

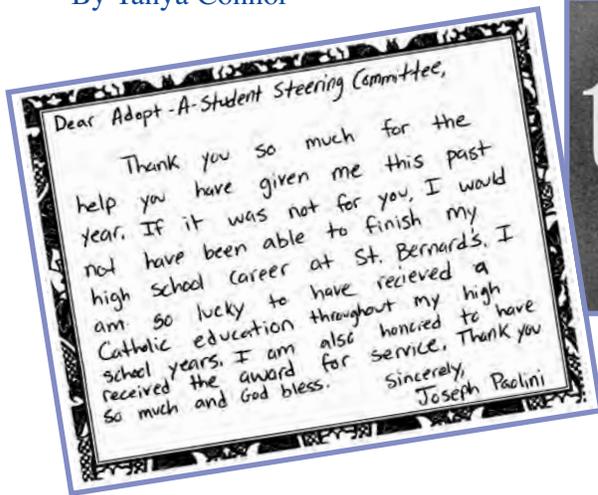
Adopt A Student

Change a Life!

News

Students Get Honors and Scholarships

By Tanya Connor



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WORCESTER – A Catholic college must have the courage to speak uncomfortable truths if needed, Jack P. Calareso, president of Anna Maria College, said at the fifth annual Adopt-A-Student Recognition Dinner March 29 at Mechanics Hall.

He was using what he called his favorite statement from “Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” Pope John Paul II’s 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic universities which, despite its positive tone, drew controversy for things it said about the relationship between bishops and universities.

Jack P. Calareso was speaker for the Adopt-A-Student fundraiser at

which students receive awards and scholarships. It featured music by the Holy Name Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School Jazz Combo, directed by Stephen Thompson. It included prayers for and memories of Charles McManus and Bette Iandoli, two original steering committee members for Adopt-A-Student, who died recently.

“For me they were an inspiration in how to participate,” said Robert Kenney, dinner and development chairman. “We miss them dearly.”

Steering committee member Michael Coogan recalled being initially intimidated by Mrs. Iandoli’s strong personality, but then coming to admire her. She collected gift certificates at personal appointments, and one never knew what gifts she would have delivered to the Chancery,

he said. She got to know personally the students she “adopted.”

Mr. Coogan said this might have been the first event she missed, but added, “Make no mistake, she is here.”

Margaret Kursonis, headmaster of St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, recalled how Mr. McManus, the diocese’s first lay superintendent of schools, lived his work and showed care for her and others.

“He even ‘adopted’ some of the kids on his own,” she said. “He gave them rides. He went to their basketball games.” She said after retirement he became “Grandpa” at St. Peter’s.

“Charlie truly put the skin on God,” she said, recalling a concept from this year’s day of recollection

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for parish and school leaders, a program he fostered.

Core values for Catholic education come from Church documents, President Calareso said in his prepared remarks.

“All Catholic education centers on the teaching of the message,” he said; the curriculum, programs, services, faculty and staff must “teach and model the message of our faith.” Community and service are other values, he said.

“We need to teach and model a commitment to the common good,” he said. In higher education, this includes research and speaking “truths which do not please public opinion, but which are necessary to safeguard the authentic good of society,” he said, quoting *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

Those in Catholic education need to convince people of its value, be clear about their identity and hold themselves accountable to their mission, he said.

Using points from Jesuit Father Richard McCormick, he said they measure their success by their graduates having a Catholic vision, thirsting for knowledge, and being articulate, open-minded, sensitive to injustice, able to think and listen, and willing to serve.

William R. Driscoll, chairman of the religious studies department and director of Campus Ministry at St. Bernard’s Central Catholic High School in Fitchburg, talked about this year’s Catholic Schools Week theme: Faith, Academics, Service.

“We are people of faith and our schools exist because we view human beings as unique creations of a loving God,” he said in his prepared remarks. “For us, the students... are not just standardized test takers... Our hopes for them transcend this world and keep their spiritual lives at the forefront of everything we do.

“It is from this fertile soil that academics are given life. We expect our students to achieve according to



their God-given talents and examine the academic disciplines through serious study.”

“Service is the fruit of our schools... Once our students are empowered, we expect them to share their gifts with others. These three values are the foundation upon which the Adopt-A-Student program is built.”

Four seniors received awards, and videos about their activities were shown.

A longer film—“A Day in the Life of an Adopt-A-Student”—was also shown of Mirna Portillo, from St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School, who received the Charles and Beth McManus Award for Academic Excellence. She takes Advanced Placement courses and has participated in the Art Club, drama, yearbook and volleyball. She worked through the Worcester Community Action Council with youth in the housing development where she lives. She has taught religious education classes and altar servers at Our Lady of Providence Parish, where she attends Spanish Mass. She is interested in pro-life and global hunger issues.

Joseph Paolini, from St. Bernard’s High, received the Wilfred and Bette Iandoli Award for Service. He serves on the Student Council as a Senior Class Senator, guidance and office aide, was captain and member of the basketball, baseball and golf teams, and trained underclassmen to be altar servers. He has also been an altar server, religious education teacher and Lenten dinner volunteer at his parish, St. Anna’s in Leominster. He mentors an autistic student and served at Camp Sunshine for sick children.

Catherine Kooyomjian, from Holy Name, received the Paul and Dorothy Kervick Award for Leadership. As a member of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the anti-bullying group SMASH (Stop the Madness

And Severe Hating), she educated peers. She took many Advanced Placement courses, played field hockey, and contributed to service activities. Catherine also received the Assumption College Adopt-A-Student Scholarship—a full, four-year tuition grant.

