

# DABBLES Community Newsletter

**Diocesan Advisory Board of Education**

Diocese of St. Augustine

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DABBLES is published twice a year through the Diocesan Advisory Board of Education (DABE). It has a circulation of 10,000 and is distributed throughout the Diocese of St. Augustine. We hope you find the information on our Catholic Schools both interesting and informative. We welcome any assistance either through sponsorship or advertising. Please call the Office of Educational Services at (904) 262-3200.

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## *After almost 50 Years, St. Patrick's moves to a new location*

*S*t. Patrick Catholic School has had a rich tradition of educating students in North Jacksonville since the fall of 1964. It was in September of that year, under the direction of Father John Lenihan and four Sisters of Mercy from New Inn, Ireland, that the school on Broward Road opened its doors. These sisters began teaching with the goal of providing a positive Catholic education founded on gospel values for the 200 students who had enrolled in the new school. By 1969, new classrooms had been built by loyal and loving parishioners in order to accommodate increases in enrollment. Within the next ten years, a Social Hall/Cafeteria was constructed to meet the needs of the growing parish and school.

Another milestone occurred in 1979. It was in that year that Father Michael Houle became St. Patrick's first ordained priest. In 1982, a new building was added to provide for the expansion of the kindergarten program. During the early 1990s, as the population of Northern Jacksonville grew, so did the need to facilitate a Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 year old program. Portables were purchased for the youngest students at St. Pat's with additional units added for music, art, and guidance.



*The construction for the new school building should be complete in early 2014.*



*Temporary "cottages" on the new property serve as classrooms until construction of the new school building is complete.*

One of St. Patrick's proudest moments occurred on May 1, 1997. It was on this day that Bishop John J. Snyder dedicated the Shamrock Center. This building housed a large gymnasium, classrooms, coach's office, kitchen, meeting rooms, and storage spaces. This building enabled the school and parish of St. Patrick's to interact as a community.

As years of progress had been made on Broward Road, plans that would alter St. Patrick's history, was being developed. Land was



*Bishop Estévez visits and tells students he thinks what St. Patrick's is doing on the northside is, "extraordinary."*

purchased on Airport Center Drive with the intention of moving the school campus and church. By 2011, with a

new principal and pastor, the Broward Road campus was listed for sale. A new journey for the St. Patrick's family had begun. Groups and committees were formed in order to prepare for the next chapter of the St. Patrick's story. In

October of 2012, Bishop Felipe Estévez, Father Christopher Liguori, and Principal Mary Martin broke ground at the Airport Center site. In the spring of 2013, the Broward Road campus was sold. The dream of many had been realized, and it was then that the principal, staff, parents, parish, and priest began a summer of moving a 48-year-old school into a temporary site. Through careful planning and the dedication of many, St. Patrick Catholic School opened at its new location in August 2013. The temporary "cottages," which are situated next to our "state of the art" building site, enable all of us to watch an incredible work in progress. Even though the dream is close to coming to fruition, the heart of the school stays focused and continues to live out our mission: "... to lay the foundation for students through Catholic traditions and high standards of education, in a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment." See... good things do come to those who wait!

The new school year brings many changes to DABE. After years of service as chairperson on DABE, John Whitehouse has stepped down as chair but will



remain a hard working board member. His wealth of knowledge and experience and love and support of Catholic education in our diocese is unsurpassed. Thank you John for all you have given and continue to give to our Catholic schools. We also want to thank all of our DABE members who have recently completed their three-year terms and look forward to

working with them on various committees in the future.

Bishop Estévez has us all excited about bringing on new board members throughout the diocese, not only on DABE, but, on all boards including schools and parishes. He wants everyone to have a chance to serve on a variety of boards and share their wealth of knowledge and experiences with all of us. We are looking forward to an exhilarating year.

Along with Dr. Pat Bronsard, DABE members were busy visiting all our principals throughout August and September. We discussed such issues as common purchasing practices to offer economical solutions for purchases consistent throughout our schools. Ideas

and suggestions for marketing our Catholic schools were also high on the discussion list. Our principals have wonderful ideas and DABE is eager to assist them however possible. We hope to spread the good news of our Catholic schools to all members of our Catholic communities throughout the diocese.

As I start my term as chairperson of DABE, I look forward to working with Dr. Pat Bronsard, our superintendent, and the entire DABE board as we continue to serve our “Community of Schools” throughout the diocese. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, I can be reached at [judytibbitts@comcast.net](mailto:judytibbitts@comcast.net).

## Superintendent of Catholic Schools: Dr. Patricia Bronsard



### Social Justice and Spirituality

Service to others is intrinsic in the lived mission of our Catholic schools. It's an essential part of the Catholic school experience – the

every-day link between Catholic social teaching and spirituality. By way of example, let me share a photo and comment from Mrs. Laura Hickey, Executive Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of St. Augustine. In her note, Mrs. Hickey thanked our Catholic school community for its year-long work to keep food pantries in the diocese well stocked. The picture is of students from Epiphany Catholic School who participated recently in a food drive in Lake City, stocking food pantry shelves with peanut butter, jelly and bread.

While the largest food drive of the year is filling the food pantries at each regional office of Catholic Charities during Catholic Schools Week, traditionally the last week in January, food collections in Catholic schools are a monthly event! A large part of the reason for monthly food collection is the continued demand for food at our food pantries. For

example, Mrs. Hickey mentioned that last year the food pantry in Jacksonville served more than 46,000 meals to the needy. In the counties served by the Lake City Catholic Charities office, that number was 4,557 families or 13,073 people.

Foundational to the experience at Catholic schools is our belief and practice of coupling a strong and rigorous approach to faith formation – education in the Catholic faith and spiritual growth on the core convictions of Catholicism – with a high-quality academic program of study for students. Belief in the church's social teaching is integral to our identity and mission as Catholics. There is a spiritual disposition evident in the life and work of our schools. It is evident in the lived experiences of students throughout the school year – in the prayers that begin and end daily



Epiphany Catholic School – Grade 2 Students

instruction and through classroom and school-based service projects, such as stocking food pantries throughout the diocese. Through service to those in need, students live out the gospel message by sharing their gifts and talents. Positive experiences learned through service projects stay with

students for a lifetime and foster greater civic engagement and commitment to our Church and service in adulthood. It's a way of teaching students to live their Catholic faith every day as they learn to be contributing members of our society.

