

# Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

## 2023-2024 Annual Report





## Dear Parents and Friend of OMC School,

Anticipation is high as we draw closer to the completion of our new school. As exciting as this will be, so many new and great things are happening down at Chestnut Hill Campus. With any change, things are different, new, exciting, and hopeful. Mrs. Jessica Stack, our new principal, is leading the charge for continual growth and improvement. Along with Laura Cilia, our Director of Mission and Education, the Catholic identity built on Gospel values is brought to life from the spirituality of the Sisters of St Joseph and the Oblates' Salesian charism. Many new initiatives are making this palpable. New faculty, including many seasoned teachers, have made a seamless transition and are fitting in nicely. Our HSA officers, with help from so many other parents, are planning fun events for the school community. The recently completed bag bingo was a tremendous success with a lot of fathers proving to be great models of various designer bags. Thank you, gentlemen! Thanks to the leadership of this event. Well Done!

We made some changes in teaching assignments to bolster the students' academic success. Many of you are assisting in our writing endeavors. This January we will inaugurate our Salesian Writing Contest. As you may know, St. Francis de Sales is the patron of journalists. Students from grades 4-8 will submit an essay on a selected theme with winners for each grade and an overall school winner. As we begin the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, it will involve this virtue. We will do this in January to coordinate with his feast day of January 24. As the architects and construction people are busy with their craft, a group of parents and educators have been working for a year on the design of the curricula for the Ethical Innovation Lab and the Information Commons. Our new director of the Innovation Program began in December and while doing some teaching this year, she will focus principally on these curricula for full implementation in September 2025.

Together with Mrs. Stack, Ms. Laura and Mr. Leonard, we fashioned a new mission statement, one that is brief, yet succinct, that we can commit to memory and live out daily. You will see this prominently displayed as you enter the new OMC School: Embracing our diversity in backgrounds and talents, the OMC Parish School Community examines the possibilities of each student working and learning together.

Please know that we are grateful for the opportunity to assist you in the education of your children. It is a vocation we cherish. Know as well that we value the sacrifice you make in sending your children to OMC. I am grateful for all the other things you do from HSA involvement, coaching, reviewing homework, lunch parenting, and so many other volunteering efforts.

Respectfully,  
(Fr.) John Fisher, OSFS  
Pastor



## Dear Parents and Friend of OMC School,

I am pleased to take on the role of principal at Our Mother of Consolation Parish School this year. OMC is a true testament to the remarkable partnership between our families, faculty, parish, and the greater community. Together, we continue to nurture a Christ-centered environment where our students thrive spiritually, academically, and socially.

This year, we are focused on the three virtues of compassion, humility, and gentleness and anticipate celebrating many milestones that will reflect our commitment to Catholic education. From achieving academic excellence in the classroom to embracing the Gospel's call to serve others, our students and staff always demonstrate what it means to live out our faith. This year we were named an Archdiocesan School of Distinguished Instruction in Growth and Potential. This is a great picture of our academic programs and how our students are growing. We also have 3 students qualify for the Neumann Scholarship and have a winner receiving a full scholarship to the high school of their choice.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our parents, alumni, and benefactors. Your generosity—through prayer, time, and resources—enables us to uphold our mission of developing future leaders grounded in faith and service. As we look ahead, we remain committed to preparing our students to meet the challenges of the future with courage and compassion. Together, we will continue to build a vibrant, faith-filled community where every child is valued, inspired, and nurtured in their journey with Christ. We are looking forward to the opening of our school building and getting back to our home. There are many great things to come and we will be bigger and better in the end.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Our Mother of Consolation Parish School, thank you for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Yours in Christ,  
Mrs. Jessica Stack, M.Ed.  
Principal



## Dear Parents and Friend of OMC School,

The Board of Limited Jurisdiction (BLJ) of OMC School which began in 2021, works in collaboration with the Pastor and Principal to foster the highest standards of academic and catholic religious education for all students. This is a rewarding experience, as we continue to promote the mission of Our Mother of Consolation School.

