

Long Island's Catholic Elementary Schools and Open House Schedules

(Continued from inside front cover.)

St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School - Westbury

101 Maple Ave, Westbury 11590 • (516) 333-0580 • www.stbolh.org
Sunday, January 31: Opening Liturgy, 9:15am Multicultural Celebration, 10:30am;
Tours: Monday, February 1 through Thursday, February 4: 10:30am

St. Thomas the Apostle - West Hempstead

12 Westminster Rd, West Hempstead 11552 • (516) 481-9310 • www.stthomasschool.net
Open House: Sunday January 31: 11:30am - 2:00pm (after 10:30am Family Mass);
Monday February 1: 9:00am - 11:00am

St. Aidan School - Williston Park

510 Willis Ave, Williston Park 11596 • (516) 746-6585 • www.staidanschool.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 12:30pm (after 9:00am Family Mass)

Suffolk County

St. Martin of Tours School - Amityville

30 Union Ave, Amityville 11701 • (631) 264-7166 • www.smtschool.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 1:00pm (after 9:00am Family Mass)

St. Patrick School - Bay Shore

Montauk Highway, Bay Shore 11706 • (631) 665-0569 • www.spsbayshore.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - noon (after 9:30am Family Mass)

Our Lady of Providence Regional - Central Islip

82 Carleton Ave, Central Islip 11722 • (631) 234-6324 • www.olprov.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 2:00pm;
Tuesday, February 2: 9:30am - 11:30am
Wednesday, February 3: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Our Lady Queen of Apostles School - Center Moriches

2 Saint Johns Pl, Center Moriches 11934 • (631) 878-1033 • www.olqany.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 1:00pm (after 9:00am Family Mass at
St. John the Evangelist)

Holy Family Regional School - Commack

2 Indian Head Road, Commack 11725 • (631) 543-0202 • www.holyfamilyregional.com
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Our Lady of Mercy Regional School - Cutchogue

PO Box 970, Cutchogue 11935 • (631) 734-5166 • www.olmregional.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

S S Cyril and Methodius School - Deer Park

105 Half Hollow Rd, Deer Park 11729 • (631) 667-6229 • www.sscmweb.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - 1:00pm (after Family Mass)

St. Mary School - East Islip

16 Harrison Ave, East Islip 11730 • (631) 581-3423 • www.saintmaryschoolei.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - noon

Trinity Regional School - East Northport

1025 Fifth Ave, East Northport 11731 • (631) 261-5130 • www.trinityregional.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 9:00am - 1:00pm;
Wednesday, February 3: 9:00am - 11:00am.

St. Patrick School - Huntington

360 Main St, Huntington 11743 • (631) 385-3311 • www.stpathunt.org
Open House: Thursday, January 28: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Holy Angels Regional School - Patchogue

1 Division St, Patchogue 11772 • (631) 475-0422 • www.holyangelsregional.org
Open House: Saturday, January 30: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Our Lady of Wisdom Regional School - Port Jefferson

114 Myrtle Ave, Port Jefferson 11777 • (631) 473-1211 • www.olowregional.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: noon - 2:00pm;
Thursday, February 4: 8:00am - 2:30pm, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

McGann-Mercy Middle School - Riverhead

1225 Ostrander Ave, Riverhead 11901 • (631) 727-5900 • www.mcgann-mercy.org

St. Isidore Catholic Elementary School - Riverhead

515 Marcy Ave, Riverhead 11901 • (631) 727-1650 • www.sisriverhead.com
**Open House: Sunday, January 25: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

St. Joseph School - Ronkonkoma

25 Church St, Ronkonkoma 11779 • (631) 588-4760 • www.stjoeronkelem.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:30am - 2:00pm (after 10:30am Family Mass)

Sts. Philip and James School - St. James

359 Clinton Ave, St. James 11780 • (631) 584 - 7896 • www.sspjschool.net
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 12:30pm (after 9:00am Family Mass)

St. Patrick School - Smithtown

284 E Main St, Smithtown 11787 • (631) 724-0285 • www.spsmith.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 1:00pm - 3:00pm (after noon Family Mass)

Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional School - Southampton

160 North Main St, Southampton 11968 • (631) 283-9140 • www.olhamptons.org
Pancake Breakfast & Open House: Sunday, January 31: 8:00am - 1:00pm

Our Lady of Lourdes School - West Islip

44 Toomey Rd, West Islip 11795 • (631) 587-7200 • www.ollschool.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:45am - 1:00pm (after 9:30am Family Mass);
Monday, February 1 through Friday, February 5: 9:00am - 11:00am.

Where no Open House information is listed,
please check the school's website.

*Private Schools



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Long Island Catholic Elementary Schools Guide



COVER STORY:
THE POWER OF HOPE
AND ITS ROLE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Long Island's Catholic Elementary Schools and Open House Schedules

Nassau County

St. Christopher School - Baldwin

15 Pershing Blvd, Baldwin 11510 • (516) 223-4404 • www.stchris-school.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - 2pm (after 9:30am Family Mass);
Tuesday, February 2: 9:30am - 11:30am

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School - Bellmore

2341 Washington Ave, Bellmore 11710
(516) 785-5709 • www.steas.com
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:00am - 1:00pm

St. Raymond's School - East Rockaway

263 Atlantic Ave, East Rockaway 11518
(516) 593-9010 • www.srsny.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 12:00pm (after 9:00am Family Mass)

Our Lady of Victory School - Floral Park

2 Bellmore St, Floral Park 11001
(516) 352-4466 • www.olvfp.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:30am - 1:00pm (after 10:30am Family Mass);
Tuesday, February 2: 10:00am-11:00am