For Catholic schools, *the integral linkage between social justice and spirituality points to a community's whole life in Christ, a life rooted in the paschal mystery. Living this mystery is a powerful dimension of the spiritual life, one that fosters doing what is right, loving goodness, and walking humbly with our God (cf. Micah 6:8).*

***The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) in August released findings from the 2011-12 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), a nationally representative survey of public and private school principals and teachers.***

***Among the findings:***

- 81% of graduates from Catholic high schools go on to a four-year college.
- 64% of graduates from all private high schools go on to a four-year college.
- 40% of graduates from traditional public schools go on to a four-year college.
- 37% of graduates from public charter schools go on to a four-year college.

Did You  
KNOW?



## Profile of Leaders

### Six New Principals for Catholic Schools

Welcome to six new principals joining us in the Diocese of St. Augustine!

**Brian Wheeler** – Mr. Brian Wheeler is welcomed as the new principal of San Jose Catholic School. He comes to us from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in the Diocese of San Diego. Before that, Mr. Wheeler spent 15 years in Quito, Ecuador, where he met his wife Caroline and where four of their five children were born. In fact, Mr. Wheeler and his family speak Spanish in their home.

Upon meeting with Father Fay, “I immediately felt I would be happy at San Jose, not only as a professional, but also as a parent having my children attend the school.”

**Frank Mackritis** – We welcome Frank Mackritis as the new principal of St. Patrick’s Gainesville. While serving in the Air Force, he earned a Bachelor’s degree from Wayland University and later a Master’s degree from the University of Phoenix. Upon retiring from military service, Mr. Mackritis taught middle school at St. Patrick’s in Gainesville for five years and went on to become first Assistant Principal at St. Francis High School.

St. Patrick’s is indeed blessed to have Frank return to them as principal.

**Jack Mullarkey** – Jack Mullarkey is welcomed as Annunciation’s new principal. He attended St. Patrick’s Elementary School in Largo, Florida and Clearwater Central Catholic High School. He then earned a BA from Marquette University. After teaching for

15 years at St. Petersburg Catholic High School, Mr. Mullarkey entered the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Leadership Program through the University of Notre Dame and earned his degree.

Before coming to St. Augustine, Jack served as Assistant Principal for the Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa.

**Jason Acosta** – Jason Acosta is the new principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School. He was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and received both his BA and MA from the University of Florida.

Mr. Acosta has been at St. Patrick Interparish School in Gainesville for the last ten years, first as a teacher and then as Assistant Principal.

Jason and his wife have been married for five years and recently welcomed their first child, Jarod, into the world.

**Krissy Thompson** – Krissy Thompson, principal of St. Paul’s Catholic School, Jacksonville Beach, is a proud graduate of Holy Rosary Catholic School, Bishop Kenny High School, and the University of Notre Dame. Throughout the last 23 years, Krissy has served many of our diocesan schools as guidance counselor, teacher and most recently as Assistant Principal of St. Paul’s.

St. Paul’s has been Krissy’s home for many years and will always be home for her own three children. Krissy’s belief is that...



From left to right: Marcel De Maio, Dr. Patricia Bronsard, Jack Mullarkey, Frank Mackritis, Krissy Thompson, Jason Acosta and Brian Wheeler.

Tomorrow’s leaders are at St. Paul’s today!

**Marcel De Maio** – The new principal of Holy Family Catholic School, Marcel De Maio, grew up in Ohio and later in southwest Florida. He studied English at Simon’s Rock College in Massachusetts and attended graduate school at the University of Miami. He later earned a second graduate degree in Education from the University of Bridgeport and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Catholic Educational Leadership at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Mr. De Maio was with the Diocese of Orlando for six years, first at Santa Fe Catholic High School in Lakeland, and most recently as Assistant Principal at Trinity Catholic High School in Ocala.

He and his family live in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville and worship at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.

## Teacher Spotlights – Focus on Teachers



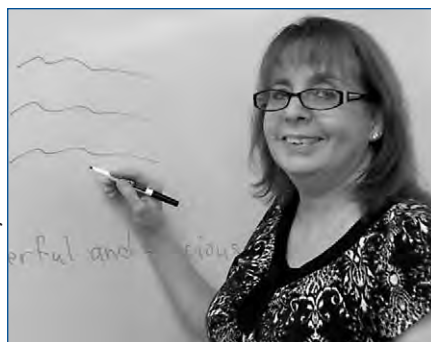
### Karen Barr Morning Star School

Morning Star School educator, Karen Barr, was born in Omaha, NE and moved to Jacksonville, FL when she was five years old. She received her Bachelors in Special Education from Jacksonville University and has been in the education field for 35 years. Morning Star has been her home for over 25 years, having taught at the Primary level and then at the Intermediary level. Karen is married to her husband Tim and has a son, Matthew.

Karen is passionate about reading and is highly involved with organizing the school’s semiannual book fairs. She believes Morning Star provides students a holistic education that

combines academics with strong moral groundings, which teach students how to properly care for others and themselves. Karen cites one of the best things about her career is how the teachers and staff work as a team at Moring Star – that respect and the confidence of the administration enable her

and others the freedom to effectively teach. Technology and innovation also play a large role in her classroom, citing an example of vocabulary scores that rose from the 20s and 30s to 90s and 100s after implementing a methodology she found online. She cites some of the challenges of teaching include building a student’s confidence and teaching the



possibilities that exist thorough hard work.

Those lessons are embodied in one of her favorite moments at Moring Star, which involves a 4th grader that didn’t know his alphabet when he first entered the school. Despite many years of effort, there was no evidence of significant

improvement on the student’s standardized tests. One day while walking down the hallway, she was happily surprised to see him reading the bulletin board by himself!

It is stories like this that Karen will not forget and that highlight the importance of patience, creativity, and faith that embody Karen’s career and the mission of Moring Star School!

## Nancy Darragh San Jose Catholic School

Nancy Darragh has taught at San Jose Catholic School for the past ten years. For eight years she enriched the lives of our youngest students in kindergarten and for the last two years she has energetically and patiently shared her many gifts and talents with third graders. The ancient Greek Philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus wrote, "You can never step into the same river; for new rivers are always flowing on to you." Nancy has spent most of her life along the most powerful rivers in America. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, along the great Mississippi, grew up in Cincinnati, beside the Ohio River and in Brussels, Belgium where

the River Zenne flows quietly through the beautiful European capital. For twenty-three years, using her creativity and musical training, Nancy has allowed God's spirit to flow like the rivers to impart to her students His love for them and a love of learning.

