



CATHOLIC TUTOR CORPS



HELPING HEARTS, HELPING MINDS

DEC. 2024 | VOL. 3

Celebration of Past, Present and Future

WRITTEN BY RICHARD MCGUIRE

We are quickly moving through the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year. Even though the holidays are upon us, the CTC is still placing a few additional tutors in schools. Presently there are about 60 tutors working in the following schools: Risen Christ, Blessed Trinity, St. John Paul II, Ascension, Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, Peter Claver, Pascal Regional School, Community of the Saints, St. Helena, Annunciation, and St. Jerome. As in years past, we have a wonderful cadre of returning tutors in addition to a good number of tutors going into the classroom for the first time.

There are a few tutors who have been working with young students for almost 20 years. It makes one wonder if some of the volunteers first beginning their work will still be walking the halls of the schools in 15 or 20 more years.



Letter (Continued)

WRITTEN BY RICHARD MCGUIRE

The rewards for
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What keeps tutors in schools so long? The usual benefits: the rewards for working side-by-side with students as they continue to grow and occasionally say those magic words.....'now I get it'; the relationships developed with teachers who become partners in a common project; the satisfaction of leaving footprints that make our community a better place.

By way of updates.....

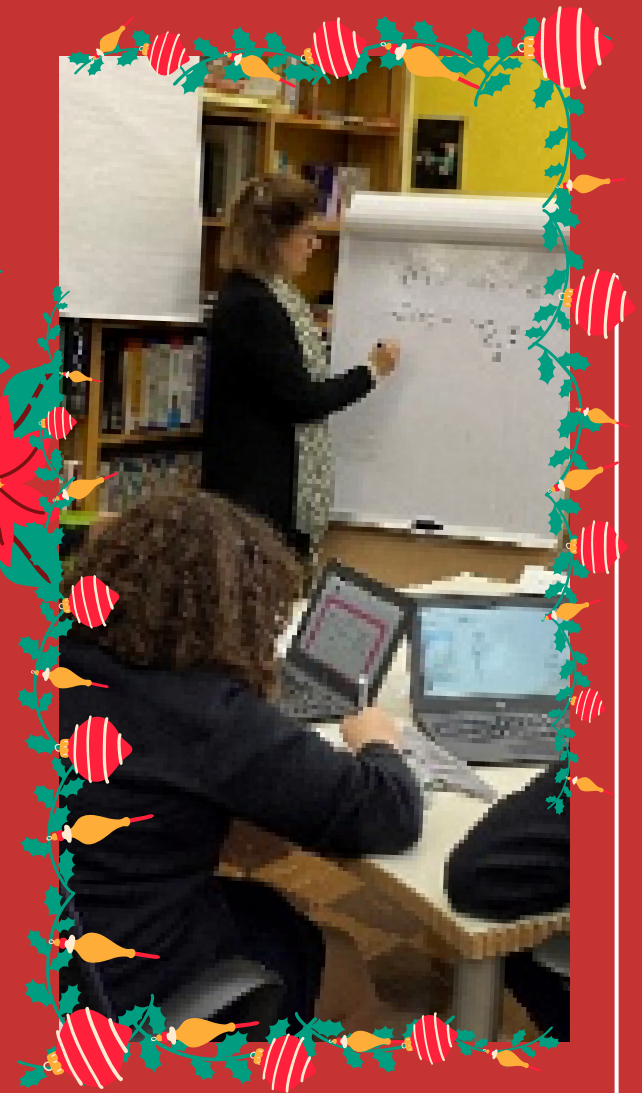
The CTC is again receiving the assistance of several University of St. Thomas Law school students continuing a tradition that has been going for eighteen years. Most of our tutors come to us through outreach to parishes but the website, Volunteer Match, has been productive as well. In addition, word of mouth from our tutors brings us new volunteers. If you know anyone who might be interested in our work, please have them contact us... www.catholictutorcorps.com

Everyone involved with the CTC, not only tutors, but those who provide "backroom" assistance, generously volunteer their time. A special thanks is in order to Tom Kent who has kept our website up and running for the last several years. No one survives without IT help these days.

This newsletter will be hitting your computer after Thanksgiving, so the Board of the CTC expresses the hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. Importantly, as we approach Christmas, a holiday centered around a small child, what better time to thank you for the help you have given to children. There is no better way to share the most valuable thing you have, your time, with the most deserving people, young children. The CTC wishes you a happy, peaceful, holy Christmas season and we look forward to continuing to partner with you in 2025!