The De La Salle School* - Freeport

87 Pine St, Freeport 11520 • (516) 379-8660 • www.delasalleschool.org

St. Anne's School - Garden City

25 Dartmouth St, Garden City 11530 • (516) 352-1205 • www.stannesgcschool.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 1:00pm- 3:00pm (after 11:45am Family Mass)

St. Joseph School - Garden City

450 Franklin Ave, Garden City 11530 • (516) 747-2730 • www.st-josephschool.com
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 12:30pm (after 9:00am Family Mass)

All Saints Regional Catholic School - Glen Cove

12 Pearsall Ave, Glen Cove 11542 • (516) 676-0762 • www.asrcatholic.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Holy Family School - Hicksville

25 Fordham Ave, Hicksville 11801 • (516) 938-3846 • www.hfsli.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:30am-2:00pm

Our Lady of Mercy School - Hicksville

520 S Oyster Bay Rd, Hicksville 11801 • (516) 433-7040 • www.olmshicks.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:30am (after 10:30am Family Mass)

Long Beach Catholic Regional School - Long Beach

735 W. Broadway, Long Beach 11561 • (516) 432-8900 • www.lbcrcs.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:00am - 12:30pm;
Monday, February 1: 10:00am - 11:00am

Our Lady Of Peace School - Lynbrook

21 Fowler Ave, Lynbrook 11563 • (516) 593-4884 • www.olpschoollynbrook.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - 12:30pm (after 9:30am Family Mass)

Our Lady of Lourdes School - Malverne

76 Park Blvd, Malverne 11565 • (516) 599-7328 • www.ollmalverne.org
Open House: Sunday, January 25th: 10:30am - 12:30pm (after 9:30am Family Mass)

Our Lady of Grace Montessori* - Manhasset

29 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset 11030 • (516) 365-9832 • www.olgmanhasset.com

St. Mary's Elementary School - Manhasset

1340 Northern Blvd, Manhasset 11030 • (516) 627-0184 • www.stmary11030.org
Open House: Sunday, January 24: noon

St. Rose of Lima School - Massapequa

4704 Merrick Rd, Massapequa 11758 • (516) 541-1546 • www.stroseschool.net
Open House: Tuesday, February 2: 9:30am - 10:45am, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Notre Dame School - New Hyde Park

25 Mayfair Rd, New Hyde Park 11040 • (516) 354-5618 • www.ndsnet.org
Open House: Sunday, January 25: 10:00am - 1:00pm;
Monday, January 26: 9:30am - 11:00pm (N-8); 1:00pm - 2:00pm (N-8)

Holy Child Academy* - Old Westbury

25 Store Hill Rd, Old Westbury 11568 • (516) 626-9300 • www.holychildacademy.org
Sunday, January 31: 11:00am - 2:00pm

St. Dominic Elementary School - Oyster Bay

35 School St., Oyster Bay 11771 • (516) 922-4233 • www.stdomsob.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:00am - 1:00pm (after 10:00am Family Mass);
Tuesday, February 2: 9:00am - 11:00am

St. Peter of Alcantara School - Port Washington

1321 Port Washington Blvd., Pt Washington 11050 • (516) 944-3772 • www.stpeterspw.org
**Open House: Sunday, January 31: 9:30am - 11:00am; 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Tuesday, January 27: 9:30am - 11:00am

St. Agnes Cathedral School - Rockville Centre

70 Clinton Ave, Rockville Centre 11570 • (516) 678-5550 • www.stagnes-school.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 11:00am - 12:30pm (after 9:30am Family Mass)

Maria Regina School - Seaford

4045 Jerusalem Ave, Seaford 11783 • (516) 541-1229 • www.mariareginaschool.org
Open House: Thursday, January 28: 6:00pm - 8:00pm;
Sunday, January 31: 11:30am - 1:30pm

St. William the Abbot School - Seaford

2001 Jackson Ave, Seaford 11783 • (516) 785-6784 • www.stwilliamtheabbot.net
Open House: Sunday, January, 31: noon - 2:00pm

St. Edward The Confessor School - Syosset

2 Teibrook Ave, Syosset 11791 • (516) 921-7767 • www.stedwardconfessor.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - 1:00pm (after 9:30am Family Mass)

St. Martin De Porres Marianist School* - Uniondale

530 Hempstead Blvd, Uniondale 11553 • (516) 481-3303 • www.stmartinmarianist.org
Open House: Saturday, January 23: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Holy Name of Mary School - Valley Stream

90 South Grove St, Valley Stream 11580 • (516) 825-4009 • www.hnomschool.org
Open House: Sunday, January 31: 10:30am - 1:30pm



The Secret We Should Not Keep: The Power of Hope and Its Role in Catholic School Education

BY DR. KEVIN SHEEHAN, MOLLOY COLLEGE

In the Seinfeld reruns that so many of us now thrill to as vintage television, George Costanza is often tormented by Jerry Seinfeld for the harm that he causes in sharing any and all secrets that were supposedly in the vault. Despite the value of keeping some information in confidence, there are some secrets, which need to be shared with all. The secret that should be shared with all in this age preoccupied with assessment and higher standards is that the creation of hope should be the central mission of our schools, and imparting knowledge should be a byproduct of that mission.