She was educated at SMU in Dallas and holds a degree in Music and Elementary education. Nancy and her husband Mike have been married for thirty-two years and have



two sons, Adam and Rev. They recently celebrated Adam's wedding and welcomed daughter-in-law Colleen to the family.

Nancy enjoys traveling, with recent trips to Russia, Ireland, Germany, and Turkey. She brings back wonderful stories and culture that she enthusiastically shares with her students. Each day you can find Nancy walking near the banks of the

St. Johns River.

Teaching is a vocation for Nancy, an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of her students. She believes that you never know what God has planned for the people He places in your life, but for Nancy it might just happen along the banks of a new river.

## School Advisory Board Highlight Palmer Catholic Academy

In 1997, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church began its next step forward in providing Faith Formation for its Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida parish and community. At that time, Palmer Catholic Academy was established with an initial attendance of kindergarten through second grade. Now, after completing



fifteen successful school years of Christ-centered academic excellence for Pre-k to 8th grade, achieving No Child Left Behind

*Pictured left to right: Msgr. Keith Brennan, Monica Begeman, Linda Earp, Annie Tuttle, Linda Lisowski, Chris Saliba, Jamie Crowley, Dick Mulvey, Jeff Saunders. Not Pictured: Bobby Roche, Dee Shea.*

Blue Ribbon distinction in 2005, graduating twelve enthusiastic classes of well-prepared rising high school freshman, and with the completion of the new Daniel B. Logan Gymnasium and Community Center in the Fall of 2012, Palmer Catholic Academy is positioned to continue its growth with a full range of educational enrichment, including a fully-equipped athletic facility.

These accomplishments have been made possible under the guidance of a dedicated school advisory board, administration, faculty and staff. In July of 2013, Our Lady Star of the Sea and Palmer Catholic Academy welcomed a new pastor, Msgr. Keith Brennan, who brings a new style of leadership to help the school continue to grow in its student enrollment, curriculum, enrichment and many other offerings.

The PCA School Advisory Board, as do most of our diocesan school's governance boards, is made up of a sampling of the community (five to seven members), appointed to help set direction and give sincere feedback to help guide the pastor and the principal. There is an established set of By-Laws that are updated annually. The board

meets monthly during the school year to review current school status and present and review future needs, and participates at PCA educational and extra-curricular functions. Working committees are established each year, including several "standing" committees, to help with research and development. These committees include our standing Finance Committee, which interacts directly with the Parish Finance Committee. A Marketing Committee was established in 2011 to review and develop guidelines for incorporating Our Lady Star of the Sea Pre-School organization formally into the Palmer Catholic Academy organization. Following the analysis and review, a successful implementation of the pre-school and K-8 school merger was completed and with that, a new phase in the growth of PCA. Now, with both campuses of our school formally

combined, an even smoother transition from kindergarten preparatory to high school preparatory curriculum was enhanced.

After the 2013-2014 kick-off school board meeting on Monday, September 9th with Msgr. Brennan, two key initiatives were established. The Marketing Committee was chartered with a new assignment, to determine long-range planning for increasing enrollment, and a brand-new Alumni Committee was created to help establish a new PCA Alumni Organization. The key projects on the books for this school year include increasing enrollment, establishing new programs to enrich curriculum, developing a new Alumni Association, and increasing the use of PCA's new facility with the support of an expanding alumni base, and the establishment of a new youth program at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

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|-----------------------------|-----|
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| Catholic Center             | 30% |
| St. Luke's Parish           | 35% |
| St. Madeleine's             | 47% |

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Miss Angela DeLuca is a descendant of the Broward family of Jacksonville, which can be traced back to before the Revolutionary War. She loves to spend time with her family at the beach.

Angela attended St. Patrick's Catholic School for the duration of her elementary and middle school years while both parents were faculty members. Upon completing the 8th grade, she attended Bishop John J. Snyder High-School where she played soccer and was in various drama performances including South Pacific. Miss DeLuca was also given the opportunity to perform at Walt Disney World during that time.

Angela, being so family-oriented, attended and graduated from Stetson University so she could be close to her loved ones. In her college years, she was granted the opportunity to travel to Turkey and Greece. After completing her degree in Religious Studies and substituting for a year in the diocese, she officially joined the St. Patrick's Catholic School Faculty in 2012 as a Second Grade Teacher. She



loves the fact that the reason she became a teacher was because her mentor teacher works along side with her daily. Throughout her time here, Angela has been a strong asset to the school. She has started the school's cheerleading organization again and assists with preparing her class as well as the CCD children for the sacraments.

Angela still resides on the Northside of Jacksonville, with her beloved Dawson. Alyssa Hayes, student and cheerleader at St. Patrick's, was quoted saying, "Miss DeLuca is so sweet and funny! She is an awesome cheerleading coach who comes up with the best dances. We love her!"

## The Guardian Catholic Schools

### Meet the New Guardian Family

The Guardian Catholic Schools are pleased to announce our new development team: Mervin Denny, Director of Development, Gabrielle Dean, Donor Coordinator, and parent volunteer extraordinaire, Mariel Foster. With over 30 years of development and



From left to right: Gabrielle, Mariel, Mervin, and new VPK 4 student Annmarie

educational experience between us, these dynamic women are passionate about raising awareness and funding for our two inner city schools, Holy Rosary and St. Pius V. We look forward to continuing to work with you - our loyal supporters.

Please join us for



### The Guardian Catholic Schools

the "Decade of Dreams" 10th annual Golf & Tennis Classic, March 31, 2014 at Timuquana Country Club. For sponsorship opportunities or to register for this special event, please contact the Guardian office at (904) 765-1920 or guardian@guardiancatholicschools.org. Space is limited, reserve your spot now!

## Regional Current Events From Our Schools

### Region I

#### Cathedral Parish School

Cathedral Parish School (CPS), fresh off of our successful re-accreditation, has embarked on an exciting new journey. We have implemented a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model at our historic St. Augustine campus. Students have the opportunity to bring an approved wi-fi capable device to school in order to access digital textbooks, complete guided internet research projects, and utilize available word processing functionality in the classroom. The initiative challenges us to fully embrace 21st century learning skills.

