Maria Flores is the mother of five children with a bigger than usual age span. Her two oldest are in their twenties, her twins are 15 and her youngest, Yaretzi, is six years old and started kindergarten at COS this fall. Maria is a long-time member of Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) and owns a small business on Cesar Chavez Street. She moved to Maplewood about ten years ago, but still considers herself a West Sider because that’s where she spends most of her time.

“I used to live on Page, but I still go to church and work on the West Side and all my family lives here,” Maria said. “I sold my house to my brother and my mother lives right by Our Lady of Guadalupe.”

It was during a Mass at OLG when Maria rekindled her long-standing dream of providing a Catholic education to her children.

“When my older son was in school, I had a friend who sent all her kids to St. Matt’s. She always told me how good it was and that it was better to send your kids to Catholic school,” Maria explained. “But I never sent my son. At the time, I thought, ‘I can’t afford that!’ I never took the time to check it out. I didn’t know they had financial aid to help you.”

When Maria moved to Maplewood, she wanted her twins to get a Catholic education but was disappointed. “The Catholic schools in Maplewood were very,
Dear Alums and Friends of Saint Matthew School:

I write this as Community of Saints students come to the end of the first term of this school year — testing, evaluation, parent/teacher meetings — all of this is what gives us a pause to set goals for the coming term.

It is relatively easy to measure a student’s aptitude; much more difficult is it to assess a student’s attitude.

Over the past few months I have spent time meditating on the interview Pope Francis gave to a number of Jesuit magazines as well as some of the words he spoke to youth at World Youth Day.

He talks about attitudes, about the energy within that moves a person, about the focus and direction of a person’s life. While these attitudes come from within, they must be cultivated and nourished and enhanced and supported from outside — this is the work of parents, teachers, pastors, mentors, coaches, grandparents and neighbors.

Pope Francis says that he wants young people to be hopeful, to be open to being surprised by God and God’s creation and to be filled with joy. He tells young people to engage the world, to not be afraid and to willingly serve their neighbor. He wants young people to be inquisitive, to question, to search — and to do so with confidence.

“Those who long for an exaggerated doctrinal ‘security,’ those who stubbornly try to recover a past that no longer exists — they have a static and inward-directed view of things. In this way, faith becomes an ideology among other ideologies.

“I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person’s life. God is in everyone’s life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster — God is in this person’s life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person can be a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.”

— Pope Francis

These values, attitudes and directions are the very stuff of the education and formation young people receive at Community of Saints. And you make this possible! Your gifts make it possible for middle and low income students from the West Side of Saint Paul to receive a Catholic education which outfits them to be the creative, questioning, searching, serving, faithful people this world needs.

There are dozens more West Side students who desire an education at Community of Saints — what stands in their way is the financial help they need is not there. Please continue to be generous and build the future of our Church and community.

Yours truly,

Stephen Adrian
Saint Matthew Pastor Retired

Contribute by Dec. 31 and Deduct from 2013 Taxes

Help us make a strong start to this year’s A&F Tuition Assistance fund by contributing this month — which also allows you to deduct the gift from this year’s taxes.

Please join us in assisting families who want a Catholic education for their children. Your gift can make a huge difference in the lives of these students.

Thank you for keeping Catholic education strong on the West Side!

When sending a check, please note that your donation is for Tuition Assistance.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Reaches Out to Families Seeking Catholic Education

We’d like to introduce you to a few of the students who are new to Community of Saints (COS) this year. These are not the only new students, but what these particular students have in common is that they all come to the school through Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG), one of the school’s four sponsoring parishes.

OLG is helping to reach out to families in the community who are seeking a Catholic education for their child. However, many of these families cannot afford the full cost of Catholic school tuition.

Among Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, COS has one of the highest percentages of families who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch. Given that, it’s not surprising that over 75% of students at COS receive tuition assistance. Without that support, a Catholic education would be out of reach for those children.

Seven of the eight students featured here are bi-lingual and help their parents with English: two of the students are tri-lingual, fluent in English, Spanish and French. And all of the students either live on the West Side or maintain a strong connection to the community through family, faith and work.

The students each shared a few thoughts about what’s different or special about their new school:

Aleah Vasquez, 6th grade
“I get to go to Mass every week and learn about God every day.”

Emilio Urbina, 6th grade
“My cousins are here and I get to go to the same school as my brother who’s in preschool. I get to learn about God, daily — I’m in His house right now.”

