

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance to students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School



Double Your Gift!

Donations to A&F&F Tuition Assistance Fund will be matched dollar for dollar through December 31, 2021.

See page 2 for details.

Celebrate a Loved One...

by giving a gift in honor or memory of them.

See page 10 for details.



PHOTO BY JEANNINE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

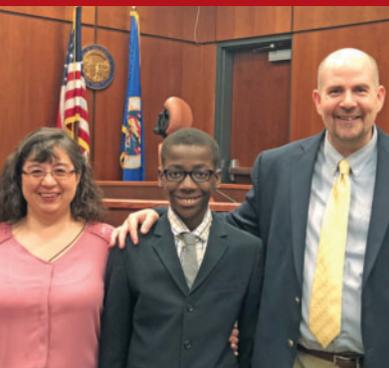
INSIDE

Fr. Steve's Column
Page 2

Teacher Profiles
Pages 4-5

2020-2021
Annual Report
Pages 6-11

BELOW: COS families share their stories, including the Muskes (page 11).



COS Helps All Students Reach Their Full Potential

New Curriculums Increase Rigor While City Connects Removes Barriers to Learning

Despite huge educational challenges created by COVID-19, Principal Bridget Kramer hasn't allowed it to slow down efforts to create an environment where all students can reach their full potential. This year Community of Saints (COS) has kept the momentum going with rigorous new curriculums in science and math, while also expanding City Connects, a program that addresses obstacles to learning that occur outside of the classroom.

Curriculums Designed to Accelerate Learning

In selecting new curriculums, a top priority was ensuring there was plenty of rigor, and that all students would have access to above grade-level concepts. "In education, there's a tendency to shortchange students of color by making assumptions that limit their potential, or putting them in a bubble as a way of protecting them from failing," said Principal Kramer. "We want to ensure that all students are exposed to high-quality, grade-level content that aligns with grade level standards. We also want to provide access to higher level concepts so students can build the skills they need to accelerate learning."

For science, the COS team working on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) partnered with the University of Notre Dame to select and implement a curriculum that is student-led, hands-on, and addresses real-world problems. That translates into

— Continued on page 3

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**

Dear Alums & Friends & Families of COS,

It is a common family experience, if one member of the family is in trouble, the others will put aside what they are doing and come to the aid of the troubled family member. When there is one student in the classroom who is having difficulty, the teacher will give a little more attention to that student.

These familiar occurrences describe what the Scripture tells us about God. While God loves all people, God has a special concern for those who are suffering, those in need, those forgotten and dismissed by others. In theological language we call that **"God's preferential option for the poor."**

In the Gospel, Jesus seeks out such people; he befriends them, spends time with them, and eats with them. He instructs his disciples to follow his example.

Many COS families struggle with financial issues, sometimes with health issues, and often employment issues. COS will never turn away any students for financial reasons. While we hold each student as unique and entitled to a first-class Catholic education, we nonetheless have a preferential option for those most in need, for families who struggle greatly to hold it all together.

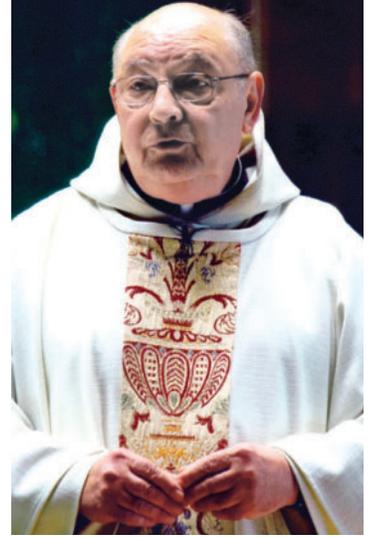
All of this does not happen automatically. Since the 2007-08 school year you, Alums & Friends & Families have raised more than \$2,800,000 to underwrite tuition assistance for literally hundreds of students. Every family pays at least some of the tuition cost. For some families even a small amount is a stretch. Your generosity comes to the rescue, making it possible for every student to receive a high-quality Catholic education.

Without you the mission of COS could not occur; you make it happen.

As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving, it is only right that you be thanked for all you do for COS families. The student Thanksgiving Mass gives thanks for you and your generous spirit.

Thank you.

Fr. Steve Adrian, Canonical Administrator of COS



DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

For the month of December, all gifts will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$7,500) thanks to the generous support of an alum and good friend of COS.

Call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 for more information.

Archdiocese Names Community of Saints a Drexel Mission School

Initiative Recognizes Excellence in Educating Disadvantaged Students

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis named Community of Saints (COS) a Drexel Mission School, one of ten in the Twin Cities. The initiative recognizes Catholic elementary schools serving low-income families and students of color for a dual challenge; the schools have limited ability to generate revenue from tuition while shouldering the extra costs of providing additional services crucial to students' success.

Named for St. Katharine Drexel, patron saint of philanthropy and racial justice, qualifying schools must have a minimum enrollment of 100 students with 50% or more students of color and at least 50% qualifying for free or reduced lunch, a standard indicator for low-income households. COS has more than 200 students, with 61% qualifying for free and reduced lunch, one of the highest rates for Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

Participating schools must commit to standards of excellence in education in exchange for assistance that includes access to scholarships and a City Connects Coordinator (see cover story for more information about City Connects). The initiative is supported by the GHR Foundation, the Aim Higher Foundation, and the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota.





Helping All Students Reach Their Full Potential, continued from page 1

students doing more experiments and having more conversations about “why” and “how.”

“We recently learned about bio-mimicry where humans use nature to solve problems,” explained first grade teacher, Alex Rumpel. “We started by looking at different animals, studying their body parts, and learning what each part does. Then students came up with their own ideas for bio-mimicry and had to build it.”

Breakthrough Achievements

Last year COS received a grant from the GHR Foundation to partner with the non-profit, Achievement Net (ANET), to research and select a math curriculum. ANET helps schools achieve breakthrough results and is dedicated to expanding educational equity for all students. Last spring, a committee made up of COS teachers and Principal Kramer began meeting with ANET monthly to establish criteria and vet options.

