



FALL 2023

FACE of the future

FAMILY AID - CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Director's Reflection: The Power of Community



Terri Porter

As we embark on another school year, I reflect on the power of community. In order to go far, we are called to "go together." On behalf of the FACE Advisory Board, FACE families, and FACE staff, I thank each of you for going together with us in support of the underserved students in the Diocese of Oakland.

Because of generous donors like you, we were able to award scholarship funds to 610 students for the 2023/2024 school year. 356 K-8 students were awarded \$2500 each, and 254 high school students were awarded \$3500 each. We are most proud of the increase in Named Scholarships, which grew from five last year to nine this year. Thank you! While celebrating these successes, we humbly acknowledge that we still have more to do; we were unable to serve 1000 students that qualified for FACE scholarships.

We are also encouraged to reflect and seek perspective, taking ourselves away from the day-to-day and focusing on the goal of supporting students and their families. When I look at our shared work, I am inspired by the steadfast support of our donors and look forward to the many lives changed that lie ahead of us in the future.

As the Diocese of Oakland continues with reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, please remember that all FACE funds are part of a separate legal entity and therefore are NOT included in the filing. As St. Francis of Assisi taught, "For it is in giving that we receive." May you have a blessed autumn!

With gratitude,
Terri Porter, Director

2023/2024

Face of the Future Scholarship Recipients



LilliAnn Butler, 5th G - St. Michael School



Genesis Finley, 9th G - Moreau Catholic HS



Andrew Garcia-Valencia, 7th G - St. David School

FACE ADVISORY BOARD

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Terri Porter, Director

SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss these opportunities to share and celebrate the lifelong gift of a Catholic education!

NOV 28 2023

GIVING TUESDAY

APR 20 2024

**Annual FACE Gala
An Evening of Scholarship
Blackhawk Museum
Danville, CA**

Superintendent of Catholic Schools: Inspiration from our Universal Call



Andrew Currier, Ph.D.

Dear Friends of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Oakland,

As we begin the 2023/2024 school year, we are inspired by our universal call to focus on the depth, beauty, and significance of the Eucharist - the source and summit of our practice of the Catholic Faith. The theme for the Diocese of Oakland comes from the last line in the Gospel of Matthew - "I am with you always." This direct encouragement from Jesus Christ in commissioning his earliest followers to go out and make disciples of all nations reminds us of our sacred duty in Catholic education - to spread the good news.

With your help and generosity in contributing to FACE scholarships, so many of our schools are able to carry out this sacred duty in forming disciples, and encouraging our students to grow deeper in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ - our essential reason for operating Catholic schools. Like no other time in history, the young people and families we

serve need the inspiration of the gospel message and the sanctifying graces flowing from the sacraments. The delivery of these beautiful aspects of our faith are best delivered in the context of a Catholic school. We thank you, wholeheartedly, for getting behind our efforts to ensure that each family who wishes to participate in the Catholic education of their children may do so.

Your support is making a difference. For the third year in a row, Catholic school enrollment throughout the Diocese of Oakland has either risen or stabilized, thus countering a decades' long trend of enrollment decline. So many new families are discovering the value of Catholic education and choosing our schools.

This year, with rising costs in all aspects of Bay Area life, we ask that you do your very best to contribute to this crucial fund that supports families in need - families desiring a faith based education whose graduates will shape a brighter future in the Diocese of Oakland.

At your service,

Andrew Currier, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Oakland



The Gift of Catholic Education and Why We Support FACE



The Gagnon Family

Every parent dreams of giving their child the best start in life. Education plays an essential role in this start. While education and academics are often referred to synonymously, education encompasses the formation of the *whole* child and their well-being: intellectually, spiritually, and socially.

My wife, Allison, and I are both products of Catholic education, and proponents of its impact. Growing up in Southern California, Allison attended Catholic school her entire life. I attended St. Isidore in Danville for most of my elementary education before moving to public schools in San Ramon Valley Unified for middle and high school. We both graduated from the University of Notre Dame, where we first met and began our journey together.

From the beginning of our marriage, we were aligned in our desire to educate our children in Catholic schools. It wasn't until we began raising a family that we realized how daunting the financial commitment can be. We were blessed to live in a community with strong public schools, and, in some ways, Catholic education felt like a luxury. Although we had no idea how we would make it work once all four children were in school together, we trusted God would continue to provide, and committed to making Catholic education for our children a priority.

