



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Our mission is to offer tuition assistance and support to Catholic schools that foster a loving, nurturing environment where the entire community of parents, teachers, students, and supporters are committed to academic and personal success in a faith-filled setting.

A DREAM REALIZED: Hunter Gamble and Fund A Dream

Hunter Gamble, currently a senior at Holy Name High School, recently had the opportunity to meet Lorraine Dodero, the chair of the Fund A Dream initiative, at a special luncheon designed to promote this vital program. The event drew several notable guests, including Bishop Edward Malesic and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, alongside his wife, First Lady Fran DeWine, and Roberto Nicolas-Vazquez, the Consul of Mexico in Detroit.

Fund A Dream emerged from the Alleluia Ball, a biennial fundraiser for Catholic education, officially launching in 2020 to provide tuition assistance to students in need. Dodero, who is deeply passionate about making Catholic education accessible, recognized a pressing need: approximately 9,000 students across the diocese were seeking financial support. "I knew more could be done," she stated.

The initiative directly connects donors with students through \$2,500 scholarships.

For the past two years, Dodero has funded Hunter's scholarship, but this luncheon marked their first in-person meeting. "It is such a blessing to meet a person like you," Hunter expressed. "It is an honor to be here. I hope someday things can come full circle, and maybe I can help a child."

Hunter's journey has not been without its challenges. Since his mother passed away during his freshman year, he has been living with his aunt and uncle. Despite this, he has consistently attended Catholic schools and is contemplating a future career in law. "I know God has a plan for me," he reflected.

During the luncheon, Governor DeWine emphasized the importance of education for Ohio's future. "There is nothing more important than children," he said. "We want every child to live up to their God-given potential. Jobs won't come to Ohio if there aren't people prepared to do the work."

Bishop Malesic echoed this sentiment, praising both Dodero and DeWine for their commitment to education.

"More parents are able to send their children to the school of their choosing because of you," he noted. Addressing Hunter directly, the bishop remarked, "I meet a lot of impressive people, and Hunter, you impress me. I admire you."

The bishop highlighted Fund A Dream as a remarkable model for strengthening

education within the diocese, describing Catholic schools as the largest youth ministry program in the area. He emphasized the mission of these institutions, which aims for the spiritual, personal, and academic growth of students: "God wants us to be saints. And how do we do this? By using the blessings he gave us and sharing them with others."

Since its inception, Fund A Dream has awarded scholarships to 760 students, now extending eligibility to all 107 schools within the diocese. Hunter Gamble's story exemplifies the program's impact, showcasing the power of community support in transforming lives and fostering future leaders.



YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS:

Tuition assistance for families in need who desire a Catholic education for their children but cannot afford the full cost.

<https://www.catholiccommunity.org/fund-a-dream>

For more information, contact Fred Roberts at 216-696-6525 x 3310 or froberts@catholiccommunity.org.



Hunter Gamble is a senior at Holy Name High School in Parma Heights. As an eighth grader at St. Brendan School in North Olmsted, he knew he wanted to attend a co-educational high school. This led him to Holy Name, a place that "felt like home" when he toured and shadowed. Hunter has made the most of his high school experience. He is a student ambassador, basketball manager, and member of the Medical Club. His efforts in the classroom have paid off, as Hunter has been on the Honor Roll every quarter, and he received a U.S. Government Class Award of Excellence last spring. Outside of school, Hunter works at both Target and Dick's Sporting Goods.

The Catholic, college preparatory education Hunter received at Holy Name has set him up for success in the future. "Attending Holy Name has been an amazing experience. I know I have been prepared well for what comes next. The teachers and staff have held me accountable. I know what I am supposed to do, and I am able to do it well because of the skills I learned here," said Hunter.

Hunter's top college choice is the University of Cincinnati. He hopes to major in either business or criminology/criminal justice, with a goal of working in crime scene investigation.