Imparting knowledge should never be made the sole mission of a school. Sadly, for far too many schools today, imparting information has become the sole measuring stick of school effectiveness. In an age in which unparalleled numbers of parents are opting out of Common Core testing, it seems that many public schools have become their test scores. The anger of these parents in open rebellion with this test score mania is driven by an intuitive belief that the higher standards and lower tests scores have the power to destroy their children's self-worth

and crush their dreams. Research would indicate that their intuition is correct. Catholic schools, and some courageous public schools and teachers in open rebellion with the current assessment culture, have known for a long time that the mission of a school should be to create hope.

The hope that I speak of is not a wishful or volitional thinking, but a measurable, researched psychological construct. The claim that catholic schools have the power to build and create hope is not one that is being tossed out lightly or semantically, but one based on over six years of research and observation on the subject of hope in catholic school education. Shane Lopez in his book, Making Hope Happen, proposed that man is the only animal that can imagine a future, and in simplest terms, he defined the idea of hope as your belief that you can positively shape that future to achieve your goals and live out your dreams (Lopez, 2013a).

The scientific foundation of that construct was much earlier conceived and researched by C. R. Snyder of the University of Kansas (Sny-

(Continued on back cover.)

der, 2000). Hope consists of the measurement of your will to achieve a goal, coupled with your knowledge of the ways to achieve that goal. Truly compelling and life changing research on the power of hope is emerging that reveals why parents should care more about hope than test scores.



Students at the De La Salle School succeed because their teachers and their peers demand, rather than request, that they succeed. Being part of a community that supports and celebrates your goals, and helps you achieve them, is a powerful motivator. This concept of “creating hope and building self-esteem” is embraced by every Long Island Catholic Elementary School, and helps each student develop his or her full potential.

In his research with the Gallop Poll, Shane Lopez reveals that your hope score is a better predictor of college completion than your SAT, your ACT, and even your high school GPA. You are four times more likely to fail to complete college with low hope than with low ability (Lopez, 2013b). The idea of hope is so powerfully linked with success that Snyder referred to it as a rainbow in the mind (Snyder, 2002). My research has revealed the power of Catholic schools to create hope, especially for minority children, but for all children. In an age in which standards and assessments seem to drive every conversation about education, consider whether you have ever heard the idea that catholic schools create hope. If you have not heard this statement then my contention that this is a well-kept secret might be all too true.

What you need to know about hope is that it is not something static that you are born with or without, but hope is a way of thinking. Changing your way of thinking will you change your level of hope. What this suggests is that the most powerful role of school should be to build hope in its students, no matter what their tests scores. The idea that our levels of hope can float up and down also reveals the extraordinary influence of others in our lives to shape the self-defining conversations in our heads. This construct of hope as an outgrowth of our self-belief legitimately poses the question of whether a school can create hope in its students.

For the last six years, I have researched, mentored and, yes, even

cherished, students from the De La Salle School in Freeport. The De La Salle School is another secret that we should not keep. De La Salle is a small catholic school serving young men from fifth to eighth grade, near or below the poverty line, from Freeport and the underserved communities that surround Freeport. Despite poverty and challenged neighborhoods, this schools’ students go on to achieve an almost perfect high school graduation rate with nearly every student going on to and succeeding in college. We read a good deal about the dismal statistics of children of poverty and the impossibility of these students overcoming their challenging situations, but this school defies the odds with graduation rates and college acceptance rates that would rival more affluent middle class school districts on Long Island. I bet you have not read about this secret in any of the many articles published on the continuing lack of success in educating minority students from challenged communities.

After quantitatively and qualitatively researching the reasons behind the success of these students in the face of such daunting odds, I shared with the school’s founding director, Brother Thomas, qualitative research on the boys’ stories revealed to me that the school had created hope in the children’s lives. My involvement in setting up a mentoring program for the graduates of De La Salle at Holy Trinity High School further revealed that this hope propels them long after their graduation from De La Salle in the eighth grade. The secret that you should now be anxious to discover is how a school can build hope.

The research of Albert Bandura on self-efficacy and the research on hope reveal to us that hope can be created by several factors (Bandura, 1994). The factor that most increases your hope is success. Sometimes, the boys reported, Catholic schools like the De La Salle School demand rather than request that you be successful. Secondly, the power of others, persuaders, people who surround you, insisting that you can do it, is a driving force in positively shaping the conversation in your head at this school. This conversation in your head, when shaped by the positive talk of teachers and volunteers, builds the foundation of your will.

Hope can also strongly be shaped by the role of vicarious others, people just like you, who are achieving the same goals to which you aspire. De La Salle boys are physically surrounded by the success stories and presence of the students who have preceded them. Finally, being part of a community that supports and celebrates your goals is a powerful hope creator. These are secrets that emerged from my research on the success of the De La Salle School in overcoming the demoralizing burdens of poverty and struggling neighborhoods, but they are also the secrets of all catholic schools that share these same values and embrace the creation of hope as their mission.

If you want to gain a perspective on failing schools, simply reverse these characteristics. The lives of students in failing schools are often characterized by failure with their lives dominated by others who take form of hope crushers, people who tell you that you will never be able to do it. It turns out that other people in your life are more pivotal than you might have guessed.

Others in your life, either help you overcome setbacks and failure, or play a role in convincing you that you will never overcome the obstacles you face. It turns out failing well, persevering in the face of setbacks, is the key skill that we all need to master to be successful. In his groundbreaking article, Who Gets to Graduate, Paul Tough suggests that the college graduation gap that affects minority students is not based on race, but on wealth (Tough, 2014). The gap is not one built

on resources, teachers or academic strategies, but on the nature of the outside support in a student’s life, which takes the supportive form of hope creators or the damning criticism of hope crushers. My doctoral research on those at the other end of the hope spectrum, alternative school students, revealed that low hope that can be powerfully shaped by negative others in your life. In this case, low hope serves, not as a rainbow in the mind, but as a storm cloud in the mind (Sheehan, 2014).

Here is a secret that should not be kept. The boys that I have had the honor to work with have had their lives changed by catholic schools that have created hope in their lives. This ability of a school to create hope and increase self-belief is what all schools should be about. What public schools have gotten wrong in their national obsession with test scores originating from our dismal international standings is that lower test scores on more rigorous assessments will not create motivation in students, but will destroy it. In providing young students with tests beyond their abilities, schools may be unintentionally destroying hope and lowering self-esteem. Teachers seem to know this as a byproduct of their looking in the eyes of the children every day. Unfortunately, this fact has escaped too many politicians who have never spent any significant time in a classroom with children.

When I had the opportunity to speak to one thousand teachers in the Diocesan Schools at their convention in October, I celebrated with them that their daily mission is now validated in the emerging research on hope. I shared with them that the studies and research reveal what they have known all along. We have an incredible power in a classroom to create hope in children. This is a secret that should not be kept in a vault, but should be shouted from the mountaintops.

Dr. Kevin Sheehan is an associate professor at Molloy College in the Division of Education. You can view Dr. Sheehan’s presentation on this topic, entitled ‘Storm Clouds in the Mind; The Role of Hope and Grit in Changing the Conversation In Our Head’ online as part of the Molloy College – The Public Square 2.0 series (www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/office-of-the-president/the-public-square). Dr. Sheehan also has a book coming out in 2016 from Rowman and Littlefield publishers titled ‘Unlocking Children’s Strengths: Growing a Growth Mindset with Children’s Literature’.

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A Charism of Compassion

Dr. Kathleen Walsh, Ed.D., reflects on her career and the strengths and the future of Catholic education on Long Island.

BY PAUL MCAVOY



On any given school day, more than 28,000 students from across Long Island don backpacks full of books and homework and head out to 57 Catholic schools throughout our diocese. There, they encounter teachers and classmates who challenge them academically and encourage them spiritually. Individual students may not realize it, but each person is another important link in a long and proud history of local Catholic education. One person who does realize this is Dr. Kathleen Walsh, the newly-appointed diocesan superintendent of schools. And she knows that those links are strong.

"I see a strength of service, a charism of compassion, and a strength of opportunity," Dr. Walsh says when speaking about the diocesan schools. "We look at all of our children with an eye that we can do just about anything we can put our minds to, with good people by our side. I think that's a strength you don't always see, not only in schools but in the world."

Dr. Walsh would know. As a longtime educator and lifelong New York resident, she spent her formative educational years attending Catholic schools from elementary up through university.

"I am very blessed to be in the right place at my career. I've always been very fortunate to do what I love and love what I do," she says. "What has enhanced my academic learning is my faith and the ability to grow in my faith." Dr. Walsh was born and raised in New York in a close family and attended St. Michael Parish in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn. The importance of faith, education, and family were some of her first lessons, both at home and in school. Her early teachers, many of them consecrated women, inspired Dr. Walsh to want to go into education as a career.

"The Dominican Sisters of Amityville, the Sisters of St. Joseph," Dr. Walsh says, "every teacher that I had in elementary school, every sister who marked a paper of mine, taught me, challenged me, and instilled

in me a sense of achievement, but also of compassion and love when they corrected me. And that experience made me want to be that for other people."

Dr. Walsh's first job in education was as an elementary classroom teacher for the Diocese of Brooklyn, in a parish school. There, she said, she worked alongside great colleagues. Dr. Walsh spent eight years working as a classroom teacher, and then moved to the New York City public schools where she began to take on other roles in education. "In the public schools I worked as a classroom teacher, I was a professional developer, a librarian, an assistant principal, and a principal. For me, it was very important to work each of those steps so that I would know what was expected. I would know how to guide people and how to give support to people who were doing these many varied jobs in education."

During this time, Dr. Walsh herself was going back to school, earning multiple master's degrees culminating in her doctorate. She was eager to take on new challenges, and as the opportunities came up her supervisors relied on her to take leadership roles. Her colleagues were some of the first to notice Dr. Walsh's talents and capabilities as an administrator—and they encouraged her on her journey. "It's interesting," Dr. Walsh says, "In my work I always wanted to be with the children; that's why I went into education. As I continued in my path, the people I interacted with said, 'But you can affect, and you can help change, so much more when you take on the role of administrator!'" In a spirit of service, she said, she didn't say no when she was asked to take on a new challenge—which made her a good fit for the roles of principal and administrator.

Dr. Walsh is quick to point out that her years working in public education in Brooklyn, Valley Stream, and Wappingers Falls were crucial to honing her skills. However, something was drawing her back to

where she began—back to Catholic education.

For the past two years Dr. Walsh has served in the diocese as an assistant superintendent of curriculum and elementary schools, working closely with teachers, principals, and other administrators. "I was very blessed to find this position with the Diocese of Rockville Centre," she says. "For me it was almost like coming home. I'm rooted in Catholic education, both as student and as teacher." Now, as Dr. Walsh steps into the leadership role, she is ready to build on the successes that were put in place by Sister Joanne Callahan, O.S.U., and her predecessors.

Though all schools face challenges with finances and enrollment—Dr. Walsh is quick to point out that this is not just a problem in Catholic schools, but in the public system as well—there are some unique aspects to how Catholic schools address those, and other issues. Through faith and a strong Catholic identity, the schools in the diocese focus on the whole person, and in doing so, provide a unique educational experience—one that's centered on the individual, but still uses the best in educational tools and practices.

