

Catholic Education Foundation Honors  
Five Organizations of the Year for 2007

Each organization is located in the  
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

1. Catholic High School Honor Roll

The Catholic High School Honor Roll annually lists the top 50 Catholic high schools in the nation for maintaining high academic standards, upholding their Catholic identities, and preparing students to actively engage the world. Category leaders are named for academics, Catholic identity, and civic education. During the past few years, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Department for Catholic Schools has had six of its twelve high schools named to the Honor Roll. The schools include:

Aquinas Academy  
Oakland Catholic  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
Quigley Catholic  
Seton-LaSalle  
Saint Joseph

Catholic secondary education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh provides faith-centered, academically excellent programs to nearly 4,200 students.

2. Crossroads Foundation

The mission of Crossroads Foundation is to nurture the academic and personal development of highly motivated adolescents from economically distressed Pittsburgh communities. Crossroads inspires students to achieve their fullest potential by providing individual support, educational enrichment, and tuition assistance to attend Catholic high schools.

Working in partnership with family, school and community, Crossroads Foundation cultivates the virtues that encourage young people to attain their goals and become contributing members of our community. Through additional programs involving counseling services, mentoring and tutoring, students learn to excel in their educational pursuits.

3. Extra Mile Education Foundation

The Extra Mile Education Foundation supports the education of urban children in select Pittsburgh parochial elementary schools through operational support (Holy Rosary in Homewood, St. Agnes in Oakland, St. Benedict the Moor in the Hill District and St.

James in Wilkinsburg) and through student scholarship support (Good Shepherd in Braddock and Cardinal Wright Regional School on the North Side). The schools – identified by the Diocese of Pittsburgh – are in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, and students are primarily African-American and non-Catholic. Extra Mile is dedicated to sustaining these schools for their communities on an ongoing basis as a needed supplement to the financial commitments of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the schools and the parents and families of the children. The Extra Mile Foundation assists nearly 1,000 students each year and provides an array of special support services involving community agencies, cultural institutions, higher education facilities and foundations.

#### 4. Golden Apple Award Program

Since 1992, through the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has honored 185 teachers in Catholic elementary and secondary schools with the distinguished Golden Apple Award. Eight (8) elementary and two (2) secondary teachers are selected for the award each year. Teachers are recognized for their excellence in teaching, community services and commitment to the church.

After a careful selection process in which each teacher is evaluated on professionalism, service to Church and community, leadership qualities and essay, the awardees are announced. A special dinner is held on the first Tuesday after Memorial Day where each Golden Apple winner is given a cash award of \$5,000, a Golden Apple, a gold lapel pin, a photo with the bishop and a video of the evening.

This teacher award program is one of the finest of its kind in the country. Three other dioceses have modeled their award programs in a similar manner.

#### 5. Saint Anthony School Programs

St. Anthony School Programs use inclusive education and vocational training to help special needs children learn, grow and succeed. In a Catholic school setting (8 elementary and 4 secondary Catholic schools), all children are valued and entitled to dignity, respect and an appropriate education. Differences are recognized, and uniqueness is celebrated. Inclusion allows children with disabilities to attend “regular” schools, and requires that we see the person before we see the disability.

St. Anthony School Programs help students with disabilities maximize their potentials in the classroom, in the university, and in the workplace by offering appropriate programs matched to the age/grade levels of its students. A program for 18-21 year olds has been in place in partnership with Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh.