



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the* ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

WINTER NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2022



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LETTER

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Catholic School Families,

The pages of this brightly-illustrated newsletter depict the highlights of our winter season, none of which would be possible without your work as spiritual leaders and benefactors of your child's education.

This year's Winter Newsletter contains stories from our elementary schools since November of last year, from His Eminence's visit to Holy Trinity School in Poughkeepsie (top right) to celebrations of #ArchAdvent (middle right) and Black History Month (bottom right) in and beyond the classroom.

Interviews and feature stories from pastoral leaders also pepper the pages of this newsletter. Msgr. Dennis P. Keane, Pastor of Holy Family Church in New Rochelle, and Mrs. Geraldine Lavery, Principal of Good Shepherd School in Inwood, reflect on what it means to be servant leaders in today's schools (pg. 4) and parishes (pg. 8). As the Archdiocese of New York Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) celebrates its 50th anniversary, Christine Cavallucci speaks to her role as executive director as well as the larger vision of the program in schools (pg. 6).

As always, I give thanks for your continued commitment to the sacred mission of Catholic education here in our New York Catholic schools.

Wishes for a safe and healthy winter,



Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York



Did you know there's over 200 Catholic elementary schools throughout New York?

[Click here](#) to learn more about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York.



A CARDINAL VISIT TO

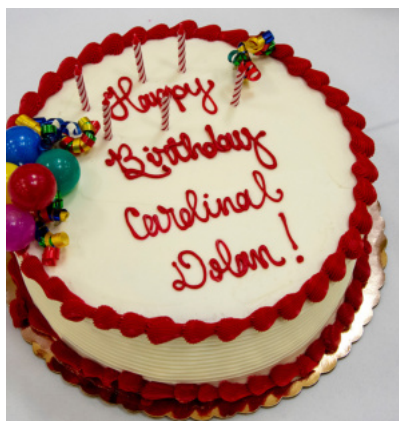
HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY



TOUR

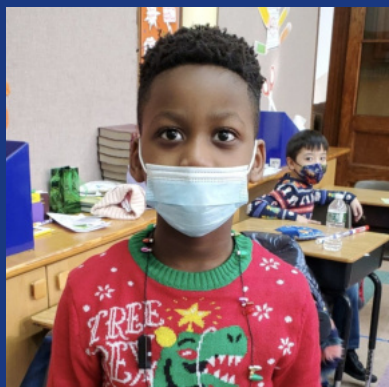
As Cardinal Dolan trekked to Poughkeepsie's Holy Trinity School on February 3, 2022, he was treated to a special blessing of his own: an early birthday party from Holy Trinity staff and students!



#ARCHADVENT



This year, Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York shared snapshots of their students, faculty, and staff in the weeks leading up to Christmas with the hashtag #ArchAdvent.



Row 1: Academy of St. Paul and St. Ann in Manhattan, Christ the King in the Bronx, St. John School in Goshen.

Row 2: St. Theresa School in the Bronx, Guardian Angel School in Manhattan, St. Francis of Assisi School in the Bronx.

Row 3: St. Patrick's School in Yorktown, Notre Dame Academy in Staten Island, Academy of St. Dorothy in Staten Island.



PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT

GERALDINE LAVERY

Geraldine Lavery, Principal of Good Shepherd School in Inwood, NY, shares a day in the life of a Catholic elementary school principal.

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTOS BY GOOD SHEPHERD
INTERVIEW BY T.J. MCCORMACK

TJ: How have you kept your school community united and engaged with all the distractions and complications the health crisis presents?

Geraldine: Praying as a community is powerful! While following COVID-19 protocols, we meet outside on Isham Street for prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and birthday celebrations. Neighbors and parishioners come to join us. It is a remarkable scene, and I often feel NYC life stands still and joins us in prayer.

"I often feel NYC life stands still and joins us in prayer."

TJ: Tell me about a favorite moment from this school year.

G: My favorite moment was telling the teachers that Zoom was to become a thing of the past!

