

Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary Finishing the Dream

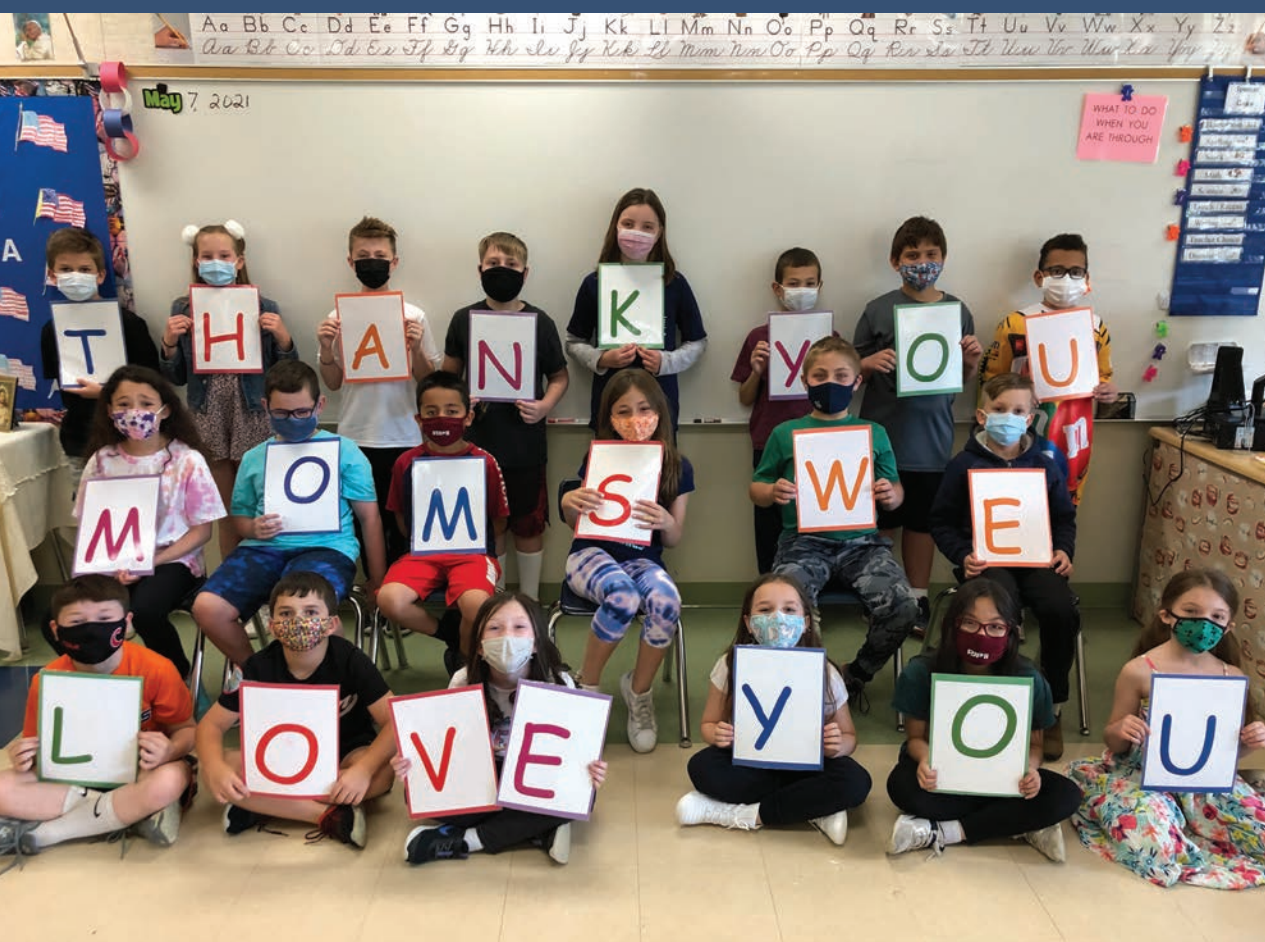
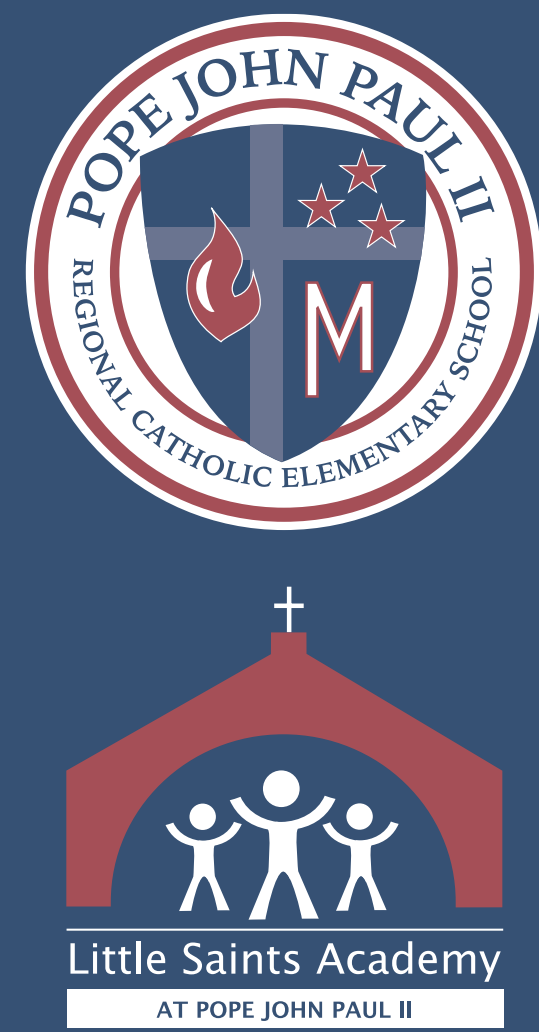
In 2014, Sister Anne and members of the Board of Limited Jurisdiction embarked on a \$1 million building campaign, ***Finishing the Dream***, to renovate the top floor of the school. The new space would consist of six classrooms for 7th and 8th grade students as well as an art studio. Space on the lower levels would accommodate growth in the Early Childhood Program, a resource room to enrich student learning, and a classroom dually earmarked for world language instruction and band practice. Numerous upgrades to technology infrastructure were also completed. The new space was ready for the start of the 2015-16 school year. On October 21, 2015, Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald dedicated and blessed the top floor and new classrooms.