I was introduced to FACE through my friend, business partner, and FACE Board Chair, Keith Cosbey. Learning about the impact of FACE on students and families tugged at our hearts and resonated deeply as parents. We stood in awe of the fortitude of families across the diocese who were committing to Catholic education with much less financial means, and with even higher stakes for their children considering their educational alternatives. Our concerns and pressures seemed insignificant in contrast to the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters in neighboring communities, and we were once again moved to trust in the Lord and support the mission of Catholic education through FACE.

Today, our Catholic school journey has been one of the greatest blessings God has given to our family. Our oldest is now a sophomore at Carondelet, our twins are in 7th grade, and our youngest is in 4th grade at St. Isidore. There have been countless examples of their Christ-centered education and formation yielding fruits in our lives, and we could not be more grateful for the impact St. Isidore has had on our family. While our path has not been predictable, it has been blessed with God's graces.

At times, it was easy to let the pressures and fears for our own future overwhelm us and turn our hearts away from our call to charity and love of neighbor. FACE gave us the blessing of highlighting families who desired Catholic education for the same reasons we had, while showing us the impact of our giving to families just like ours. We know we are blessed with much today, and we are called to share in these blessings with our neighbor and help make Catholic education accessible to more children. We pray for the fortitude to continue to trust in the Lord and His plan for our future, and to remain open to answering His call to give generously in the service of His mission.

Justin and Allison Gagnon

2023/2024

Face of the Future Scholarship Recipients



Tiana Jones, 7th G - St. Paul School



Anthony Lopez-Gutierrez, 8th G - St. Clement School



Isaiah Martin, 5th G - St. Anthony School

OUR MISSION

To provide tuition assistance that enables diverse low-income children to attend Catholic schools and help families break the cycle of poverty by supporting access to quality Catholic education in the Diocese of Oakland encompassing the two counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.

OUR VISION

By partnering with our generous supporters to award scholarships to deserving families, we are providing the young students of today the opportunity to rise above their economic challenges. This investment will inspire the next generation of active and engaged community leaders of tomorrow.

Family Spotlight: The Butler Family



The Butler Family

Thank you for selecting our daughter LilliAnn for a FACE of the Future Scholarship this year! Also, thank you for all your generous support throughout the years. FACE has helped us to give our children the academic excellence and strong faith of a Catholic education.

Before Laura and I had kids, she knew that she wanted them to attend St. Michael School. She is an alumnae of the school, as well as her brother. In fact, most of her family are alumni of Catholic schools in the Bay Area. I, on the other hand, was a newly minted, baptized Catholic when LilliAnn was born. I did not know how wonderful Catholic education is because I grew up in the public school system. FACE and St. Michael has helped our family not only in tuition assistance, but also in prayer and support when our daughter Lacey (who has an extremely rare genetic condition) has been hospitalized. LilliAnn's academic journey has been one of struggle, hard work, and perseverance as a student with the learning challenges of dyslexia. With the FACE scholarship, we can help LilliAnn to

continue her Catholic, faith-based education and closely work with the gracious faculty and staff at St. Michael School to get her the academic help she needs.

Thank you for blessing our children and other children in the Diocese of Oakland. You are truly helping us give our children a Catholic education.

Jonathan and Laura Butler

Through FACE, you affirm the power of education to transform lives.

For over a century, Catholic education has empowered low-income families to break the cycle of poverty through academic excellence, faith formation, and community service. By giving a gift to FACE, you ensure that we lift up our children for generations to come.

We welcome YOU to join us in easing the burden on students and families.
Make a gift today to support our mission of transforming lives through Catholic education!

MAKE A GIFT:

oakdiocese.org/face-donation

2023/2024

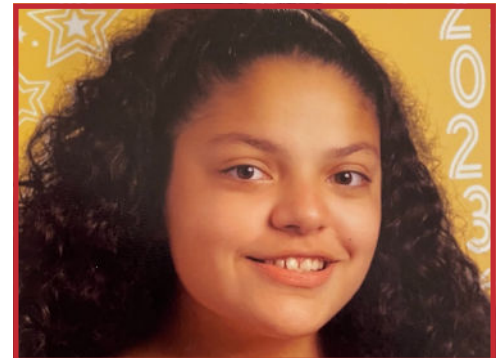
Face
of the
Future
Scholarship Recipients



George Massis, 4th G - Queen of All Saints School



Darren Thompson, 8th G - St. Leo the Great



Galilea Topete, 9th G - Cristo Rey De La Salle HS



Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.

St. Francis of Assisi