On a longer note, a recent interaction with a student stuck with me. This student was telling me that he wanted to be baptized Catholic despite his parents' objections. He assured me that he would seek baptism even if he went to a public high school. When I asked him why he wanted to be baptized, his explanation was beyond his years.

The student said it was hard to put into words; he lifted my coffee cup from my desk. He asked how much I loved my morning coffee and how disappointed would I be if the deli only had enough for half a cup? I told him my morning wouldn't be off to a good start, and I'd have to get more to fill my cup! The student described his Catholic school education as half a cup of coffee: "It's great, but it's not enough. Something is missing."

He explained how he wants to participate fully in living as a Catholic; he wants to be fulfilled and initiated into the Church. As Catholic school educators, we have the power to fill our students' cups with the love of God, and in turn, they will fill the cup of others—just as the Sisters of the Sacred Heart filled mine.

TJ: How long have you been a Catholic educator? Did you attend any Catholic schools growing up?

G: I am from Armagh, Northern Ireland, where I attended St. Catherine's primary and secondary schools. It was here that the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart provided me with the safe space I needed to grow spiritually, academically, and socially.

As a Sacred Heart student, I learned to question and speak out about the injustices around me, but more importantly, I was taught to approach life full of faith and with an active concern for others. I wanted to serve as an agent of change for children.

I wanted to share my transformational experience of the love of God and the power of education and community, so I followed my vocation as a Catholic school educator and now principal.

My 24 years of teaching and administrative experience in the Archdiocese of New York has allowed me to bear witness and participate in the building of the Church. I have been actively involved in assisting families entering into the sacramental life of the Church. I have experienced what it truly means to be a servant-leader and evangelize in our schools.

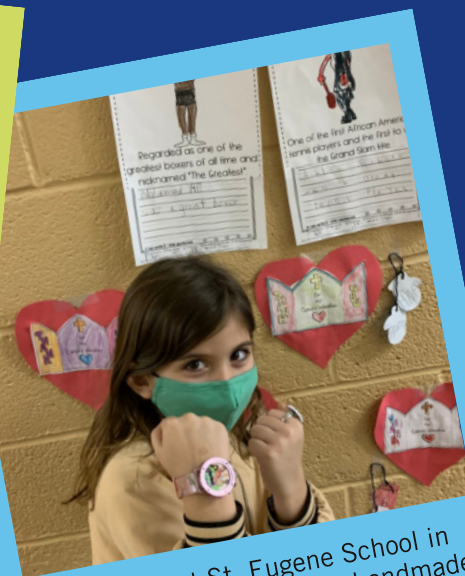


A LOOK AT BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Take a look at how our schools celebrated Black History Month in and beyond the classroom.



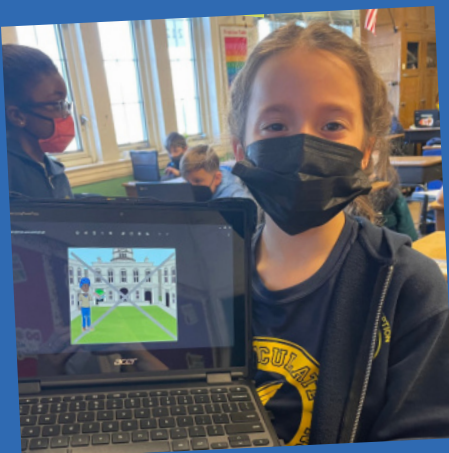
A student at Our Lady of Victory in Mount Vernon exhibits his art project on the March on Washington.



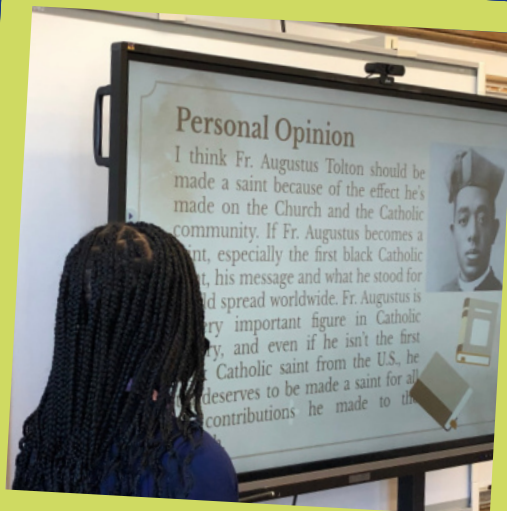
A student at St. Eugene School in Yonkers poses alongside a handmade poster of Muhammad Ali.



