



STUDYING HARD—
As Catholic schools come back into session in just a few weeks, scenes like the two on this page will be a daily occurrence across the Archdiocese of New York. Left, students at St. Athanasius School in the Bronx look over their schoolwork in class last spring. Below, a student at St. Gabriel School in the Riverdale section of the Bronx is eager to make her point. The Back to School section runs from Page 11 to Page 26.

MARIA R. BASTONE

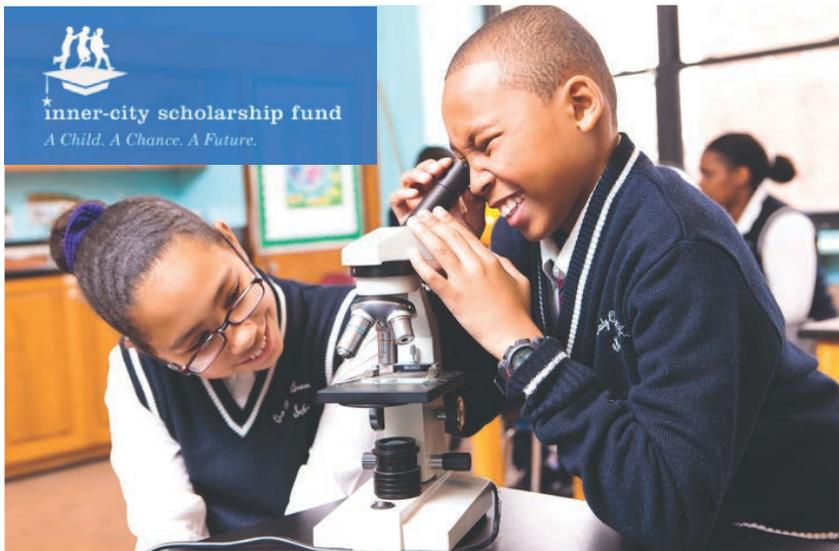
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JOHN RATOLA





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Catholic Schools Focusing on Eucharistic Renewal

By CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE

The construction paper is hung, the supplies are out and we're just standing at the door waiting for the children to come in so that we can welcome them, embrace them and spend an entire year teaching them that God loves them, that we love them," said archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools Michael Deegan. "We've got a great academic program to provide them over the course of the next year."

Under the umbrella of Catholic Identity, all elementary and high schools will be engaged in Eucharistic Renewal, Deegan said. Programs and plans are crafted to highlight "the sanctity and the sacredness of the Eucharist."

Deegan cited, as examples, increasing visits to the Blessed Sacrament, participation in Benediction and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as Eucharistic processions among the community with school children and parish religious education students participating.

"All of the focus on Eucharistic Renewal is embedded in our Catholic Identity instruction and curriculum."

A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian teen who died of leukemia age 15 in 2006 and was beatified in 2020 by Pope Francis, will be made available to schools this school year.

A computer whiz who centered his life on the Eucharist, the young man was known for using social media to spread the Good News and to document Eucharistic miracles.

This October, a high school Life and Leadership day will be held to focus on the Respect Life curriculum.

In the academic realm, a new special education program is being launched in elementary schools across the archdiocese. Student support coordinators will be deployed throughout the school system. "There will be dozens of them," Deegan said. Their task is to work with principals, teachers and students to focus on the children "who are not performing as we hoped they would."

Among the data used would be from standardized testing. Student support coordinators will be overseen by the associate superintendent for teaching and learning, XX XX

"These would be not just for special ed kids," but also for children who have experienced some learning loss because of Covid, Deegan said.

"Although our system test score numbers are very good, we clearly have children who were adversely impacted by the pandemic." Student support coordinators will work with children who are not at grade level, are struggling and need extra help, support and resources.

"All of this is being funded by government federal stimulus money as a result of Covid," Deegan said.



ALAN ZALE

EYE TO EYE—Michael Deegan, superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, greets Shiloh, left, and Amina Washington, white shirt, during the morning drop off at the Academy of St. Paul and St. Ann in East Harlem as the new academic year began last September. The youngsters were returning to start 3K.

"We are all very, very excited, with wonderful anticipation over the opening of school this September," Deegan said. "We have accomplished a great deal over the last several years in the midst of the Covid pandemic. We've emerged on the other side of that stronger, with a greater level of resolve and zeal.

"Our schools did an exemplary job—a job that was recognized nationally as the gold standard of how schools and school systems should be run."

The Superintendent of Schools office will continue to monitor Covid numbers, working closely with state and local health agencies. "Our Health and Safety Task Force still is at work. Our Covid Response Team is still in place. As we have in the past, we will respond to whatever we see and the government sees are the trends and the surges, which we monitor on a daily basis."

A published Catholic School Reopening Plan will be in the hands of those in the schools and school communities before school opens.

By the time school concluded last year, "all of the Covid-related restrictions" had been lifted, Deegan said. "At this point, we see that our schools will reopen in September with very few—if any—requirements."

There will be no mask mandate. "That will be left up to the individual family," Deegan said. The

Superintendent of Schools Office has strongly encouraged but never mandated vaccinations of students. "That is a parental decision, not a school decision."

"We, of course, having emerged on the other side are exceedingly conscious of making sure that our children continue to practice good hygiene," Deegan said.

Parents are aware, he said, that if their children are ill, they should test them. The Superintendent of Schools Office has "tens of thousands of home testing kits that parents have and will continue to receive from us."

If a positive case is reported, "we will mobilize the Covid Response Team that will actively ensure that we reduce the impact of that positive case on the rest of the school community," Deegan said.

As the new school year begins, there are no plans to conduct remote or hybrid learning. In January, during a "significant post-holiday" Covid spike, "some strategic activation of remote learning" was allowed in some of the schools on a case-by-case basis. "It wasn't system-wide," Deegan said. "We have not had to do that from even before the springtime began."

That, he said, illustrates "the versatility that we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Catholic Extension Launches Camp Program for Uvalde Children

Chicago-based Catholic Extension launched the first of many initiatives it has planned over the next 18 months to support Uvalde, Texas, following the devastation of the Robb Elementary mass shooting.

It sponsored Camp I-CAN July 25-28 at the St. Henry de Osso Project Center in Uvalde to provide third-, fourth- and fifth-graders a safe space to heal and have fun, and to gently reintegrate the children into a school-like setting around their peers.

I-CAN stands for inner strength, commitment, awareness and networking.

The majority of the children who attended the camp are survivors of the May 24 shooting, although all Uvalde children of age were invited to participate.

Led by Sister Dolores Aviles and 13 other religious sisters, the camp offered faith-based activities; arts and crafts; 30-minute intervals of physical activity; a game room for playtime, music and entertainment led by the sisters; and a family supper for the children and family members.

Born and raised in Uvalde, Sister Aviles said she felt a strong calling to minister to the very people she grew up with. Among those who perished in the school shooting were her own family members—three children of her cousins. Although heartbroken, she committed to her mission of serving the local Church.

With the support of Catholic Extension, and with her fellow Uvalde-based Teresian sisters and other sisters from across the country, Camp I-CAN was born.

“Jesus simply said to me, ‘Let the children come to Me’, and that is exactly what this camp was designed to do,” Sister Aviles said. “This week, we wanted the children and their families to know that we are praying for them, we love them, and that we will also take action for them. That’s what community is. We support each other. God sends us out two-by-two.”

Catholic Extension and Uvalde share a long and rich history. Uvalde was one of the first communities Catholic Extension supported, helping build Sacred Heart Church in 1906 and Sacred

Heart Catholic School in 1912, both of which remain relevant institutions “in this grieving city,” a news release said.

“Uvalde has experienced an unspeakable and senseless violence, and the community is undoubtedly still traumatized and processing grief,” said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension.

“It is our goal, that through the spiritual accompaniment of religious sisters, the children and their families of Uvalde, Texas, feel God’s presence, and are reminded that they are not forgotten or alone in the coming year and beyond,” the priest said. *More information on ways to support the Catholic Church and children in Uvalde can be found at catholicextension.org/uvalde.* —CNS

Catholic Schools...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

have in terms of what we are able to do, and what we are able to mobilize and activate, if we need to.”

Millions have been spent on improvements in the past two years, ventilation in the school system and classrooms specifically, Deegan said. “There have been some improvements and modifications over the course of the summer in many of our schools to improve the quality of ventilation in our schools.” HEPA filters and HEPA units have either been updated or replaced, he said.

“There’s a lot of attention being given to any and all mitigations that are available to us, we are using and employing.”

The superintendent of schools has sage advice and high hopes for students after the first the bell rings. He wants them to have fun and to enjoy their classmates, their teachers and learning.

“Our goal is not to get our students into Harvard, but to get them into heaven by way of Harvard.”

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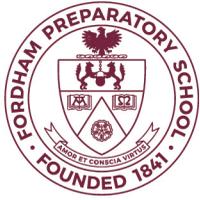
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6:30 PM – 8:00 PM



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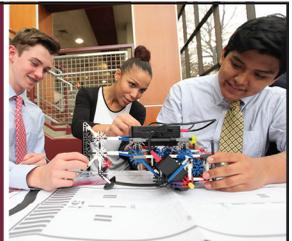
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Saturday, October 29, 11:00 am

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- ALLYSON GENOVA HALL
St. Stephen of Hungary, Manhattan, Principal
- MARGARET LEE
Good Shepherd, Manhattan, Principal
- DAVID OJEDA
Holy Family, Bronx, Principal
- PATRICIA LUZAR
Most Precious Blood, Walden, Principal
- TAMMY BARNETT
Nora Cronin Presentation Academy, Newburgh,
Principal
- JANICE MASTROPIETRO
Villa Maria Academy, Bronx, Principal
- ADAM PEREZ
Sacred Heart, Hartsdale, Principal
*As of early 2022, due to predecessor leaving
mid-year*
- THERESA LOPUZZO
St. Anselm, Bronx, Principal
*As of early 2022, due to predecessor leaving
mid-year*
- SR. JEAN MARIE HUMPHRIES, O.S.U.
John Cardinal O'Connor, Irvington, Principal
- MATTHEW STARK
St. Elizabeth, Manhattan, Principal
- KAREN VALENTI-DECECCO
St. Joseph, Bronxville, Principal

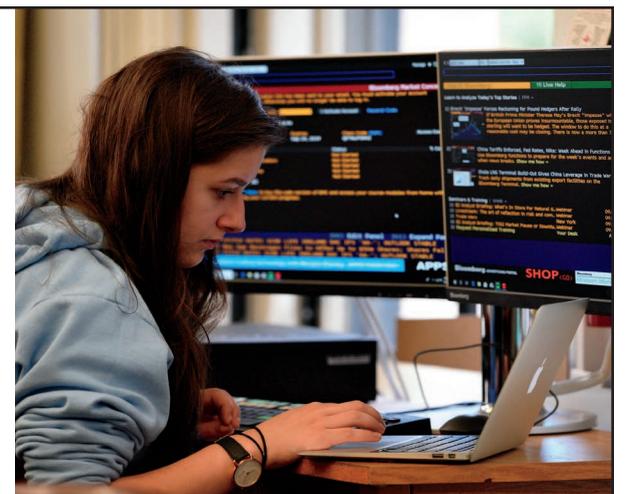
**New Elementary Administration
2022-2023**

DEAN FUSTO
School of the Blessed Sacrament, Manhattan,
Executive Head of School

**New HS Administration
2022-2023**

- DR. ANTHONY CASELLA,
Iona Prep, New Rochelle, Principal
- JENNIFER CONNOLLY
Preston, Bronx, Principal
- GERALDINE LAVERY
Academy of Mt. St. Ursula, Bronx, Principal
- DR. RALPH NOFI
Regis, Manhattan, Principal