Sister Anne B. McGuire, Sister Beverly Pellegrino, Sister Marianne Evans and Sister MaryJane Bransfield, the last group of IHM Sisters to serve the school community, would continue in residence at St. Cecilia's Convent until July 1, 2017. Several celebrations took place to honor their 113 year legacy. The altar from St. Cecilia's Convent was moved to the school during a sacred procession and blessing, then lovingly placed in a new prayer room. Stained glass windows honoring the IHM sisters completed the tribute. The Home & School organized a fun and memorable ***"Spread the Love"*** farewell festival for school families including food trucks, live music, and fireworks. The festivities closed with a farewell Mass to honor all IHM Sisters, past and present, who served our schools.



In 2017, Dr. Sarah Kerins and Mrs. Patty Tarquinio assumed leadership of the school. They were eager to continue and build upon the traditions of academic excellence and catholic identity rooted by the IHM Sisters. Recognizing that childcare options were a concern for young families, leadership developed a plan and secured the necessary DHS licenses and staff to launch a year round childcare program. On September 4, 2018, Little Saints Academy opened on the ground level of the school with two classrooms. By 2023, the program tripled in enrollment, offering separate classrooms for infants, one and two-year old toddlers.



On March 13, 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic would bring classroom learning to a halt, however, the school's dedicated and well-prepared team of teachers would seamlessly pivot to virtual learning two days later and safely accommodate uninterrupted in-person instruction five days a week when students returned for the 2020/21 school year. With strong support from the school community, the administration, staff, and faculty would display an unparalleled level of resiliency and perseverance during this unprecedented time in our history.

Following the departure of Dr. Kerins in 2021, Mrs. Tarquinio was appointed Principal. Mrs. Barbara Moser and Mrs. Jill Wentzel serve as Vice Principals to round out the new administrative team.

"Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence." Pope Saint John Paul II



On October 21, 2015, Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald Dedicated and Blessed the Top Floor and New Classrooms at PJPJH.



Top: The 7th and 8th Grade Students Help with the Move to the New Classrooms



Left: "Spread the Love" Farewell Festival Kickoff



Top: Students Enjoy the New Art Studio



Left: The Infant Room at Little Saints Academy



Masks were Required during The Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID19) in 2020 and 2021