Ryan Prisch, 6th grade
“The classes here are harder and I’m learning to take notes. In religion, we’re learning about the bible — I was surprised by how many books there are in the bible. My favorite subject is social studies.”

Angel Miranda, 7th grade
“This school seems more secure and safer than other schools that I’ve gone to.”

Alejandra Urizar Rivera, 8th grade
“I wanted to get closer to God. Now in school I get to learn values.”

Yaretzi Bautista, Kindergarten
“I like to go to the library because you can read books and go to the computers.”

Isaac Enriquez, 6th grade
“I used to think it was weird to talk about religion, I don’t think it’s weird now. Now I think I am closer to God – I believe more.”

Emilio Urbina, 6th grade
“My cousins are here and I get to go to the same school as my brother who’s in preschool. I get to learn about God, daily — I’m in His house right now.”
Alums & Friends Annual Report 2013

$123,101 Raised for Tuition Assistance

Your gifts make it possible to help over 75% of COS families afford Catholic school for their children. Thank you for your generous support! Your donations ensure that a high quality Catholic education continues to be available to families who live on the West Side.

**PILLAR — $15,000+**
Tom and Mary Cullen McKeown +
Roy and Joann Ferber 1959 +

**LEADER — $5,000–$9,999**
Boss Foundation +
Hugh and Jackie Cosgrove
John Riehle 1957 +
Jerry and Marilyn Sexton 1944 +

**EDUCATOR — $2,500–$4,999**
Father Steve Adrian

**SUSTAINER — $1,000–$2,499**
Boss Foundation +
Hugh and Jackie Cosgrove
John Riehle 1957 +
Jerry and Marilyn Sexton 1944 +

**BUILDER — $500–$999**
Mark DelVecchio 1973 +
Lawrence and Carol Crisman
Engelmann 1952
Elizabeth Richardson French 1961 +
Daniel Gangl 1975
Steve and Anita McKeown
Eileen McMahan +
Harriet Campa Murphy 1946

**THOMAS MURPHY**
Patricia Palon Rolewicz 1954
Carol Schreiner 1952
Steve and Joan Sullivan
Robert Verstraete 1967
Clare Vogel 1946 +
Allen and Diane Volkenant
Richard and Susan Votel 1954

**Joe Wenker 1970**
Toni Bloechl Wilburn 1972
Yvonne Scherbel Wilhelm 1951

**BENEFACITOR — $250–$499**
Steve Bade 1975
Jeffrey Barthe 1971
Mary Lou Allie Bova 1944 +
Fred and Molly Commers
Timothy Dalzell 1970 +
Maggie Lee and Richard Dunn
Mary Jane Ferber 1962 +
James Gesell
George Heimel Jr. 1944

David and Mary Kaul Hottinger 1981
Sharon Ferber Koran 1957
Joe Nasseff 1960
Nystrom Inc., Memorial
Joe Riehle 1971
Daniel Riehle 1968
Rita Ryan
Terry Votel 1956 +

**PATRON — $100–$249**
Juliana Alm
Bernard and Norma Alvarez 1952
Joanne Posavad Asmus 1951 +
Patricia Cooper Blaske 1964 +
Julius “Jay” Bonello 1962
Mary Sue Hopkins Brass 1946
Audrey Brucker 1952
Nancy Riehle Burke 1959
Armando Camacho

**Dolores Casey, Memorial**
Joann Rindfleisch Clemens 1945
Clem and Molly Commers +
Louise and Joseph Connolly

**Lisa Cortez**
Denise Wessel Crawford 1965
Richard F. Cruz 1957
Thomas and Susan Doyle +
Joanne Blaeser Dufour 1957
Jerry and Beth Geis
Joan Tanzer Gennero 1949
John George 1960

**Grand Heritage Properties, Memorial**
Gubash Scholarship for CSRCS
James Guldan 1946
Thomas Heinen
David E. Herman 1945
Robert Hinze 1961 +
Patricia Casey Holmes 1950

**Keith Horst 1959**
Anita and George Hottinger
Margaret S. Hubbs Trust, Memorial
Brady Jenniges, OSB 1976
Susan Jensen 1961

**Donald Jolly 1943**
Carolyn Jones, Memorial
Justice and Peace Committee of the
St. Paul Monastery
St. Paul Monastery
St. Paul Monastery

**St. Charles Borromeo Seminary**
Thomas Kubes 1960 +
Karen Ketchmark Kachel 1961
Patricia Werden Kehlers 1954
Patrick Koehnen 1972
Jim Korman 1955
Mary Ann Kosel 1960 +
Mike Kosel 1957
Janet Leibl Lackner 1956

