



*If you want to touch the future . . . teach a child.*

# Focus

FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, INC.

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

VOLUME 21, NO. 2

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

## 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

### Achieving Our Mission



Frederick County Catholic school education, rooted in the pioneering efforts which sowed the seeds for Catholic education in America, is more valuable and critical than ever before. With the accelerating pace of world-wide integration through technology and travel, our students must be prepared for greater civic and civil engagement; with the right sense of justice. Our Frederick County Catholic schools provide this preparation and together, it is our mission to support the efforts.

For many, the echoes of a Catholic education are faint at first. But as the students graduate, enter career fields, and begin to experience life's opportunities and challenges, the lessons learned grow louder, become more definitive and provide that siren of truth to orient their actions. It may be decades before it is heard, but heard nonetheless. This is the beauty of the Catholic school education. It is timely for immediate knowledge, but it is lasting in the preparation for the good, as well as bad times that will be experienced in life.

This year, the Class of 2017 will begin the next phase of their lives, anchored to that knowledge and sense of justice. Their graduation represents the culmination of the sacrifices and efforts of so many. With the support of our generous donors, Friends of Catholic Education has lessened this burden for many of these students.

And so, our Frederick County Catholic schools remain our community's treasure as they prepare our children to become women and men who can take on the issues facing our society and world. What better gift can be given but the proper preparation for this work? To make this possible for more families, please join Friends of Catholic Education and help us fulfill our mission, so a Catholic school education in Frederick County is available to all who seek it.

*Bill Neilson*  
President

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## 19th Annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner



Left to right: Bill Milani, Amanda Cody, Karolyne Myers, Elizabeth Renninger, Bernadette Miller and Michele Corr

Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. hosted their 19th Annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick, Maryland. The event honored the dedication and many accomplishments of Frederick County's Catholic school teachers, staff and administration.

Mr. Christopher Cosentino, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Education at the Archdiocese of Baltimore, gave a very meaningful and entertaining keynote address to the 210 guests from the county's Catholic schools, the clergy, Board of Trustee members, benefactors, and Archdiocesan guests that attended the event. To highlight the evening, Board of Trustee President Bill Milani and Executive Director Michele Corr presented the Friends of Catholic Education Teaching Award of Excellence to Amanda Cody from St. John Regional Catholic School, Elizabeth Renninger from St. Thomas More Academy, Karolyne Myers from Mother Seton School, and Bernadette Miller from

Saint John's Catholic Prep.

The Friends of Catholic Education Board of Trustees expresses their gratitude to all of the sponsors of the 2017 Teacher Appreciation Dinner: Jefferson & Eastern Corporation, Saint John's Catholic Prep, Frederick County Bank, Mount St. Mary's University, The Plamondon Companies, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Grove, Dr. Bernadette Emerson, Dr. Carol Hinds, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Powell, Mr. Al Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Michael McGowan, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Crowley, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kinley, The Atkinson-McGowan-Harris Team of Merrill Lynch, IP Data Systems, St. John Regional Catholic School, Delaplaine Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Breen, Mr and Mrs. John O'Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Speciale, and Mr. William Mohan, as well as our many door prize sponsors.

Frederick County is incredibly blessed to have so many people devoted to Catholic education and Friends of Catholic Education thanks each and every one of them.

### Donors for Teacher Appreciation Dinner

#### *Platinum*

Mr. And Mrs. David Grove  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Powell  
Dr. Carol Hinds  
Dr. Bernadette Emerson  
Frederick County Bank  
Jefferson and Eastern Corporation  
Saint John's Catholic Prep  
Mount Saint Mary's University  
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#### *Gold*

Mr. Al Edwards  
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Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Crowley  
IP Data Systems  
The Atkinson McGowan Harris Team of  
Merrill Lynch

#### *Silver*

St. John Regional Catholic School  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Breen  
Mr. and Mrs. John O'Boyle  
Delaplaine Foundation, Inc.

#### *Bronze*

Mr. and Mrs. John Corr  
Mr. Raymond Speciale  
Mr. Bill Mohan

### Door Prize Sponsors 2017

Beans and Bagels  
Magoo's Pub  
Neutra Salon  
Elizabeth Corr  
Plamondon Enterprises  
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Alicia L Boutique  
Colonial Jewelers  
Jim and Cary Plamondon  
Anonymous  
Candy Kitchen  
Leberz Oil and Vinegar Emporium  
Rex's Downtown Grill  
The Tasting Room  
Fountain Rock Group

## 2017-2018 Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to the following students who were recently chosen by the Friends of Catholic Education Board of Trustees to receive the following named scholarships:

### Sisters of Visitation Scholarship

Elena Crutchfield- Mother Seton School

### St. Peter Claver

Pia Nomen- Saint John's Catholic Prep  
Tyriel Collins- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### St. Augustine of Hippo Scholarship

Johanna Hintermister-  
St. Thomas More Academy

### Nallin Memorial Scholarship

Megan Cunningham- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Ralph and Medora Wachter Scholarship

Roland Osong - Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Knights of Columbus/Fr. McGivney Scholarship

(Awarded through the Community Foundation of Frederick County)  
Sofia Navarro-

St. John Regional Catholic School

Nicole Javitt- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Knights of Columbus/Col. Thomas F. George Scholarship

(Awarded through the Community Foundation of Frederick County)

Alexandra Crissman- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Seton Dubois Scholarship

Norah Burns- Saint John's Catholic Prep

Stephanie Price-

St. John Regional Catholic School

Alyssa Spielman- Mother Seton School

Elizabeth Fernandez- St. Thomas More Academy

### Pline Scholarship

Briyel Alao - Mother Seton School

### Linwood and Helen Offutt Memorial Scholarship

Rose Haley- Saint John's Catholic Prep

Skyla Sarmiento- Saint John's Catholic Prep

Raphaella Smaldone- Mother Seton School

Elizabeth Holt- St. John Regional Catholic School

### William R. and Joseph A. Milani

Julianne Austin- Saint John's Catholic Prep

Brooke Renninger- St. Thomas More Academy

### Lois Lipps Edwards Memorial Scholarship

Nicole Javitt- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Friends of Catholic Education

Nicole Javitt- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Col. Mark Hoke Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Evans-

St. John Regional Catholic School

### Saint Hermano Pedro Scholarship

AJ Javitt- Saint John's Catholic Prep

*The following students are receiving on-going four year scholarships:*

### James and Virginia Grove Memorial Scholarship

Sabrina Browning-

St. John Regional Catholic School

### Jesuit Scholarship

John Nelson- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Sisters of Charity Scholarship

Clytie Pavlovic- Mother Seton School

### School Sisters of Notre Dame

Emily Stadter- St. John Regional Catholic School

### FOCE Scholarship

Thomas Nishimoto- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Smith Memorial

Makenzie Holston- Saint John's Catholic Prep

### Nallin Memorial Scholarship

Curtis Nishimoto- Saint John's Catholic Prep

Alanna Vidal- St. John Regional Catholic School

Sofia Navarro- St. John Regional Catholic School

**If you are interested in donating to any of the above scholarships or would like to establish a new scholarship, please contact Michele Corr at 301-846-7804 or email [FriendsOfCatholicEducation@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfCatholicEducation@gmail.com)**

## 2017 McElroy Award Winners



Each year, Friends of Catholic Education awards the Fr. John McElroy Award and we are pleased to announce that the 2017 recipients will be Mrs. Pam

Zusi and Mr. Al Edwards. Pam's thirty year career in fundraising began at her alma mater, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland, where she served as the first Director of Alumnae Relations. She was later named the Director of Annual Giving at Hood College. Returning to Catholic education, Pam accepted the Director of Development position at Mount St. Mary's University and for 14 years, she was privileged to serve both President

George Houston and President Thomas Powell. Since her retirement in 2010, her involvement with Catholic education in Frederick County has continued as a member of the boards at the Visitation Academy, Saint John's Catholic Prep and most recently as the Chairman of the Frederick County Catholic Schools Coordinating Committee.



Mr. Al Edwards is a 1954 graduate of DeMatha High School and a member of the Mount St. Mary's University Class of 1958. He served three years

as a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps and obtained rank of Captain. During his career, Al

spent 29 years as the East Coast Area Director at the Avon Company, 5 years as the Sr. Vice President of Tiffany & Co. and 5 years as the Sr. Vice President of Mary Kay Cosmetics. After moving to Frederick, he began his life of volunteer service. Al served for eight years on the Board of Trustees at Saint John's Catholic Prep. In addition, he was an active member of the Board at DeMatha High School and many civic organizations in the Frederick area. Friends of Catholic Education has been blessed to have Al Edwards on the Board of Trustees for 16 years and thankful for his 5 years of service as the president.

On Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at Ceresville Mansion, we will honor Pam and Al at this year's McElroy Dinner and Award Ceremony.