John Soltys, also from Holy Name, received the Bill and Kay O'Brien Award for Best Exemplifying the Values of the Adopt-A-Student Program. Mr. Soltys took honors courses and served in a soup kitchen, at breast cancer walks, in the school's cleanup ministry and as soccer team captain. He has worked as a bus boy, life guard and swimming teacher.

President Calareso gave Lisa Martinez-Cape, a Holy Name senior, the Anna Maria College Adopt-A-Student Scholarship, a half grant for four years.

Over the past 23 years, the Adopt-A-Student program has given more than 1,000 scholarships totaling \$3 million.

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The 23rd Annual Adopt-A-Student Program Golf Tournament



The 23rd annual Adopt-A-Student Golf Tournament will be held Monday, August 27th , 2012 at Wachusett Country Club.

Each year the Selection Committee works diligently and must make difficult decisions relative to granting scholarships. This year was one of the hardest as applications increased dramatically.

We continue to explore new avenues for support. However, for 22 years, sponsors and participants in this tournament have been providing students with the opportunity they seek to attend our Diocesan schools and receive the benefits of an education rooted in Christian values and known for academic excellence.

Make no mistake about it, your support is changing lives! How?
Over 1,000 scholarships totaling over \$3,000,000!

Several sponsorship packages are available as well as openings for foursomes.

Please join us at Wachusett for the 23rd annual tournament.

Please contact Tournament Coordinator, Michael Coogan at 508-832-2226 or e-mail him at mikecoogan@verizon.net with any questions about the tournament or if you would like to register.

Sincerely,

The 23rd Annual Golf Tournament Committee

2012 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chet Piskadlo, *Chair*
Bob Kenney
Sean McCue

Joe Bafaro
Kris Kervick
Bob Pape

Glenn Coughlin
Ed Madaus
Tom Russell

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Adopt-A-Student Scholar, Nicholas Paul



As we go to press, Nick Paul just completed his junior year at St. Peter-Marian (SPM) High School. Nick is the youngest of Michael and Claudia Paul's 13 children. Each of the seven boys and five girls attended St. Peter's Central Catholic Elementary School. Eight of his siblings went on to study at Holy Name High School. Nick and four others went on to SPM. Nick is the youngest member of the family and the Paul "children" range in age from 40 to 17. The SPM graduation next year will mark the end of an era for the family as they will all have graduated from Worcester Diocesan schools.



In a recent conversation with Nick, he expressed that he would like to become a school teacher. He said he would like to remain in Massachusetts to stay around family members.

When it comes time to commence to college, Nick would like to major in Mathematics. He stated Math is his favorite subject right now. He also took an AP English course in his junior year and has been on the honor roll of students almost every semester.

When he's not in the classroom, Nick has been involved in a variety of other SPM activities. He was Class President in his freshman year and a member of the Student Council his sophomore year. He has been a member of the soccer and lacrosse teams and, this past school year, Nick was a member of the cast in the school play, *Pippin*.

Nick is in the National Merit Program. Membership is limited to the top 50,000 PSAT scores nationwide. He hopes to make the next cut to 16,000 semi-finalists when he takes the test again in the fall.

Nick talked about his years at SPM and said, "It has opened a lot of doors for me. I don't think I would be as involved in another school. And with the students, everybody knows everybody else. If there's a problem, it seems someone will help you out. Even if you have a small problem with a teacher, another teacher will help. I come from a large family and school here is similar."

We asked Nick about the impact being an Adopt-A-Student scholar has had on him. "I couldn't be more grateful. I can see the success my siblings have had with this opportunity. It makes me happy to know there are so many people looking out for me."

In Memoriam



Elizabeth “Bette” Iandoli

Bette was a member of the Adopt-A-Student Steering Committee since the inception of the program in 1989. While Bette and her husband Wilfred were generous supporters of our Adopt-A-Student scholars, Bette worked tirelessly on sub-committees of the program. For 22 years, she served on the Student Selection Committee as well as the Golf Committee. She gave of her time, talent and treasure to ensure many students were able to attend our schools. The Adopt-A-Student motto is “change A Life! Through her commitment to this program Bette indeed changed many lives.

Jeanne Remillard Curtis

Jeanne provided generous support to Adopt-A-Student and also served on the Liaison Committee for several years. Members of the Liaison Committee meet regularly with students who receive Adopt-A-Student scholarships to track progress and discuss a variety of topics. As committees member stress, the meetings are conversational not confrontational. Jeanne enjoyed meeting with the students and watching them grow each year.

Juliet Libby

Juliet and her husband Darald, who predeceased her in 2009, were among the first people to provide financial support to the Adopt-A-Student Program when it began in 1989. The Libby’s provided annual gifts and were perennial leadership sponsors of our golf tournament and the recognition dinner. They also have an endowed fund within the Adopt-A-Student Program which will continue to provide scholarship support to student for years to come.

These three women will be missed as friends, leaders and generous supporters of many students whose lives they changed.



Gifts that Keep on Giving

In addition to support from events and direct donations which are used to provide scholarships annually, several individuals, families and/or organizations have established endowment funds for Adopt-A-Student. The current endowments total slightly more than \$700,000. In most cases, the interest earned from the funds is used for scholarships while the corpus of the original remains intact.

For information on how to establish an endowment fund in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one, please call the Catholic Schools Office at 508.791.7171.

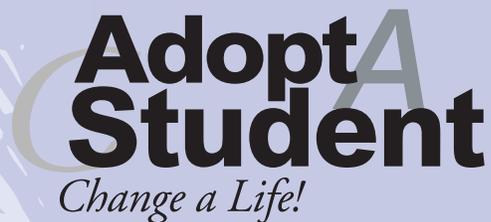


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Visit our website for program details, event updates and much more.

www.adopt-a-student.net

If you would like to receive our newsletter and other information about the program and upcoming events electronically, send your e-mail address to: mikecoogan@verizon.net