"It's my hope that I'm able to show the great teaching and administrative practices that we have," Dr. Walsh says. "And to show that we add value to any community that we exist in. Our schools are wonderful places...some people think we are limited in some things; if they really knew our schools and saw the love of children and dedication and commitment, it would be overwhelming to them." This dedication to seeing and bringing out the best in students through mentoring, service, and community involvement, is what Dr. Walsh calls the "Charism of Compassion"—and it's an essential part of the Catholic school experience.

"We have dedicated men and women teaching, good leadership from our Church and strong leadership in our schools; faculty and staff who are always willing to give and always willing to go above and beyond.

That's something that should be noted."

Today, Dr. Walsh takes on the role of superintendent with a firm faith and trust in God. "I can honestly tell you that my position now was certainly driven by God's hand," Dr. Walsh says, "because I came to the diocese to work, never thinking that I would have the honor and the privilege of being in such a leadership position. My hope is that all of my talents, all of my faith, my academics, my skills, are going to come together to continue the great legacy of Catholic education that's here in Long Island; That I'll have a hand in helping make it stronger and build it to be what we want it to be, and what we know it can be."



Dr. Walsh reads to students at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Hempstead.

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The Year of Mercy

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Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican Dec. 8.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On a cloudy, damp morning, Pope Francis' voice echoed in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica: "Open the gates of justice." With five strong thrusts, the pope pushed open the Holy Door, a symbol of God's justice, which he said will always be exercised "in the light of his mercy."

The rite of the opening of the Holy Door was preceded by a Mass with 70,000 pilgrims packed in St. Peter's Square Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the beginning of the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. As the sun broke through the clouds, heralding the start of the jubilee year, the pope bowed his head and remained still for several minutes in silent prayer. Amid a crowd of dignitaries and pilgrims, a familiar face was also present at the historic event: retired Pope Benedict XVI, who followed Pope Francis through the Holy Door into St. Peter's Basilica.

During his homily, Pope Francis emphasized the "simple, yet highly symbolic" act of opening the Holy Door, which "highlights the primacy of grace;" the same grace that made Mary "worthy of becoming the mother of Christ."

"The fullness of grace can transform the human heart and enable it to do something so great as to change the course of human history," he said. The feast of the Immaculate Conception, he continued, serves as a reminder of the grandeur of God's love in allowing Mary to "avert the original sin present in every man and woman who comes into this world."

"This is the love of God which precedes, anticipates and saves," he said. "Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ's love unfolds everything in the Father's mercy."

The Year of Mercy, the pope stressed, is a gift of grace that allows Christians to experience the joy of encountering the transforming

power of grace and rediscovering God's infinite mercy toward sinners. "How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy," he said. "We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God's judgment will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love."

Fifty years ago, he said, the church celebrated the "opening of another door;" with the Second Vatican Council urging the church to come out from self-enclosure and "set out once again with enthusiasm on her missionary journey." The council closed Dec. 8, 1965.

Pope Francis, the first pope to be ordained to the priesthood after the council, said the council documents "testify to a great advance in faith," but the council's importance lies particularly in calling the Catholic Church to return to the spirit of the early Christians by undertaking "a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel. After these decades, we again take up this missionary drive with the same power and enthusiasm."

Shortly after the Mass, as thousands of people waited in St. Peter's Square for a chance to walk through the Holy Door, Pope Francis led the midday Angelus prayer. The feast of the Immaculate Conception has a special connection to the start of the Year of Mercy, he said, because "it reminds us that everything in our lives is a gift, everything is mercy." Like Mary, the pope continued, Christians are called to "become bearers of Christ" and to "let ourselves be embraced by the mercy of God who waits for us and forgives everything. Nothing is sweeter than his mercy. Let us allow ourselves to be caressed by God. The Lord is so good and he forgives everything."

A New Generation Helps Long Islanders in Need

It doesn't take much to feel panicked and in need: An unexpected job loss, a tragic accident, even a death in the family can lead to an out of control spiral resulting in financial despair. Just like that, there isn't enough money to pay your rent or mortgage, to keep your heat on for the winter, or to put food on the table. It can happen to any of us.

With the high cost of living on Long Island, it's possible that such tragedy has happened to one of your neighbors. This is why every year, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps over 200,000 Long Islanders get back on their feet after hardship. We help families with their utilities, rent, mortgage, furniture, food and clothing. And we do not do this alone. We have over 1,000 Vincentian volunteers who go into the homes of those seeking aid to see how we can help. We have generous donors who see the importance of what we do and contribute monetarily and materially to support it. Most recently, we are proud to say that, we have the help of a new generation of Long Islanders.

In 2015, we had the pleasure of partnering with amazingly caring children from various Long Island Catholic Schools who put their faith and spirituality into action to serve others: St. Dominic Elementary School, St. Joseph School in Ronkonkoma, St. Aidan School, St. Mary's Elementary School, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. Edward the Confessor, Our Lady of Lourdes School in Malverne, All Saints Regional Catholic

School, and St. Isidore School. We were deeply humbled by the dedication of the students, faculty, and their families as they collected clothing for our Earth Day Clothing Drive in April, gathered warm coats for the winter, and contributed new toys for Christmas.

