

Alleluia Ball raises \$1.74 million for Catholic education

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SUSO

The sold-out 2025 Alleluia Ball attracted nearly 800 guests, who helped raise about \$1.74 million for Catholic education in Northeast Ohio. Event chairs were Meredith and Mike Hudec, with Amy and Tim Conti and Beth and Mike Valentine as co-chairs.

"Empowering Educators, Students & Innovation" was the theme for the Oct. 25 gala at Cleveland's Huntington Convention Center. The event was organized by the Catholic Community Foundation, which supports the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland by encouraging faithful philanthropy. Foundation officials said proceeds from the ball will benefit students in financial need and support high-quality professional development for teachers in the 2026-2027 academic year.

The evening included Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward Malesic and Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost, dinner, speakers, fundraising, music and dancing.

Special guest for the evening was Matthew Kelly, internationally acclaimed speaker, author, business consultant and founder of Dynamic Catholic. He discussed the far-reaching impact of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Malesic emphasized the importance of supporting Catholic school teachers, alongside students. "Catholic education nurtures the whole person, mind, body and soul, but it is

our teachers who make that possible. They are mentors, role models and spiritual companions on the journey of learning.... When we invest in our teachers, we are investing in the future of our students."

Last year, more than 3,000 students attending the 108 Catholic schools in the diocese benefited from the Diocesan Tuition Assistance and Fund A Dream programs, both of which provide families with access to a Catholic education. Diocesan Tuition Assistance funds both general tuition assistance as well as special scholarship programs. Through the Fund A Dream initiative, \$2,500 in tuition assistance is provided to individual students identified by schools through the scholarship application process. Students communicate with their donor throughout the year, providing them with updates on how their year is going while thanking them for their support. †