Principal Kramer says the new curriculum checks all the boxes. “It works with STEM, and the way we use technology,” she said. “The photos of kids look like our kids, and they’re solving problems kids might encounter in real life. We don’t want students saying ‘I’ll never use this.’”

Third grade teacher Amy Brown appreciates the ongoing training to help teachers master the many tools the curriculum provides. “These curriculums were created for the world we live in now and take advantage of the way we can use technology in the classroom today,” Brown said. “We can do things now that weren’t remotely possible five or ten years ago.”

Removing Barriers to Academic Success

City Connects, a program that connects families to services, was developed by Boston University 25 years ago with the premise that meeting a child’s needs outside the classroom improves academic

achievement. Since then, the program has racked up impressive statistics proving it works. In 2015, the GHR Foundation successfully piloted the program in the Twin Cities. Now the archdiocese’s Drexel Mission Schools Initiative includes funding for a City Connects coordinator in each of the mission schools, including COS. (See page 2 for details.)

City Connects coordinator at COS, Chris Benefield, had been at the school two days per week, but due to growing enrollment, he’s now full time. “Literally, nothing is out of bounds,” said Benefield, describing the ways he helps families. Early in the pandemic, Benefield spent a lot of time finding WiFi services for families so students could participate in remote learning. He’s helped children get scholarships for summer programs in fashion design and creative writing, and scored free tickets for families to attend concerts or ballets. He’s arranged to have bags of food available on Fridays for households who might not have enough for the weekend, and as pandemic housing protections fall away, he tracks down rent support and housing options.

“When a child’s out of school needs are met, they’re more ready to learn,” stated Benefield. “We’re trying to directly impact academics with interventions that close the achievement gap.”

Opening Doors to Success

Principal Kramer points out there can be hundreds of reasons why low-income students don’t have the same opportunities to succeed as students from higher-income families. Removing obstacles and opening doors, whether it’s inside or outside the classroom, makes a difference. “COS is committed to helping students be the best version of themselves,” said Principal Kramer “This is a place where we really believe every child is made in the image of God’s love.”

What's New with COS Faculty?

Meet some of the teachers who are new this year, who are returning this year, and who decided it was time for a change.



Alex (Gergen) Rumpel
1ST GRADE TEACHER

ALEX RUMPEL began teaching at COS in 2015, left in 2018 to join her husband, a professional hockey player who signed with a team in Europe, then returned in 2020 to teach the expanded kindergarten class. From the start she was drawn to COS for its policy of not turning families away because of tuition. "I really liked the mission and the idea that the school would never deny a student an education because of money," she said. "That told me there was a true commitment to these kids."

This year, as the large kindergarten class ascends to first grade, Rumpel is making the move with them. Her class is a mix, with some students she taught last year, some she didn't, and some new to the school. She reports they've hit the ground running. "I already know where a lot of them are academically and what works for them," she said. "That gives us a head start."

Rumpel, who grew up in Rosemount, graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall High School and earned her teaching

degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has taught school for seven years and is happy to be back at COS. "I know first hand how the teachers and principal go above and beyond to help these kids succeed. It's really a special place."

What she loves most about teaching are the light bulb moments. "You can see on kids' faces when something is hard, and they're frustrated, and then — BOOM — it clicks!" she exclaimed. "It's so fulfilling. I don't think other jobs offer anything to compare."



Eva Boncich
2ND GRADE TEACHER

EVA BONCICH brings energy, enthusiasm, and a valuable perspective to her second grade classroom. Like many of her students, Boncich was an English Language Learner (ELL) who only spoke Spanish when she started first grade at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hastings, MN, "It was a small school, and aside from me there was one other girl of color," Boncich remembers. "Teaching at COS gives me a chance to make sure the classroom is a comfortable place for kids who share that experience."

After moving to St. Paul, Boncich attended Cretin-Derham Hall High School, which led her to pursue a career in teaching. "I didn't always love school, but I always wanted to go to school because of my teachers," she said. "For college, I wanted to find the best place to go for a teaching degree."

After graduating from the College of St. Benedict last spring, Boncich put her bilingual skills to work in the classroom at COS and is excited to be at a school where she can share her Catholic faith with students. "Growing up Catholic, I was always immersed in my faith. It feels good to be able to talk to students about God."

Amy Brown
3RD GRADE TEACHER



Maybe it was the pandemic, but after happily teaching second grade for nearly twenty years, including ten at COS, **AMY BROWN** decided to make a change. "I thought — why not teach third grade? It's not a huge change but it seemed like a fun thing to do."

This year Brown was delighted to welcome back her former students as third graders, and get to focus on full-time, in-person instruction with them. "In the classroom you're very much in the present moment with the kids, which I really enjoy," she said. "Teachers juggle fifty thoughts at once, with an eye on everybody, and each student needs something different. It's nice to be able to do that with everyone together in the classroom again."

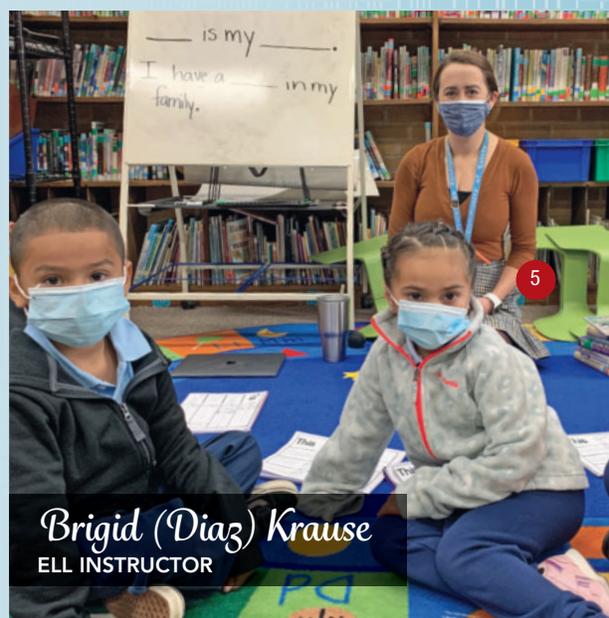
Brown is a long-time member of St. Matthew's parish and taught at the school for eight years before moving to COS. She earned her teaching degree from the University of Minnesota, Morris and her Master's from the University of St. Thomas. Before teaching, she served for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay.

Having been at COS since it opened, she's excited about the school's trajectory. "Every year there are improvements — new resources, classroom materials, curriculums," Brown said. "There are always new challenges, but the school is headed in a really good direction."

As the third grade teacher, **BRIGID KRAUSE** loved being part of the COS community, but due to COVID-19, her doctor advised her to take the 2020-21 school year off because she was pregnant and had underlying health issues.

Now the proud mother of a baby boy, she's returned as the English Language Learner (ELL) instructor. It's a new, part-time position which supports the 33% of students at COS who speak a language at home other than English. Most speak Spanish, but other languages include Hmong and Tagalog. "ELL kids have good skills for communicating with friends and getting by in the world," Krause explained. "My job is to strengthen their academic language and develop higher level vocabulary for speaking, listening, reading, and writing."

A graduate of St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN, with 11 years of teaching experience, Krause earned her licensure in ELL at the University of St. Thomas before coming to COS. Having ELL students in her classroom is part of what attracted her to the school. "It's amazing to see young students who can switch back and forth between two languages, while I struggled to get through Spanish," she said. "My grandfather was from Mexico and my dad wasn't supposed to speak Spanish growing up. I feel passionate about supporting these students, so they know being bilingual is a beautiful gift."



Brigid (Diaz) Krause
ELL INSTRUCTOR



Diane Benz
MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATH TEACHER

DIANE BENZ is thrilled to spend the day sharing her love of math with middle school students. When Principal Kramer advised her that each class is 1.5 hours, longer than most other subjects, she responded, "That's wonderful!"

Benz, who's from California, earned a degree in mathematics from California State University, Fullerton. She tried a few jobs after college, but it wasn't until she became a substitute teacher that she found something she really liked. In 1995, she moved to Minnesota with her two young children for her husband's job. She eventually began subbing again and earned her teaching license from Macalester College. She has been teaching full time since 2014.

"I always wanted to try teaching at a parochial school," Benz said. "My kids went to Catholic schools, and I wanted a chance to share my faith." As the homeroom teacher for sixth grade, she also teaches sixth grade religion.

Benz is busy getting up to speed on the new math curriculum and feels like the year is off to a great start. "I never thought I wanted to teach middle school," she admits. "But I've landed with a great group of kids and a great team that is very welcoming. It's been a joy."

565 Donors Contributed \$393,920 for Tuition Assistance Record-Breaking Generosity Helps School Close Gap and Change Lives

The opportunity gap refers to the difference in education achievements between different groups of students, such as white students and students of color, or students from higher-income and lower-income households. Minnesota has one of the highest opportunity gaps in the country. In 2019 the state ranked 50th for racial disparities in high school graduation rates. No child should be denied opportunities to succeed because of factors beyond their control, such as race, ethnicity, and zip code.

In a faith-based, loving, and safe environment, Community of Saints constantly strives to remove barriers to academic achievement and create opportunities for all students to reach their full potential. Your generous gifts to Alums & Friends & Families Tuition Assistance Fund make this important work possible. At Community of Saints, where over 90% of students receive financial assistance, your donations are truly changing the lives of children and their families. **Thank you for your support.**

Donations listed were received between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

PILLAR (\$15,000+)

Mary Cullen McKeown &
Tom McKeown
John P. Curran
Roy & JoAnn Ferber
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
John & Cynthia O'Halloran

PACESETTER (\$10,000–\$14,999)

Lisa S. & Richard E. Anderson
Father James Himmelsbach
Carlo LaManna

LEADER (\$5,000–\$9,999)

Susan & Tony Alleva
Anonymous
Boss Foundation
Hugh & Melissa Cullen
David Hodgson &
Janeice De Lisle
Kent Family Charitable Trust
Lee Morhar
Phil & Connie Paquette
John Riehle
Daniel & Rosemary Schadegg
Nicholas & Ilene Undis

EDUCATOR (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Anonymous
Frank H. Brewer
Barb Carlier
Mary Kay & Michael Cooney
Joseph & Doreen Cullen
Jack Ferber
Beth & Jerome Geis
Jim & Jan Kunz
Tom & Mary Gerry Lee
Emily O'Halloran
Thomas & Mary O'Neill
Sandra & Thomas Reding

St. Paul Linoleum & Carpet Co.
General Joseph Votel &
Michele Votel

SUSTAINER (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Father Steve Adrian
Marjorie & Robert Arnold
James & Arlene Barnhart
Roger & Donn Beaubien
Shirley Bergum
Catherine & James Blaha
Denise & James Bohrer
Mark & Sheri Brengman
Rosalie & Richard Bush
Norbert & Mary Ellen Conzemius
Jacqueline Cosgrove
Mark & Angela DelVecchio
Thomas J. Doyle
Carol & Lawrence Engelmann
Mary Jane Ferber &
Carolyn Jones
Elizabeth French
Jean Froehle
Mark & Ilze Hager
Lee & Carolyn Halbur
Mary & Ken Herriges
Lynne Johnson
Patricia & Eugene Karels
Gregory & Myra Karlen
Deb & Jack Katzmark
Theodore Kronschnabel
George & Carol Lang
Ernie Maier
Father John Malone
Mary Ellen Malone
Joseph Mansur
Eileen McMahon &
Steve Karbon
Anne Cullen Miller & Mark Miller
David & Cathy Pavlak
Tom & Patricia Rolewicz
Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
Mary Ann Roscoe
Donna Schneider
Brittany & Andrew Schou
Linda Sellars

Marilyn Sexton
Father Gregory Skrypek
Michael Smeby
Mary Pat Topritzhofer
Richard & Mary Topritzhofer
Julie Treinen
David Ubl
Mary Walsh
John & Mary Wren