- FR. CHRISTOPHER DEVRON, S.J.
Regis, Manhattan, President
- DR. ALEXANDRIA M. EGLER
Dominican Academy, Manhattan, President
- THERESA NAPOLI
The Ursuline School, New Rochelle, Principal
- BRIAN CARNEY
Fordham Prep, Bronx, Interim President
- SCOTT GABEL
Moore Catholic, Staten Island, Principal
- ERIC MERCADO
Msgr. Scanlan, Bronx, Principal
- KYLE O'DONNELL
Sacred Heart, Yonkers, Principal
- JULIETTE PICCIANO
Cathedral, Manhattan, President



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2022-2023 Elementary Schools Calendar

AUGUST

22	TACHS Registration Opens
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SEPTEMBER

5	Labor Day (Schools Closed)
6	First Day of School for Dutchess, Northern Westchester and Putnam Counties
7	First Day of School for all other regions
19	MAP Fall Assessment Window Opens

OCTOBER

7	TACHS Deadline for Applying for Extended Time
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	MAP Fall Assessment Window Concludes
10	Columbus Day (Schools Closed)
27	TACHS Registration Deadline Semiannual Fall Principals' Meeting

NOVEMBER

1	Feast of All Saints (Schools Open)
4	TACHS Exam
10	End of Quarter 1
11	Veterans Day Observed (Schools Closed)
13-19	Discover Catholic Schools Week
15	Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday
24-25	Thanksgiving Break (Schools Closed)

DECEMBER

8	Immaculate Conception (Schools Open)
13	Last Day to Complete TACHS Applicant Record
26-1/2	Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)

JANUARY 2023

3	Christmas Vacation Ends (Schools Resume)
4	MAP Winter Assessment Window Opens
10	Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday
16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Schools Closed)
20	March for Life, Washington, D.C.
27	End of Quarter 2 MAP Winter Assessment Window Concludes
29-2/4	Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
31	Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday

FEBRUARY

1-4	Celebrate Catholic Schools Week Continues
20	Presidents Day (Schools Closed)
22	Ash Wednesday (Schools Open)
28	Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday

MARCH

3	Catholic School Teacher Appreciation Day
17	St. Patrick's Day (Schools Open)
28	Archdiocesan Touring Tuesday
31	End of Quarter 3

APRIL

6	Holy Thursday (Schools Closed)
7	Good Friday (Schools Closed)
10	Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
10-14	Easter Vacation (Schools Closed)
19-21	NYS ELA Exam (Paper-Based)
27	Semiannual Principals' Meeting

MAY

2-4	NYS Math Exam (Paper-Based)
3	Catholic School Principal Appreciation Day
8	MAP Spring Assessment Window Opens
11-17	Regional 8th Grade Graduation Masses
18	Ascension Thursday (Schools Open)
26	MAP Spring Assessment Window Concludes
29	Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

JUNE

9	Earliest Day for 8th Grade Graduation
16	Earliest Day to end school based on four (4) snow days and all holidays listed on this calendar

* Spirituality Day will be in the Fall of 2022. Date and time to be determined.
* Please note that this is a generic, system-wide calendar. Check your school's calendar for all school-specific dates.



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2022-2023 Secondary Schools Calendar

AUGUST

22	TACHS Registration Opens
27	SAT Exam

SEPTEMBER

5	Labor Day
6-9	Schools Open
22	Bronx HS Fair at Cardinal Spellman-6-8PM
25	Manhattan HS Fair at Cathedral HS-12-2PM
27	Bronx HS Fair at Cardinal Hayes-6-8PM

OCTOBER

1	Census Closes SAT Exam
5	Westchester HS Fair at Resurrection School, Rye-4-7 PM
7	TACHS Deadline to Submit Extended Time Application
10	Columbus Day (Schools Closed)
12	PSAT Exam/SAT School Day
14	PSAT Exam
27	TACHS Registration Deadline