This past year has been full of blessings and challenges. Among our finest blessings was the fact that the students continue to receive their education at Chestnut Hill College. Students and teachers have adapted well to the College. And had the opportunity to establish many partnerships with the College to aid our students.

Our biggest challenge now comes in rebuilding our school and in creating it to be to be a state-of-the-art building. With the wonderful support of many generous benefactors, the rebuilding is well underway, and the plan is to reopen in April of 2025.

We embarked on a Capital Campaign after having done a Feasibility Study to see if it would be possible to raise the money needed to not only rebuild the school but in good stewardship the ongoing needs of the entire parish. The Campaign's motto: One Community, One Campus, One Campaign.

And our blessings have been ongoing since we began the Capital in Spring of 2024. Father John has met with many persons willing and able to be part of this wonderful effort to continue the good work of OMC parish. We will also need the support of many others in order to reach our goal.

In the name of all the BLJ Members, we promise our ongoing support of OMC School, faculty, staff, parents, and students as we move from Chestnut Hill College back to our newly renovated building.

Gratefully,  
Sister Madeline Franze SSJ, CFRE  
Chair of OMC's Board of Limited Jurisdiction





## Dear Parents and Friend of OMC School,

I find myself in a period of joyful anticipation for new initiatives that Mrs. Stack and I prepared over the summer. We had two goals in mind: reinforce the Catholic identity that has strongly influenced OMC and find ways to permeate the SSJ and Salesian missions throughout the curriculum and culture of the school as much as possible.

With excitement, I share the fruits of that planning: the “Blessed Are We Boot Camp” and the “Live+Jesus Virtue of the Month” Recognition Initiative!

The “Blessed Are We Boot Camp” provides supplemental religious instruction in collaboration with each grade’s religion teacher. It is important to ensure that our students have a solid foundation in the basic tenets of the Catholic Faith – a foundation that builds on itself as they progress through each grade. In the course of the Blessed Are We Boot Camp, OMC students will strengthen their knowledge and personal connections to foundational Catholic teachings and traditions, and their relationships with God and the Catholic/Christian Faith.

The “Live+Jesus Virtue of the Month” Recognition Initiative is a campus-wide program that encourages students to focus on and practice a specific virtue every month and be acknowledged publicly at school masses for their efforts. The “Live+Jesus” Initiative was introduced at the start of the school year. Each month, faculty and staff will widely share the selected virtue, its definition, and some examples of living that virtue. I provide a lesson on that virtue and teachers identify one student from their class who exemplified that particular virtue, and those individuals will be acknowledged at the following school mass.

It has been a true privilege to engage in the faith formation of our young learners with these two programs. Students are supportive and proud of their peers when they are recognized for exemplifying each month’s virtue, and it is fun to watch the healthy competition and excitement that manifests when they’re learning and participating in “bootcamp drills.”

It is my hope that these initiatives will become traditions that students look forward to each year, and that will leave a lasting impression as they continue to grow in their faith.

Blessings,  
(Ms.) Laura Cilia

# A Renewed Community

The OMC community has continued to thrive in the wake of the fire in March 2023.

Our school's future has never been brighter thanks to the dedication of our teachers, the deep commitment of our school families, and the generosity of our donors. Thanks to this community, Catholic education at OMC is stronger and our drive to return home will succeed.

Many challenges greeted us in the weeks and months after the fire. We are now faced with remarkable opportunities in the form of a new school building that will house state-of-the-art technology. We are truly building the future of education at OMC.

OMC now turns its focus from recovery and healing in the wake of the fire toward rebuilding. As we embark on this stage of our journey, we are thankful to the donors who provided over **\$585,000** in the wake of the fire. We invite you to visit the school and parish websites for more information on our ongoing campaign ONE: One Community, One Campus, One Campaign.

Last year, we committed ourselves to be better and stronger together. In this year of opportunities, we look forward to becoming a renewed community together.



# Congratulations Class of 2024!



In what's quickly becoming a tradition, we once again gathered in the Rotunda of St. Joseph Hall at Chestnut Hill College to celebrate our students' academic, artistic, athletic, and spiritual accomplishments. We are proud to share that members of the class of 2024 received over \$700,000 in scholarship offers at the high schools of their choice.

