

Harbor Springs Knights of Columbus fund six scholarships for local Catholic education, K-12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 6, 2020—Harbor Springs Knights of Columbus Council 15021 recently gifted St. Francis Xavier School and St. Michael Academy six full-tuition scholarships for the coming school year - three for qualifying elementary and three for qualifying high school students.

"There is no greater need, nor reward, than for us to invest in our future," expressed Andrew Martin, Grand Knight of the Harbor Springs Council - a mission of the Catholic Communities of L'Arbre Croche (CCLC). "Our goal is to create life-changing opportunities for the young men and women receiving these scholarships, and, in turn, those around them."

Carrying out a component of the KofC mission, Council 15021 raised more than \$30,000 in the preceding year to promote and support Catholic education in Emmet County's only Catholic schools.

Applauding their efforts, Father James M. Bearss, CCLC Pastor, declared, "I am delighted! The Knights have been a tireless partner in our cluster's mission to evangelize. Providing access to strong academics, set on a faith-based educational path, is critical to our outcome."

Fr. Greg McCallum, St. Francis Xavier Pastor shared, "Being a Knight means that you stand for the timeless principles of the Faith. By supporting these students, you help to ensure that these principles will be upheld by the succeeding generations."

On hand to accept scholarship funds were St. Francis Xavier's Principal, Mr. Adam Dobrowolski, and St. Michael Foundation's President, Mr. James Hatch. Expressing their gratitude, they concur that the Knights' efforts are a "Great blessing."

"These scholarships are a tremendous opportunity for new families needing support, who would like to provide a Catholic education for their children, without worry," noted Mr. Dobrowolski. "We are grateful for this community effort to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to become virtuous adults."

"We are thrilled that the Harbor Springs Knights have joined their brother Knights in Boyne City and Petoskey in their support of St. Michael Academy," stated SMA's Mr. Hatch. "As a *High School with a Higher Purpose*, SMA promotes a culture of excellence and instills Christian and classical values, providing the next generation of servant leaders a solid academic and spiritual foundation."

Both schools have experienced recent increases in new-family tours and are welcoming new students when they open for classroom instruction on August 31.

Encouraging prospective families to inform themselves by exploring the blessings a K-12 Catholic education offers, Father James added, "It's my ongoing prayer that these Catholic schools continue as centers of comprehension and faith formation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, priests, parents, and faculty work together, and students develop the ability to learn, serve, lead, and succeed."

Pleased with the results, Council 15021 plans to repeat the scholarship program, annually.

To schedule a tour for K-8 students, call St. Francis Xavier at 231-347-3651; for high school students, call St. Michael Academy at 231-881-9025x10. No student is denied enrollment for financial reasons. More information is available at petoskeysfxschool.org and stmichaelupnorth.org.

In tandem, St. Francis Xavier and St. Michael Academy thank everyone who supported the Harbor Springs Knights' fundraising efforts to make these scholarships possible. Mr. Dobrowolski also acknowledged the Watson and Winifred Gregory family and the Johnston family for their matching gifts to St. Francis Xavier.

The Harbor Springs Knights of Columbus is a Catholic's men's fraternal organization dedicated to four core principals; Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.