NOVEMBER

1	Feast of All Saints (Option to Close)
2-4	TACHS Session number and time available at www.tachsinfo.com
4	Last Day to enter High School Choices TACHS Test Day for ADNY
5	SAT Exam
11	Veterans Day Observed (Schools Closed)
24-25	Thanksgiving Recess (Schools Closed)

DECEMBER

3	SAT Exam
8	Immaculate Conception (Option to Close)
13	Last Day to Complete TACHS Applicant Record
25	Christmas Day

JANUARY 2023

1	New Year's Day
16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (Schools Closed)
18	HS Acceptance Admissions Notices Released
20	March for Life, Washington, D.C.
24-27	NYS Regents Exams
29	Catholic Schools Week Begins

FEBRUARY

1-4	Catholic Schools Week Continues
20	Presidents Day (Schools Closed)
22	Ash Wednesday

MARCH

1	High School Registration Day
11	SAT Exam
17	St. Patrick's Day (Option to Close)

APRIL

6	Holy Thursday (Schools Closed)
7	Good Friday (Schools Closed)
10	Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
TBD	Easter Recess (Decided Locally)
25-28	Tentative Senior Mass Dates

MAY

3	Catholic Schools Principal Appreciation Day
6	SAT Exam
18	Ascension Thursday (Option to Close)
29	Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

JUNE

3	SAT Exam
14-23	NYS Regents Exams
19	Juneteenth (Schools Closed)



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Marositz Named Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Stephen Marositz was named associate superintendent of teaching and learning, the Archdiocese's Superintendent of Schools office announced.

Marositz joined the superintendent's office as director last August. His promotion recognized his leadership in the Office of Teaching and Learning focused on the needs of each student in the formation and development of academic programs. His skill set and work ethic have strengthened the devotion to academic excellence of archdiocesan schools.



Stephen Marositz

“Stephen maintained a laser focus on the academic needs of students,” said Michael J. Deegan, superintendent of schools in the archdiocese. “Each decision he has made has the thoughts of learners in mind. He keeps himself abreast of best practices to maximize his ability, providing thoughtful support to the adults in each building, knowing their preparation directly impacts student achievement and growth.”

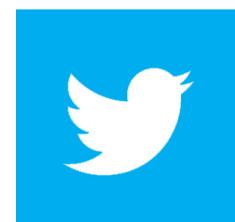
“Stephen has exemplified this through the resources curated, conversations had, and workshops led with principals and teachers in all our regions.”

In his new role, Marositz will apply professional development opportunities for teachers and leaders by visiting Catholic schools to observe modern teaching and learning relationships. He will work to improve teacher and coaching workshops to create cohesion across all curricular resources and materials so teachers and leaders are supported and prepared to meet the needs of each student.

Marositz earned a bachelor's degree in childhood and special education from New York University, Manhattan; and a master's in sociology and education from Teachers College at Columbia University, Manhattan. He is currently working on his doctorate at Ball State University Teachers College, Muncie, Ind.

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Going Where Students Are Benefits Mount St. Mary Chaplain

Father Gregoire Fluet said the best way to fulfill his responsibilities as chaplain at Mount St. Mary College is to go where the students are. That means attending a lot of student athletic contests, as well as getting-to-know-college-life programs run by dorm resident advisers.



JOHN WOODS

Editor's Report

"I find my way to them. I'm involved in almost every possible activity...In being present, people start coming to you," said Father Fluet, who's entering his sixth year at the Newburgh college, where he teaches history and religious studies.

One thing can lead to another. During a dinner break returning on the bus from a road game of the women's soccer team, one of the freshmen players posed a question to him. "Father, is it really tough to get baptized?"

He responded, "I don't know who you are asking for, but if it's for you, it will not be."

Today's mobile society, where people move quickly from activity to activity, makes it possible for important matters like sacramental preparation to be pushed aside, or avoided, by families. "People fall through the cracks," he said.

That's where Father Fluet comes in. One of the first things he does each August, on the first or second day after students return, is send out

an email to the entire student body inquiring whether they would like to receive confirmation, First Communion and baptism.

