



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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News

Six Honored for Support of Catholic Education

COLUMBUS – The first annual “*Celebrating Catholic Schools Virtues*,” gala, held on Wednesday, November 4, 2008, at St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus, honored six individuals for their lifelong dedication to and support of Catholic education in the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. Each award signified one of the Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude.

- George and Patty Doyle of Worthington were honored for the virtue of *Prudence*;
- The Most Reverend James A. Griffin, retired Bishop of Columbus, was honored for the virtue of *Justice*;
- Barney and Peggy Lawless of Tuscarawas County were awarded for the virtue of *Temperance*;
- Patrick Rossetti of Westerville was honored for the virtue of *Fortitude*.

The Doyles were recognized for their hard work and advocacy on behalf of children with special educational needs who attend the Catholic schools and parish religion classes. Members of St. Michael Church in Worthington, George and Patty Doyle created the Doyle Memorial Fund, which promotes special assistance for children, in 2000. The Doyle Memorial Fund fulfills needs through grants to parishes and schools to make a difference in the lives of children with needs that are difficult to fund.

Bishop James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus from 1983-2004, established the “*Legacy*

of Learning” capital campaign of 1987 which raised more than \$10 million to serve and secure the future of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Columbus. The fruits of the Legacy campaign have provided tuition assistance, capital improvements and maintenance of school properties, as well as emergency needs for schools to ensure Catholic learning, within safe environments for children.

Barney and Peggy Lawless, the parents of nine children and grandparents of 23, have served as major supporters of Catholic education in Tuscarawas County for decades. They have worked countless school functions and served on numerous councils and boards and have been actively involved in every capital campaign benefitting the Catholic schools in their area. They are members of Sacred Heart Parish in New Philadelphia.

Patrick Rossetti, retired principal of St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, was recognized for his creation of a Department of Campus Ministry at DeSales which set the standard for teaching *faith in action*, a living faith, in diocesan high schools. Under Mr. Rossetti’s leadership, DeSales High School was twice awarded a National School of Excellence title, “Blue Ribbon School.” The Rossetti family are members of St. John the Baptist Parish in Columbus.

Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools, the annual “*Celebrating Catholic Schools Virtues*” serves to honor persons whose lives have been dedicated to Catholic education and to raise awareness of and money for Catholic school tuition assistance. This year nearly \$180,000 was raised for tuition assistance.