On September 16, the City of St. Augustine, the Cathedral Parish, and CPS were blessed to have had a visit from the Apostolic Nuncio, the Most Reverend Carlo Maria Vigano. He met students and toured the campus as a special guest of Bishop Estévez. It was an incredible honor for our school.

CPS continues to be inspired by our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and is working hard to ensure that we stay grounded in our commitment to serve others and put Christ first in all we do. We

want to extend our congratulations to Sister Jane Stoeker, general superior, on her 50th anniversary with the SSJ, as well as former CPS teachers Sr. Anna Theresa Cullen (75 years) and Sr. Mary Trinita McCarthy (60 years.)

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

The 2013-2014 school year is off to a great start at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Palm Coast. The school is growing and thriving as enrollment continues to increase and a Catholic education is made possible for many students in Flagler County! One of the many goals of the principal, Mr. John Gulley, is to improve the current technology resources.

Students were welcomed this year with thirty new computers, a renovated computer lab and a wonderful new technology teacher, Mrs. Sarah Maguire. Mrs. Maguire graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 2005 & received her Bachelors and Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Florida. After graduation, she taught locally in Alachua, Florida and then traveled to Hohhot, China where she taught English. Her students ranged from 2 years old to twelfth grade. Mrs. Maguire said that it was an incredible experience where she was able to creatively teach

using a very tactile approach to learning. She taught classes of varied age and skill levels of up to seventy students! Mrs. Maguire met her husband during this incredible teaching experience.

The students and faculty of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Maguire. She has been working diligently to improve the school library and recently ordered ninety-five new library books. Mrs. Maguire exclaims, "I love being here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. It's a wonderful, close welcoming, supportive environment." Students look forward to their weekly technology classes and are ecstatic about the new technology resources!

#### Palmer Catholic Academy

Palmer Catholic Academy started off the 2013-2014 school year by welcoming our new pastor, Monsignor Brennan, to the Palmer family. Monsignor Brennan celebrated our first Children's Mass on the second day of school. We sadly said good-bye to our beloved Monsignor Daniel Logan. Monsignor Logan played a visible and important role here at Palmer as a leader, mentor and educator. His dedication to excellence and commitment to a quality Catholic education for our children was paramount.

Monsignor Logan retired in July and is enjoying some much deserved rest and relaxation. His presence will be missed by the entire Palmer family.

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Palmer has started a new club just for 8th graders. Club 4:12 will set an example for the school in their faith, leadership, and service to the school and community. A few of the highlights of the club are:

- Members act as sacristans at our children’s weekly Mass,
- We deepen their faith through prayer and sharing at meetings
- We show leadership through our kindergarten-buddy program
- Give to others in a variety of service projects, such as the “Adopt-a-Seminarian” program and a Camp-I-Am-Special fundraiser.

## Region 2

### San Jose

San Jose Catholic School ended the 2012-13 school year with many exciting accomplishments. We were Brain Brawl champions for the third consecutive year, our students won eight of nine awards during the middle school Diocesan Science Fair and, we brought in 3 first place wins at the State Lego Robotics competition. Congratulations to our students and faculty!

The 2013-14 school year promises to be just as exciting. San Jose welcomes new Principal, Brian Wheeler who comes to us from California where he served as Principal at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. We also welcome Mrs. Lauren May, our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. May comes to San Jose from St. Pius V Catholic School where she worked as a kindergarten teacher and held various administrative roles including improvement and discipline coordinator. Another new smiling face at San Jose is Coach Bergin. Coach comes to San Jose from Annunciation Catholic School in Middleburg where he taught PE and was the Athletic Director.

The year continues with great anticipation as we launched a new visual identity – a consistent, unified, and distinctive brand promoting positive awareness and recognition for the entire San Jose Catholic community. During this year’s Fall Festival celebration, school and church representatives unveiled a new logo, new signage and a new web site. The new logo clearly reflects the evolution of Catholic education, a deep Catholic heritage and the school’s connection to the church.

On November 18th the school will host its 24th annual Golf Tournament at San Jose Country Club. The tournament, presented by The Glisson family, is expected to raise \$15,000 for the school.

As we look to the future of SJCS, our vision is ambitious. Together, we can and will achieve it. We give thanks to God for his many blessings.

### St. Joseph’s Catholic School

Another year has gotten off to a great start at St. Joseph Catholic School. Even though we are going to miss Father Dan Cody, we welcome Fr. Mike Morgan and look forward to working with him during his time as St. Joseph’s administrator. In August, we also welcomed two new resource teachers, for a total of three on staff now, that allows us to have a program in place to assist more of our students with special learning styles or academic struggles in either reading or math. Our focus this year is to really concentrate on being a mission-driven school, and our resource teachers will help us better “recognize each student as a unique child of God” while we continue to strive for academic excellence.

Our faculty will be working more with iPads in their classrooms this year, and they will utilize the classroom set we purchased over the summer as they become more comfortable using mobile learning devices as part of their instruction. Part of that will enhance using the new science curriculum materials purchased this summer as well. We have a new Pep Club on campus and are planning some really fun events, and we also started a new chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Finally, we began using a school Facebook page ([Facebook.com/stjosephcs](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephcs)) in order to more effectively reach out to our parents with news about what’s happening on campus and reminders about upcoming events.

### San Juan del Rio

Open your hearts to life...

A favorite phrase of Pope Francis, open your hearts to life, challenges us to honor and respect all of life from conception to natural death. This year, San Juan del Rio will be working in cooperation with the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville (DSAJ) in nurturing a culture of life among families, students and children with Down Syndrome. The students and all of you in the Jacksonville community are invited to join in the National Buddy Walk on November 9. The Buddy Walk begins at 2:00pm. You are welcome to support Mariana Fryman and her team. The National Buddy Walk events start at 11:30am and run until 4:00pm.

During the season of Advent, the students at San Juan will be invited to “Be a Buddy for a Buck.” A star with their name will be hung on the front bulletin board. The stars will symbolically increase the light of Christ in our world. San Juan will be a beacon of the light of Christ on the St. John’s River and the Northwest corner of St. John’s County.

Author of all life, give constant protection to each of us and may we “open our hearts to life” each moment of each day, week, month, and year.