The message is simple, he says: "If you're interested, please get in touch with me. This is a possibility. You can do this."

Those that do reach out are invited to begin a dialogue that leads to preparation and instruction according to a modified RCIA format, adapted for college life.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, 12 young people completed their preparation for the sacraments, which were administered by Auxiliary Bishop Dominick J. Lagonegro at a Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday April 24. Three students entered the Church, while the others were completing their sacraments of initiation.

Meetings with students are often conducted on an individual basis, and take place according to the students' schedules. At times, if a student isn't fully ready, the process can carry over to a second year.

Father Fluet said his role doesn't involve any extraordinary measures, and he is thankful for "1,000 percent" support from the college's administration. "It's Jesus Christ that does it all," he said.

"We're just trying to provide them with the opportunity to become full members of the Church," said Father Fluet, a priest of the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., for 40 years.

Julia Lorenzo, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mount St. Mary in May and is now an RN, received confirmation after being prepared by Father Fluet. Last spring, she completed an independent study course in the faith with him. "I have a better foundation and better understanding about the Catholic religion," she said. "I'm thankful for that. I feel a lot more connected to our faith."

Josh Laskowski had a busy senior year as student body president while finishing coursework for his bachelor's degree in mathematics. He also studied with Father Fluet to prepare for confirmation.

He previously had taken two classes with the chaplain and participated in campus ministry projects led by the priest, who also directs that office. Laskowski's busy class schedule and student government work meant he sometimes couldn't meet for instruction until after 8 p.m., which Father Fluet could accommodate because he lives on campus.

"Whenever the students were able to meet, that's when he met with you," Laskowski said. "He didn't want to make it an added stress onto your school workload."

Laskowski said the sacramental preparation was more like "a conversation," with Father Fluet calling students to share knowledge they had gained in religion courses. He frequently took students into the Chapel of the Most Holy Rosary on campus to discuss a subject such as the Eucharist.

"He gave an extra boost in faith to receive my sacraments," he said.

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Dominican University New York Among Former Colleges Trending Name Upgrade



STUDIO ELEVEN PRODUCTIONS

By **CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE**

Dominican University New York, celebrating its 70th year, was known as Dominican College until three months ago. One month ago, Iona College, now in its 82nd year, became Iona University.

“The overall reaction to the news has been very, very positive,” said Sister Mary Eileen

O’Brien, O.P., president of Dominican University New York, of the May 17 announcement that the New York State Board of Regents had approved the name change. The school has received many notices of congratulations, she said, including from alumni who are “very proud that we’ve moved in this direction.”

She noted schools in New Jersey that Orangeburg-based Dominican plays in sports have uni-

versity status. “Those schools that are outside of New York had gone the route of university ahead of us. We and many others in New York approached the Regents that we felt there would be a value in those schools who had desired to change from college to university.”

Several months ago, New York state reviewed the policies and changed the criteria, Sister Mary Eileen explained; namely, that the college had at least three areas where master’s and doctorate degrees were offered in addition to the baccalaureate, or bachelor’s degree. A second requirement was that the change from college to university be heavily supported by the college’s board of trustees. “When we brought that up at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

NEW NAME—Members of the cabinet of Dominican University New York stand alongside a temporary sign after the May announcement that the former Dominican College is now a university. A permanent sign is now in place. From left, Brian Fernandes, vice president for enrollment management; John Burke, vice president for student development and dean of students; Tony Cipolla, vice president for fiscal affairs and CFO; Joseph Valenti, vice president for institutional advancement; Sister Kathleen Sullivan, O.P., chancellor for external affairs; Thomas Nowak, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean; and Sister Mary Eileen O’Brien, O.P., president.

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Dominican University...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

the board meeting, there was unanimous support," she said.

Sister Mary Eileen cited several reasons for the desired change from Dominican College to Dominican University New York. Among them was the belief "that there was a certain prestige if an institution had been working for a long time, had the appropriate programs and was doing well, and met these criteria there would be a certain official approval, so to speak, that the school was in good standing."