As an organization who helps people every day, we are at a loss for words for their generosity. We are optimistic that these young children will continue goodwill towards their neighbors as demonstrated by the high school students from Bishop McGann-Mercy, St. Mary's High School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy in Syosset who continue to serve those in poverty on Long Island. This past fall, the sophomore class of Chaminade High School conducted a business attire drive for men as part of their Sophomore Spirit Day. Imagine the recipients of these donations, many heads of families who now have a decent suit to wear to a job interview that could change their lives forever!

It doesn't end at donating clothing and toys. The Video Broadcasting Club at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School has contributed countless hours filming, interviewing, and editing video that documents our charitable work on Long Island. Projects we once thought impossible, are now coming to fruition because of the help of these extremely giving and talented students. Please watch these videos that we are so proud to display on our website at www.svdpli.org.



IN APPRECIATION TO
LONG ISLAND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS,
FACULTY AND THEIR FAMILIES
WHO CONTRIBUTED SO SELFLESSLY
TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.



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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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Catholic Middle School Sports More than just a game

Sports are a great metaphor for life. They should provide so much more than just a game. The Catholic Middle School Athletic Association ("CMSAA") of the Diocese of Rockville Centre fosters that sentiment and provides students with top notch competition all over Long Island while not forgetting that sports are so much more than the score.

The CMSAA is organized to provide a structure for interscholastic athletic competition among the Nassau and Suffolk middle schools of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. CMSAA sports give students a unique forum to compete while still developing positive attributes within sports. CMSAA strives to:

- Foster an enhanced sense of teamwork and family within each school.
- Promote good sportsmanship and Catholic values. All our events start with a group prayer by all teams.
- Expand each student's circle of community as they see and experience other students/schools across Long Island. Some of the students they compete with and against in the CMSAA often later become their classmates in high school.
- Provide a sense of pride as students compete on behalf of their schools.

After every game, coaches for both teams file a Game Report. The Game Report provides detail related to the game (score/team/date) but so much more. As an example, below are a couple of excerpts from the Game Report of the final girls soccer game (between St. Patrick, Huntington and St. Mary, E. Islip, under the lights at St Anthony's HS).

"It was a hard/competitive, fun game that went back and forth, ending in a tie. A pleasure to watch both teams, as neither gave up at any point.



The Catholic Middle School Athletic Association aims to provide a vehicle for students to compete in sports in a respectful, sportsmanlike manner while having fun doing so with classmates.

Playing on the St. Anthony's H.S. field at night was a great added bonus."

"The best part of this was playing a 'Clean' sportsmanlike team with coaches who seemed to put the girls first, all the girls. Collectively, it was the highlight of the season for our girls and coaches."

The CMSAA, begun by volunteer parents, has grown since its inception in 2004 to organize sports for 25 participating schools. While aiming to ensure that each and every game is played in a manner that all can be proud of, the CMSAA has expanded the menu of sports offered each season:

FALL
Cross Country and Soccer (Boys & Girls)
WINTER
Basketball (Boys & Girls) Bowling
SPRING
Lacrosse (Boys & Girls) Baseball/Softball Volleyball (Co-ed & Girls)

At a time when, unfortunately, famous sports figures often serve as less-than-ideal role models for our young men and women, the CMSAA aims to provide a vehicle for students to compete in sports in a respectful, sportsmanlike manner while having fun doing so with classmates. Our website gives a glance into all the activity on a daily basis: www.leaguelineup.com/CMSAA

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Catholic High Schools on Long Island

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Miracle on Long Island?

For many of us, the word “miracle” is thrown around pretty casually. For example, it is a “miracle” when the Mets get into the World Series, or when our local restaurant gets our delivery order right! In places like Vatican City, however, the word *miracle* is viewed with a great deal more scrutiny. Currently the Vatican is investigating the details of a miracle that happened to a family right here on Long Island.

In August of 2011, Kevin Becker suffered a major brain trauma when he fell off of the roof of the house he lived in at college. Kevin was in a



Kevin Becker, a modern-day miracle story.

coma for 9 days. He was in critical condition and was only given a 30% chance of survival—with no chance that he would ever return to being the person he was before the accident.

The miracle involves the intercession of Pier Giorgio Frassati, the man Pope Saint John Paul II called “The Man of the Eight Beatitudes”. Pier Giorgio was an athlete, outdoorsman and social activist, who was devoted to serving those in need. But his good works were cut short by polio, which he is thought to have contracted when tending to the sick. Pier Giorgio died in 1925 in Turin, Italy. Pier Giorgio’s selflessness and care for the poor was recognized and beatified by the Pope in 1990. Through an odd series of events, the family became aware of, and began to pray to Pier Giorgio Frassati during this difficult period. The most remarkable part of the story wouldn’t be known for quite some time, though, because it could only be told by Kevin—after making what’s being called “a miraculous recovery”.

The story about how and where Kevin and Giorgio “met”, how their relationship developed, and how the physical and spiritual worlds crossed-over is a remarkable story told by Kevin, Kevin’s mom, a teacher at St. Raymond School in East Rockaway, and family and friends. It is a story about the faith shared by her family and about the remarkable recovery of her son, Kevin. And it is the story of a miracle involving Pier Giorgio Frassati, and the amazing way the family discovered Pier Giorgio’s involvement.



Pier Giorgio Frassati, “The Man of the Eight Beatitudes”

This story, which is too detailed to cover entirely here, is told in a video documentary that is available online, where you can hear the details and feel the emotion first-hand from Kevin, his Mom, and other family members. (To view the documentary, just do a search on YouTube for *GIORGIO: A Modern Day Miracle Story*.) The miracle is currently being investigated by the Vatican for validation. If the Vatican validates the miracle it would elevate Pier Giorgio Frassati to a Saint.

