

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

April 2019

Reflections on Easter and Jesus' Sacrifice

This month brings anticipation, sadness and joy when we think about the death and resurrection of Christ, and the price he paid for all of us. It's the same story we remember year after year, but somehow, we continue to yearn to learn more about Jesus. As we continue to dissect and understand this deep love, it's hard not to think about the many people on this earth who have made sacrifices for us. Those who have gone above and beyond to care for us, teach us and make our dreams and ambitions possible.

Whether its parents supporting us through life, teachers dedicating their days and nights to make our futures brighter, or parish leadership helping us grow in our faith, the love and dedication that goes into sacrifice is overwhelming. This month, we continue to highlight the tremendous students benefitting from the Caritas scholarship and the lengths their families go through to enroll them in Catholic school.

You'll notice in the following articles, their praise goes straight to God and the donors of this campaign. They are grateful for your support in helping lighten their load and making their dreams of sending their children to Catholic school a reality. We pray that you will all be moved by the stories and know that your donation is truly making a difference in so many lives.

Missionary Family Receives Caritas Scholarship, Allowing Them to Continue Living Out Their Calling

The Cuevas family has been spreading the Gospel and Good News of Jesus Christ for several years, serving people across the country and living out their calling as a missionary family. Oscar, Luz and their four children are originally from California, but moved to Chicago five years ago and have continued to grow together as a family of great faith.



Pictured above is the Cuevas family. Their children Grace, Oscar and Gianna (left photo) are students at Queen of the Universe.

"Our children have grown in the mission and love being a part of it as much as we do," said Luz. "We always go together to Sunday Mass and pray with our children. We instruct them in the faith and try to live what we preach. Working together as a family and keeping them involved in our mission work has always been a dream of ours and I'm so proud that we have their support."

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While some missionaries get compensated for their work, the Cuevas family offers their services pro bono, helping several parishes across Chicago. Because the family does their missionary work for free, the Cuevas family follows a strict budget, and finding sources of income can be difficult.

"My husband is the sole provider of our family and as a missionary, he has struggled to find a good paying job that allows him to help parishes in the evening," said Luz. "There have been times he's had to work minimum wage jobs and take on positions he is overqualified for to support our family."

The one area of life the Cuevas family didn't want to neglect was their children receiving quality education, which is why they were ecstatic to learn about the Caritas scholarship and support it could bring their family. Luz and Oscar's children, Oscar (third grade) and Gianna (first grade) both received \$2,000 in scholarship funds, allowing their children to continue attending Catholic school.

"I have seen my children flourish academically at Queen of the Universe thanks to the great teachers they've had since pre-school," said Luz. "We are at peace knowing that at Queen of the Universe, our children are also being taught the importance of faith and it's a continuation of what we do at home. My children know that God is with them daily and they can express their faith freely."

Both Oscar and Luz are eternally grateful for the Caritas scholarship because without it, their children would not be able to receive quality Catholic education. To learn more about Queen of the Universe, please visit qofu.org.

St. Genevieve School Caritas Scholarship Recipient Reaps Benefits of Catholic Education

Oswaldo Dominguez and Olga Banda have always put their Catholic faith at the center of their lives and wanted their kids to grow in an environment where they could develop a desire to grow closer to God. At first, Catholic school didn't seem like it would be an option because tuition costs were too steep for them to afford, but the family was determined to enroll their children and researched every scholarship offered to students.

"We applied for as many scholarships as possible that we

were qualified for and thankfully we were awarded with the Caritas scholarship," said Olga. "We have been blessed with this scholarship and can't thank donors enough for helping families like us enroll our children in Catholic school."

Two of the Oswaldo and Olga's children attend St. Genevieve School. Xzavier is in third grade and has a younger sibling currently enrolled in pre-Kindergarten. Xzavier received a \$2,200 scholarship which helped the family tremendously.

"Xzavier's experience at St. Genevieve has been out of this world," said Olga. "He has learned so much about Catholicism and the staff is full of the greatest people for him to be around. Because of the small class size, teachers are able to focus their attention on each student and work with them on specific needs."

The aspect Olga enjoys most about enrolling her children in Catholic school is the fact that they're able to complete their sacraments through school and learn about religion through specific classes. Olga believes it allows Xzavier to learn about things that might slip her mind when teaching her children about faith.

"After receiving this scholarship, I made a promise to myself to do my part as a parent and always encourage my children to continue to grow in their faith," said Olga. "God bless the donors and parishes on this campaign."

To learn more about St. Genevieve School, please visit stgsschool.org.



Pictured above is Oswaldo Dominguez, Olga Banda and their children. Their oldest, Xzavier, received a \$2,200 Caritas scholarship.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$422,221,524*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$223,401,699

Percent Paid to Date: 64%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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