Further, she said, "the word college on the international scene, especially in Hispanic countries...is really the high school." That distinction, she said, was important in terms of the potential

to attract international students.

A "university" imparts recognition that good academic and student life programming is taking place, she added.

Dominican New York University has expended time and energy throughout the summer changing its external signage and now the internal signage changes are under way. Accrediting bodies had to be informed, as did banks, and a new charter had to be approved.

The diplomas of the graduates of the Class of 2022 read Dominican College, as commencement exercises were held May 15, two days before the name change was announced. However, those graduates, as well as other alumni, will have the option of ordering a Dominican University New York diploma which will indicate the institution

was formerly known as Dominican College.

Dominican University New York was founded in 1952 by the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, the order to which Sister Mary Eileen belongs. "We have maintained a close relationship with the sisters throughout our history; they're members of the board."

The university is renowned for "the health-related programming" of nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy, she said.

The school maintains Catholic tradition. The order's charism advances the university's mission. "In the Dominican tradition, the institution fosters active shared pursuit of truth and embodies an ideal of education rooted in the values of reflective understanding and compassionate involvement."

Molloy College in Rockville Centre, L.I., became Molloy University on March 31. St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn and in Patchogue, L.I., became St. Joseph's University, New York, April 13.

Pilgrims...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

they've been through, but you feel their pain."

Brother Sherlog noted, "For the longest time, they had these actual baths and people would actually go into this marble tub and immerse themselves in the water; but because of Covid they changed the protocols and they came up with this water gesture."

(The sanctuary encourages pilgrims to undertake an individual gesture of water, which consists of personally wetting one's face and hands with the water from the cave flowing from the fountains).

Brother Sherlog said most of the volunteer work involved hospitality and helping at the baths where pilgrims seek healings, and helping to organize two major processions each day—the Eucharistic procession and a candlelight procession. The group assisted with Mass celebrations, such as helping with collections. Brother Sherlog noted the pilgrimage for Lucas and Tylar was funded by the widow of a Hayes alumnus (Ed Lyons); he said the grateful Lucas and Tylar were chosen by the school because of their exceptionally active volunteer service.

(Brother Sherlog said two students from Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem were also part of the group: David Pacheco and Jonathan Bernal.)

The Lourdes Sanctuaire reports: "At the Grotto of Apparitions under the rock is the source of the Lourdes Water and the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Grotto is the place where the apparitions took place in 1858: Eighteen meetings between the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, and Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old girl."

Mary's words to Bernadette were: Go to the source, drink and wash yourself there. Penance, penance, penance. Pray for sinners. Come in procession. Let a chapel be built. I am the Immaculate Conception.

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Wappingers Falls Parish Hosts Homeschool Family Day

St. Mary's parish in Wappingers Falls hosted a picnic day for homeschool families on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16.

Nearly 200 people attended the gathering, which featured Holy Mass, games for the children and a barbecue lunch. A choir directed by Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka, an associate professor and the director of sacred music at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, and composed of children from some of the families provided music for the Mass, together with Father Jon Tveit, administrator of St. Mary's, and Father Michael Connolly, who is in residence at the parish.

Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, pastor of St. Mary and episcopal vicar of the northern counties of the archdiocese, celebrated the Mass, with Father Giuseppe Siniscalchi, C.F.R., concelebrating. At the end of Mass, the bishop invited the families to take turns each week hosting in their homes two special relics from Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the chair and kneeler which she personally used in her chapel. The families will pray with these relics daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Mother Cabrini, who was canonized in 1946, became the first U.S. citizen to attain sainthood. The patron saint of immigrants, she emigrated from Italy to New York City in 1889 to serve the many Italian immigrants here. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Another Family Day is being planned for Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 10, at 12 noon. The day will include a Rosary procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a luncheon. For more information, call the parish at (845) 297-6261.



