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FOCUS

FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, INC.

53 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-846-7804 • www.friendsofcatholiced.org

VOLUME 15, NO. 1

FALL/WINTER 2011-2012

Our Mission

Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. is an independent organization dedicated to providing a Catholic school education, in Frederick County, for all who seek it.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:



As I write we are headed once again toward the end of ordinary time in the church year. The fall school term is well underway. We had a great celebration of Michael McGowan at the McElroy dinner in October, and we have moaned over our October snowstorm. We now move toward Thanksgiving and toward Advent and Christmas. This year Advent will bring our first liturgical changes in many years, and the new year will bring us a new archbishop.

We want to thank Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for his years in our archdiocese and for his direction and support of our Catholic schools. We wish him well as he begins yet another ministry.

The new year will also bring our usual Friends of Catholic Education activities. We will honor our teachers in February with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week and with the annual FOCE dinner in honor of teachers and teaching excellence. In April we will distribute scholarships to outstanding students in all of our schools and hope we will be able to extend at least some of the Dubois scholarships that we awarded last year. Pray for the health of the stock market and for the on-going generosity of our donors!

We are also pleased to announce what we hope will become another regular FOCE activity, a *Journey to Remember*, another guided trip to Normandy, France, July 12-22. Last summer's trip was wonderfully successful, so successful that we are doing it again this summer! For further information, call our office to speak with the tour guide, Caroline Pugh. This trip is one of the activities FOCE sponsors in its on-going attempts to provide a Catholic school education for all who seek it in Frederick County. If you received this newsletter, we know that you are aware of the efforts of the parishes, the priests, the teachers and staffs in the schools, the families of our parishes, and all who want to make Catholic schools available to our children.

We hope and pray that you will keep Friends of Catholic Education and our local schools in mind this Holiday season as you consider your year-end giving. A gift to the Friends of Catholic Education is quite literally a gift that will help shape the future of our Church.

Sincerely,

Carol Hinds, *President*



In Memoriam

This issue is dedicated to *Marian McSherry*, a matriarch, devout Catholic, and devoted supporter of Catholic school education whom the Lord took home this past July. She remains in our hearts.

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Local Businessman Honored



L to R: Caroline Pugh, F.O.C.E. Executive Director; Dr. Carol Hinds, F.O.C.E. President, Board of Trustees; David M. Grove, F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees; Michael McGowan, 2011 McElroy Award Recipient; Rita McGowan; Lt. General Ron Christmas, keynote speaker.



L to R: F.O.C.E. Board Member Michele Corr; Madgie McSherry McGaughan; Cary McSherry Black; F.O.C.E. Executive Director Caroline Pugh

Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. recently honored **Michael McGowan** as this year's recipient of the Father John McElroy Award. This award is given annually to an individual(s) whose actions or accomplishments have significantly advanced Catholic school education. Mr. McGowan's service to the Catholic school

community is extensive. He served on the Friends of Catholic Education Board of Trustees for more than 15 years. He also served a crucial role in the fundraising efforts to build the new St. John Regional Catholic School, which opened its doors in 2005.

Following a long career in the United States Marine Corps, McGowan joined the private sector as is currently a wealth manager advisor for Merrill Lynch in Frederick. He is also a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek. Decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Navy

Unit Commendation with Bronze Star in lieu of second award, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

Keynoting this year's event was Lt. General George R. (Ron) Christmas, USMC (ret). Until recently, Lt. General Christmas served as the CEO of the Marine Heritage Foundation which built and oversees the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. John Fieseler, executive director of the Tourism Council of Frederick, served as master of ceremonies.

Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. would like to recognize and thank the following sponsors of the 2011 McElroy Award Dinner and Ceremony:

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McElroy Award's 20th Anniversary



This year F.O.C.E. celebrated the 20th anniversary of the McElroy Award. Photographed are the past and present recipient gathered at this year's event: (L to R): Jim Plamondon (2005), Leo Rocca (2000), Bernadette Emerson (2007), Jack Campbell (2006), Mike McGowan (2011), David Grove (2009), Bernie Grove (1995), Bill Mohan (2004), Rev. Keith Boisvert (2005), Pete Plamondon, Sr. (2010)

Photos by Michele Corr

F.O.C.E. Awards Record Amount of Scholarships

Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. recently awarded the highest amount of scholarship aid in its history, totaling \$235,000 this year. F.O.C.E. would like to recognize and congratulate the following students for receiving the following named scholarships through Friends of Catholic Education for the 2011-2012 school year. These students were chosen on the basis of strong academic performance, strong test scores, and high principal recommendations.

James and Virginia Grove Memorial Scholarship

Trevor Hickman, St. John Regional Catholic School

Jesuit Scholarship

Alexandra Hurse, Saint John's Catholic Prep

Sisters of Charity Scholarship

Veronica Smaldone, Mother Seton School

School Sisters of Notre Dame Scholarship

Jessica Afable, St. John Regional Catholic School

Sisters of Visitation Scholarship

Jillian Rice, Visitation Academy

FOCE Scholarship

Krysta Johnson, Saint John's Catholic Prep

Smith Memorial Scholarship

Arden Ireland, St. John Regional Catholic School

St. Peter Claver Scholarship

Pia-Noelani Nomen, Visitation Academy
Lorraine Yetimitana, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Carmisha Louis, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Nicholas Kolian, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Elodie Jean-Phillipe, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Coralie Jean Phillippe, Saint John's Catholic Prep

