



## Annual Dinner Raises over \$60,000!

Our Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner was held on March 21. It was a very successful event. We had over **360 attendees** and raised over **\$60,000**. The Adopt-A-Student scholars were recognized and some received awards.

Alex Zequeira, president of Nativity School Worcester delivered an inspiring speech on Catholic education and the need for those of us who have benefited from this experience and/or are more fortunate to help those in need attain the benefits of this wonderful experience.

Looking toward the year ahead, our selection committee has completed its work and has awarded scholarships to **35 students** for the coming year. Their decisions were difficult since the number of applicants far exceeded the available funds. If you are able to support us by joining us for the first time or renewing or increasing your support in helping us to *Change a Life*, we will be able to assist more children next year. Please use the envelope enclosed.

If you are interested in learning about our program please visit our website **Adopt-A-Student.net** or contact us at **info@adopt-a-student.net** to schedule a tour and lunch.

Thank you for all you do to help us *Change a Life!*

Robert R. Pape  
Chairman

## Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner Celebrating Success

Reaching out to the underserved through Catholic schools was a key theme sounded by the president of a Jesuit school at the Adopt-A-Student Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner.

"Many are asking if our Catholic schools are abandoning the underserved they have historically served," Alex Zequeira, president of Nativity School of Worcester, an independent Jesuit middle school for boys, said in his keynote.

"Nationally, in the last 50 years, the number of Catholic schools has declined by almost half, and enrollment has gone from 5.2 million to just over 2 million, though the Catholic population has increased," he said. "Since the year 2000, more than 2,100 Catholic schools have closed or consolidated, mostly in urban centers."

### Catholic Schools at a Crossroads

"We are at a crossroads — a moment where we are being challenged to identify who and what are truly important and to make that a priority as we move forward," Mr. Zequeira said.

"We can look back on a time when the missionary zeal of the Church was realized through its schools. In 1884, Catholic bishops convened in Baltimore to respond to the 'imminent danger to faith and morals' that they perceived growing in the educational system in the United States. They ordered all parishes to build a school and, at the turn of the last century, the number of students in Catholic schools doubled. Organizations like Adopt-A-Student remind us of where



Alex Zequeira, president of the Nativity School of Worcester, was the evening's keynote speaker.

we need to once again focus that missionary zeal," he continued.

"We live in a city where less than 25 percent of people over the age of 25 have a college degree. Investing in education is investing in our human infrastructure. And in a time of a pervasive moral relativism, values-based education is important," he said.

### Back to that Missionary Zeal

Studies show Catholic schools do a better job of educating children, espe-

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## Steering Committee

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## Our Mission

Adopt-A-Student provides scholarship awards to students whose families would otherwise be unable to send their children to Central Catholic Elementary and Secondary schools in the Diocese of Worcester. Scholarships are presented to students who are not only academically qualified, but specifically seek an education in the tradition and environment of Catholic schools, thus providing society with people of faith and strong moral values.

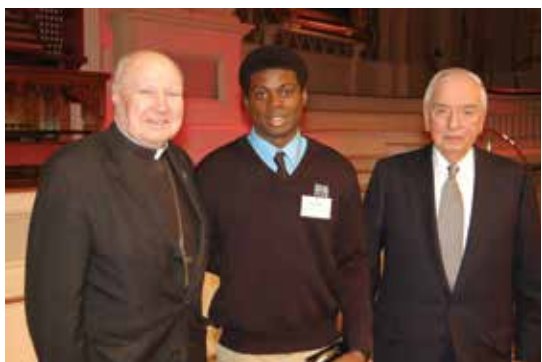


## 2013 Dinner Award Recipients

Four seniors received awards and videos of them and their activities were shown. Two seniors received college scholarships.



**Kathleen Engdahl**, St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, received the Wilfred and Bette Landoli Award for Service. She was featured in this year's Adopt-A-Student video produced by Stephen Kaufman, of the Diocesan Office of Communications.



**Daniel Kegbeh**, Holy Name Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, received the Paul and Dorothy Kervick Award for Leadership.