As we said farewell to these students and celebrated their many accomplishments, we welcomed them to the next stage of their academic careers. In his speech, Jabari Morgan shared several anecdotes of his classmates highlighting the ways that each has grown over the course of their friendships while committing to remembering them as they continue to become their generation's leaders.

As with any class that passes through our school, they'll remain OMCstrong.

This year's graduates are continuing their academic success at the following schools:

**OMC grads will attend**  
**Abington Friends High School**  
**Camden Catholic High School**  
**Imhotep Charter High School**  
**Mercy Career & Technical High School**  
**Merion Mercy Academy**  
**Mount St. Joseph Academy**  
**Science Leadership Academy**  
**Spring-Ford Area High School**  
**St. Joseph's Preparatory School**

We look forward to hearing about their successes for years to come!



# Thank You!

OMC's social fundraisers ended in a success!

*Save the Date!*  
*Join us on May 10, 2025 for*  
*A Golden Night!*



Thank you to our donors, sponsors, and everyone who joined us for our events this year!

The OMC community raised over \$129,000 through our social fundraising events, with over \$40,000 raised from A Golden Night on May 17! We thank everyone who joined us for A Golden Night for an evening of recognition for those who served our parish-school community during our greatest need.

We were honored to recognize the work that the Sisters of Saint Joseph, representatives of Chestnut Hill College's

administration, fire companies and first responders, and parishioners made to the early days of our recovery.

We remain thankful to all who helped in these efforts and look forward to our next celebration as a parish-school community.

OMC students and their families also raised over \$30,000 for our annual Walk-A-Thon! Well done to all of our students, especially those in the Class of 2027 who raised more funds than any other grade in the school. Great work!

## **Fundraising Breakdown**

**The Villa Bag Bingo: \$10,000**

**Dine and Donate: \$470**

**iGiveCatholic: \$3,830**

**OMC Bag Bingo: \$5,900**

**Trivia Night: \$5,477**

**Spirit Night at Urban Sky: \$502**

**Annual Appeal: \$16,846**

**Walk-A-Thon: \$30,388**

**A Golden Night: \$40,877**

**Fire Recovery Effort: \$585,000**

## *Thank you to our Golden Night Sponsors*

### *De Sales Circle (\$1,000)*

Cawley Masonry  
The Flynn Company  
Landcore Engineering  
Langer, Grogan & Diver  
Martin Saints Classical  
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

### *Golden Knight Circle (\$750)*

Class Abstract  
Jacob F. Ruth Funeral Directors

### *Bar Sponsors (\$500)*

ACK Contracting  
Anonymous  
Bruno's  
Curated Living  
David Hilton  
Flynn O'Hara  
Michael & Maria Pavelsky  
Ruotolo Associates

### *Friends of OMC (\$250)*

Bauer Family  
Fr. Bob Bazzoli, OSFS  
Bern & Natalia Rosemary Buckley  
Charles & Patricia Cunningham  
Dolan Family  
Frank & Tina Ford  
Bob & Ann Marie Gugger  
Paul & Andrea Horos  
Marcolina Family  
John & Rosemary McGee  
Side Project Jerky  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Theodore & Chandra Wroblewski



# *Financial Aid Helps Our Students Thrive*

For the 2024-2025 academic year, OMC was fortunate to receive over \$255,000 in financial aid for our students from donors to our Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs.

Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC programs allow individuals and businesses paying taxes in the state to turn their tax burden into financial aid for students at OMC. Donors who commit to give to OMC through these programs for one year receive a 75% tax credit on their donation or 90% if they commit for two years.

We are proud to partner with the Foundation for Catholic Education (FCE) and Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) to help provide our families with the aid they need to make OMC their school of choice.

OMC's multi-faceted diversity sets us apart and makes us a stronger community. Your contribution to these programs will help to ensure that OMC's unmatched Catholic education remains the best choice for all our families.