A poster of MLK by a 7th grader at Santa Maria School in the Bronx.



A 4th grader at Immaculate Conception School in Tuckahoe gets a digital lesson on Black leaders.



An 8th grader at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle presents on Fr. Augustus Tolton and his path to sainthood.

ADAPP OVER THE YEARS

PHOTOS SCANNED FROM ADAPP'S
ARCHIVES BY DAWN INSANALLI
INTERVIEW BY ANNA BURBANO



In celebration of ADAPP's 50th anniversary, we sit down with Executive Director Christine Cavallucci to discuss the value of the program for Catholic schools.

Anna: ADAPP stands for the Archdiocese of New York Drug Abuse Prevention Program. What do you offer in support of that?

Christine: ADAPP offers substance use prevention services, which are based on current health research, to youth in grades K through 12, to school staff, and to parents. Over the years, ADAPP has expanded programs and services to include crisis intervention, bullying prevention, trauma response, suicide assessment, mental health and school climate. And, while we have expanded our offerings, ADAPP's substance use prevention services have always supported social and emotional wellness. ADAPP services are funded through a grant from the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

We never lose sight of the overall importance of preventing addiction. In fact, supporting schools and the overall mental health of children is promoting wellness and preventing addiction.

A: When was the seed for ADAPP first planted?

C: 1972. In the early 70s, we began as a program for high school students, expanded to elementary schools in the early 1980s; over the years, developed innovative prevention education programs, conducted summer leadership programs, after-school programs; pioneered mental health programs for Head Start in the 1990s; developed the current model of social work services for the UPK schools and have worked over the years with Suicide Prevention efforts, including the most recent one initiated by Cardinal Dolan.

A: Throughout the past two years, we've all seen how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected students. How has ADAPP moved to enhance family support in response to social-emotional stressors caused by the pandemic?

C: During the pandemic, we maintained services to all schools with an assigned ADAPP counselor. Counseling services were offered via phone in March of 2020 and via Zoom the following year. At the request of the SOS office, ADAPP set up a general email for parents to reach out for brief supportive counseling. ADAPP clinical supervisors responded via email or phone and provided mental health coaching and referrals to families who initiated contact.

We also focused on helping children, teachers, and parents manage the reactions to the pandemic using self-care strategies. One such strategy was an [interactive website](#) for teachers and students to teach mindful breathing in a few minutes a day.

Teacher training and professional development continued remotely. We offered a program for parents called Active Parenting, a six-session program, in each region via Zoom. Lastly, we developed and continue to main and update a resource library on our website that was shared throughout the Archdiocese.

A: What's some feedback you've received in addressing social-emotional learning throughout the pandemic?

C: Principals always respond positively to ADAPP services. Principals reach out to ADAPP supervisory and executive staff for guidance and support. This is most evident when a school is faced with a crisis situation that impacts the school community. ADAPP provides crisis response and offers trauma support to all schools when they are most vulnerable. Crisis and trauma support is always appreciated.

Psst! [Click here](#) to access ADAPP's interactive mindfulness website.



A: How can parents benefit from ADAPP to enhance health and well-being for their children?

C: In schools where we have an assigned ADAPP counselor, parents are invited to reach out to the counselor through the principal. However, all members of our school community can use our website which has a wealth of resources.

A: What about pastors?

C: Schools with an assigned ADAPP counselor have access to an array of evidence-based programs that increase social and emotional competencies. On a systems level, our focus has been on coordinating with the SOS Office to provide training and support for teachers that can be implemented across all schools.

