

DePaul  CRISTO REY
HIGH SCHOOL

MATTERS

Presidential Search Underway p. 2



Update on Building Progress

*DPCR's new academic building is visibly taking shape on the Central Parkway side of campus. Expected to be complete in June, it will house classrooms, science labs and a college counseling suite as well as academic and executive offices. Construction is funded through the successful **Building. Futures. Together. For A Greater Cincinnati Capital Campaign.***

Graduate Success Fund “Crucial” to College Completion



“The grants I received from DePaul Cristo Rey’s Graduate Success Fund were crucial to me. They helped me fill tuition gaps, finish school and graduate. I’m forever grateful,” says **Deanna Wilson ‘15** (left). A member of DPCR’s first graduating class, she was also one of the first to complete college when she received her bachelor’s

degree in Health and Wellness from **Mount St. Joseph University** in 2019. She is a full-time community health worker for the organization, Health Care Access Now.

Deanna is one of many DPCR graduates who have received micro-grants from DPCR’s Graduate Success Fund when financial shortfalls stood in the way of college completion.

She had received academic scholarships, financial aid and help from her parents but still had a college tuition gap. Now she’s exploring law school, hoping to study public health law part time while she continues working.

DPCR is the only high school in the Cincinnati area with a full-fledged Graduate Success Program. Director **Larisa Wright** works with our alumni to help them navigate higher education and overcome any barriers to college completion. The Graduate Success Fund supports this by providing grants to students who have or are likely to drop out for financial reasons.

As the number of college-enrolled graduates grows each year, so does the need for a sustainable, long-term source of funding. The second phase of DPCR’s **Building. Futures. Together.** **For a Greater Cincinnati Campaign** aims to raise **\$6 million** to secure the fund and our graduates’ success. If you want to know more about the fund or make a gift, please contact **Sparkle Worley**, vice president of advancement, at 513.861.0600 or sparkle.worley@dpcr.net.

Sister Jeanne's Legacy

In 2009, there was no DePaul Cristo Rey High School – no building, no students, no faculty. Today, we are expanding our facilities, there are 300 students, and almost 60 faculty and staff. All of this occurred under the leadership of **Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.**



Sister Jeanne was hired by the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati** to bring to life their vision for a ministry in education that changes lives and breaks the cycle of poverty. And that is what she did, moving from Chicago to Cincinnati, and rolling up her sleeves to get to work. She joined the search to find a site to locate the school, recruited board members and Corporate Partners, enchanted potential donors, and began hiring faculty and staff. When the site was chosen, she helped design a school that would physically match the mission of combining education and professional work experience. Her vision, love of the mission, and energy brought to fruition this new ministry of the Sisters of Charity.

Her impact continued as the school grew from one class of freshmen in 2011, to all four classes in 2014, to the sixth class that will graduate this spring. While tending to the countless tasks and issues of a college-prep high school that also has a Corporate Work Study Program, she also coined the perfect name for our very successful annual dinner auction, “**Rey of Light.**” Under her leadership, the success of the school's first capital campaign is funding the dramatic physical transformation of the campus.

In addition to all of her accomplishments, she is an English major through and through and has a wonderful way with words. Perhaps what she is most noted for, however, is the way she tells the story of DePaul Cristo Rey High School. She does so with passion and humor and love, and with that special gift that has been instrumental in growing our DePaul Cristo Rey community.

Sister Jeanne has announced that this, her 11th year at the helm, will be her final year as president of DePaul Cristo Rey. While she will move on to positively impact other missions, her spirit and influence will always live in the halls of DPCR and in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Patricia Robertson, *Chair*
Board of Directors
DePaul Cristo Rey High School

National Search Underway for Next President

A national search is underway to identify DePaul Cristo Rey's next president. A Presidential Search Committee has been appointed with the goal of having a new school leader selected by June as **S. Jeanne Bessette** completes her tenure as the school's founding president.

The committee is chaired by **S. Barbara Davis, SC**, member of the Board of Directors, and includes other Board members as well as school staff. The committee is following the hiring

process developed by the **Cristo Rey Network** to select a Cristo Rey high school president.

When the next president is selected by the Board of Directors, final approval rests with the **Sisters of Charity Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries**. The Sisters have sponsored DPCR since its inception.

DPCR Has New Director of Admissions

Yasmeen Khan has been named Director of Admissions at DePaul Cristo Rey. In this role she is responsible for all facets of the school's recruitment and enrollment program and serves on the school's Executive Leadership Team.

Yasmeen has worked in admissions at DPCR since 2013 and in her new role, she will continue to work with families exploring and applying to DPCR while also leading strategic planning for enrollment growth. She is fluent in Spanish and has been recognized at DPCR and in the community for her mission-driven approach to supporting students, particularly those from immigrant and refugee families, through the admissions process.