One thing the Becker family knows for sure—they’ve got their Kevin back against insurmountable odds. They credit their faith...and Pier Giorgio.

Let the Little Children Come

BY MICHAEL SAMPSON, Ph.D
ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to let the little children come to Him. He also speaks of a childlike faith necessary in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. For centuries, Catholic schools in the United States have been opening their doors to children- beginning first with the Franciscan Friars in 1606 at St. Augustine, Florida. In 1808, the Sisters of Charity were founded by Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton to meet the growing need for Catholic schoolteachers. In 1852, the American bishops committed to an expansion of the Catholic school system. 1957 saw the establishment of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Catholic schools, in what would become the Rockville Centre Diocese, existed even before the Diocese itself was formed. Today, yours is now the 16th largest system of Catholic schools in the country! For us, here at St. John’s, that year was 1870 when the Vincentian community responded to an invitation from the first Bishop of Brooklyn, John Loughlin to provide a moral and intellectual education to the youth of the city. Since 1974, the annual celebration of all this, known as Catholic Schools Week, has taken place.

So highly do we value Catholic education, that to support Catholic education in our local dioceses, St. John’s University began its Institute for Catholic Schools in 2009. The Institute provides ongoing professional development to teachers, principals, school boards, and diocesan office personnel through responsive listening to the needs of the schools. Many schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre have benefited from these programs, with hopes that this will continue with many more.

As you celebrate Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we join in celebration with you: to proclaim the Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service that are Catholic schools—this week—and every week all year long. I encourage those searching for a quality school for their children, to visit a Catholic school this week during a scheduled event and to witness all the wonderful benefits of Catholic education.

Catholic schools continue to draw children to Jesus each day and help them to grow in faith that will last a lifetime.



Michael Sampson, Ph.D., Dean of The School of Education at St. John’s University

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TODAY’S CHILDREN, TOMORROW’S HOPE.



The mission of Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence, as well as the continuance of Catholic Schools on Long Island, by increasing awareness and by providing scholarship and program funding for the needs of students and schools. Since 2005, Tomorrow’s Hope has enabled over 20,000 students to experience the lifelong benefits of a Catholic education. For more information, or to donate, please call **516-745-7611** or visit us at tomorrowshopefoundation.org.



Alumnus Profile

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OF SAINT MARY'S ALUMNI MAGNIFICAT.

Neil Hannan, an alumnus of Saint Mary's Elementary School and a Manhasset resident, graduated as salutatorian of the Class of 2015 from Princeton University on June 2.

Mr. Hannan, who graduated with a concentration in the Classics and is pursuing a certificate in finance, plans to work as an investment associate at Bridgewater Associates, a macroeconomic hedge fund in Connecticut, following graduation.



Neil Hannan: Princeton's 2015 Salutatorian

Mr. Hannan was a student at St. Mary's from fourth through eighth grade, he stated, and "one aspect of my St. Mary's education that I particularly appreciate is the excellent writing instruction that I received in my English classes there, as it provided a great foundation for my later study of the humanities. Beyond English, I remember fondly my science classes with Mrs. Brown and my eighth grade Math course with Mrs. Drzymalski, as both teachers encouraged learning in their subjects beyond the classroom."

After St. Mary's, Mr. Hannan continued his Catholic education at Regis High School in Manhattan. "I am grateful to my Catholic education for allowing me to combine my academic and spiritual development," he noted. "My experiences at St. Mary's and at Regis High School enabled me to think about my Catholic faith in an intellectually rigorous way, an approach that I continued through my involvement with the Catholic Aquinas Center at Princeton," the hub of university's Catholic campus ministry. "In addition, I found that the Catholic focus of my earlier education helped create warm and cooperative communities at those schools, which parallels the close community I found at Princeton."

"Make sure that you are motivated to pursue what you are studying."

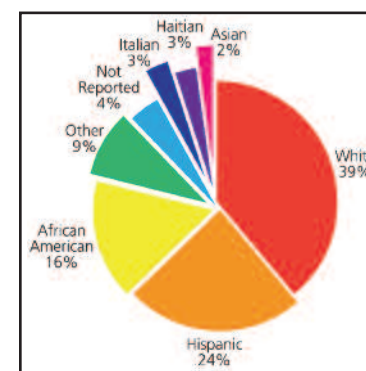
Asked what words of advice he had for St. Mary's students, Mr. Hannan noted that a love of what you study will lead you to engage in it passionately and to do well in it. "Make sure that you are motivated to pursue what you are studying," he stated. "You will spend a lot of time doing work for classes in your major, and your time will be more enjoyable and more successful if you don't have to force yourself to do the work but rather, do so willingly. This doesn't mean that you will enjoy every moment of your work, but it's important to know that what you're doing is contributing to your goals." As for the most recent graduates of The Schools of Saint Mary as they embark on their own high school and college careers, Mr. Hannan advised, "I would recommend that you strive for balance as you begin college. Both academics and extracurricular activities can be great aspects of the college experience, but neither should completely take over your life. Within academics, I would also recommend combining breadth and depth; although it is important to find and work hard in your primary major, you should also try a variety of courses."

A Decade of Service

TOMORROW'S HOPE FOUNDATION

Over the past ten years, the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation has served the Long Island community by providing parents with the opportunity to choose the education that best fits the needs of their children without the worry of financial constraint. With generous support from private and corporate donors, the Foundation has proudly served over 17,000 students over the past 10 years, providing awards totaling nearly \$20 million towards scholarships, and allowing them to attend one of Long Island's 47 excellent Catholic elementary schools.