A: What other workshops, programs, and training services do you currently offer for social-emotional learning?

C: Information about training and programs can be found on our website at www.adapp.org.

ADAPP'S MISSION

- ADAPP provides innovative, comprehensive services to children, adults, and families within the schools, parishes and communities of the Archdiocese of New York.
- Through counseling and education, ADAPP promotes social, emotional, and mental wellness to prevent and intervene in the use of drugs, alcohol, and other high-risk behaviors.
- ADAPP is dedicated to developing resilient individuals by fostering positive life skills and creating the conditions where protective bonds between individuals and their families and communities can flourish and grow.



ADAPP empowers individuals, families, and communities to reach their full potential.

[Click here](http://www.adapp.org) for comprehensive resources from ADAPP.

Msgr. Dennis P. Keane, Pastor of Holy Family Church in New Rochelle, NY, shares how Catholic schools have changed over a lifetime and over 50 years of priesthood.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

DENNIS P. KEANE



COVER PHOTO SCANNED BY MARIANNE GANNON
STORY AS TOLD TO T.J. MCCORMACK

I remember attending St. Raymond's School in the Bronx staffed by the Sisters of Charity, the DeLaSalle Christian Brothers and a devoted lay staff. The school was the cornerstone of our life and neighborhood. The lifelong friendships were developed together with the knowledge and practice of our Catholic faith.

"The school was the cornerstone of our life and neighborhood."

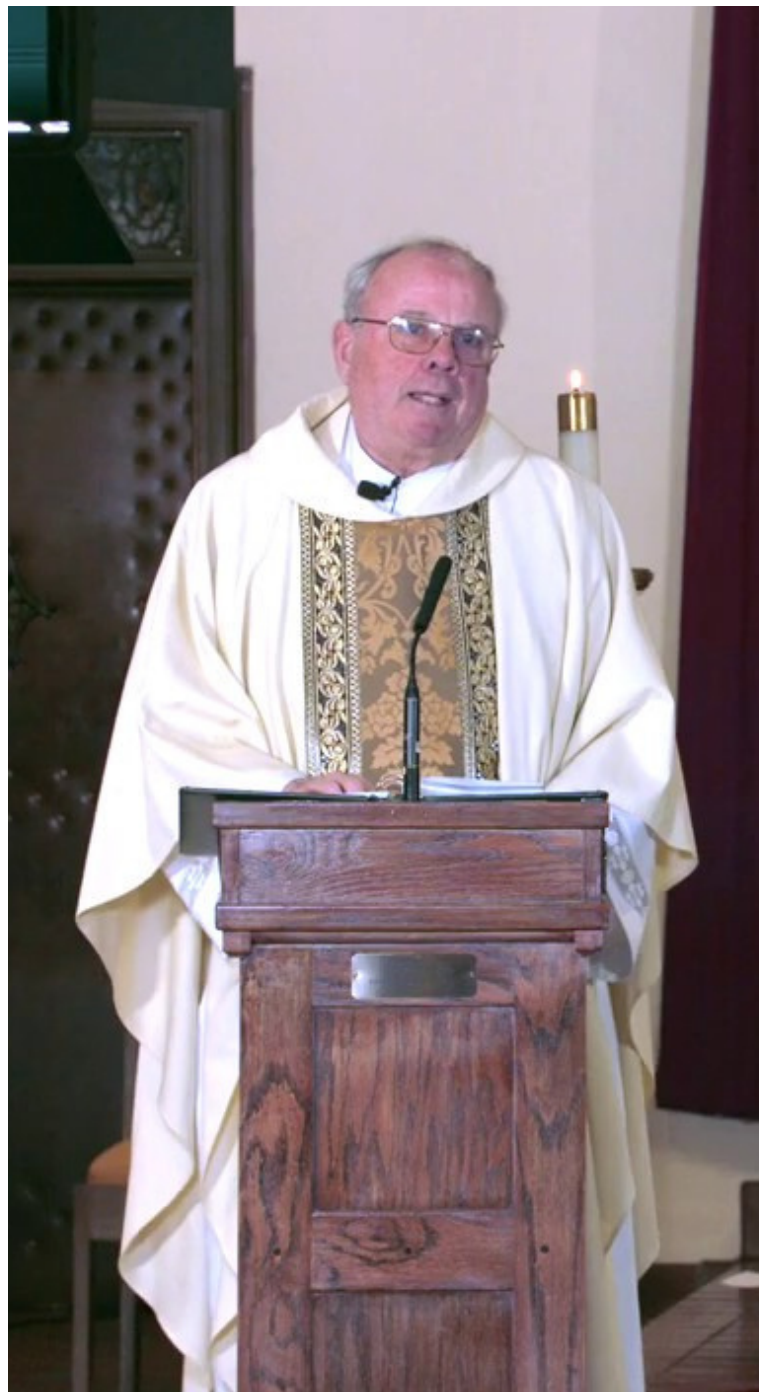
Situations changed and so did Catholic schools, but the essentials—a faith and value-filled education—still remain. The presence of the local Catholic pastor is so important.

