DePaul Cristo Rey Starts School Year with New Students, Building and President

By Margee Garbsch, director of communications and marketing, DPCR

“Share our resources with those in need,” was the foundation of the Sisters of Charity’s vision for a new high school when deciding to launch DePaul Cristo Rey. As DPCR began its 10th year in August, that vision is visible in a thriving school of more than 320 students, bolstered by a ninth grade class of 101 freshmen.

Based on feedback from families and staff, school leaders decided to have students learn from home the entire first quarter this year. Each class had a one-day, on-campus orientation in late August to meet teachers and get schedules, computers and class materials. Since then, the students have been learning virtually as their teachers teach via webcams and computers from their DPCR classrooms.

Having left hastily in March as the country shut down, most of the students had not been back until August and were surprised to find the under-construction academic building now complete. The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Academic Building includes 19 classrooms, four science labs, a college counseling suite, student wellness center, administrative offices, and a beautiful lobby with a spirit shop and concession stand. A successful capital campaign raised $20.8 million to build the academic building and the new student center/gymnasium which opened in August 2019. Both buildings are integrated with the original school building under one roof as a connected, safe space with one main entrance on Central Parkway.

Joining the new students in the new building is DePaul Cristo Rey’s new president. Ms. Siobhan Taylor, who became DPCR’s second president on Sept. 14, is eager to carry on the school’s mission. “I am excited and prepared to shepherd the DePaul Cristo Rey community into a new season of even more vibrant fulfillment of its mission,” she said. “The work of this school deeply resonates with me, as I truly understand the value and promise a Catholic high school education holds. It is my hope that, together, we will continue to grow with and in the Greater Cincinnati community and by the faithful practice of the Gospel in every way.”
So many seniors in the community have felt isolated because of quarantine, safety mandates, and restrictions during this pandemic. Families have been hesitant to move loved ones into Assisted Living facilities. **Bayley** now has openings in its beautiful Assisted Living apartments, and those who have moved in recently have been thrilled with the activities and sense of community! Staff are now able to give tours to families looking for a safe, joyous home for their loved ones.

Like everything else in our nation, state, and city, the fall semester at **Mount St. Joseph University** has been impacted by the effects of the pandemic. Most classes are held virtually, fall sports with few exceptions have been moved to the spring, fewer students are living on campus, and in-person gatherings are greatly restricted. However, in Mount fashion, students, staff, faculty, and administration have responded with the “heart of a Lion.”

Alumni were engaged in a virtual homecoming the week of Oct. 19 with new events welcoming students, faculty, and staff to meet with alums. On Oct. 23, forty-six flags from the countries of birth of current and past students, faculty, and staff were hung on the fence at Schueler Field representing the diversity of our Mount community. Since July they have gathered weekly via Zoom for prayer and reflection on the topic of racism and the university’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes meet weekly, in the tent in the quad or virtually, using Scripture for reflection and prayer.

In early October, **Seton High School** celebrated HOPE WEEK. Seton’s Hope Squad planned the inspiring week, which took part during National Mental Health Awareness Week. Hope Squad is a school-based, peer-to-peer, suicide prevention program that emphasizes suicide prevention fundamentals, self-care and anti-bullying. The Hope Squad Program functions as a peer support team with the goal of providing friendship, encouragement and support for students in the school who may be struggling. Hope Squad members are nominated by their peers as someone who displays naturally good listening skills and to whom students would go to if they needed help during a difficult time.

Hope Week had themed days and also included making inspirational posters in mentor groups that are now displayed in the school, giving Lifesavers and computer stickers with positive messages on them to every student and making a motivational wall where students wrote positive messages all week long.

October was quite the exciting month for **St. Joseph Home**’s residents with new faces, Halloween parties, and a performance from world renowned classical guitarist, Richard Goering! Richard is known for his mastery in playing classical fingerstyle guitar and has made a 35-year career out of doing what he loves. This is not the first time St. Joseph Home has had the privilege of having Richard play for residents.

While this year looked a little different than the typical concert experience with Goering, the residents absolutely loved it. “The flexibility exhibited by Richard throughout the day was amazing and showed how dedicated he is to sharing his work with others,” said Jeni Rolfs, director of programming. Richard played for residents able to leave their cottages in SJH’s rear courtyard, and through the windows for those that needed to stay inside.

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**Furthering the Mission**

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**Words of Wisdom**

“‘Seek, seek’ means care, it means action.”
- St. Vincent de Paul

“Do all you can for the poor, and above all, don’t neglect the spiritual service you owe them.”
- St. Louise de Marillac