

January 30, 2026

Friends of Cristo Rey,

Today, we close the 52nd celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, which Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School is proud to participate in. Our founding team, partners, and donors believed that a quality, Catholic education is an opportunity that our students deserve, one that improves lives and strengthens communities. As many of us are the beneficiaries of a faith-filled education ourselves, we know how it helps shape our students as they learn to love others, grow in their faiths, and serve the common good.

Our Catholic roots here in the City of Philadelphia are strengthened by our endorsing communities: The Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Last Saturday, on the Feast Day of their founder, the Oblates celebrated the 100th Anniversary of North Catholic High School, their original footprint in our city. With their support and guidance, we have welcomed many students through our doors, educated them in the Catholic tradition, and celebrated them as they graduate and go on to pursue college degrees.

If you remember, this past November, we hosted our annual Mission Moments event to celebrate our endorsing communities.



Last summer, our Campus Ministry Team aligned our endorsers' charisms with our Cristo Rey Values as a guiding light for faith formation. They added a foundational teaching of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Somebodiness*—an innate sense of self-dignity, worth, and value, regardless of external validation or societal status—is fundamental to everything we do here at Cristo Rey Philadelphia. Our Director of Campus Ministry & Faith Formation, Shalom Stewart believes that “somebodiness is the glue of our charisms.” By incorporating our endorsing communities' charisms into our everyday language and intentions, we strive to embody their work and live out our mission.



CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA CHARISMS

Guided by our three endorsing communities, The Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as well as the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our charisms reflect our faith in action.

WE BELIEVE
in **Somebodiness.**

WE DREAM
with **Creative Hope.**

WE LEAD
in **Truth, Unity, and Love.**

WE SERVE
with **Gentleness and Humility.**

We now say our charisms at the end of our daily prayer. They are used at Mass and in Theology class. They are important pillars for us as a Catholic school for students of all faiths and inspire the values of The Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in our students. They guide and teach us now and will for years to come.

God bless you and thank you for your support of our important mission,

Tom Shoemaker
President & CEO
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School





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