

Angels Keep the Catholic School Experience Alive

▲ by Msgr. Jamie Gigantiello

The start of a new school year stirs many different emotions for all – students, parents, teachers, principals and staff. There is excitement, hope and maybe even some nervousness as a new year of opportunities begins with the first ringing of the school bell.

Among those many emotions is a sense of gratitude. The Catholic school experience is one like no other and those who are fortunate to be a part of that experience are truly blessed.

As the doors open at our parish schools and Catholic academies throughout Brooklyn and Queens, one thing is for sure – we are all grateful for the joy, the academic challenge, the sense of community and the nurturing environment stu-



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dents realize every day.

At Futures in Education, there is a special group of people who get to participate in every moment of the emotions from the first to the last day of school. They are our angels – generous donors who give the gift of a Catholic education by funding a partial scholarship to families who need financial assistance to cover the Catholic school tuition.

Sacrificial Support

At this time of year, our angels learn the name and grade of the student they will be supporting for the academic year. They see their picture and learn their story. They join in the joy of the Catholic school experience from day one. And they are showered with expressions of gratitude from the students, the families and the staff of the parish schools and Catholic academies who all benefit from their generous and sacrificial support.

As the prior school year drew to a

close, I was moved by the hundreds of thank-you letters written by our parents and students to their Angel donors.

'Dear Angel' Letters

Allow me to share with you some excerpts from those letters, which all start with "Dear Angel":

"Your support for my daughter's education has been a blessing. I am grateful that God is her foundation and her education teaches a strong faith in God." – Parent to Ashely, second grade at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

"As a single parent, you worry about your child and always want the very best for them. Every day when I drop her off I'm able to rest knowing she's in good hands. It's especially significant to me having my child attend a Catholic school because as a child I wanted to attend Catholic school but because of financial restraints, it was not possible."

"So, every day I am grateful for my daughter's Catholic education, the foundation she is building with our Lord and Saviour and for Angels like you." – Parent to Julianne, third grade at Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic Academy

"Thank you for all the support and kindness, without your help it would be

impossible to continue with Catholic education. I want you to know you are always in my prayers, may God keep blessing you always so you are able to bless others." – Daniel, fifth grade at St Athanasius Catholic Academy

Reading these letters stirs up my own feelings of gratitude. I am grateful to each and every one of our Angels. Their support keeps the Catholic school experience alive for students and their parents, who would otherwise not be able to afford the full cost of tuition.

I also thank Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, the Board of Trustees and the staff of Futures in Education for their unwavering support and continuous efforts to preserve Catholic education in our diocese.

Join me in praying for a successful school year for our students, teachers, principals and staff. And join me in a special way in praying for the continued support of our Angels and in thanking them for all they do for Catholic education in Brooklyn and Queens.

For information on how to become an Angel to a student in Brooklyn or Queens, visit www.futuresineducation.org or call 718-965-7308.

Msgr. Gigantiello is the diocesan vicar for Development and the pastor of the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Williamsburg.

St. Athanasius Academy

Developing Students' Intellect and Talents

The mission of St. Athanasius Catholic Academy in Bensonhurst, working in partnership with its parents and community, is to provide academy students with a safe and caring environment to foster a sound academic education while instilling and nurturing a solid sense of Catholic identity.

The Way of Jesus

As a Catholic school, St. Athanasius' most outstanding quality is its Catholic identity. It is the underlying theme in all that the school community does each day. By actions, as well as words, the school teaches the ways of Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, to its students.

The student body prays together through morning prayer, decades of the Rosary and dedication to saints. The school attends Mass, prayer services in classrooms and church, and special events centered on the faith formation of the students. Priests conduct weekly classes for students and are very present to the children every day.

Offering grades nursery through eight, St. Athanasius Catholic Academy,

serves children from Brooklyn, Staten Island and even from Queens.

The school excels because it has strong, dedicated teachers, priests and staff. The academy follows New York State Common Core Standards with New York State-certified teachers.

The facility also has a new technology lab, SMART Boards, laptops, a full gymnasium, auditorium and outdoor recreation area. All classrooms are air conditioned.

The school offers free full-day Pre-K, Italian classes, art classes, a full-time academic intervention room, Title I services five days a week, SETSS teachers, speech intervention services, two school psychologists and a guidance counselor.

Students enjoy extracurricular classes in STEM activities at Bishop Kearney High School and the academy is looking forward to expanding that program. English as a Second Language is also offered on Saturdays for Spanish-speaking families in the community.

Additional extracurricular activities include basketball and baseball, Boy Scouts and a music program.



EXPERIENCE, EXPLORE AND ENJOY
THE ADVANTAGES OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT
ST. ATHANASIUS CATHOLIC ACADEMY



THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

SEATS ARE AVAILABLE IN NURSERY TO 8TH GRADE FOR 2018-19
CONTACT THE ACADEMY AT **718.236.4791** FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHY OUR CHILDREN EXCEL

- Academic Intervention Services
- Choir, Band, Sports
- FREE after School Program Sponsored by F.L.A.O
- Junior High Youth Center
- Strong Catholic Identity
- NYS Common Core Curriculum
- NYS Certified Teachers
- New Technology Lab
- Smart Boards and Laptops
- Italian Classes
- Full Time Academic Intervention Room

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- After-school learning center (Catapult)
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Choir
- CYO Sports Activities
- Altar Servers

NURSERY:

We offer 5 days Half day or Full day.
Child must be three by Dec. 31, 2018

FREE FULL DAY UPK:

Child must be four by Dec. 31, 2018