



THE GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HOLY NAME OF CAMDEN MINISTRIES

509 State Street • Camden, NJ 08102 • 856.365.1001 • holynamenameofcamdenministries.org

Fall 2023



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Camden! This newsletter is so appropriately named "The Good News". Each time I start to gather the articles for us to publish, I am amazed that there are always so many stories from each ministry! As always, our Fall issue has "Back to School" news! We are so happy to have many teachers and students returning

to Holy Name. The school is immaculately cleaned and there is an air of newness in the building. The enthusiasm of the students, parents, teachers and staff remains palpable weeks later! In this newsletter, we feature another "Generation to Generation" family. It is really a delight for me to meet families that have been sending their children and grandchildren to Holy Name School for decades!

Each fall we have our annual fundraiser. This event is to help us continue our ministries here in Camden. I am so grateful for your generosity for all these years — we need your continued support! The success of our fundraiser helps students attend Catholic School. The tuition assistance is provided not only to Holy Name but also for four years to our Holy Name graduates attending Camden Catholic,

Cristo Rey, Gloucester Catholic, Holy Cross, Paul VI, Roman Catholic, St. Augustine Prep and St. Joseph Prep. Along with education, our lawyers are actively assisting with their clients' needs. Our social workers are providing their families with emotional support, financial aid and baby supplies.

We are looking forward to celebrating with you on November 9 at the Riverton Country Club. We are honoring two special people who have been helping us for years and are humbly accepting our "Reaching out to those in Need" Award: Ann Kearney, our volunteer librarian at Holy Name since 2012 and Brother David Graber, who has been bringing students from St. Augustine Prep to Camden for over thirty years! We are also honoring Folio Leyba-Martinez, a Holy Name and Camden Catholic graduate. He has remained in Camden and is working earnestly to improve our city. These awardees are a source of inspiration for us!

Together we are making a difference in the lives of children and in the city of Camden. Thank you for helping us to help others! I am so very grateful!

Sister Helen Cole SSJ

Sister Helen Cole SSJ
Executive Director

*Holy Name of Camden Ministries
requests the honor of your presence
at our annual celebration in recognition of
"Reaching Out To Those In Need"*

HONOREES

Ann Kearney, Holy Name School Librarian

Brother David Graber, Coordinator of
Christian Service, St. Augustine Prep

The Camden City Invincible Award:
Folio Leyba-Martinez, Holy Name Class of 2002
Camden City Resident and
Camden City School Advisory Board Member

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

6 - 9 pm

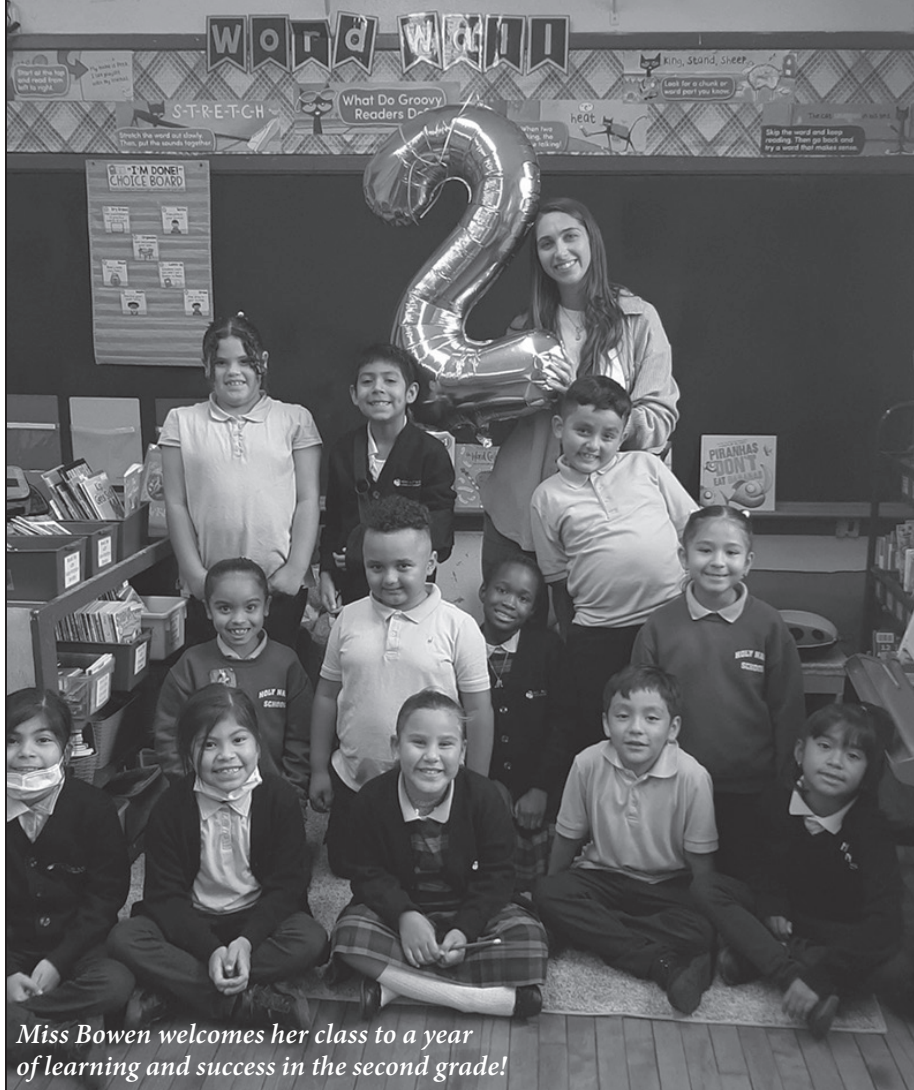
THE RIVERTON COUNTRY CLUB

1416 Highland Avenue • Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which
he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which
he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

—Words attributed to
St. Theresa of Avila,
Feastday October 15

Ready to Learn!