**Taylor Victoria Boucher**, Holy Name, received the Charles and Beth McManus Award for Academic Achievement.



**Destinee Lucier**, Holy Name, received the Bill and Kay O'Brien Award for best exemplifying the values of the Adopt-A-Student program. Ms. Lucier also received a scholarship to Anna Maria College in Paxton and won the iPad-mini drawing. Bishop Reilly, who gave the invocation and closing remarks, said she was well named.

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A highlight of the evening was the iPad Mini Raffle.

cially the poor and students of color, than other schools, and that nearly 3 out of 4 students in Worcester public schools live in poverty, he said.

Catholic schools are no longer staffed primarily by religious receiving low salaries, Mr. Zequeira noted. "So," he said, "there is a need to recruit and develop lay leaders and pay them competitive salaries, and for Catholics to make education and development of the human infrastructure a priority."

"Let's go back to that missionary zeal alive at the turn of the last century ... realizing that our inner cities and

recent immigrants are our Church's new frontier in this country," he said.

He spoke of newly elected Pope Francis calling Catholics to be "protectors of one another and of the environment."

"Our Catholic schools and the educational excellence and values they instill are the perfect place to be the protectors of God's most vulnerable and equip them with the knowledge, tools, and skills to do their part to bring his kingdom to earth," Mr. Zequeira concluded.

### In Gratitude

**Kourtney Hallice**, a former Adopt-A-Student scholarship recipient, spoke briefly. She recalled overhearing, as a cashier, two customers talking about the Adopt-A-Student program, and expressed her thanks for it. Unbeknownst to her, one of the customers was Robert R. Pape, steering

committee chairman, who later told that story at an Adopt-A-Student dinner her family attended.

She said her mother, a single parent, wanted a Catholic education for her and her sister, now a Holy



**Nicholas Paul**, recipient of a full, four-year scholarship to Assumption College is pictured with (l) the college's president, Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., and Adopt-A-Student Chairman, Robert Pape.

Name sophomore, and Adopt-A-Student helped make that possible.

"It was because of the core values of faith and deep relationship with God I developed during my time at Holy Name that I became the person I am today," said the UMass Amherst graduate who now works at AdCare Hospital and wants to go on for a Master's degree in education so as to inspire students as her teachers did.

The March 21 dinner at Mechanics Hall was one of two major fundraisers that enable the Adopt-A-Student program to provide financial assistance to students in the diocese's central Catholic schools. The other major fundraiser, a golf tournament, is scheduled for August 26 at Worcester Country Club. [QR](#)

*This article was excerpted from the Catholic Free Press and was reprinted by permission.*

*To see more photos from the evening visit our website at [Adopt-A-Student.net](http://Adopt-A-Student.net).*



Guests pack Mechanics Hall for the annual recognition dinner.

# CONGRATULATIONS

# Grads!

Our Adopt-A-Student 2013 graduates are entering a new phase of their lives and have received awards and scholarships in recognition of their efforts.

## Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School

**Taylor Victoria Boucher** — Salem State University, Salem MA

*National Honor Society, High Honors, John Patrick Donahue Scholarship*

**Daniel Kegbeh** — Dean College

*Captain of both football and basketball teams*

**Kelsi Konan** — Framingham State University, Framingham, MA

*High Honors, Senior Class Scholarship, Marlene Kemp Farley Scholarship*



Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School

**Destinee Lucier** — Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA

*Received a full four-year scholarship to Anna Maria College, received Holy Name Senior Class Scholarship*

**Amber Lemoyne** — Framingham State University, Framingham, MA

*Graduated with High Honors*

**Ariana Malmquist** — St. Leo University, St. Leo, FL

*National Honor Society, graduated with High Honors*

**Francesca McMenemy** - Assumption College, Worcester, MA

*Received Leonard Mills Memorial Scholarship and George G. Fortin Memorial Scholarship*

## Saint Peter Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School

**Nicholas Paul** — Assumption College, Worcester, MA

*Received full four-year scholarship to Assumption College, captain of lacrosse team, talented artist, Physics Award recipient*

