

# MISSION

as a sacred trust



#### **Mission Statement**

Urged by the love of Christ, and in the spirit of our founder, Elizabeth Ann Seton, we Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati strive to live Gospel values.

We choose to act justly, to build loving relationships, to share our resources with those in need, and to care for all creation.

## Sisters of Charity Sponsored Ministries

**Bayley** – a continuing care retirement community that offers a full spectrum of health and wellness lifestyle options.

**College of Mount St. Joseph** – a coeducational, Catholic liberal arts college.

**DePaul Cristo Rey High School** – a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young adults with economic need.

**Light of Hearts Villa** – an assisted living facility for senior adults.

**Seton Family Center** – a counseling center servicing children and adults.

**Seton High School** – a comprehensive, Catholic high school for girls.

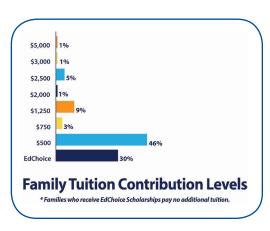
**St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati** – a residential and respite center for children and adults with severe developmental disabilities.

# Cristo Rey "Acts Justly"

WITH APPROACH TO FAMILIES' FINANCIAL SITUATIONS

By Margee Garbsch

hen the Sisters of Charity decided to sponsor the new ministry that is DePaul Cristo Rey High School, it was in response to inequities in education. Access to quality education is a proven way to bring people out of poverty, yet the high cost of private and particularly Catholic high schools makes them inaccessible to low-income families. At DPCR underserved students receive a college-prep education in a faith-based



and nurturing, yet challenging, environment. Acting justly, the school turns no student away for lack of money, and treats all families with dignity and respect.

While all Cincinnati Catholic high schools offer financial assistance to some families, DPCR offers it to all families. The cost to educate each DPCR student is \$21,000; students earn \$7,000 at their Corporate Work Study positions, and all families pay some tuition. However, as the chart shows, most pay in the range of \$500 and for many, even that amount is a struggle. "No family is alike, and so we don't have a one-plan-fits-all approach," explains Renee Hargrove, director of business administration. "We customize tuition plans for each family reflecting their circumstances, and we believe in compassionate, personal customer service."

During the admissions process, all families complete the Private School Aid Service (PSAS) form. The results from PSAS indicate the estimated amount that a family can pay based on their income and expenses. "It's not uncommon for the PSAS report to show a negative adjusted family income, meaning the family has more expenses than income. We consciously choose to admit these students anyway, because these are exactly the families this school was created to serve," Renee says. "No student is turned away because the family can't pay. We also have an emergency assistance fund for unexpected hardships," she says.

In addition to the sponsorship of the Sisters of Charity, DPCR relies on generous donors for scholarship gifts to fill the funding gap. It is through the just and faith-filled actions of all associated with DPCR that our students will be transformed into high school and college graduates, "young women and men of integrity, faith, tenacity and purpose," as called for in our mission statement.

## News 'N Notes

Because of various employee fundraising projects such as a Book Fair and Basket Raffles, **Bayley's** Employee Assistance Program was able to assist 14 employees and their families this past year.



St. Joseph Home recently opened an off-campus Adult Day Program that serves not only residents of St. Joseph Home but also others from the area. The program open house was held on Oct. 29, 2013, and the Adult Day Program opened on Nov. 4, 2013. There are currently 32 people who attend the day program, all of whom are St. Joseph Home residents.

The **Seton High School** community has been very busy over the last few months. Nineteen students attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., participated in outreach programs to not-for-profit agencies. Other students volunteered at Ronald McDonald House, while many of the Seton clubs adopted needy families for the holidays. In addition, in response to Pope



Francis' request for prayers to end world hunger, the Seton community collected and donated canned goods to the Holy Family Pantry.



At the **College of Mount St. Joseph** a Giving Tree placed in the lobby of Seton Hall resulted in five cartloads of gifts that were donated to Anderson Ferry's Toys for Tots program. In addition the community of faculty, staff and students came together for a Christmas prayer service and dinner. This included a visit from Santa as well as games, prizes and lots of fun.

## **Prayer**

O Radiant Dawn, may we be a reflection of divine light and love for all. Incarnate God, we pray that you will dispel the darkness of our world and bring hope and joy to those who long for your light and peace. You are our radiant and eternal light. You are a lover of truth and justice who fills the earth with love. Fill our Christmas season full of your light, truth and justice. Amen.



### Words of Wisdom

"Be very guarded this day in every action not to wound this heavenly virtue – God commands us to love one another even with all our faults – say nothing, do nothing then to

pain anyone, carry those who give you pain in your heart before God, and think of their virtues instead of their faults – My God teach me to love you, and my neighbor for your sake."

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton [from her "Meditations for days of the Christmas season"]

*Mission* is the electronic newsletter of the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. To unsubscribe <u>click here</u>.



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