BUILDER (\$500–\$999)

Anonymous
Roberta Barger
Richard Bernard
Patricia & Richard Clemen
William Costello
Richard F. Cruz
Mary Cullen
Shawn & Kim Doyle
Joseph & Christine Garcia
Kathryn Grayson
Tom Heinen & Tami Phillippi
William & Joyce Herzog
David Hottinger &
Mary Kaul-Hottinger
Francis J. Jacobs
Richard Jeub
Nancy & Robert Jorissen
Thomas Kabesh
Michael Kosel
Patrick Leahy
Doug & Krissy Lieser
Peg Lindlof
Denice Marruffo
Ray & Beth Marschall
Donna & Peter McCarthy
David McDonald
Steve & Anita McKeown
Francis Miley
Margo O'Malley
Vicky & Steve Orme
John Perkovich
Thomas & Ardys Pertz
Paul & Tesa Ramos
Kyle & Emily Reckinger
Mary Rogers

Pinky Schmid
Sheila Steiner
Sharon Utgaard
Patrick Waldera
Joseph & Danielle Wenker
Gary Wilmer
Joseph & Jeanne Wilmes
John & Debra Zyla

BENEFACTOR (\$250–\$499)

Bernard & Norma Alvarez
David Asper
Steve & Nancy Bade
Bandholz Charitable
Gerald Bandholz
Daniel & Ellie Breister
Stephen & Ellen Casey
Clement & Molly Commers
Fred & Molly Commers Fund
Billie Conlon
Mary Crandall
Timothy Dalzell
Aileen David-Koenen &
Andrew Koenen
Jane Dowd
Lynn & Robert Ferguson
Francis Fried
Teddy Gesell
Joan & Bob Goggins



Elizabeth Grundner
 Mary Ellen Gutzmann
 Richard Halvorson
 John & Shirley Haney
 Mary Ann Hillyer
 John Hinding
 Anita & George Hottinger
 Father Bradley Jenniges, OSB
 Walter Jost & Ellie Brenny
 Father Dennis Kampa
 Sharon Koran
 Ann Koves
 Bridget Kramer
 Susanne Kueppers
 John Lang
 Stephanie Langer
 Maggie Lee & Richard Dunn
 Mary Maher
 Nancy & Tom Maloney
 Regina & Dick McCarthy
 Teresa & Stephen McCurdy
 Irene Mikkalson
 Patricia Mitshulis
 Joel & Meghan Moore
 James & Barbara Mulrooney
 Dotty & Dr. Peter Murk
 Elizabeth & Timothy Nowak
 Frances O'Neill
 Mary Ann Ogden
 Elaine Pesek
 Jack & Ann Piepel
 Mark & Connie Reding
 Rita Ryan
 J. Michael & Carol Schneider
 Pat & Wayne Schultz
 Linda Sill
 Mary Kathleen Sitzmann
 Thomas Smith &
 Catalina Adamez-Smith
 Suzanne Snyder
 Georgene Sorenson
 Thomas Stremski
 Pamela Thul-Immler
 Robert & Barbara Verstraete
 Charleen & John Vitelli
 Dick Votel
 Terry Votel
 Bernadette Walter
 Martin Warren
 Father Greg Welch
 Toni Wilburn
 Dr. Jeanne Zimmer, PhD

PATRON
 (\$100-\$249)

Gloria Alt
 Francine Anderson
 Anonymous
 Florence Bandholz
 Richard & Marilyn Bandholz
 Dennis Beissel
 Beth & Tim Bellon
 Mary Bettenburg
 Gary Black
 JoLynn Blaeser
 Patricia Blaskie

Patricia & Daniel Blaskowski
 Dianne & Jerome Blatzheim
 Theresa Bock
 Dan & Karen Boden
 Mary Sue Brass
 Corinne & William Brengman
 Jim Brewer
 Nancy Brunzel
 Armando Camacho
 Mark & Mary Kay Capocchi
 Suzanne Clarke &
 George Derringer
 Steve Commers
 Tim Commers
 Betty Cook
 Frances Cook
 Stephen Costello
 Denise Crawford
 Jo Ann Danmeier
 Carol & Brian DeBlicke
 Margaret Demco
 Wayne Dressler
 Pamela Dyer
 Sandra Eckes-Shandorf
 Jack Ehrenberg
 Evelyn Ehret
 Kathleen & Michael Eischen
 Leah Feyereisen
 Barbara Fitzpatrick
 Edward Flahavan &
 Susan O'Leary
 Kathleen Fletcher
 Timothy Flynn
 Luann Ford
 Paul Galles
 Daniel & Elizabeth Gangl
 Thomas & Julie Garcia
 Cathy & Steve Garvey
 Paul Gifford
 Cathy & Doug Goaley
 Kathleen Gobeli
 Elaine & Roger Goldberg
 Mary Grady
 Amy & Peter Grayson
 Kathy Groettum
 Steven Grundei
 Terry Grundtner
 James Guldán
 Lillian Hang
 Teresa Hansen
 Patricia Hara
 Mary & Lyth Hartz
 Janice Hawkes
 Dorothy & Jerry Hawkins
 Susan Hendrickson
 Celia Hiland
 Andrea Hinding &
 David Holst
 Joseph Hinze
 Robert Hinze
 Lyn Holmes
 D. Keith Horst
 Helene Houle
 Suzette Houle
 Judith House
 Mick Huntress
 Michael & Kathleen Igo

Continued on page 8



Liz Doby with children (clockwise) Arnulfo (Pre-K), Alaura (1st grade), Alaylah (4th grade), husband Gerardo Sanchez, and son Alonzo (6th grade).

The Doby-Sanchez Family

Liz Doby, an independent hair stylist, had been told by one of her customers many times that she should check out Community of Saints (COS). She never seriously considered it. "I told her there's no way I can afford private school for four kids, it's not possible," Liz said. "She told me I should I talk to them anyway."

Despite her doubts, Liz visited the school last summer and said it was love at first sight. "I loved how the classrooms were set up, and how the middle school was close to the younger kids," said Liz, who had four kids spread out over two different schools, a preschool, and daycare. "When we talked about tuition, Principal Kramer told me they would work with our family — whatever we can afford."

While last year wasn't exactly normal, Liz thought it went great. "The first week my oldest boy told me he really liked the school," she reported. "He felt challenged, and he especially liked the religion piece." Liz said her Catholic husband was thrilled.

With her youngest now enrolled in the preschool, all four children are together at COS, and Liz is determined to keep it that way. "We've talked about moving and it all comes back to the school. This is where they're going until 8th grade," she said. "My kids never come home and say they don't want to go to school. In fact, my preschooler was upset yesterday because there was no school."

In addition to having her children all together, safe, and happy, Liz appreciates the other COS families she's met, some she now considers close friends. "It's such an amazing community of tightly bonded people that were once strangers, and now feel like family," she said with wonder. "I want to give a big thank you to the donors. This has been really life changing for our family."

PATRON (\$100–\$249)
continued

Molly & Pete Iversen
Mike & Jean Jack
Randall Jenniges
Susan Jensen
Pat & Kay Johnson
Greg Jones
Sharon Joswiak
Karen & Patrick Kachel
Marcie & Leo Kegler
Lynn & Douglas Kennedy
Dave Kessel &
Georgia Robertson-Kessel
Jill & William Kilzer
Thomas & Ruth King
Margaret Ann & Thomas Klein
Jim Korman
Richard Kouri
Barbara & David Kraker
Matthew Kudwa
Wendy & Gregory Kuntz
Jackie Lackner
Janet Lackner
Cecilia Lamb
Bernard & Colleen Lancette
Molly Lannon

Nicholas & Mary Lasovich
Mary Pat Lee & Jim Scheibel
Mary Leibl
Patricia Leseman
Don Loughrea
Joan Mandel
Camille Mansur
Joan McCarthy
Gerald & Marjorie McEllistrem
Thomas McEllistrem
Erin McGuire
Kathleen Meyers
Peter Mikkalson
Dennis & Tamara Mitchell
Father Ray Monsour
Monsour Construction
Jessica Morales
Fran Mudek
Tom Murray
Julia Musial
Barbara Neff
Helen Nere
Jeanne Nordman
Lisa Norton
Beatrice & John O’Neill
Mary Orme
Jerry & Alice Pahl
Carole Palermo

Anthony Palumbo
Bill & Annette Patient
Mark Peterson
Rebecca Peterson
Sheryl Peterson
Theresa Pham
Loretta Pietruszewski
Sharon Pirkel
Nancy Poechmann
Dan & Denise Quinlan
Tim & Jane Quinlan
Tom Quinlan
Anna Quinn
Rich Rakness
Allen Rasmussen
Margaret & James Reed
Ann Reidell
George Rhode
Stephen Riehm
William & Angela Rindfleisch
Mary Ann & James Roeller
Jim & Lynne Roeske
Carol Ann & James Roubal, Sr.
Ralph & Jacqueline Roubal
William & Rita Roubik
Kenneth & Judy Rouse



Barbara Ruberto
Mary Ryan
Paula & Tom Sanchez
Sylvia Santos
Georgianna & Jim Saumweber
Christopher Schletty
Laura Schmidt
Thomas & Mary Schmidt
Carol Schreiner
Douglas & Florence Schueller
Corinne Schuster
Bill & Jane Schwartz

The Lazos Family

The last 18 months haven’t been easy for the Lazos family. First, the pandemic led to a cut in work hours for Norma, the mom, at her office cleaning job. She went from eight hours a day, to six, and then down to four. “I thanked God I still had some hours,” she said. Her husband also worked, but his construction jobs were less reliable, with last-minute cancellations and days lost to bad weather, making the loss of Norma’s steady income painful.

At the same time, Norma was concerned about her family in Nicaragua. Her sister, who is a nurse, had provided medical care for young people injured while protesting the Nicaraguan dictatorship. As a result, her sister and family came under threat from pro-government forces looking for anyone who had aided the protestors. “My sister’s family had to flee,” Norma said.

“They could have been killed if they stayed, so they sought asylum here.”

Now, after welcoming the family members into her home, their household has swelled to ten. Money is tight, but at least everyone is safe.

With all the worries, Norma has taken comfort knowing her children are happy and well cared for at school. Her twin daughters, Lizandra and Cassandra, are in first grade, Alexandra is in third grade, and now her niece from Nicaragua, Brihany, is enrolled in fourth grade. Norma explains that the school is a very different experience for Brihany, and she doesn’t know much English, but she loves COS. “The teachers are very nice, and they make the school accessible to everyone,” Norma said through a translator. “When there are school gatherings, it feels like a big family.”

Most important to Norma is the opportunity for her children to learn about Catholic values and have those values reinforced at school. “Here they have religion every day. That gives them a strong foundation.”

Norma said tuition assistance has been crucial. Even with the assistance the family has received in the past, she was unsure if she could afford to send the children this year. “Because of everything that’s happened, it was hard to keep going with tuition,” she said. “But Principal Kramer wanted the kids to stay. She told me if it was because of the money, not to worry. That was good to hear because the kids love their school.”



Norma Lazos (center) with daughters (left to right) Alondra Armas (a student at Two Rivers High School), Lizandra & Cassandra (1st grade), niece Brihany (4th grade), and Alexandra (3rd grade).