**Anthony and Marilyn Lancette**
George Lang 1956
Mary Leibl 1960
Krissy and Doug Lieser
Stella Fis Lundquist 1943
Joan Meisinger Mahoney 1951
Donna Duffy McCarthy 1964
Lorraine Hofschulte McSherry 1944
Mary Morelli, Memorial
Judy Klotz Morhar 1957 +
William Mosso 1942
Michael and Rebecca Muston, Memorial
Ellen Buckrey Parravano 1959
Gene Peltier
Brian Rembish
Betsy Riehle, 6th grade 1973
Georgine Bohrer Roers 1971
Mary Ann Stadt Roscoe 1961
Fr. Michael Rudolph
Alice Schetty
Chris Schetty 1960
Tom Schmidt 1962
Mike Schnieders 1955
Richard Schoenberger 1939
Cormine Gangl Schuster 1973 +
Linda Egner Sill 1964
Tony Sitzmann 1957
Larry and Shirley Smith
Georgine Schaps Sorenson 1960 +
Janice Cooper Spear 1967
Jack St. Martin 1936

**Bob Sticker 1957**
Russ Sudeith 1954
Peggy Ferber Tate 1961
John and Marian Theis 1949

**Karen Thompson 1959**
Karim Tomervik, Memorial
Julie Karels Treinen 1978

**Jim Vogel 1956 +**
Joseph Votel 1972
Mary Walsh

**Wayne Watson Trust**
Mary Ellen and Carl Wegner 1955

**Peter Willems 1943 +**
Rich Willems 1972

**Diane Wineman 1959**
Marlene Hudalla Yarusso 1950 +

**SUPPORTER — UP TO $99**
Douglas and Shelley Abrahamson, Memorial
Yvonne Allie 1954
Barbara Anderson
James and Elizabeth Anderson
Stewart Arth 1957 +
Elaine Anderson Bache 1952
Victoria Petschauer Baker 1968 +
Helen and John Barrett
Timothy and Beth Bohrer Bellon, Memorial
George Beran 1953

**bold = first time donor + = 6 year donor**
IN MEMORY OF

Thomas Doyle
Marie Ferber
Yvonne Gangl
Margaret Griffin
Carolyn Anderson Hamblin
Mary Littfin
Anne Marthaler
Agnes Mooney
Jane Murphy
Punky
Richard Schmidt
Greg Thompson
Amanda Weyer

IN HONOR OF

Father Rudolph
Father Steve
Joyce Poechmann
Verstraete Family

If there is an error or omission in this listing please call 612-964-1677 or email AlumniNews@St-Matts.org to let us know as soon as possible.

St. Matt's Alum is World Series Umpire

Those of you who attended St. Matt’s in the late ’70s & early ’80s might recognize the guy in this photo who’s standing in the middle. Mark Wegner (’86) was chosen to be part of the six member crew that umpired the 2013 World Series. While Mark made his MLB debut in 1998, this was his first World Series duties.
Fulfills Dream for Youngest Child,  
continued from page 1

very expensive,” she stated. So Maria sent them to public school, as she had done with her older children. “They went to a good school, I can’t complain,” Maria said. “But I always wanted to send them to a Catholic school.”

**Tuition — the Modern Challenge for Catholic Schools**

Fr. Kevin Kenney, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, says cost is the modern challenge of Catholic education. “It’s important to look at the history of Catholic schools,” he said. “Their mission was to educate the poor, often immigrant families in ways of faith. Tuition was always low because we didn’t pay the religious who taught. And students got a good education.”

Today, many students in Catholic schools are from upper income families who can afford the rising cost of tuition. But Fr. Kenney believes we should stay true to the original mission. “It’s a justice issue,” he states plainly. “The hurdle now is tuition. If you have four kids and an income of $26,000, how can you afford tuition? We have to help families who can’t afford to pay.”

As one of the sponsoring parishes, Fr. Kenney made frequent announcements about COS as it began its first year. Maria took notice. “He would say if you want to send your kids, we can help you,” she said. “So I sent my daughter to preschool there. Then I started learning about the school and Yaretzi got to visit the kindergarten room and meet the teacher.”

Maria said they liked the school but tuition was still a problem. “It was hard for us to pay the full amount, so I told them I wanted to apply for financial assistance.” She said that made all the difference. “They really gave us a lot of help, so we can afford to send my daughter.”

