Dear Friends,

“Great are the plans I have for you, to prosper you and give you hope” the Lord reminds us through the prophet Jeremiah. His plans have produced great fruit these past months for Holy Family. It has been an exciting time!

In September, we welcomed guests to the first ever Nourishing Greatness Chapel and Luncheon. This event offered the opportunity to experience the wonderment of a chapel service, and afterwards dine together with students and staff at the historic Sears Tower, located next door. While the event was established to provide a small, intimate gathering for friends who had not yet experienced a visit to our program center, nearly $50,000 was raised to support the mission and work of Holy Family. Great are the plans God has for us! Stay tuned for the next chance to nourish your soul and body at the luncheon scheduled for next year.

In October, Rev. Yehiel Curry, the recently elected Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, joined Holy Family students at chapel. Holy Family’s long-time friend, Rev. Wayne N. Miller, retired in August. Rev. Curry thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as evidenced by the post on his Facebook page: “Unbelievable!! That’s how I describe my first chapel service and visit to Holy Family School. An amazing asset of the MCS.”

Also in October, our very own Chaplain Leslie Hunter received the prestigious Gutenberg Award from the Chicago Bible Society. Two awards were presented this year, one to Holy Family Chaplain Leslie Hunter and one to “Sister Jean”, chaplain of Loyola University Chicago’s men’s basketball team. “The Gutenberg Award has been presented to individuals whose life and work promotes the understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith, either in a ministry, academic, or business setting,” said Kenneth Oliver, Executive Director of the Chicago Bible Society. “Both Chaplain Hunter and Sister Jean strongly represent the values associated with this award.” The first award was presented to Douglas MacArthur in 1952, and a few of the other past winners include Cardinal Bernardin, Dr. Billy Graham, Hall of Fame Chicago Bear Michael Singletary, and the Rev. Martin E. Marty (who currently serves as an Honorary Chair of the Holy Family Endowment Fund Securing Futures Campaign). Chaplain Hunter celebrates more than 20 years with Holy Family!
In November, another exciting event was the creative design competition for the Obama Presidential Center. A group of Holy Family School 7th graders were chosen to participate in the daylong competition, hosted by Schools That Can - Chicago. Students were divided into several different teams that prepared creative designs for the Center. HFM students Derrick and Brandon were members of a team, led by Vice Principal Sheila Collier, that won the People’s Choice and Best Overall design awards for the “Everyone is Welcome” Plaza!

Notable mentions for this season include congratulations to our Holy Family Board Member Eric Draut and his wife Jodie, upon receiving the Amicus Certus “True Friend” award from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. A shout out to Henry Cervantes, Program Manager for The Peace Exchange, a program of Holy Family Ministries, who was featured on the front page of the Lawndale News. In addition, The Peace Exchange has been screening its documentary “Amahoro – The Peace Exchange in Rwanda” at several different venues, and WTTW Channel 11 broadcasted the film on November 14th.

Congratulations are also in order for Holy Family’s resale store Lucille, for celebrating their 5th year of operation! All proceeds from the store directly support the children of Holy Family.

Another program highlight is in progress. Holy Family’s Little Learners Academy students are participating in the Early Math Collaborative research study conducted by Chicago’s prestigious Erikson Institute. Director of Early Learning, Deana Spencer, a past Erikson Fellow, invited members of the Erikson team to visit Holy Family last year. Impressed with our facility and the quality of our classroom instruction, they invited Little Learners to participate in a research study that examines interactions between early childhood teachers and their students. As participants in the study, teachers and students will have access to cutting-edge math and STEM training and resources.

Thank you for the many ways you support and care for our students. Your generosity helps make all this possible, and more. During this season of joy, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for being a part of our remarkable year.

Enjoy more good news in the following articles, and come visit us soon. Experience for yourself the great plans that God has for us that are coming into reality for the children, parents and staff of Holy Family Ministries!

