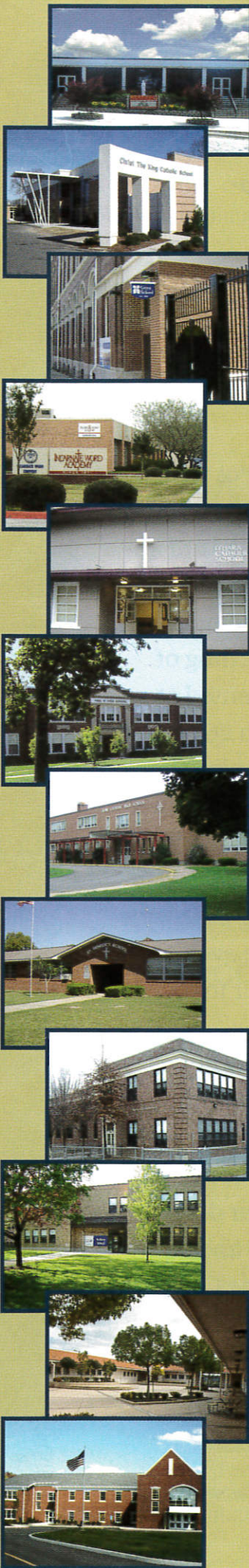


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR TOMORROW

INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

TODAY'S CATHOLIC
Teacher

St. Clare's Elementary School
Brooklyn, New York
2008



2007-2008

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR TOMORROW AWARD

INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION



- Promoting Catholic Identity
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Technology Integration
- Staff Development
- Total Community Involvement

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR TOMORROW AWARD

INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION



Today's *Catholic Teacher* proudly announces the 2008 recipients of the Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovations in Education. The award annually honors 12 Catholic elementary and secondary schools that have led the way by implementing exemplary, innovative programs to improve the teaching and learning of their students, faculty, and staffs. Awards will be presented at a special celebration banquet in Indianapolis on March 26.

Our congratulations to these award-winning schools are accompanied by the recognition that they exemplify steps many dozens of schools are taking to give their faculties and students the advantages of today's research, initiative, and technology and the faith of our schools' leaders. On the following pages, we present their stories in the hope that they will inspire even more Catholic educators to open their classrooms and their imaginations to new teaching and learning possibilities.

The staff of *Today's Catholic Teacher* and the Peter Li Education Group thank the judging committee chaired by Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH, of the University of Dayton for making the difficult decisions that narrowed the hundreds of nominated schools down to 12 award winners. We also express our deep gratitude to the corporate sponsors whose generosity and commitment to Catholic education have made possible the Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovations in Education. Please join us in thanking the sponsors shown on these pages for their support of this awards program and for the support they consistently offer to Catholic education.

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Helping Others and the Environment

Students at St. Clare School in Staten Island, NY, help their community in many ways. Several major projects have been taken on by the school's LEGO Robotics Program. In addition to building and programming robots, the team, lead by teacher advisor Mrs. Mary Lee, has been involved in many community projects.

One of the F.I.R.S.T. LEGO League challenges inspired the team to design an actual special-needs baseball field at the Great Kills Little League. They presented the idea to the league's administrators, and with the support of a local bank, special turf, interactive bases, adaptive equipment, and easy-access gates were purchased and installed. Every year, the students help the children in the Challenger Division play an adaptive form of baseball.

The robotics team also became a member of the Department of Environmental Protection Agency's Adopt-A-Bluebelt Program. The team adopted a local wetland site where they conduct cleanups and water tests. Data students collected from oxygen-level monitoring prompted the DEP to purchase solar-powered aerator pumps for the site.

Two other groups, the Junior Environmentalists and the Advanced Environmental Program, are also working to help the environment. Students in the latter group partnered with the Timberland Company and the DEP at another wetland site, Last Chance Pond/New Creek Bluebelt.

The environmental team is the only Catholic school participant to showcase its work at Ecology Day at the Staten Island Mall, including an interactive presentation table with a puppet show, activities, and literature. They also perform the finale at the event with a dance that carries an environmental message.

St. Clare School



Award Category
Innovation in total community
involvement

Location
Staten Island, New York

Archdiocese
New York

Principal
Jo N. Rossicone

Students
640

Grades
K-8

Website
[www.stclaresi.com/school
.htm](http://www.stclaresi.com/school.htm)