*Thank you to our donors:*

*Anonymous Donor  
Jonathan & Elizabeth Bauer  
John & Jennifer Curry  
Marie Della Porta  
Christopher & Kathleen Dezzi  
Paul & Andrea Horos  
Timothy & Aurora Hughes  
Thomas Halliwell & Irene Kreimer  
Mary Dempsey & Daniel Lau  
Paul Cillo & Katherine Leary  
Sean-Tamba & Elizabeth Matthew  
Brian & Barbara Riley  
Christopher & Hannah Roberts  
John & Denise Sprandio  
John & Mary Sprandio  
Mark & Elizabeth Vogelbacker  
Jeffrey Yass  
J.P. Mascaro & Sons*



# OMC Annual Report

We are thrilled to share that OMC received \$366,147 from our donors to the EITC & OSTC programs and our institutional partners at the Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia (CSFP), Maguire Foundation, and Henkels Foundation.

This represents a 38% **increase** over last year's total and serves as a powerful illustration of our community's commitment to strengthening Catholic education at OMC.

We are humbled to have the support of so many as we look forward to a return to a rebuilt OMC.



● BLOCS ● CSFP ● FCE ● Maguire Foundation ● Henkels Foundation

**BLOCS: \$255,447**

**CSFP: \$90,200**

**FCE: \$13,000**

**Maguire Foundation: \$7,500**

**Henkels Foundation: \$4,950**

We thank the following donors for their generous support of OMC's Annual Appeal

---

|                            |   |                              |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Peter & Collen Amuso       | Madeline Franze, SSJ                        | Mary McNichol                |
| Mary Helen Beirne, SSJ     | Robin & Karen Gallagher                     | Jeanne Meredith              |
| Rita Beyer                 | William Graham                              | Theresa & Frank Miller       |
| Kathy Boyle, SSJ           | Norman Bruce Hagy                           | Eileen Mullen                |
| Glenn & Marian Bozzacco    | Richard & Mary Jo Koch Hartz                | Sara Murphey                 |
| Umberto & Ruth Brun        | Barbara Heaney                              | Katie O'Shea                 |
| Beth Bythrow               | Battaglia Heather                           | Susan Oleszewski             |
| Mary Coady                 | Ellen Higley O'Neill                        | Mary & Samuel Osirim         |
| Mary & James Cosgrove      | John Hughes & Gwendolyn Gordon              | Michael & Maria Pavelsky     |
| Michael & Meg Crofton      | Paul Kettl & Kathleen Fisher                | OSFS Wilmington Philadelphia |
| Anne Croley                | Ann & Thomas Klein                          | Anne McNally & Joseph Pie    |
| Michael & Hannah Cummings  | George & Mary Longo                         | Harry & Ellen Quirk          |
| Patricia Cunningham        | Bernard Lopez                               | Kathy Rodgers                |
| Adriana Della Porta        | Diane Luffy                                 | John & Denise Sprandio       |
| Joy Dodge                  | Mary Katerine Vandegrift & Katherine Scholl | Raymond & Carol Sullivan     |
| Jill Durkin                |   | Francis & Eve Swiacki        |
| Brendan Dwyer              | Bernard McLaughlin & Jane Mason             | JohnValinis                  |
| Thomas & Patricia Elsasser | William McLaughlin                          | Samuel Vrooman               |
| Francis & Christine Ford   | Thomas Halliwell & Irene Kreimer            | Tiffani Wilson               |
|                            | Thomas McNamara                             |                              |

# Join the OMC Family!

At OMC, we offer the following in a joyfully diverse Catholic community:

- Flexible scheduling for Pre-K
- Small class sizes
- Orton-Gillingham Reading Support
- STEM Challenger Experience Program
- Writers Matter Program with La Salle University
- Competitive CYO Sports Teams
- Diverse, faith-filled community
- Advanced Math
- Spanish Instruction
- Cross-curricular Art & STEAM
- Campus Minister Led Service Programs
- Financial aid
- Aftercare Program

Email [admissions@omcschool.com](mailto:admissions@omcschool.com) to schedule your visit today!

Our Mother of Consolation Parish School  
17 E. Chestnut Hill Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118