Two Sisters of Charity Recognized with Founders Leadership Award



Sister Barbara Hagedorn, SC, (left) and **Sister Catherine Kirby, SC**, (right) have been recognized with the DePaul Cristo Rey Founders Leadership Award for their instrumental roles in the founding of the school.

The Founders Leadership Award is given annually at DPCR's Founders Day Mass to honor persons specially connected to DePaul Cristo Rey whose leadership demonstrates the inspiring qualities of St. Vincent de Paul, the school's namesake, and the school's founders, the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**. Those qualities are service, charity and a passion for the mission.

S. Barbara was president of the Sisters of Charity when the congregation took the leap to open and sponsor a brand new high school that eventually became DePaul Cristo Rey. S. Catherine led the feasibility study which gained initial local support for the school and earned approval from the **Cristo Rey Network** for DPCR to open. She oversaw the task force work of over 60 volunteers who researched, explored, discussed and planned the school. After DPCR opened in 2011, both women served six years on the Board of Directors.

Rotex's Commitment is Investment in the Future



Donovan '20 (right) and his supervisor, Allen Burke, in front of some of the products sorted with Rotex machinery.

"The most important traits needed in today's workforce are accountability and attendance," says **Elizabeth Munchel**, human resources leader at **Rotex**. For an HR professional, finding skilled, reliable workers is an ongoing challenge, and that's one reason why Rotex continues to commit to the DePaul Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP).

"One of my jobs is to print and sort blueprints to create packets for the engineers building sorting machines. The engineers have to have accurate packets; this is a big responsibility and has taught me accountability," says **Donovan '20**, the senior member of the Rotex student work team. "I make sure to check over my work and correct myself if I find something wrong."

Rotex, a manufacturer of industrial sorting equipment, is among Cincinnati's oldest companies; it has grown globally with locations in four countries on three continents. Elizabeth explains that the CWSP partnership is a large investment for the firm, but this commitment goes beyond the bottom line. "We know that providing students' jobs is an opportunity for them to have a private education. This sets them up for a future in which they understand the real world and the importance of what they do at work," she explains. "Without us, some students may not have a private education. That means a lot to us."

This is Donovan's second year working at Rotex and he says, "I liked it from the beginning. The employees are welcoming and get to know me. My supervisor, **Allen Burke**, is a mentor; we talk about literally everything."

As Donovan approaches graduation and college, he's considering nursing as a career but hasn't ruled out business or sports management. His conscientiousness will support his future success and has made a positive impression on his co-workers. As Elizabeth says, "He's going to do great in life."

New Partners Welcome DPCR's Young Professionals

Every day of the work week, teams of DePaul Cristo Rey students join professionals throughout Greater Cincinnati in offices, campuses, hospitals and other settings as part of the Corporate Work Study Program. This school year, DPCR is grateful to have more than 100 Corporate Partners invested in this program and our students. Partners who joined the program this school year are:

CTL Aerospace, Inc.
F•E•G Investment Advisors
KPMG
Kroger Health
Kroger Personal Finance
LCS
LumAware

Neyer Properties
Planes
ProFootball Focus
Sims-Lohman
Taft Museum of Art
Thompson Hine LLC

Grads Victorious in First Alumni Basketball Game

Basketball has been played at DPCR since the school opened in 2011. Some of the players on those very first girls' and boys' teams returned to help inaugurate the new Linda and Harry Fath Gymnasium at the first annual Students vs. Alumni Basketball Game. It was part of DPCR's November Homecoming Weekend, and 50 graduates came to play and socialize. They also won the game by a score of 36-31!

Art is a Pursuit and a Passion for DPCR Grad



Joe Jenkins '17 on the Wittenberg campus.

Joe Jenkins '17 has shown a passion for art and design since he was a child. "I've loved art since I was little and would draw on my mom's copy paper," he recalls. "Working at **CR architecture + design** during my sophomore year at DePaul Cristo Rey was my favorite Corporate Work Study job. I told them I liked digital and they showed me a design program that just stuck. Meeting all the designers and experiencing the atmosphere there, I could see myself going into design and working there in the future," he says.

Joe has pursued his love of art since graduating from DPCR in 2017. He's now a junior at **Wittenberg University** in Springfield, Ohio, majoring in graphic design with a minor in Asian Studies. His minor developed as he took classes in Japanese and Chinese religions as well as Chinese fiction. He's currently enrolled in a Japanese language class and wants to study abroad this summer in Japan; that fits his overall career plan. "I've always wanted to get into animation so my plan is to go straight to graduate school to pursue Japanese and advanced graphic design," he explains.