### Assumption

We are off to a smooth start for the 2013-2014 school year. Last year our families and students

celebrated giving back by providing a Dream Come True for a child suffering from a life threatening disease. Our staff and students have been inspired to continue increasing the service in our own community. Our school leadership teams, NJHS and Student Council, are planning service projects with Catholic Charities over the course of the 2013-2014 school year. Families and students send in needed items for various groups around the city and the students meet to package and send off all items with prayers of hope included.

We continue to create opportunities for our students, families and faculty to develop their faith through monthly Gospel Values that are taught throughout the school. September’s Gospel Value was responsibility and faithfulness. Each month classroom teachers, resource teachers, Sisters, Priests and Administration will teach about the Gospel Value using gospel stories, saints, stories, art and music. Our goal is to encourage each child to become what God created them to be. We believe it is our job to provide both academic and faith-filled opportunities to allow this to be achieved for all of our students.

### Holy Family

The 2013-2014 school year is off to a phenomenal start at Holy Family Catholic School! We welcomed 45 new families into our school community. Volunteers in our Ambassador Program reached out to our new families over the summer to greet them and provide them with a wealth of information about our school. They celebrated the beginning of the school year with a pool party. Through the Ambassador Program, our new families have the opportunity to meet other Holy Family families before school begins and this eases the transition into a new school environment.

Our central theme for this school year centers on filling each other’s buckets which ties into the Gospel message of “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). Our students and faculty are striving to be “bucket fillers” by showing love, respect and concern for one another. Students are encouraged to live the Gospel message each day by utilizing kind words and demonstrating care and consideration.

Technological advancements are key at Holy Family Catholic School. We purchased 120 iPads this summer due to a generous donation from our PTO. We developed a new and improved website and added Edline to our repertoire, giving parents easier access to student information and grades. We also enhanced our mathematics instructional capabilities by adding IXL, which is a self-paced math resource. Finally, we began utilizing eBackpack in grades 5 through 8, which allows students to create digital portfolios of their work to be shared between home and school and any iPad. The administration, faculty and students are excited about these new technological resources, which are instrumental to our academic achievements.

## Region 3

### St. Pius V School

Recently, St. Pius Alumna, Carla Harris, (Class of '76) was appointed Chairperson of the National Women's Business Council by President Obama. The NWBC is a non-partisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women entrepreneurs.

Carla graduated from Bishop Kenny and then went on to Harvard where she received MBA "Second Year Honors" from the Harvard Business School and graduated with an AB in Economics from Harvard University, Magna Cum Laude. She then earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Management Education. Today Carla is Vice Chair of Wealth Management and Senior Client Advisor at Morgan Stanley.

Like all successful people, Carla has a "can do" attitude.

Go to Harvard, can do  
Get a job on Wall Street, can do  
Make a music CD, can do, Make three, can do  
Sing in Carnegie Hall, can do; Twice, can do  
To a sell-out crowd, can do  
Write a book, can do  
Be a blessing for others, can do

Carla is a motivational speaker, an author, a benefactor. She has served on community and foundation boards such as the New York City Food Bank and A Better Chance, Inc., the Apollo Theatre Foundation, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, the Morgan Stanley Foundation and Sponsors for Educational Opportunity. Carla Presently serves on the St. Vincent's Healthcare Board.

Carla has created an endowment for scholarships to Bishop Kenny High School. Qualifying African-American students may apply for this scholarship. Carla said, "I want to be a part of furthering the next generation's opportunity to attend Catholic school."

Carla is an accomplished vocalist with successful CDs and concerts in Carnegie Hall. She gives the credit to God. She came to realize

the power that exists in faith and Carla prayed for "courage" to find her gifts and use them to reach her goals, the courage to believe and to understand where her power comes from and then to confidently act.

Who else would book Carnegie Hall for a benefit concert? Our Carla Harris!

### Holy Rosary School

Last spring work began on The Michael Cascone, Jr. Athletic Field. The project began with seed money from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida in honor of Mr. Cascone's retirement from Blue Cross. Clearing and leveling the field, installing a sprinkling system and planting grass seed took several months — and it is still a work in progress!

In early September we welcomed Michael Cascone, Jr., his parents and other members of his family to see the progress on the field. As one of the earliest members of the then Guardian of Dreams, Mr. Cascone was thrilled to see the growth in the school and meet our growing population of students. After the third-graders' strong presentation of the poem, I Am Somebody, Mr. Cascone encouraged the students to take full advantage of their educational opportunities.

The Athletic Field is a perfect way to recognize Mike not only for his work with Blue Cross, but also for his significant contribution to The Guardian Catholic Schools. As Chairman of the Board of The Guardian of Dreams in its early years, Mike referred to Holy Rosary and St. Pius as "legacies of learning." With God's continued blessing, we carry that legacy into the future!

### St. Michael Academy

Students were welcomed back to a new school year as we continue the Year of Faith. Our Little Flower Girls Club has doubled in size. The parish hall is nearing completion, and anticipation is building for the new hot lunch program.

Our students enjoyed a visit from Florida artist, Xavier Cortada, who led an eco-art project in celebration of FLOR 500, to raise awareness for the preservation of Florida's wildflowers. A wildflower garden was planted near the students' Hope House vegetable garden, and was dedicated to the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were the founders of the Academy. The students are

now creating wildflower gardens to dedicate to members of the community or family members.

Computers throughout the building were updated or replaced in anticipation of the phasing out of Windows XP. The network was enhanced to support the addition of iPads for 5th Grade. All students in grades 5 through 8 use personal iPads with digital textbooks that include Science, Social Studies, English, New Catechism, Catholic Bible, and eBooks. The St. Michael App Store, with online resources and digital production tools, provides for strong technology integration in all subjects. Our new eBackpacks are making the real backpacks much lighter this year!

## Region 4

### St. Paul's Riverside

The crisp fall air wrestling through the 90-year oaks surrounding our historic buildings was a nod back to a time when things were simpler. A time when our building served a much different purpose, celebrating Mass on the first floor and hosting a bustling convent on the top. Although times have changed, our Catholic mission has remained the same for the past 90 years... one that echoes through our hallways and can be seen in the faces of the children of our past.

To honor this heritage, we were blessed to host a community wide 90th year celebration complete with a beautiful anniversary Mass and rededication attended by the Apostolic Nuncio. Many of our parishioners have been with our church community for decades and the students who roam our halls are often third or fourth generation. To unite these generations, we hosted a carnival complete with rides, music, games, and local food vendors. Our community had a chance to see what makes St. Paul's so unique: our people. This is the true reason why we stand before the community with 90 years of experience behind us. It was an honor to share this memorable time with our parish and fellow neighbors.



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## St. Matthews

St. Matthew hit the ground running this year and we have not stopped since! A 9/11 Remembrance Mass, sports seasons, Spirit Days at Chick-fil-A, Spirit Nights at Harpoon Louie's, and a special Mass including Bishop Estévez to celebrate the feast of St. Matthew are just some of the activities that kicked off our year.

The Academic Fair is in full swing for all middle school students and projects in various subjects will be completed by the end of January, and this year's Modern Woodmen speeches are shaping up nicely.

The popular Parade of Saints when students dress as saints made appearances again this year both at our school Mass and at Sunday Mass. Also, the diocese's first middle school-based St. Vincent de Paul chapter, Mini Vinnies, continues to thrive. These motivated young middle schoolers have been setting an excellent example for our entire school community in word and deed.

Our annual fall bazaar was another success enjoyed by many from our school and parish community and included our first ever CAR raffle for a Ford Fusion! Wonderful participation from our parents, homeroom parents, faculty, staff, PTO, and parish community made it a fun-filled fall day for all.

## Annunciation

Annunciation Begins 21st Year

Annunciation celebrated its first 20 years in existence with a beautiful bronze statue of the annunciation and a brick walkway in the courtyard, which was installed over the summer. It also paid tribute to Annunciation's founding principal, Susan Altieri, by re-dedicating the media center in her honor. Looking to the future, the school is preparing to raise funds for Part II of its "Angel Plex" project — the building of a gym/auditorium space that will complete the master plan of the school.

To kick off the year and to build fellowship, members of three grade ranges (PK-K, 1-3, and 4-6) brought their families to school for a night of fun and fellowship over three Fridays in September. Sponsored by the Home and School Association under the direction of President Amanda Streeter, the events brought families out to play a variety of contests such as musical chairs, hula-hoop, and a crazy costume race. With fun games and a little bit of pizza, families had an opportunity to get to meet one another in a social setting outside of the school day. Teachers, parent volunteers, and members of the National Junior Honor Society helped to ensure that everyone had fun and that the night went smoothly.

## Sacred Heart School

What a wonderful school year it has been so far at Sacred Heart Catholic School. As we pass into November it is pleasant to reflect on the wonderful times shared between the students, faculty and new principal. After acclimating to the atmosphere in August, we took the month of

September to gather non-perishable items for Safe Harbor, an organization that works with teen-aged boys preparing them for life in a vocational field.

In the month of October we were able to explore the mission of the parish and school during our Time and Talent Festival. This event allowed the school and church communities to share information about the driving goals that both groups are working toward. Also, the school and church communities partnered together to "beautify the campus" reminding us all to be proud of our community. As October came to a close we celebrated the festive ending of the month with a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, which offered a safe environment to celebrate Halloween. Continuing these community-building activities is a major focus for our future.

November and December we'll look forward to our annual Thanksgiving Feast, the School Science Fair, and the wonderfully produced Christmas Program. Thinking of the approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons allows us to look forward to the second part of the school year. May the Lord's blessings be on all and may the coming of the New Year bring everyone a renewed spirit!

## Region 5

### Resurrection Parish School

Resurrection Parish Catholic School "Faithfully Catholic since 1962" is off to an exciting new year with the implementation of our CSI (Catholic School Identity) project. This year we are focusing on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

We have two new faculty members this year. Mr. William Dolan joins us from the ACE program through Notre Dame and is teaching Social Studies and Literature. Ms. Julia Bielamowicz is teaching middle school English and is an alumnus of our school.

We are adding iPads and iPad Minis to the technology available at our school. As Goldilocks found out some things are just too big, some things just too small and some things are just right. The intermediate and middle school grades will use the iPads

but we decided to research the available tablets for our primary grades. After considering all the options, the iPad Mini is 'just right' for our primary grade classrooms. They are smaller and lighter and the power cord can be inserted in either direction. Reviews that we read mentioned that some kindergartners will jam the 30 pin chargers in the wrong way and

damage the iPad. Imagine that!!

The Youth Chapter of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul was formed in March 2013 with a commissioning ceremony held by Fr. Steven at our Friday morning Mass. The Mini Vinnies as they are called serve under the Resurrection Parish Chapter of SVDP. The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is a worldwide Catholic organization of lay-persons who grow in their own spirituality by loving and serving their neighbor. The Mini Vinnies, as they are called, will complete a service project each month with a different class from the school. The September project was "Pennies for Power" coordinated with the kindergarten class.

## St. Paul's Beach

Parents and students were greeted this year with a multitude of school improvements completed over the summer. Our 64-year-old building got key face lifts including landscaping in front, a new foyer, new front doors, remodeled offices, updated faculty bathrooms and a massive upgrade in the cafeteria kitchen. Our previously outdated kitchen has become an efficient commercial kitchen with restaurant equipment, new ventilation/plumbing and additions including gas ranges, fryers, dishwashers/sanitizers, warmers and stainless counters and prep sinks. We are working at offering more healthy choices for our students and will be able to host food events with our school families. Three years of Oyster Roast dinner/auction events funded the improvements. Thank you, PTA and generous school families!

Other changes in our school included promotions in our staff due to retirements. Our Assistant Principal, Krissy Thompson, became Principal and English teacher Stephanie Thomas became Assistant Principal. Tony Piskurich joined us as the middle school science instructor, Jeanne Brown came on full time as our middle school English teacher, Rita Quinlan moved to the third grade as a teacher and Shari Acireale joined us in fourth grade. Our middle school science classroom also got a facelift and now the students sit at lab tables. Our Spanish classroom doubled in

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size and has a fresh new look. The new school year brought many changes to our “seasoned” school at the beach!

## Christ the King

Christ the King is following the advice of Cardinal Richard Cushing, who said; “Always plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”

Our new school year is a testament to our long-term plans coming to fruition. First, construction has been completed on our new school office. This new location provides a secure entrance into the school, focuses on the beauty of Christ the King’s campus, and orients visitors to our Garden of Paschal Mystery.

Preparing our students for the total integration of technology in higher education environments has been another long-term plan of Christ the King that has been realized. This year, each middle school student started the new school year with an iPad IV. All Language Art books — Prentice Hall, Vocabulary and Grammar are now interactive or available online. All core subjects utilize the iPad as a tool to collaborate and create. Additionally, students demonstrate a higher level of engagement using this technology.

Lastly, in response to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s call for a Year of Faith, Christ the King along with St. Paul Riverside planned a pilgrimage to the Catholic Mission in St. Augustine. Here we will learn firsthand about our Catholic history in the New World, tour the Cathedral Basilica and participate in a Marian devotional. The day begins with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Estévez.

Plans are coming to fulfillment at Christ the King!

## Blessed Trinity

We welcomed new faces to Blessed Trinity this school year including new students, faculty, and a new pastor! Welcome Father Jhon Guarnizo!

Blessed Trinity continues to enhance our academic program through digital learning. With iPads in the hands of every teacher and our sixth and seventh graders each with an iPad, we are forging a new path for learning

that is engaging, interactive, and more exciting than ever before!

Our theme for this school year is “Growing in the Word of God.” Each month we will feature a school wide story, character, or book from scripture. The middle school students will use creative ways to present these stories to the whole student body.

We love our grandparents! On the Friday before Grandparents’ Day, grandparents were invited to join their grandchildren for a pizza lunch. What a special way to show grandparents how much they are loved and appreciated at BTCS!

Since Father Jhon’s arrival with his faithful companion, Charlie (his dog), we have a new appreciation for all animals. On the Feast of St. Francis, parishioners and members of the school community were invited to bring their pets to Blessed Trinity for a special blessing. Pets are such an important part of their families, providing unconditional love. May God bless all pets and their owners!

## Morning Star

Morning Star School welcomed 107 students this school year and two new junior high teachers, Sue Pietrusza and Cynthia Shepard, and a new Director of Development, Kristoffer Francisco. Mr. Roy Leskanic, our former Primary 2 educator, joined our Board and is an excellent addition. Our newly designed website ([www.morningstar-jax.org](http://www.morningstar-jax.org)) continues to receive tremendous praise — see it for yourself!

The fall boomed with student events like our hot dog roasts, book fair, and student council. Our gardening club continued their dedication to the school’s sustainability garden, helped in part by a generous community partner. Our 6th annual Shoot for the Stars Golf Tournament, took place in November at Eagle Harbor Golf Club. The turnout was fantastic and it was a great outlet for our students and parents to share their love for Morning Star with the community. We look forward to our school Talent Show on Friday, December 6th and our annual

Gala that will take place in the spring. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to support the only school for kids with learning differences in the diocese!

## Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit Catholic School is happy to welcome our new pastor, Father Anthony Bonela, to our school and parish family. Father Bonela was ordained in 1997. He came to the United States and served St. Joseph Catholic Church for 5 years and most recently at St. Paul’s Jacksonville Beach for the past 2 years. We are truly blessed to have him join our faith community and look forward to a wonderful school year with his spiritual guidance and leadership.

In this Year of Faith, our school was very excited to celebrate its 25th Silver Anniversary. A Day of Service took place in early September that included the entire school community. Students worked hard beautifying the church grounds as well as writing encouraging words to the seminarians, priests, and the elderly. Rosary beads were hand-made by students to help evangelize our faith. Younger students enjoyed a Play Day of fun activities while the older students celebrated with an evening “Sock Hop.” Alumni, families, retired staff, along with current teachers and staff came together to celebrate Mass and enjoy a night of fine dining and musical entertainment. We are very thankful for the many ways God continues to bless our school.

# Region 6

## Epiphany

Our annual Raffle was successful, and the drawing and dinner took place at the end of October. There were three chances to win this year! \$10,000, \$3,000 & \$1,000 cash prizes were given away as well as several great door prizes.

Our middle school students and teachers are starting their second year working on iPads! Epiphany was selected last year to take part in a nationwide pilot program for Net Texts. Each student in grades 5-8th have been assigned an iPad for both classroom and

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homework. So far it has been a great success! We thank the diocese and our parish for all the help and support with this program.

Epiphany hopes to take part in the annual Columbia County Homecoming Parade, as well as the Columbia County Fair. Both events take place in November.

Open House was August 22nd. Families enjoyed visiting their child's classroom and talking with the teachers and staff.

Planning and auditions are already underway for our annual Christmas program to be held in early December. We look forward to another great performance by all our students.

Please visit our website at [eclsc.org](http://eclsc.org) for information and events related to Epiphany!

## St. Patrick's – Gainesville

Saint Patrick Interparish Catholic School has launched an iPad pilot program for the 2013-14 school year. Frank Mackritis, the school's new principal, is a long-time educator and most recently served as the Vice Principal at St. Francis Catholic High School in Gainesville where his passion for the use of technology in education began. The iPads will

be used to enrich the learning experience within the classroom, and help integrate Common Core standards as St. Patrick's prepares students for the technology that is becoming a standard in educational institutions.

To begin this process, St. Patrick's had to update its infrastructure. We have added new hard drives to our server, an upgraded Wi-Fi system and a new firewall. This has all been made possible with the hard work of our new technologist, Claudio Faenza, who serves all three Catholic School in Gainesville. In time, the iPad program will be supported by state-of-the-art Wi-Fi capability and cloud-based networking. We feel our investment in technology coupled with the strong Catholic education our students receive will prepare them for success in their next level of education. The launch of the iPad program is part of a five-year technology roadmap at St. Pats.

## Queen of Peace Academy

Big changes are happening at QPCA... there is excitement and energy throughout the halls of the Academy, and it radiates from

both student and staff as our media center shifts to a more digital focus, and will now be known as the iTECH Center – short for Technology Education and Community Hub. The iTECH Center is the brain-child of our Principal, Sr. Nancy Elder, a true visionary leader who leads with imagination, wisdom and faith.

Sr. Nancy's vision was to transform "the classic library" as we know it into a digital library" that will support both virtual and physical learning. Students at Queen of Peace will continue to use print sources, but the iTECH Center will help integrate traditional learning and technology. The Center is an oversized think tank where students will come together to create, communicate, and dream. Students will be able to use their iPads with new Apple TVs in the iTECH Center to build presentations and share them with each other.