**Kathleen Engdahl** — Assumption College, Worcester, MA

*National Honor Society, Assumption College D'Alzon Scholarship, Friday Afternoon Club Scholarship, Literary Scholar of Distinction*

**Camden Frederick** - Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA

*Captain of Baseball Team, Senior Year Honors*





St. Peter Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School

**John Solitro** — University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

*Student Council, Senior Year Honors*

**Patrick Hill** — Manhattan College, New York, NY

### Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School

**Alexander Vorfeld** — Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI

*Received Affordable Excellence Scholarship and RWU grant*



Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School

### St. Peter's Central Catholic Elementary School

**Makia Brown** — will attend Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester, MA

**Rebecca Gilchrist** — will attend St. Peter Marian Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester, MA

*Received outstanding achievement in art, science, language arts and social studies*

**Naomi Watkins** — will attend Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Worcester, MA

*Received outstanding achievement in art, science, language arts and social studies*



St. Peter's Central Catholic Elementary School

*A special thank you to Assumption College, Worcester, and Anna Maria College, Paxton, for providing a scholarship to an Adopt-A-Student scholar who meets their admittance criteria and for their support and belief in our program.*



# In Gratitude ...

*Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who made this year's Recognition Dinner a huge success.*

*Hi Mr. Pape,*

*I am taking this opportunity to thank you and the entire Adopt a Student team for your work in this program. It has always been our belief and desire to send and keep our children in a Catholic school. Although we practice our faith at home by sending our children to St. Peter's Central Catholic, it is a strong sign to our children that our beliefs are not just our own but are shared and are important to many other people as well. When they see the faith of other adults like the principal, teachers and entire staff at St. Peter's they realize that this is something important. Recently I attended mass and the sermon was about the truth that any christian society is just one generation away from paganism unless the faith is taught to our children. We thank you for helping keep this faith alive in our family as well as in the diocese as a whole.*

*At one time in the past we did not have a problem with tuition costs. The down turn in the economy that has taken place in recent years has caused us to have a significant drop in our income. Without the help of your program it would be impossible for us to keep our children at St. Peter's. So we thank you for the opportunity you have given to our to be an Adopt-A-Student. May God continue to bless you in all you do. Please share this with your whole staff.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Grateful parents*

## 2013 Dinner Sponsors

### Platinum

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Bafaro  
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Anonymous (2)  
Assumption College  
Central Catholic Schools  
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Mrs. Catherine G. O'Brien

### Bronze

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# The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Adopt-A-Student Program Golf Tournament

Monday, August 26, 2013 • Wachusett Country Club

Shotgun - 12:30 p.m. SHARP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will participate as a sponsor at the level indicated below:

- Presenting Sponsor – \$10,000     Platinum Sponsor – \$5,000     Gold Sponsor – \$2,500  
 Silver Sponsor – \$1,500     Bronze Sponsor – \$1,000     Dinner Sponsor – \$5,000  
 Luncheon Sponsor – \$2,500     Golf Cart Fleet Sponsor – \$2,000

Each of the above sponsorships includes a foursome in the tournament.

Golfers (4):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will sponsor a hole for the tournament - \$500

Wording on Flag: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfers (2):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will sponsor a tee for the tournament - \$250

Wording on sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Cart Sponsorship - \$100.00 Name to appear on one golf cart: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to enter \_\_\_\_ golfer(s) in the tournament - \$175 per golfer (\$700 per foursome)

Golfer(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will offer the following as a raffle or auction prize: \_\_\_\_\_

We cannot participate this year. A scholarship gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make check payable to "Adopt-A-Student Program" and send it along with the completed registration form to **49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.**



Department of Education  
Diocese of Worcester  
49 Elm Street Worcester, MA 01609  
508.791-7171 [www.Adopt-A-Student.net](http://www.Adopt-A-Student.net)



We are on Facebook,  
visit us and Like our page.

## Save the date

### Second Annual Talent and Spirit Show



**November 15, 2013**

**Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School**

Come and see the talent and spirit that exists in our four central Catholic schools as they compete for the first place.

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Megan Dickie, Grade 6 at St. Peter's Central Catholic Elementary School performs at last year's show.

