



Fellow American Catholics,

We're writing to you as the faculty and administration of John Paul the Great Academy, but we're also writing you today as fellow Catholics striving to live our faith boldly within a culture desperately in need of evangelization. We are at a critical time in the history of our school, and we need the support of our Catholic community. It may seem an odd request to ask for support from such a large audience (especially since subsidiarity is a strong guiding principle of the school) but events within the past few weeks require us to go outside of our immediate community. Before considering the request, we ask that you please take a moment to hear a little more about our school and why classical, Catholic education is worth saving.

What is John Paul the Great Academy?

It is a small, Catholic college preparatory school. We are a PK-12 independent school implementing a [classical curriculum](#), an educational model developed and handed down from the tradition of the Church (to review a copy of our brochure, click [here](#)). An important aspect of the character of our school is a focus on the mission of the Incarnation: to renew the world. We carry that mission out through teaching an exemplary, rigorous classical curriculum, and a comprehensive understanding of the Roman Catholic faith. Our [philosophy of education](#) emphasizes the primacy of the family and the importance of integrating our faith with our experiences of learning, life, and service. In fact, it was primarily through a community of families organizing together under the leadership of [Dr. Kevin Roberts](#) in 2007 that led to the founding of the school. These families recognized the need for a classical, Catholic education that was simply not being offered by any schools around.

So, why is classical, Catholic education so important and what does John Paul the Great Academy contribute to our overall Catholic community?

The Catholic Church has been the strongest patroness and steward of the best Western culture has to offer: we began hospitals, we started the first charities, we supported and preserved the arts and sciences, and we founded education as we know it today. Throughout the history of the Church, classical education based on the seven virtues and seven liberal arts has been given a unique place among approaches to the overall formation of students. Like St. Thomas is to philosophy and Gregorian chant is to liturgical music, classical education is the model *par excellence* for formation of the person in the Church.

While a uniquely classical education may be historically important, what does it really do for our Catholic communities? The most striking contribution is in the form of fostering vocations. In the first four years of operation, over half of all of our male graduates have entered seminary formation for our diocese (five of the nine male graduates are currently pursuing holy orders). Currently, several of our students are actively discerning with the office of vocations. The presence of a community of religious nuns on campus is also doing wonders for our discerning young ladies (click [here](#) to read one student's experience of discernment here at JPG). Among our graduates are striking young men and women of faith that serve our Catholic community through their bold commitment to the Gospel. A classical education is not the only soil that nourishes vocations, but this soil has proven extremely fertile throughout the history of the Church and especially in the life of the academy.

Along with the fruits of our students, John Paul the Great Academy also has produced fruits that benefit the greater community. As mentioned previously, we house an order of religious nuns, the Preachers of Christ and Mary. These nuns don't just serve the needs of our school; they serve the community at large. Additionally, [Louisiana Right to Life's Center for Medical Ethics](#) is an affiliated organization of the school working in the Pro-Life movement focusing on end of life issues. We also house a perpetual adoration chapel for adorers that may not have the benefit of adoration in their own parish. The focus of our academy is on forming our students to be virtuous and devout servants of our Lord, and in this focus we as a school community enter into serving the needs of the Church well beyond our campus.

Thank you for taking a moment to learn a little more about our school and the community that surrounds it. Our administration and faculty join all Catholic educators in preserving and promoting the traditions of the Church through love of Christ and witness to His gospel. Our students, families, and supporting community join us in living boldly the new evangelization. But we currently face dire circumstances that jeopardize the continued operation of the Academy in preserving the De La Salle campus as a home for Catholic education. We risk losing much and turn in need to the prayerful support of our Catholic community. To learn more about our current need and how you can help, please visit our website: www.jpgacademy.org. Thank you for your prayers and support in this time of need.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam