CRISTO REY
PHILADELPHIA
HIGH SCHOOL

President's Newsletter

May 20, 2025

Friends of Cristo Rey,

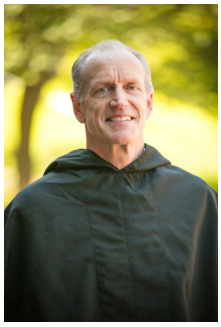
Over the past few weeks, we have experienced great change in the Catholic Church. While we are still mourning the passing of Pope Francis, it is with great joy that we celebrate the election of Pope Leo XIV! A little over a week ago, we streamed the conclave in our Family Room. When students and staff saw the white smoke emanating from the Sistine Chapel chimney there was so much excitement in the halls. To further find out that Pope Leo XIV was both an Augustinian and the first American-born pontiff, there was elation!

Nearly 30 years ago, the Cristo Rey Network was founded by the Jesuits. Here at Cristo Rey Philadelphia, our founding endorsers were the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Five years ago, we joyously welcomed an additional endorsing community, The Augustinians, to our family.

In 1796, two Augustinian Friars founded the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. Five years later, the Church of St. Augustine at 4th and Vine Streets became the first foundation for the Order of Saint Augustine. In 1841, the Augustinians purchased a 200-acre farm where Villanova University and the parish of St. Thomas of Villanova now stand.

Augustinians live by St. Augustine's Rule: "We are to be of one mind and heart on the way to God." This is what we experience here at Cristo Rey daily. We are travelers on our journey to ensure that our students experience transformational opportunities and learn to serve the common good through our college-prep education and Work-Study program.

As we celebrate our five year anniversary with the Augustinian Order, Father Rob Hagan, Prior Provincial states, "The Augustinians of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova are grateful for the partnership and collaboration we share with Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. The Cristo Rey mission nurtures and challenges young people to reach their full potential, and the Augustinians are excited about the many opportunities these students receive to grow and thrive and promote the common good for all people. The educational model combining study with real world working experience, infused with faith and gospel values, is a recipe for sustainable success and positive impact in our world."



We are so grateful for the Augustinian leadership on our Board and all Trustees from our endorsing orders!

Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova	***Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary***	***Oblates of St. Francis De Sales***
Peter Donohue, OSA, Ph.D. Jeremy Hiers, OSA Donald F. Reilly, OSA, D. Min.	Mary McNulty, IHM Stephen Anne Roderiguez, IHM, Ed.D.	John Fisher, OSFS Brain Zumbrum, OSFS

In addition to the governing and experiential support we receive from our Board of Trustees, we are also blessed with the support of incredible women religious, at 1717, who are working with current and prospective students every day. Sister Susan Kuk, IHM and Sister Catherine Ward, IHM joined our team this year as a Math Tutor and Admissions Counselor, respectively. They bring a tremendous amount of experience, as they have spent their entire ministries in education.

"The IHM Charism of love, creative hope, and fidelity aligns perfectly with the mission of Cristo Rey," Sister Catherine says. "Our students learn to love, hence the charism of love. Our students are challenged to grow, hence creative hope. And, finally, fidelity, as our students are encouraged

to serve the common good."



This year, we hosted two school-wide masses, one in October with Archbishop Perez and just recently on May 2nd, with Father Jeremy Hiers, OSA. We are proud to be a Catholic school for students of all faiths. We are proud to have three incredible endorsing communities of religious men and women. And we are proud to have recently celebrated five years of partnership with the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

As we wrap up our school year, I am so grateful for this community that Believes, Dreams, Leads, and Serves! Because of you and the commitment, hard work, and resilience of our students they are on the path to achieving their goals! I hope you'll come witness that on Friday, June 6th at La Salle University's McCarthy Stadium when the Class of 2025 graduates. In the meantime, students will be on campus through June 13. We would love to see you.

In Blue Pride,



Tom Shoemaker
President & CEO
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

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