For more information, please call 301-846-7804 or email [friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com)

# BULLETIN BOARD



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**I**n my new role as executive director of Friends of Catholic Education Inc., I have had the opportunity to immerse myself in the Catholic school community in Frederick County and it has truly been a rewarding experience. I am lucky to be able to navigate this path with a new executive assistant at F.O.C.E., Jennifer Murphy, who happens to be my sister. With direction and help from our Board of Trustees and our generous supporters, we have accomplished many great things over the last few months including honoring our dedicated teachers and staff at the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner, supporting our students during Catholic

Schools Week, visiting all of our schools, planning the Board of Trustees Dinner, awarding scholarships and meeting with donors, to name a few. Having served on the Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2016, I was able to witness firsthand all the hard work that goes into supporting our Catholic schools and their families. It is exciting for me to be living our mission every day.

Our founders had a vision in 1989: to form an organization dedicated to providing a Catholic school education in Frederick County for all who seek it. To accomplish this, we raise and manage funds to provide block grants and scholarships for deserving students. The support from F.O.C.E. has made a significant impact in allowing more students to afford a Catholic education, and since our inception we have provided nearly \$5 million in financial support to the schools and their students. We are committed to seeking ways to strengthen our endowment fund to help bring a Catholic school education within reach for more families. We thank the many individuals and businesses that contribute to our Annual Giving Campaign, the sponsors of our events, and those that have remembered us in their estate planning. F.O.C.E. established a planned giving program that not only offers donors the opportunity to support Catholic education but also provides creative solutions to their estate and tax planning needs as well. Creating a "named scholarship" in memory of a loved one is a perfect way to honor them and to leave a legacy for future generations. These are just a couple examples of ways to help us expand our scholarship program, and I look forward to discussing options with those wishing to donate. As I begin this new journey, I feel blessed to be surrounded and embraced by dedicated educators, leaders, consecrated religious, staff, volunteers, benefactors, our Board of Trustees, and of course, the students! I believe that working as a team, we will continue to make a difference at our Frederick County Catholic schools and in the lives of those children receiving a quality education that fosters love, faith, service, discipline and respect.

Michele Corr  
*Executive Director*

### Donate Online!

Friends of Catholic Education now accepts credit card donations online through our website, [friendsofcatholiced.org](http://friendsofcatholiced.org). All major credit cards are accepted. To learn more, visit our website and click on "Donate" at the top of the homepage.



**A**t the beginning of 2017, Friends of Catholic Education, Inc. announced that Michele Corr had accepted the position as the Executive Director. She replaced longtime Executive Director Caroline Pugh who stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the organization. F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees president Bill Milani remarked, "We are so blessed to have someone like Michele who has the background, experience and the established relationships throughout the Frederick community to fill this vital position at Friends of Catholic Education." Michele is a longtime resident of Frederick County and has an extensive knowledge about the organization, having served on the F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees since 2008. She has worked closely with the board members in order to continue F.O.C.E.'s mission statement and with administrators from the Catholic schools in Frederick County. As a graduate of Spring Hill College, a Jesuit institution in Mobile, Alabama, she values a faith-based education and the strong foundation it has provided in her life. With two sons who graduated from St. John Regional Catholic School and Saint John's Catholic Prep, Michele and her husband John find the benefits of a Catholic education in Frederick County to be invaluable and a vital resource in our community. Saint John's Catholic Prep was home to Michele for the last 10 years, first as a photography teacher and eventually moving into various administrative positions, including Enrollment and Social Media Specialist and the Director of Development. Principal Marc Minsker commented on her work at the school and in the community saying, "Michele Corr was an integral part of Saint John's Catholic Prep. She was a classroom instructor, administrator, a parent of two graduates, and one of the school's biggest cheerleaders. During her time at SJCP, Michele worked tirelessly to promote the school's identity and involvement in the greater community. She will always be a champion for Catholic education in Frederick County." Members of the F.O.C.E. Board of Trustees are confident that she will bring that same enthusiasm and love for Catholic education to their organization.



**FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, INC.**  
 53 E. Patrick St.  
 Frederick, MD 21701  
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 Contact us by email at [friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**26th Annual McElroy Dinner and Ceremony**  
 Tuesday, October 3, 2017 • 5:30pm • Ceresville Mansion  
 For ticket information, please email  
[friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcatholiceducation@gmail.com)



Friends of Catholic Education Board of Trustees: Front row: Bill Milani, Cary Plamondon, Bernadette Emerson, Carol Hinds, John O'Boyle. Back row: Michele Corr, Michael O'Connor, Fr. Larry Frazier, David Grove, Mike Kinley, Al Edwards and Frank Lipscomb

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**Michele Corr**  
 Executive Director

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