**Supporting Children from the West Side**

Like many students attending COS, Maria and her husband are both immigrants and her daughter is bilingual. While Latino students are the majority at COS that’s very unusual. Nationwide only about 3% of Latino children attend Catholic schools, even though Latinos make up about 40% of Catholics in the country.

Fr. Kenney believes providing tuition assistance is an opportunity to invest in the future of the church and reflects the West Side’s tradition. “We’re looking at ways to open the doors for newer immigrants,” he explained.

“I want the children on the West Side to have the opportunity to get a good education at a Catholic school. In that respect, we’re trying to maintain the spirit of St. Matthew’s School at COS.”

**A Better Chance for College**

After sending four children to public schools, Maria is quick to point out how her daughter’s experience has been different from her older siblings. “When you go to public school you have bigger classes,” she said. “But here, you have more opportunity to learn with smaller classes. You have more connection with the teacher. I think it makes a better chance for my kid to go to college.”

When she can, Maria attends the school Mass with her daughter and she’s been impressed by what she’s seen. “The first time I went to church with Yaretzi, I thought everybody at church behaved so well. Everybody sings and prays — nobody was talking. When you have discipline not only in your house but where they go to school, it’s very good.”

Maria says she is now the one telling family and friends that they should send their children to Catholic school. She believes the students learn more, they have better opportunities and they can learn about their religion.

“At COS, they just have a different way of treating the kids,” Maria said. After so many years of seeking a Catholic education for her children, it’s an opportunity Maria is thankful to be able to give to her daughter.
A Mother and Daughter Share Memories of St. Matt’s School

Helen (Wimmer) Bukowski (‘43)

There were five of us girls, I was the youngest. I was perhaps the most bashful in the whole bunch. At that time, they had kindergarten thru 10th grade. They’d have a Mass every day. As a child I remember walking the mile to school and back every morning, noon, and after school.

In 1st grade, for some reason, I’d leave school and try to walk home. They would send the school nurse to drag me back. The nuns were pretty strict — maybe that’s why I left. But 1st grade was the only grade I ever had trouble in.

After graduating from St. Matt’s in 10th grade, I went to St. Agnes for two years and graduated as Valedictorian. I got a four-year scholarship to St. Catherine’s but never used it. My mom had died and my sister told me to join the Cadet Nurse Corps, so the scholarship passed on to the Salutatorian. She didn’t use it either — can you imagine?

I was 21 when I got married to my husband, Bernard Bukowski. He was Polish so they gave us a little trouble but we were able to get married at St. Matts. We had a house built at 520 Stryker Ave. It must have been not too long after we were married. It had a walk out basement. Our backyard was on Robie Street, right across from the church.

We ended up having nine kids. I went back to work when I had about three or four. I was an RN and I worked at St. Joe’s in the nursery for 50 years. Bernard worked for the post office downtown on Kellogg. I would work the afternoon shift and he’d work the early morning shift. That worked out good for the children. He’d come home and he’d be tired and so he left the kids on their own so long as they weren’t doing anything terrible.

Margaret Bukowski Sveback (‘68)

I lived right across from the church. When I looked out my bedroom window at night, there was the church. The day of the fire, we were the first ones at the scene. I remember the flames bursting out the big stained glass window on the south side.

I remember after the church fire, they had Mass in the school gymnasium for a while. My brothers and I had to go and set up chairs for Mass and when they were finished, we had to take them down again. We did that until they put up the new church. We did that every week.

Vicki Baker and I played together on the school basketball team in 8th grade. That was the beginning of basketball for girls. Back then, the girls play half-court basketball. Our coach was a nun who was one of our teachers in 7th or 8th grade. She wore the down-to-the-floor black habit with the long black veil and black shoes. She was not real tall and she was stocky. But that nun, even with all that stuff on, she ran circles around us.

Looking back and remembering these things is great. You don’t think about how special it all was.
SPONSORSHIP opportunities

Businesses and organizations are invited to help sponsor The Good News and support St. Matthew’s Alums & Friends efforts to raise funds for tuition assistance. Sponsorship helps us achieve our goal of making a high quality, Catholic education available to all families in our community, regardless of their ability to afford tuition.

If you’d like more information about sponsorship, please contact: Maggie.lee@comcast.net or call 612-964-1677.

This issue of The Good News is supported in part by

St. Matthew’s Alums & Friends say
Thank you
for your generous support
of Catholic education
on the West Side!