COURTESY OF ST. MARY, WAPPINGERS FALLS

FAMILY OCCASION— St. Mary's parish in Wappingers Falls held a large gathering of homeschool families July 16, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Left, families come together for lunch in the gymnasium. The day also featured Mass offered by Auxiliary Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, the pastor of St. Mary's, as well as games and activities for the children.



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Fordham Prep Grad Cameron Young Runner-up Again, in PGA Tourney

Cameron Young, a graduate of Fordham Prep in the Bronx, tied for second in the PGA Tour's Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club July 28-31.

Young, 25, shot 4-under par over the final six holes to finish at 21 under for the tournament and in a three-way tie with Patrick Cantlay and Taylor Pendrith. Tony Finau was the tournament winner at 26 under.

It was the second consecutive second-place finish for Young, who was runner-up two weeks earlier at the British Open.

Young, a graduate of Wake Forest University, has five second-place finishes and seven top-10 finishes. He is the leading candidate for the PGA's Rookie of the Year.

Tuition Aid Ruling Puts Blaine Amendment in 'Dustbin of History'

By JAY NIES

The U.S. Supreme Court's *Carson v. Makin* ruling could eventually expand educational options for Catholic families and close out a long-standing relic of 19th-century anti-Catholic bias in Missouri and other states, including New York, said a former Missouri Catholic Conference official.

The 6-3 decision, handed down June 21, declared that a Maine tuition aid program that excluded religious schools was unconstitutional.

"I would say that this decision puts Missouri's Blaine Amendment in the dustbin of history," said Mike Hoey, retired executive director and

longtime legislative specialist with the state Catholic conference, the public policy arm of Missouri's Catholic bishops.

He said the amendments were part of an attempt in the 1870s by U.S. Rep. James Blaine from Maine to stop any kind of aid to religious schools.

Hoey has extensively studied the history of anti-Catholic bias in the Missouri Constitution and is the author of "Missouri Education at the Crossroads: The Phelan Miscalculation and the Education Amendment of 1870," published in the *Missouri Historical Review* in 2001.

"A number of states passed so-called Blaine Amendments in the 19th century and were motivated in large part by anti-Catholic bias,

which was very prevalent in America at that time," he said.

People have defended such century-and-a-half-old amendments to state constitutions "as if they were an extension of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment."

"That's a clear misreading of the First Amendment," he said.

He noted that there are two parts of the First Amendment's first phrase, which deals with religion: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Hoey said the no establishment portion was a response to several of the former colonies that became the United States of America having their own established, state religions.

"For instance, in colonial Virginia, before there was a 'United States,' when the states were still just colonies, the Church of England was the established religion, and Virginia's colonial government subsidized the Anglican clergy," Hoey said.

That did not sit well with Virginia's Baptists and the smaller Protestant denominations.

"That's partly the reason they put 'no establishment of religion' in the Bill of Rights," Hoey said. "They didn't want a particular religion to be the official religion. They wanted people to have freedom to express their religious beliefs in whatever way they wished."

With that understanding, *Carson v. Makin* makes perfect sense, he told *The Catholic Missourian*, newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

"The court's decision is simply saying that if a public school system is going to provide grants or vouchers to schools in the private sector, it cannot exclude private religious schools simply because they're religious," he said.

Excluding religious schools, but not other private schools, would amount to inhibiting the free expression of religion, in violation of the second part of the First Amendment's clause dealing with religion, he pointed out.

He also noted the *Carson* ruling does not require states to give funding to private schools or to parents wishing to send their children to private schools.

"If the public school system chooses to only fund public schools, they can do that, they're free to do that and that's their prerogative as a public body, as a government agency," he said. "But if they're going to provide funding in the private sector, you can't single out religious schools as being not eligible simply because they're religiously affiliated."

He called the decision "a big step forward."

He said it might take a while for the court's intent in the *Carson* ruling to filter down to every state. "There will probably be some pushback," he said. "It's going to take a little while for the import of this decision to sort of sink in. It may still be debated for a while."

—CNS

Nies is editor of The Catholic Missourian, newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City.



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