Wittenberg offered Joe a good financial aid package, and he also chose it because, "I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and go to a school without all of my high school classmates. DPCR is more diverse than Wittenberg so I've been forced to meet and talk to people I'd likely not have interacted with in the past," he explains. "I've made a whole bunch of new friends."

Joe balances a full class load each semester while participating in several on-campus organizations including Minority Men Striving to Succeed, Concerned Black Students and the East Asian Studies Club. "I also write short stories and poetry as a creative outlet and as a way to get my creative juices going," he says. "I have to thank my DPCR English teachers, **Ms. Bole**, **Mr. Brennan**, **Mr. Ebert** and **Dr. Iris**, for helping me with that!"



Making a Good Gift Great



We have received a number of planned gifts to DePaul Cristo Rey in the past few years including will bequests, charitable trusts as well as outright gifts of stock and other assets. Each one of these gifts has been received with sincere and enthusiastic appreciation.

Though every gift has a special quality, we have learned that some gifts stand out from the rest as extra special. And it's not the size of a gift that makes it particularly special, though we are always grateful when a larger asset comes our way. What makes a gift extra special is the circumstances surrounding it. Looking at these gifts, certain common characteristics emerge that combine to make a good gift great.

1. A great gift is motivated by our mission.

Something intangible, yet valuable, is added to a gift when it addresses the purposes of our organization. The donor identifies with our vision and mission. His or her planned gift reflects a sense of ownership and partnership.

2. A great gift is well planned.

Great giving requires time and effort. One must consider a variety of factors and options and select the right asset for the right gift vehicle at the right time – and do it in a manner that will appropriately address one's overall estate plan, as well as the needs of DePaul Cristo Rey. As the saying goes, anything worth doing is worth doing well. Great giving may require more work, but the rewards are worth it.

3. A great gift pleases the donor.

There's a sense of fulfillment that crowns a gift with added value when a donor is convinced his or her gift will make a positive difference at DePaul Cristo Rey, it has been well planned and there are no regrets.

As you consider what kind of planned gift you would like to give to DPCR, we urge you to contact our Vice President of Advancement, **Sparkle Worley**. She is well versed in the various planned giving options and is dedicated to helping our donors make "great" gifts. You can reach her at 513.861.0600, ext. 320, or sparkle.worley@dpcr.net.

New Members Join Board of Directors

Six Greater Cincinnati business and community leaders have joined the DePaul Cristo Rey High School Board of Directors. Each has been appointed to a three-year term.



Barbara Bennie,
Community Volunteer



David J. Fikse,
President,
Mercy Health -
Cincinnati



Dick Haglage,
Owner,
Terra Firma Associates



Cathy Ramstetter, Ph.D.,
Owner,
Successful
Healthy Children



Nick Reilly,
Partner and Advisor,
Constellation
Wealth Advisors



Andre M. Williams,
Vice President of
Health Partnerships,
GoNoodle



◀ Golf Outing

The morning rain cleared, clouds parted and the sun shone on the 8th annual **DePaul Cristo Rey Golf Classic**, held on September 23 at the Western Hills Country Club. Generous sponsors and a record number of golfers contributed to the more than \$65,000 raised for DPCR's Tuition Assistance Fund. Presenting Sponsor was **Fast Park & Relax** with Gold Sponsor: the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**. Pictured are **Linda Fath** and **Patti Schutte**, two members of the winning women's foursome.

Bruins Give Back ▶

Every week, a group of students volunteers after school at the **St. Francis Seraph Ministries Dining Room** to help prepare and serve dinner to the neighborhood residents who need a meal. A new service group volunteers each quarter so in all, 26 students will have served on one of these teams by the end of this school year.



◀ Breakfast of Champions Committed to Change

Led by the efforts of these outstanding table captains (and others not pictured), the October **Champions of Change Breakfast** was an inspiring success. The table captains hosted friends and co-workers to learn about DePaul Cristo Rey and the unique Graduate Success Program. Their generous response resulted in over \$115,000 raised during the one-hour event.

Outstanding Students Inducted ▼

The National Honor Society, considered the nation's premier organization that recognizes outstanding high school students, has 19 new members from DPCR. The juniors and seniors were inducted in a November ceremony after an application and review process in which they were required to demonstrate their excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character.





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Rey of Light

DePaul Cristo Rey High School

April 18, 2020
ST. XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

Rey of Light
is the premier
fundraising event
for DePaul Cristo Rey
High School.

Call 513.861.0600
to volunteer or learn about
sponsorship opportunities.

Please Save the Date
**CORPORATE PARTNER
LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

The View in Mount Adams
8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker:
Robert Bilott, local attorney
whose work is the subject
of the film, "**Dark Waters.**"

Valet parking
will be provided.