The role of a school library has transitioned into that of a library media center. Our iTECH Center still supports and encourages student interests in reading and literature, but our vision is to build a solid foundation of skills for students to use throughout life.

## St. Francis Catholic High School

As we approach Thanksgiving and are one third of the way through the 2013-2014 school year, Saint Francis Catholic High School has been busy.

Earlier in the year, our teachers began focusing on the third stage of the Common Core Assessment. We are using data to assist in helping our students make even greater achievement in critical thinking and application of knowledge. Our assessments will change over time and the data will be examined to help us improve over the next five years as part of our AdvancED School Improvement Plan.

We held one of our three annual College

Nights, which are always well attended and extremely informative. This year's guest speakers were from Ave Maria University, Saint Leo University, the University of North Florida and the University of Florida.

Special congratulations and thank yous go out to our parent committees, the Knights of Columbus, and all of our guests who made this year's 10th annual tuition assistance dinner the best attended to date. Congratulations to Hannah Rose Glynn who earned the title of National Merit Semi-Finalist. Our blessings on Hannah as she moves forward in the competition.

Thanks also to Bishop Estévez who came to celebrate Mass, our Feast Day and to kick off our Homecoming Week. The seniors had a wonderful retreat at Southwind in Ocala as they continue their final preparations leading up to graduation in May 2014.

As we head toward the final weeks before Thanksgiving, we genuinely look forward to our Fall National Honor Society inductions, Fine Arts Night and our drama production of *The Mousetrap*. Truly, we are blessed and hopefully "glorifying God in a loud voice."

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## **Bishop John J. Snyder High School**

With the second quarter already here, BJS students are balancing academics and extra-curricular activities. Deacon Yazdiya recognized the hard work of the Class of 2013 last May at our Senior Awards ceremony when he announced that 100 graduates earned over \$3.1million in college scholarships. It was gratifying when the College Board released AP testing data this summer and our AP pass rate of 86% far exceeded that of the state and national averages.

We welcomed four new teachers who are committed to continuing the quality of excellence in education at BJS: Reilly Campbell – Social Studies, Jeanine Kemmer – English, Rob Martin – Science and Jon

Torres – Math.

Our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) digital technology initiative allows students (and their parents) to make choices based on individual learning skills. Students can bring iPads, Kindles, Nooks and laptops for digital content or continue using traditional textbooks.

This fall, our Peer Leaders welcomed 8th grade field trips, students celebrated Homecoming Week, the Honor Societies served as after-school tutors, the freshmen enjoyed an on-campus class retreat; the juniors accepted the challenges of the ropes course retreat and nearly 20% participated in the Blood Drive. Fall sports are winding down as student-athletes excelled in cross

country, cheerleading, football, golf, swimming/diving and volleyball teams competitions.

As we enter the Christmas season, our students will organize a Thanksgiving food drive, Angel Tree gifts and offer Christian service to their churches and to the community. In January, over 100 students will travel to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life rally. Experiences such as this reinforce the messages learned on campus to respect and preserve dignity for all humans.

If you're interested in learning more about the quality education your student will receive at BJS, come to Open House on Thursday, January 16th at 7pm.

## **Bishop Kenny High School**

Technology has been the word since the arrival of the student iPads in August. Student and faculty enthusiasm for the devices remains high and the seemingly limitless number of lessons and uses for the technology is making a positive impact on the quality of learning in our classrooms! Even our 8th grade Discovery Day visitors from throughout the diocese have had an opportunity to participate in some activities on the iPads during their visits. And speaking of 8th grade students, we are all looking forward to this year's Grade School Brain Brawl Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, November 16. We look forward to the same level of fast-paced competition that the teams demonstrated last year.

The Commissioning of Extraordinary

Ministers of Holy Communion took place on two consecutive mornings during the first week of school in the Bishop Tanner Chapel. In all, eighty-five members of the senior class became ministers and have been assisting at daily Mass and at special liturgies. The newly commissioned Special Ministers of Holy Communion were entrusted with 'administering the Eucharist, with taking communion to the sick, and with giving viaticum to the dying.' During the homily, Father Houle reminded the Special Ministers that they must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct and encouraged them to strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love.

And finally, as the holidays approach, students, administrators, faculty, and staff are

busy collecting food and cash contributions for the annual BK Thanksgiving Food Drive. Another banner year is expected with requests for food baskets starting in early October. Last year's drive was successful in providing 500 food baskets – each complete with a gift card for a turkey. This annual project, coordinated by the Campus Ministry Department and the BK Chapter of Saint Vincent de Paul, reminds us all that we are blessed in our lives and that it is incumbent on us all to take care of the needy in our community.

## **St. Joseph Academy Catholic High School**

St. Joseph Academy students returned to a campus that had been transformed over the summer: old portables had been replaced by four brand new ones, new plants and landscaping further enhanced the curb appeal and new light posts with SJA banners will soon line the driveway.

New students were welcomed at the Matriculation Ceremony. They received their bibles and joined administrators, faculty and parents in asking God's blessing on the new school year. SJA warmly welcomed Fr. Richard Pagano, ordained May 2013, who will spend Tuesdays and Thursdays assisting with Campus Ministry, teaching in Theology classes, facilitating retreats with Deacon

Bryan Ott and celebrating early Mass once a week for students, faculty and parents. SJA's International Student Program is thriving; thirty-one students from Brazil, China, Egypt, Germany and Spain are adjusting extremely well and getting involved in athletics, extra-curricular activities and community service right away!

Serving the poor at home and abroad, a new group, Students for the Poor, has begun a monthly service project aimed at assisting the poor in our local community. Over 30 students helped to serve dinner at St. Francis House and visited with the residents. Many of these students will participate in the Jamaican Mission trips, which take place in January and March 2014.

A new course, Emergent Technology, will instruct the students how to use Chromebooks and develop knowledge of computer-based emergent technologies and tele-communications, with related ethics, issues and trends. Content includes integration of multimedia and technology into presentations, analyses of mass media elements, critique of assets/problems encountered with new technological knowledge, and overview of legality regarding media control rights. An HDTV / Blu-Ray cart is available for our teachers to use to play DVD and Blu-Ray discs which are the latest two technologies available in digital video.

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