"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope."*** Teilhard de Chardin

cese. Through the Foundation others have chosen to give unrestricted gifts and allow the FACS Board...

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467 Bloomfield Avenue  
Bloomfield, CT 06002-2999

**Foundation for the  
Advancement of Catholic  
Schools**

## Our Lady of Mercy School...continued

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a debilitating illness and cannot leave home to attend classes. He is continuing his studies and is looking forward to graduating with his class using "PEBBLES" a two unit robot system. The child has one unit in his home and one is at OLM. The student can use controls similar to a joy stick at home to have the robot raise his hands to indicate that he wants to answer or has a question, swivel it's head so he can look around the room and follow the movements



*Mrs Addorisio and the 8th graders with PEBBLES and it's creator Dan Broderick*

of the teacher using the video camera in the robot's head. The class can see him (if he wishes) and he

can see the class. Two of his classmates have been taught how to operate the robot and are responsible for moving it from class to class, starting it up in the morning and retiring it in the evening. Sometimes the friends even spend time together through the robot during lunch time. The student keeps up with his class and his friends and the class has a real life lesson in compassion. This program is primarily funded through a government grant. Additionally, a private philanthropist generously donated to have the classrooms rewired so as to be able to use "PEBBLES".

God bless everyone connected with this program!

Our Lady of Mercy is located at:  
149 Neck Road, Madison, CT  
06443

## St. Mary Magdalen School...continued

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notes and notes can be displayed on the students' computers (and no chalk dust or erasers to clap)!  
All of this is possible because SMMS enjoys amazing support from the parent community who share the enthusiasm and vision of Principal Julie Pion. Parents love this school so much that a cadre of them have continued to volunteer for the annual school carnival long after their children have gradu-

ated.  
I can certainly see why! From the bright decorations in the hallways to the enthusiastic students enjoying gym in the exterior pavilion, SMMS exudes energy, enthusiasm, vision and love of learning!  
St Mary Magdalen School is located at: 140 Buckingham St., Oakville, CT 06779

## FACS...continued

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to determine how they might best be used. Giving is always a personal decision based on the donor's values, priorities and circumstances.  
If you have questions, would like to make a gift to FACS or discuss how a gift to FACS might fit your estate or planned giving, call Carol Mack at 860-242-4362 or email at [CMack@adh-ocs.org](mailto:CMack@adh-ocs.org)