



# TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

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

March 2021

## Campaign Funds Continue to Help Catholic School Students

Strengthening Catholic education is a key element of *To Teach Who Christ Is*, with up to \$150 million in campaign funds directed to the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust. Scholarships from this endowed fund are awarded as Caritas and Phoenix Scholarships. Both scholarships ensure access to Catholic education for families throughout Cook and Lake counties.

This month's newsletter features two families with children who are recipients of the Caritas Scholarship. With the past year being extremely difficult for many families across the Archdiocese of Chicago, these scholarships have been more important than ever, and give many students the opportunity to begin or continue on with their Catholic education.

We pray these stories of gratitude and hope find you well, and help extend our thanks for your support of this campaign.



## Romero Family Grateful for Caritas Scholarship During a Tough Year



Pictured above is Jeremy and Veronica Romero, and their sons Eirik and Viktor.

Jeremy and Veronica are raising a bi-cultural Mexican and Polish family, and deeply value Catholic education and raising their children in the Catholic faith. Both of their children, Eirik, a third-grader, and Viktor, a preschooler, attend Saint Gall School, located at 5515 S. Sawyer Avenue in Chicago. In addition, Veronica has been an art teacher at the school for 11 years and is also the marketing and development director. Eirik is currently a recipient of the Caritas Scholarship.

"Eirik loves school and is excited to go to school every morning," said Veronica. "It was important to me and my husband to have Eirik attend a school that had high academic standards and a nurturing environment. As a teacher there, I personally witness that Saint Gall checks all those boxes."

When Eirik turned three, Jeremy and Veronica registered him for preschool and never looked back. It's through Saint Gall, Eirik is able to get a small classroom experience, and the help and resources he needs to succeed.

"He has been taught to love his neighbor, be kind and treat everyone with dignity because we are all created in the image and likeness of God," said Veronica. "He is taught that challenges are opportunities and his goals are achievable through prayer and hard work."

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Like many families, the Romeros have been deeply impacted by the pandemic. They have lost vulnerable family members, Jeremy's line of work was affected, and they've run into the challenges of e-learning and e-teaching.

"As much as we love the education that Eirik is receiving academically, spiritually, and emotionally at Saint Gall School, it is a very difficult financial sacrifice that would not be possible without the Caritas Scholarship," said Veronica. "Receiving the scholarship helps us continue to have Eirik (and Viktor, although he isn't a recipient) at St. Gall School."

For more information about the Caritas Scholarship, please email Clare Sullivan, director of scholarships, at [csullivan@archchicago.org](mailto:csullivan@archchicago.org).

## COVID-19 Update: Support Your Parish and the COVID-19 Relief Fund

Please visit [archchicago.org/support](https://archchicago.org/support) to support parish offertory, the COVID-19 Relief Fund or both as your means allow. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support.

## Caritas Scholarship Helps Family of Six Keep Their Youngest Enrolled in Catholic School

Javier Sanchez is currently in kindergarten at Saint Gall School, located at 5515 S. Sawyer Avenue in Chicago. He has been attending Saint Gall since preschool, and the school has been a big part of the Sanchez family's life.

"Everyone at Saint Gall loves Javier and it's comforting that they know him well because he's been a student there for a couple of years," said Dionicia, mother of Javier. "When school was remote, he missed being able to bond with his friends and see his teachers, and he's so grateful he's been able to be in-person throughout most of the fall and winter."

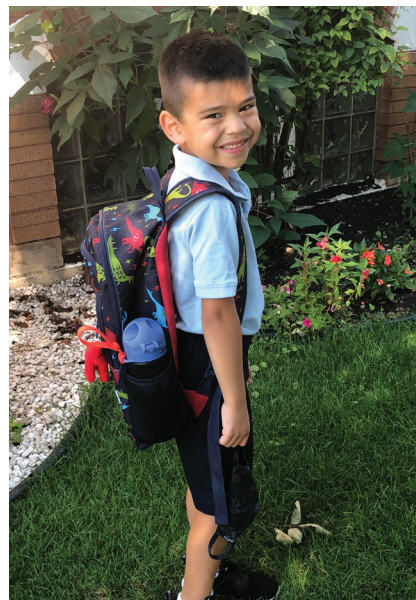
Javier has three older brothers who have attended and currently attend Catholic school. Dionicia and her husband have witnessed the positive impact Catholic school has had on their other sons, which is why it was so important they continue to enroll Javier.

"I feel that our sons have been more connected to the Church, more aware of their relationship with God and what it means to be kind to others because of their experience in Catholic school," said Dionicia. "We're so grateful Saint Gall has helped them be more in touch with their faith."

With their oldest in college and their other sons enrolled in Catholic school, the Sanchez family was spending a lot of money on school tuition. Because of this, they approached the staff at Saint Gall and asked about scholarships available for students. Due to uncertainties with the pandemic, the Sanchez family had started thinking about other options for Javier's schooling, but were so happy to learn Javier was accepted to receive the Caritas Scholarship.

"Just when we started thinking through our options and removing Javier from Catholic school, we received the great news about his scholarship," said Dionicia. We saw how our older boys grew up with faith, responsibility, and respect for others, and we wanted that for Javier too. We're so glad he gets to continue being a part of the Saint Gall community and school."

To learn more about Saint Gall School, please visit [stgallschool.com](https://stgallschool.com).



Pictured above is Javier Sanchez, a student at Saint Gall and Caritas Scholarship recipient.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Total Raised to Date: \$424,222,033\*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$268,719,928

Percent Paid to Date: 77%

\*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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