Chip & Jeanette Schwartz
 Elizabeth Shaughnessy
 Judi Shaughnessy
 Helen Sigmeth
 David & Joan Smith
 Shirley & Lawrence Smith
 Elizabeth Snyder
 Sheila & Steven Stai
 Timothy Stai
 James Standing
 John Stevens
 Michael Stevens
 Robert Stickler
 Steven & Julie Stremski
 Marjorie Sullivan
 Sandy Sward
 Anita Sweeney
 Barbara Tesch
 Rudy Thell
 Barbara Tinucci
 Anthony & Diane Vasquez
 Michael Vasterling
 Charlene Videen
 Sister Mary Vincelli, CSJ
 A. Thomas & Mary Ann Vogel
 Bill & Karen Walter
 Mary Ellen & Carl Wegner
 James Wenker
 Kelly & Daniel Wicker
 Michael Wicker
 Kenneth Wilhelm
 Diane Wineman
 Marian Wolters
 Kathy Yanez
 Carol & Jim Yannarely
 Lynnette Youness Hamid

SUPPORTER (Up to \$99)

James Absey
 Rita Adam
 Judi Ann & Richard Albrecht
 Marilyn Andert
 Anonymous
 Dorea Arguelles
 Father Michael Arms
 Joyce Athmann
 Mary Babineau
 Victoria Baker
 Beverly Barrett
 Donald Bauer
 Bauer Family
 K.M. Beaudette

John & Lydia Belair
 Caryn & Brian Benish
 Margaret Blenkush
 Mary Ann Bloch
 Karen Bloechl
 Patricia Bloomquist
 Darline Bohrer
 Robert & Linda Borovansky
 Louise & Gerald Breidel
 Joan Brock
 Marvin Brown
 Jerry Brown
 Audrey Brucker
 Thomas & Sheila Brunelle
 Helena Byrne
 Cheryl Campbell
 Stephanie Caro
 Martin Casalenda
 Leonard Casanova
 James Casey & Amy Keiser
 Jane & Tom Chada
 James & Karen Chapple
 Maxine & Jim Chupurdia
 Sharon Cosgrove
 Casey Costello
 James & Judith Cunningham
 Robert & Judy DeNardo
 Mary Lou & Jerry DeZelar
 Kathleen Dittel
 Mary & David Dunn
 Sandra Elliott
 Peggy Erickson
 William & Gerrie Erickson
 Peter Exley, Jr.
 Curt & Marian Feste
 Mary Helen & Joseph Fitzharris
 Theresa GanglGhassemLouei
 Donald Geng & Paul Witt
 Joan Gennaro
 James Gerlach
 Esther & Donald Giesel
 Donna Mae & John Gieske
 James & Rochelle Glowaski
 Kenneth & Kathleen Goers
 Marilyn Gonsowski
 Sister Carol Ann Gosse
 Richard & Mary Grant
 Michael Gubash
 Gilbert Gustafson
 Nancy Halvorson
 Robert & Mary Ann Hanson
 JoAnn Heimel
 Juliana Hernandez-Friske
 Janice Heymans
 Marilu Husman-Woodford
 Autumn & Jeremy Irlbeck
 Steve Jenkins
 Ronald Jordan
 Robert Joseph
 Gene & Irene Josephs
 Charlotte &
 Roger Josephson
 Charles Karas
 Michael & Renee Karas
 Mary Jo Kelly
 Margaret Kelsch
 Father William Kenney
 John Ketchmark
 Richard & Ann Klein

Loyalty Circle

Our Loyalty Circle honors individuals and families who make a lasting impact on our students and school. Their generosity is critical to our mission of educating all families who desire a Catholic education for their children in this region. Membership in our Loyalty Circle is based on a history of consecutive giving, significant financial support, or inclusion of Community of Saints in estate plans.

Father Steve Adrian
 Susan & Tony Alleva
 Victoria Baker
 James & Arlene Barnhart
 Patricia Blaskie
 Patricia & Daniel Blaskowski
 Alice Bobick†
 Denise & James Bohrer
 Mary Sue Brass
 Corinne & William Brengman
 Jim Brewer
 Audrey Brucker
 Vivian Byers†
 Patricia & Richard Clemen
 Clement & Molly Commers
 Frances Cook
 Jacqueline Cosgrove
 Hugh & Melissa Cullen
 Joseph & Doreen Cullen
 John P. Curran
 Timothy Dalzell
 Mark & Angela DelVecchio
 Thomas J. Doyle
 Joanne Dufour
 Carol & Lawrence Engelmann
 Jack Ferber
 Mary Jane Ferber &
 Carolyn Jones
 Roy & JoAnn Ferber
 Bill & Bonita Frels
 Elizabeth French
 Francis Fried
 Jean Froehle
 Joan Gennaro
 Teddy & Jim† Gesell
 Esther & Donald Giesel
 Kathleen Gobeli
 James Guldan
 John & Shirley Haney
 Mary & Ken Herriges
 Robert Hinze
 Patricia Holmes
 David Hottinger &
 Mary Kaul-Hottinger
 Father Bradley Jenniges, OSB
 Susan Jensen
 Robert Joseph
 Thomas Kabesh
 Karen & Patrick Kachel
 Tom & Cynthia Klecatsky
 Jim Korman
 Mary Ann Kosel
 Michael Kosel
 Mary Kaye & Jim Kramer
 Jim & Jan Kunz
 Janet Lackner
 Carlo & Virginia† LaManna
 Bernard & Colleen Lancette
 George & Carol Lang

Maggie Lee & Richard Dunn
 Mary Leibl
 Doug & Krissy Lieser
 Stella Lundquist
 William & Patricia Mahoney
 Joseph Mansur
 Donna & Peter McCarthy
 David McDonald
 Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
 Larry McGough
 Steve & Anita McKeown
 Mary Cullen McKeown &
 Tom McKeown
 Eileen McMahon &
 Steve Karbon
 Anne Cullen Miller &
 Mark Miller
 Lee & Judith† Morhar
 Barbara Neff
 Eileen Norton
 John & Cynthia O'Halloran
 Thomas & Mary O'Neill
 Pat & Tony Palmer†
 Nancy Poechmann
 Margarita Probst
 John Riehle
 William & Angela Rindfleisch
 Tom & Patricia Rolewicz
 Tom Rolewicz, Jr.
 Mary Ann Roscoe
 Ralph & Jacqueline Roubal
 Rita Ryan
 Josette Salah†
 Daniel & Rosemary Schadegg
 Christopher Schletty
 Carol Schreiner
 Pat & Wayne Schultz
 Corinne Schuster
 Jerry† & Marilyn Sexton
 Linda Sill
 Eugene Sitzmann†
 Tony Sitzmann
 Thomas Smith &
 Catalina Adamez-Smith
 Georgene Sorenson
 Russ Sudeith
 Barbara Tinucci
 Dorothy Turcotte-Tait
 Michael Vasterling
 Allen & Diane Volkenant
 Lynn Volkenant
 Dick Votel
 Terry Votel
 Toni Wilburn
 Peter Willems
 Marian Wolters