Richard McGuire, President
Athena Novack, Board Member
Tom Letscher, Board Member





MERRY
CHRISTMAS



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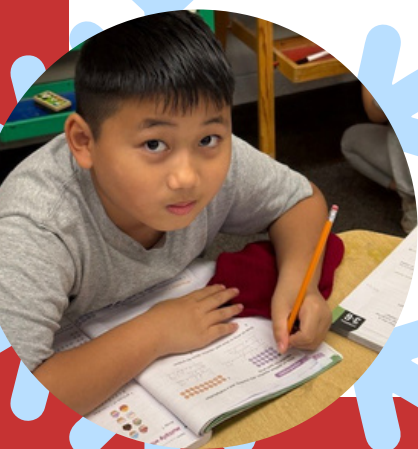
It Takes a Village

WRITTEN BY RICHARD MCGUIRE

The Catholic Tutor Corps works with 12 schools in the Twin Cities providing tutoring assistance. That is the tip of the iceberg. There are 90 primary and secondary Catholic schools in the diocese serving about 30,000 students. If the diocese was its own school district it would be about the 4th largest in the state of Minnesota. In addition, to the faculty and staff that keep this educational machine running, there are many other organizations, both in Minnesota and on a national level, that play a large part in supporting these schools.

Catholic Schools Center of Excellence [CSCOE] was started in 2015 to help keep many Catholic Schools open and increase enrollment. CSCOE was initially funded by Dick Schulze and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and continues to receive huge financial support from them. CSCOE helps schools with professional development for faculty, curriculum development, STEM programs, marketing, and many other functions. They have contributed millions of dollars to area schools. CTC has received funding from CSCOE.

Catholic Community Foundation [CCF] is a public charity supporting many Catholic endeavors in the state of Minnesota. CCF raises money and manages money in a variety of funds allowing individuals to direct contributions and bequests to activities of their choice. One of CCF's focuses is on education. CTC has received grants over the years from CCF. Since 1992 the CCF has distributed over \$250 million to hundreds of organizations.



It Takes a Village. (continued)

WRITTEN BY

AIM Higher is another local philanthropic organization whose sole purpose is to provide scholarships to low-income students interested in attending a Catholic School. They give \$1000 scholarships to hundreds of students every year. Since 2012, AIM Higher has provided over \$15 million in scholarships to students.

Healey Education Foundation is an organization based in New Jersey that provides funding and consulting support to selected schools. Two schools where CTC tutors work, Blessed Trinity and Community of the Saints, receive support from the Healey Foundation.

GHR Foundation is a local foundation that supports primarily education and biomedical research on a global scale. One of GHR's focuses is local Catholic Schools.

Drexel Mission Schools Initiative provides wrap-around services to families of students in Catholic Schools. The Drexel Initiative assists families with housing and food assistance and, in some cases, helps with medical care. Nine of the CTC's 12 schools are supported by the Drexel Initiative.

The University of Notre Dame STEM Initiative began in 2019 with the goal of changing how science and math were taught in elementary schools. The focus was to get students more interested in STEM programs and to help instruct teachers on new ways to present the material. Community of the Saints School was chosen to participate in this program.

.....it takes a village to educate young students. CTC is a part of that village but, as you see, we are just one villager among many.

-Richard McGuire



A Blessed Connection

WRITTEN BY ANNE MCNEILL GATTMAN, PRINCIPAL, ST JEROME SCHOOL

Seven years ago St. Jerome School formed a unique and amazing partnership with the Franciscan Brothers of Peace (fbp) and began to serve children from the Karen Catholic Community of St. Paul at our school. The families in this community are recent (within 0-12 years) immigrants from Myanmar (formerly Burma) who spent many years in refugee camps in Thailand awaiting a chance to come to the US. These families had formerly lived in rural villages in Myanmar but political fighting violently forced them from their land and they settled in several camps along the Thai/Myanmar border. Currently, our school serves 110 Karen children.



To know the Karen people is to know a people full of the spirit of hope. Each day is a gift and their gratitude for very simple joys is infectious. Fr. Seraphim Wirth, fbp, is the chaplain for the Karen community, and he is our school chaplain. When he began speaking about their mission trip to Thailand my interest and curiosity peaked. Father consulted with the community and they decided that I would be welcome to join their December mission trip to two refugee camps in Thailand. We will be traveling from December 27 through January 9.

Ms. Marie Joseph is our science and art teacher at St. Jerome School. She is traveling with me on this trip. We are planning to teach lessons to the children and help our Karen traveling partners conduct a retreat in each camp. We'll also be able to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. We plan to speak with the parents about the opportunities within the St. Paul area for strong community and an excellent Catholic education at St. Jerome School.

Our students are excited that we will know what Thailand is all about. They are also teasing us and warning us of "huge hornets" and other things to be worried about. Marie and I know that this trip will hold blessings we are still unable to name. God has blessed us with this beautiful connection to the Karen, and I know he holds many promises for us from this trip. The best part for me is the opportunity to know and understand the stories of my students, their families and my colleagues. People who I dearly care about and treasure as part of my life.





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WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

if you know someone who would like to join us on this mission, or know an organization that might partner with us, please contact me via phone, email or the website

Richard McGuire

ctutorcorps@gmail.com

612-360-0677

www.catholictutorcorps.com





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