Tuition assistance through Tomorrow's Hope is available to all families who show a financial need, regardless of ethnicity or religious affiliation. Not surprisingly, the applicants for Tomorrow's Hope assistance come from a variety of different backgrounds that represent the diversity of our Island. The common thread is a desire for an education of the whole child, in mind, body and spirit.



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Tomorrow's Hope supporters come from every walk of life, and donate in a variety of ways: directly, where any amount large or small is appreciated; through matching programs offered by their employers; and by bequeathing portions of their estate. The program that gets the most feedback, however, is the STAR Program. The Student Tuition Assistance Relationship Program identifies students in high need of assistance and matches them with a generous donor—a "STAR" who contributes \$2,000 a year. Although tuition varies across the Diocese, this program is intended to fund roughly half of the student's tuition while the parent/guardian is asked to contribute the remainder. The STAR donor-student relationship is a special one—it consists of correspondence between the student and the donor throughout the school year. This relationship is unique in that the donor can see first-hand how their contribution directly helps their STAR student to thrive.

The Tomorrow's Hope Foundation also orchestrates a number of charitable events during the course of each year including a Gala event in the spring, a golf outing in the fall, and a holiday event around Christmas. If you are interested in helping children develop strong spiritual values in preparation for life's journey you can find information at www.tomorrowshopefoundation.org.

Today's Children are Tomorrow's Hope.



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Engaging Our “Digital Natives”

Today’s students will compete in a world that is dramatically different than the world many of us faced when we entered the work force. Life is faster-paced, and business more global. Change, and the willingness to embrace change has become more important than the stability of lifetime employment with a single employer. Technology has enabled much of this change and will continue to redefine life for our children. Many of us who grew up at a different time are both amazed at the capabilities of technology, and somewhat intimidated by it.

Our children view technology differently. As author Mark Krensky described it, today’s children are “Digital Natives”, having grown up surrounded by technology. As a result, educational practices have had to change to leverage these new technologies and to engage these digital natives.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre has taken an aggressive posture with technology and has worked to assure that all of the elementary schools on Long Island leverage the educational tools and technology that support and enhance learning. When you visit the schools you’ll find Wi-Fi enabled buildings, Smartboards in each classroom, computer labs with rows of the latest technology from Microsoft and Apple, and the use of mobile devices incorporated into the curriculum. Increasingly, however, it isn’t about the computer. Today, it is as much about the content and the *apps*—the computer-based programs and computer-based environment where the learning is done.

Schools in the Diocese of Rockville Center make extensive use of the Google Apps for Education, a complete and secure learning environment. The Google Education Environment offers:

- Appropriate learning apps for every grade level
- A secure and collaborative environment where students and instructors can work together on projects online
- Cloud storage of individual and group projects, and students and schools keep their private data, private
- A consistent user interface/experience from multiple devices
- A learning management system enabling students to share assignments and materials



At St. Edwards, Chromebooks have become an integral part of their mission to help every student achieve to the limits of their capability.”

The Diocese’s Director of Educational Technology, Emily Guarnieri said, “The collaborative environment of the Google Apps for Education provides a common place the schools can use for projects, communication, and implementation of one-on-one and class-wide programs, regardless of the supporting technology platform they have selected. Thanks to this flexibility, Long Island’s Catholic elementary schools have the option of standardizing on iPads or Chromebooks to support students.”

St. Edward the Confessor School in Syosset elected to use Chromebooks. Principal Vincent Albrecht has a complete technology program that includes computer labs for all grades, Pre-K through eighth. Stand-alone iPads enhance learning until fourth grade, when they go into extensive use. From then on, all classes use a technology-integrated curriculum, and students access resources, collaborate on projects, and submit work through their Google Education account using their Chromebook. Students leave their Chromebooks in school each day, continuing their work in the Google Education environment from any of their home devices.

Classroom teachers are delighted with the range of possibilities Internet access brings, and the level of oversight and interaction it supports. Principal Albrecht summed it up nicely: “The Chromebooks support individualized and group instruction more than ever before. They have become an integral part of our mission to help each student achieve to the limits of his or her capability.”

While there are many wonderful traditions celebrated in Catholic school, “old school” learning isn’t one of them. As Principal Albrecht put it: “Today’s Catholic elementary school experience continues to shape the minds, the bodies and the spirit of our students, but we engage today’s digital natives with the technologies and skills they’ll need to excel in high school, and in life.”

Local Color

One of the ways Long Island’s Catholic Elementary Schools set themselves apart is by taking advantage of the unique activities and opportunities their local communities have to offer. Here are just a few examples.



Long Beach Catholic Regional School has a surf team. Congratulations to the LBCRS 2015 Fall Surf Team on their victory in the Skudin Surf Challenge!



St Patrick School in Bay Shore partners with the Bay Shore YMCA. Activities include swim class and the rock wall.



Students at St Patrick School in Smithtown can participate in the horseback riding club.



Students at Westbury’s St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope School use their proximity to the town and the local governmental offices to learn first-hand about civic responsibility. Here they are visiting the Village Court.



At St. Dominic Elementary School in Oyster Bay, a partnership with The WaterFront Center of Oyster Bay provides a sea life familiarization program and a STEM class that teaches students to sail, applying the math and science concepts learned in class.



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory’s DNA Learning Center offered a special enrichment class to 7th and 8th graders at St. Patrick’s School in Huntington. Students conducted experiments and made models to learn about cell biology, microbiology, genetics and biotechnology.

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