Continued on page 10

† Deceased

SUPPORTER (Up to \$99)
continued

Judith Knabe
Barbara Kopp
Kenneth Kosel
Tony & Marilyn Lancette
Michaela & Leonard Leitner
Geraldine Loder
Dwight & Mary Lundquist
Stella Lundquist
Carmella Maher
Kelly & Dave Matter
Claudia McGuire
Margaret McKane
Marge & Wayne Milner
Michael & Mary Ann Monahan
John F. Mooney &
Michael T. Mooney
John G. & Nancy Mooney
Ann Myran
Patricia Norquist
Eileen Norton
Sue & Stephen Nowaczewski
Susan Nowak
Mary Beth O'Brien
Maureen O'Connor
Michael O'Connor
Brigid O'Malley
Theresa O'Neal
Theodore Page
Margarita Probst
Virginia & Daniel Radant
Eileen Rauchwarter
Patricia Reese
Steve Reidell
John & Marilyn Ringold
Caroline Rodriguez
Janelle Rohr
Julie Rollheiser
Richard Rosga
Anthony & Dian Roszak
Kimberly Rothe

Kay & Jim Russell
Susan Ryan
Guadalupe Santos
Joseph Savard
Ronald Schaaf
Michael & Penny Schadegg
Doris Schillinger
Harold & Joyce Schlemmer
Richard & Patricia Schletty
Diane & John Schowalter
Kathy & Al Schowalter
Mike Seubert
Kathy Sexton
Dixie Shafer & Jerald Dosch
Michael Shearen
Bernice Shipley
Bonnie Simon
Annemarie Smith
Darrell Smith
Joanne Smith
Robert E. & Dorothy M. Smith
Edna Solis & Mario Solis, Sr.
John Steadman
Philip Stefaniak
Mary Jo Steffes
John R. Sullivan
Mike Sweeney
Iva Tereau
Karen L. Thompson
Dorothy Turcotte-Tait
Diane Valen
Judith Ann Valerius
Jesse & Mary Vasquez
Mary Vasterling
Dolores & John Vogel
Lynn Volkenant
Marcella Wartman
Dorice & John Weegman
Mary Lou Weegman
Andrea Wenker
Argerie Diaz-White &
Robert White
Anthony & Christine Wilfahrt

Peter Willems
Tomi & Richard Willems
Robert & Jaime Witte
Peter Yanish
Dale Yarosz
Robert Zimmerman

Allen & Diane Volkenant
Jim Wicker

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Absey
Michael Adrian
Vonnie Allie
Hildegarde Rosenberger
Armstrong
Jack & Dorothy Bade
Jack Bandholz
Chuck Barger
Erv Barrett
Ralph & Evelyn Beissel
May & Harold Belair
Gordon & Mary Ellen Berg
Gerald E. Bergum
Ruby Bernard
Sister Mary Bernice, SSND
Cornelius & Lucille Bertrand
Debi Witt Black
Anna Blechinger
Dolores & Valentine Blenkush
Karen Bloechl
Tony Bloechl
Daniel W. Boden, Jr.
The Boeltl sisters
George L. Bohrer
Kathleen Brewer
Jeanette Brown
Arnold & Susan Brucker
Mike & Rose Campa
William & Geraldine Campbell
Erlinda Carrier
Robert, Walter &
James Casanova
Monsignor James Cecka
Louis J. Chapdelaine
Fred Commers
Sister St. Luke Copeland, CSJ
Francis & Gertrude Cosgrove
Hugh Cosgrove
Thomas Ireland Costello
James T. Cruz & John F. Cruz
Dalzell family
Bruce David
Sister Patricia DeBlicke, CSJ
Ed & Ginny Deziel
Lucille & Jacob Dosch
Thomas N. Doyle
Michael Robert Dyer
Richard E. Ehret
Janice Ferber
Marie & Bernie Ferber
John & Genevieve Fretschel
Joe & Carol Gabriel &
John Gabriel
Emily Costello Galatowitsch
George & Yvonne Gangl
Russell James Gesell
Gary Groettum
Carol Grundei
Gerard Gutzmann
Greg Haller
John & Elvira Hanson
Louise Heller Heinrich
Antonia Hernandez
Steve Art Houle
Stephen Hrdlicka &
Marlene Hrdlicka

**Tributes In Honor Of/
In Memory Of****IN HONOR OF**

Mary Adrian
Father Steve Adrian
Susan Frank Alleva
Joan Bauer
Community of Saints teachers
and staff
Claude & Phyllis Ferguson
Gutzmann family
Mary Ellen Gutzmann
Katie Hartz — preschool teacher
Father Bradley Jenniges, OSB
Emily & Diana Kessel
Carolyn L. Ketchmark
Bridget Kramer
Maggie Lee & Rich Dunn &
family
Tom & Mary McKeown
Eileen McMahon &
Nancy Poehmann
Bernard Muske
Eileen Norton
Reding family
Father Richard S. Rolewicz, M.M.
Sandy Schmitt
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of St. Joseph Jubilee 2021
St. Matthew's class of 1943
St. Michael
Brody & Camryn Tesch
Karen Robinette Thompson

Celebrate a Loved One With a Gift in Their Name

This Christmas, give a gift in honor or in memory of someone in your life to celebrate their commitment to Catholic education. One hundred percent of your donation goes to support tuition assistance for students at Community of Saints.

Use the enclosed envelope or mail your gift to:
Community of Saints
335 Hurley St. E.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Make checks payable to Community of Saints.

You can also give online by visiting
www.communityofsaints.org/supportourschool

Your contribution is tax deductible and all gifts made by December 31, 2021, will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$7,500 thanks to the generous support of an alum and good friend of COS. Call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 for more information.

