



# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation

August 2021

## Archdiocese of Chicago Names Greg A. Richmond Superintendent of Schools

The Archdiocese of Chicago recently announced the appointment of Greg A. Richmond as superintendent of the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools, effective Aug. 16, 2021.

Richmond has dedicated his career to creating innovative school options for families locally and at the state, national, and international levels. He was most recently founder of the Richmond Strategy Group and is a senior fellow at the Future Ed think tank at Georgetown University and a Pahara Fellow at the Aspen Institute.

Richmond's past experience includes work within the Chicago Public Schools, where he led the district's efforts to partner with educators and community organizations to create new schools. From 2005 through 2019, Richmond was the chief executive officer of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

In addition, from 2011 to 2015, Richmond served as the founding chairman of the Illinois State Charter School Commission, working with educators and communities throughout the state to evaluate proposals for new charter schools and monitor charter schools in Chicago, the suburbs, and downstate.

Please join us in welcoming Greg Richmond to the Archdiocese of Chicago.

## Olivera Family Recognizes the Positive Impact of Catholic Education

St. Christopher School, located at 14611 S. Keeler in Midlothian, is committed to educate each of its students to be spiritual members of the Catholic faith, academically successful, socially responsible citizens, and life-long learners. St. Christopher School teaches the necessary knowledge and skills that foster excellence, mutual respect, creativity and a joy of learning with an effective, caring staff in partnership with home and community. Since it's opening, over 4,700 students have roamed the halls of St. Christopher School, and for several years it has held a special place in the hearts of the Olivera family.



All three of the Olivera children have attended St. Christopher School, and Asia and Jonathan (pictured above) are both Phoenix Scholarship recipients.

All three of the Olivera children currently attend, or have attended St. Christopher, and Jeanette Olivera and her husband were/are proud to watch their children experience the faith-driven curriculum at the school. Their daughter, Asia, who recently graduated from eighth grade and is now a freshman in high school, and their son, Jonathan, now in eighth grade, are both recipients of the Phoenix Scholarship.

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“Jonathan and Asia were both academically and athletically invested at St. Christopher,” said Jeanette, mother of Jonathan and Asia. “They both played multiple sports and still maintained great grades. In addition, I’ve witnessed them be very respectful, and maintain healthy relationships with their teachers.”

The Oliveras applied for the Phoenix Scholarship with help from the school’s staff. The Phoenix Scholarship put the family in a position to afford the tuition, and it’s something they will always be grateful for.

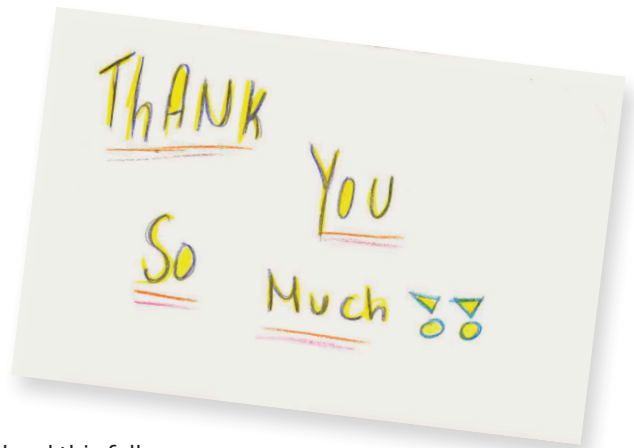
“Catholic education has impacted our children’s lives tremendously,” said Jeanette. “The one-on-one attention they receive, the care shown by the administration and staff, and the open relationships provided have given them confidence and wonderful insight.”

The past year or so has been very difficult for Jeanette and her family. The COVID-19 pandemic caused her husband to lose his job, and her mother-in-law contracted COVID-19 which caused a very big scare. Jeanette noted that they are resilient and constantly fighting to improve their lives.

The Phoenix Scholarship ensures access to Catholic education for families throughout Cook and Lake counties and is eligible to families with children in any school listed in the Official Catholic Directory for the Archdiocese of Chicago who demonstrate financial need and meet certain other criteria established by the Trust Board. For more information about the Phoenix Scholarship, please email Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships, at [csullivan@archchicago.org](mailto:csullivan@archchicago.org).

## St. Gall School Plays an Important Role in the Hernandez Family’s Life

The Hernandez family has five members, including two daughters who graduated from St. Gall years ago, and their son, Jake, who graduated from St. Gall in the spring. Jake was a recipient of the Caritas Scholarship and will be attending St. Laurence High School this fall.



Founded in 1910, and located at 5515 S. Sawyer Avenue in Chicago, St. Gall School’s purpose is to empower the youth of Chicago’s southwest side to be academically, emotionally and spiritually prepared for the challenges of high school and beyond. St. Gall first welcomed children of German, then Irish, and after that, Polish/Bohemian descent, and now primarily families of Latino descent who work hard to provide an outstanding educational opportunity for their children.

“We are so proud that all of our children were all able to attend St. Gall,” said Sheridan, mother of Jake Hernandez. “Jake loved St. Gall and literally spent his whole life there. We are happy he will continue to experience Catholic education at St. Laurence.”

Jake has often expressed how important his experience was at St. Gall, and his gratitude for finding life-long friends at school. Sheridan strongly believes his Catholic education has enhanced the religious beliefs she has tried to instill in him.

“Jake has effortlessly shown us how he loves God, himself and others,” said Sheridan. “We were grateful for the opportunity to apply for the Caritas Scholarship through the school, especially after such a rough year. Nearly everyone in our family had the virus, and I thank God for getting us through it. I pray for those who weren’t as fortunate.”

The Caritas Scholarship Program is offered to elementary school students attending Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools. The scholarship is awarded to families in need of financial support to continue placing their child or children in Catholic school. Without this scholarship, thousands of students would not have the opportunity to receive quality education and grow in a faith-based environment. These students are also able to be a part of a community at school and receive multiple avenues of support and encouragement from staff.

Since the program’s inception, over \$10 million dollars in scholarship money has been awarded to nearly 7,000 students at 100 schools across the archdiocese. For more information, please email Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships, at [csullivan@archchicago.org](mailto:csullivan@archchicago.org).

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000**

Total Raised to Date: \$409,372,539\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 116%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$273,548,083

Percent Paid to Date: 78%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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