St. Augustine of Hippo Scholarship

Mary Katherine Meyers, Visitation Academy

F.O.C.E./Mount Saint Mary's Scholarship

Mark Lawrence Ryba

Nallin Memorial Scholarship, annual

Josie Estep, Mother Seton School
Cecilia Bracey, St. John Regional Catholic School
Maya Hand, Mother Seton School
Elizabeth Buchheister, Mother Seton School

Ralph and Medora Wachter Scholarship

Timothy Johnson, SJCP

Knights of Columbus/Fr. McGivney Scholarship

Marie Sinnicki, St. John Regional Catholic School
Brian Plamondon, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Amelia Clark, Saint John's Catholic Prep

Knights of Columbus/Col. Thomas F. George Scholarship

Timothy Morrill, Saint John's Catholic Prep

Pline Memorial Scholarship

John Florimbio, St. Thomas More Academy

Seton Dubois Scholarship

Mark Florimbio, St. Thomas More Academy
Angela Florimbio, St. Thomas More Academy
Cienna Stowers, St. Thomas More Academy

Jane Skelly, St Thomas More Academy
Jacob Hintermister, St. Thomas More Academy
Ethan Brossart, St. John Regional Catholic School
Arden Ireland, St. John Regional Catholic School
Henry Schaefer, St. John Regional Catholic School
Connor Frazier, St. John Regional Catholic School
Paul Breeden, St. John Regional Catholic School
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Meagan Gallagher, St. John Regional Catholic School
Kaitlyn Gallagher, St. John Regional Catholic School
Ethan Maghimbi, St. John Regional Catholic School
Kilasara Maghimbi, St. John Regional Catholic School
Aiden Coffey, St. John Regional Catholic School
Bailey Adams, Visitation Academy
Brooke Adams, Visitation Academy
Pia-Noelani Nomen, Visitation Academy
Kim McFarland, Visitation Academy
Katelyn McFarland, Visitation Academy
Valerie Witmer, Mother Seton School
Blaise Ridenhour, Mother Seton School
Adrianna Bussey, Mother Seton School
Jordan Jensen, Mother Seton School
John Walker, Mother Seton School
Ashley Glass, Mother Seton School
Gabrielle Archie, Mother Seton School
Alycia Smith, Mother Seton School
Vanessa Witmer, Mother Seton School
Lucas Torres, Mother Seton School
Clarence Pavlovic, Mother Seton School
Hannah Hartness, Mother Seton School
Neoline James, Mother Seton School
Makayla Beehm, Mother Seton School
Brendan McCormick, Mother Seton School
Martin Scire, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Rodrigo Lizuriaga, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Christine Hagan, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Christa Houser, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Andrew Kenworthy-Rodriguez, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Michael Scire, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Anthony Florimbio, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Brennan Craven, Saint John's Catholic Prep
Katerina Barrientos, Saint John's Catholic Prep



A Journey to Remember: Normandy, France 2012



Join hosts and tour guides **Michael and Caroline Pugh** for a 10 day/9 night journey

through one of France's most charming and beautiful regions. The group will depart **July 12** and stay in a quaint hotel, situated along the Seine River. Benefits **F.O.C.E.** Call **301-846-7804** for information.

Seton Dubois Society

In an effort to increase scholarship opportunities, Friends of Catholic Education established the Seton Dubois Society, which recognizes individual or corporate donors who contribute \$1,000 or more on an ongoing annual basis. Named for two pioneers in Catholic school education, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (founder of the first Catholic school for girls staffed by religious women) and Father John Dubois (founder of Mount Saint Mary's University), the program generates scholarships to support students attending any of the county's Catholic schools. 100% of the contributions are awarded annually on the basis of academics, financial need, and character. For more information, please call 301-846-7804 or email info@friendsofcatholiced.org.

Donate Online!

We exist because of the generosity of donors like you! Friends of Catholic Donate online through our website, www.friendsofcatholiced.org, through Paypal or our online processing partner. All major credit cards are accepted. To learn more, visit our website and click on "Make a Donation" at the top of our homepage.



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Visit our Website at www.friendsofcatholiced.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic Schools Week January 28 – February 3, 2012 Kick-Off Celebration

January 28, 2012

Friends of Catholic Education join Frederick County's Catholic Schools at FSK Mall's center court from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information on schools as well as musical group performances will be provided. For more information contact Caroline Pugh at 301-846-7804.

Teacher Appreciation Dinner

January 29, 2012 Dutch's Daughter. Hosted by Friends of Catholic Education.

School Open Houses:

St. John Regional Catholic School:	November 9, 2011 9 to 11 a.m.; 7 to 9 p.m. February 2, 2012 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m.
The Visitation Academy	November 6, 2011 1 to 3 p.m.; Pre-K3and4, Kindergarten Registration December 4, 2011 1 to 3 p.m. January 8, 2012 1 to 3 p.m. February 5, 2012 1 to 3 p.m.
Mother Seton School	November 15, 2011 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. January 29, 2012 1 p.m.
Saint Thomas More Academy	December 5, 2011 9 to 10:30 a.m. February 1, 2012 9a.m. to 1 p.m.; 6 to 8 p.m.
St. John's Catholic Prep	November 6, 2011 1 to 3 p.m. May 2, 2012 Time TBD

Saint John's Catholic Prep Golf Tournament: April 23, 2012. Location TBD

Saint John's Catholic Prep Soiree: Saturday, May 12, 2012. Musket Ridge Golf Club, Myersville.

A Journey to Remember – Normandy, France 2012: July 12-22, 2012. Tour led by Michael and Caroline Pugh to benefit Friends of Catholic Education. Please call 301-846-7804 for more information.

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