Sister Mary Isadore
Catherine Jacobs
Loretta Javra
Donald Jolly
Frank & Catherine Ketchmark
Cy & Mary Kosel
Mary Ann Kosel
Joe & Mabel Lamski
Byron Larocque
Peggy Loftfield
Herman Lopez
Genevieve & Bernard Lotzer
Jerome Mandel
Martin & Margaret Mansur
Frank & Jo Mikacevich
Punky Mikkalson
Michael & Helen Mooney
Judith Ann Morhar
Jane Murphy
Evelyn Nadeau
Father John O'Neill
Joe Osendorf
Arlene Palermo
Ann Palumbo
Robert & Edel Ruth Pavlak
Antoinette Bloechl Petry/
Mullarky
Carl & Delima Petschauer
Jerome Pietruszewski
Charles & Joyce Poechmann
Margaret Pohl
Carole Quade
Leona J. Quinlan
Jack Reese
Mary A. Riehle

Bill & Cel Rindfleisch &
Bill & Julie Gale
Loretta Guertin Ringold
Pam Roberts
John, Agnes, Michael &
Linda Roeller
Dennis Ryan
Larry Ryan
Magdalen Saper
George W. Schmid
William H. Schmidt
Thomas W. Schneider
Betty Schowalter
Ted Schroepfer
Shirley A. Seubert
James M. Sexton
Jerry Sexton
William P. Shaughnessy
Sister Loretta Simon, SSND
Deceased members of the
Skrypek family
Ronald L. Sorenson
Deceased members of
St. Matthew's class of 1949
Agnes Stefaniak
Helen & James Stevens
Tom Stevermer
Robert & Lucille Stickler
Mary Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. E. Thomas
Robert C. Tinucci
Alvin & Dorothy Valerius
Maria & Joseph Van Guilder
Norma Vasterling
Sister Mary Nicholas Vincelli, CSJ

Marlene Blaeser Vogel
Hank & Pat Votel
Lanty & Sara Walsh
Leonard &
Catherine Weegman
Amanda Weyer
Kathryn Whitmer
Lena H. Willems
Father Peter Wittman
Wolters family
Eugenia Lesniak Yarosz
Father Alois Ziskovsky,
"Fr. Sox"— Pastor at
St. Matt's 1930-1960

Father Andrew Brinkman
Vivian Byers Endowment
Catholic Community Foundation
Catholic Schools Center of
Excellence
Catholic Services Appeal
Foundation
Church of St. Francis
de Sales of St. Paul
Coca-Cola Give
Jack Ferber
Roy & JoAnn Ferber
GHR Foundation
Mary & Ken Herriges
David Hottinger &
Mary Kaul-Hottinger
Tom & Cynthia Klecatsky
Mary Kaye & Jim Kramer
Carlo LaManna
Joseph Mansur
Edward & Gloria McEllistrem
Mary Cullen McKeown &
Tom McKeown
Emily O'Halloran
John & Cynthia O'Halloran
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
Pax Christi Catholic Community
Kyle & Emily Reckinger
Richard M. Schulze Family
Foundation
Joe & Leticia Silva
Michael Smeby
St. Matthew's Parish
St. Paul Linoleum & Carpet Co.
James Wicker

Other Contributions

Throughout the year we receive additional contributions in the form of restricted and unrestricted gifts and grants. Thank you to the following individuals, companies, parishes, organizations, and foundations, for supporting our students.

Father Steve Adrian
Aim Higher Foundation
Susan & Tony Alleva
Lisa Anderson
Anonymous (3)
Assumption Parish

The Muske Family

Bernard grew up in an orphanage in Haiti, and at the age of seven, was adopted by a Minnesota family. He didn't speak English, couldn't read or write, and had never been to school. Shortly after arriving, the mother in his adopted family became ill, so Denise and Bill Muske became Bernard's foster family. Coincidentally, they had just moved to a home on Bernard Street. "It seemed like a sign we were meant to be here together," said Bill.

A Catholic education was important to the Muskes but they weren't optimistic given Bernard's special needs. They were delighted to learn that COS had a relationship with the public school system that allowed students with an Individualized Education Plan to receive services. "Most Catholic schools don't have that option," said Bill. "We definitely saw God's hand in that."

Bernard enrolled in third grade, and Denise remembers for the first two years, she was required to go on field trips because of Bernard's emotional ups and downs; after fourth grade, it was optional. "Bernard did so much growing and maturing those two years because of the stability he had at home and school," said Denise. "He was in a loving environment all the way around."

As an eighth grader, Bernard has mostly caught up to his peers in every subject area. "That's a huge testament to Bernard and his teachers," said Denise. "The personal interest they've shown in ensuring Bernard's success, and the accommodations they've been willing to make have leveled the playing field for him."

The Muskes are now Bernard's legal parents, and they hope to find a high school that will continue to nurture his many talents. When the middle school science teacher at COS told them how much Bernard enjoyed science and robotics, it was an eye-opener for Bill. "That's changed our thoughts of what the future could hold for him, and what he could become."



Bernard, with his parents Denise and Bill Muske. "Tuition assistance was incredibly helpful — a huge gift!"

**COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

335 Hurley St. E.
West St. Paul, MN 55118-1605

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 3673

The Good News is published
quarterly by



Editor: Maggie Lee

COS Principal: Bridget Kramer
Email: BKramer@communityofsaints.org

Advancement: Doug Lieser
Email: DLieser@communityofsaints.org

COS Phone: 651-457-2510

Web: www.communityofsaints.org



ABOVE: COS 8th graders,
along with teachers and
chaperones, during a
week immersed in science
and nature studies at
Wolf Ridge Environmental
Learning Center.

Special Thanks
TO JEANNINE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeannine Pohl, pictured with her son, Jayvin, a kindergartner at COS, is responsible for the beautiful photos of students in this issue. Thank you, Jeannine!

To see more of Jeannine's work, visit her website at
Jeanninemarie.com.