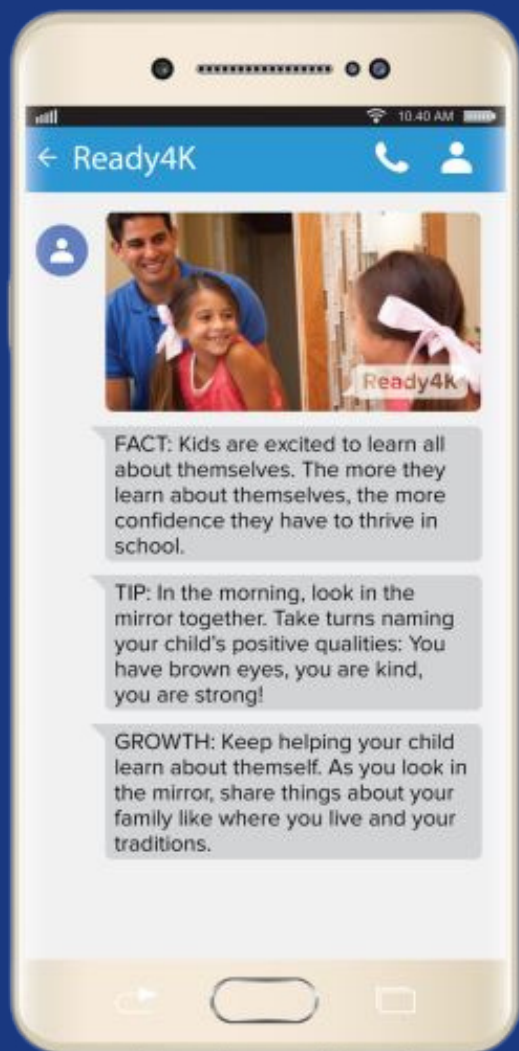
Just today I received a note from a soon to be 8th grade graduate. Included in the note was a picture and a request. The picture showed me giving her her kindergarten diploma and the request was that I give her her 8th grade diploma. Those personal contacts mean so much to our Catholic families.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to have school families help sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family, give aid to children in Africa and sponsor countless food and clothing drives. These families and students made real the corporal acts of mercy.

The two important aspects of being a pastor of a school are the lifelong connections made with the family and students; and the responsibility of helping them develop a deep relationship with Jesus.

I have learned from priests that I was stationed with and now have gone to God that priestly presence to the faculty, students, and families is a key to the success of a proper Catholic school education.





TEXT MESSAGES TO BOOST YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

What is the Ready4K and ADNY Partnership?

Ready4K is a research-based text messaging program for families with kids ages 0 to 9. Each week, you'll receive 3 texts with fun facts and tips on ways to help your child learn and grow.

Ready4K tips build on your daily routines, like getting dressed, bath time, or preparing a meal. And you'll always get messages that match your child's age.

FOLLOW US FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES ON OUR SCHOOLS



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