Wishing you blessings in the New Year,

Cheryl

Cheryl Wells Collins
Chief Executive Officer

DONOR SPOTLIGHT — COMPANIES THAT CARE

The PwC Partnership
A special Thank You to volunteers from PwC who this year met with HFM students to present modules from the PwC Access Your Potential Curriculum.

This summer, our 5th-8th graders learned about environmental costs associated with making a product. Holy Family 4th graders discussed various career opportunities, including priority industries such as STEM, finance, “GREEN,” and medical fields.

During the fall, 3rd-5th graders brainstormed the definition of a computer, and learned about inputs and outputs. Holy Family 6th-8th graders were exposed to the idea of “app development”.

We are proud to partner with PwC, and grateful for their $25,000 contribution to help underwrite student programming at Holy Family.

The Pfizer Partnership
Holy Family students engaged with Pfizer employees at their Lake Forest campus during the recent Pfizer Volunteer Day. The event was exciting for our students, who enjoyed the teamwork of creating "Welcome Back to School" banners to decorate Holy Family's hallways for the first day of the school year. Pfizer is one of the world’s premier biopharmaceutical companies.

Later in the fall, Holy Family was invited to participate in Pfizer’s 2019 Giving Fair, which provided the opportunity for nonprofit organizations to share their mission to Pfizer employees at the Lake Forest campus. Rev. Ronald Martin and two students represented Holy Family at the Giving Fair. Thank you Pfizer for your support and hospitality!

We extend appreciation to Board member and HFM Alum, Fanisha Davis, for introducing Pfizer to Holy Family.
The 2019 Reach for the Stars Fall Benefit was a great success! Nearly 220 guests, including many new friends, gathered to support Holy Family students on Saturday, November 16th.

As always, the stars of the night were our students, who mingled with guests and participated in a joy-filled program. Students recited a poem by Edgar Guest and joined Board member Frank Stanton, who added bible verses to the beautiful presentation.

CEO Cheryl Collins presented the 2019 Making a Difference award to Holy Family Board Chair Dan Badovinac to recognize his living example of generosity and leadership.

This newly created award will be presented each year to a deserving individual who has gone above and beyond for the students of Holy Family.

Alum Mbabgwie Mudoh, class of 2011, shared how Holy Family has shaped his career path:

"The teachers at Holy Family were astounding. My math teacher helped me realize my passion and skill for mathematics and I took that passion with me through my high school years at Providence St. Mel where I excelled in math and statistics. Later, I majored in finance at DePaul University and now use it in my first career at Newly Weds Foods in their Chicago corporate location."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Do Something, an energetic video that featured Holy Family friends, staff, and students, emphasizing the many ways that we work together to support Holy Family and help change the world for our children, now and beyond.

Sharing the spotlight were the guests who raised more than $250,000 to support the mission of Holy Family and help make a brighter future for our children and families. Special thanks to long-time Holy Family friend and auctioneer extraordinaire Sam Kramer, who was joined on stage by Holy Family student, Quincy, to assist during the evening!

Thank you to the 2019 Fall Benefit Committee (Left to right)
Jennie & Sam Kramer, Tami & Joe Pringle, Kristen Egan, Laurie & Dan Badovinac
Join Our Volunteer Team
Men and women needed! Flexible, long term and short term opportunities. Have fun, do good! Email mflanagan@hfm.org

Please Donate Your Gently Used Items
FURNITURE • HOUSEWARES • HOME DÉCOR
ADULT CLOTHING • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES

Furniture Pickup Service
For information, please send pictures and details to donate@hfm.org or call the store at 847-749-2928.

Proceeds support Holy Family’s school and youth programs.

Lucille • 1101 E. Rand Road • Arlington Heights

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We are so saddened by the recent passing of Board Member, Mae Johnson. We are blessed to have called her friend and grateful for her tireless service. We will forever cherish the many years she was a part of our HFM family.