Miss Bowen welcomes her class to a year of learning and success in the second grade!

The school year is in full swing for Holy Name School. They are back for the 2023-2024 year with new students and new teachers. The students jumped right back in full of energy and eagerness to learn. They started off with an Open House on August 30th for students and parents to come meet their teachers before the first day of school. The teachers were happy to distribute back packs, school supplies, and Rita's Water Ice as a sweet treat. Back to School Night was September 21st for working parents to have the opportunity to meet the teachers and visit with each other.

Holy Name School welcomes three new staff members this school year. Hannah Feinberg is the new sixth grade Language Arts teacher and Unique McCreary is the seventh grade Science and Social Studies teacher. They have fit right into the Holy Name Family as if they have been working here for years. They also welcome Sieana Macklin, who is working as the new Food Service Worker. Holy Name School is excited to have them all on board.

Holy Name is continuing their Character Strong program. They designated a character trait to focus on each

month. Students earn tickets when they exemplify the trait. This culminates in an end of the month assembly, where there is a raffle drawing for the students who earned tickets that month. In addition, the student who embodied the character trait in an outstanding way receives recognition through a t-shirt with the character trait written on the back and a pass for a dress down day! These assemblies are hosted the first Friday of each month to recognize the students from the previous month. September's trait was kindness and the students will be honored on October 6th.

“Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”

—Martin Luther King

They are so proud of alumna Dama Vargas and the 82nd Airborne Division Chorus for their amazing performances on *America's Got Talent*. She and her fellow chorus members were one of the Top Ten finalists on this season and gave inspirational performances with the songs “My Girl” and “Brother.”

The fall is a fun time for Holy Name School. There will be a Fall Festival for students and their families on October 14th from 12-4pm. This will be an afternoon filled with carnival games and food trucks! They are hosting a Pumpkin contest for students to decorate their own pumpkins and receive prizes based on creativity. Trunk or Treat will be hosted on October 21st from 3-5pm. The month of October will end with a Halloween Parade and Walkathon to celebrate and raise money for the school. All are welcome to attend Mass on the second Tuesday of every month at 8:45am at Holy Name School. They are excited to begin another year and look forward to all that this year holds! ■

GFS Welcomes Maggie Koch

GFS would like to formally introduce Maggie Koch, who is our new ACE fellow from Saint Joseph's University. Maggie is originally from Boyds, Maryland and completed her undergraduate degree in Leadership, Ethics, and Organizational Sustainability at Saint Joseph's in 2022. Following graduation, Maggie served with Rostro de Cristo in Ecuador for a year. She accompanied women in a domestic violence shelter, spent time as a preschool teacher, and lived among her neighbors in Monte Sinai. She reflects on the love of Christ she experienced there and how to bring it back to the United States with her.

Maggie chose to join the ACE program upon return from Ecuador because she knew she wanted to continue to serve her neighbors closer to home. She is excited to build relationship with the students at Holy Name and in the CASA program. Maggie loves being immersed in the community she is serving in and feels GFS is such a great place to do that.

In her first year, Maggie will be teaching life skills class to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade at Holy Name. She will also assist with the CASA program after school. Maggie is only with us part-time, but she is excited to learn more about Camden and the people that make up the wonderful community.

Outside of GFS, Maggie will be working as a Campus Minister at Saint Joseph's and working towards her Master's in Organizational Development and Leadership. Maggie is excited to spend the next two years serving at GFS and is ready to soak up all that Camden has to offer. ■



Congratulations Dama and the 82nd Airborne Division Chorus!

In the spring of 2021, we featured Dama Vargas in our newsletter. Dama graduated from Holy Name in 2013 and from Paul VI High School in 2017. She had just returned home from a one year tour in South Korea. She has been specially trained as a Religious Affairs Specialist. During the month of September, Dama and her army comrades competed in America's Got Talent. They made it as far as one of the top ten finalists. Although they are not the grand prize winners of this season's show, they won our support and our hearts! Way to go, 82nd Airborne Division! ■

Law Center Assists Domestic Violence Survivors

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of domestic violence in our communities. At CCLSJ, we're proud to be the largest provider of free legal representation to survivors of domestic violence in Camden County, New Jersey, an area with one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the state. Every year, we help hundreds of survivors with information, resources, referrals, and by providing free representation.

It's long been known that having legal representation greatly increases a

survivor's chances of securing a final restraining order against their abuser. That's why our staff works tirelessly to ensure that every survivor who seeks our help is provided with the best possible legal assistance. Thanks to our team's dedication and expertise, many survivors are able to break free from their abusive situations and start on the path to healing and recovery.

Access to legal representation is crucial for domestic violence survivors who are seeking safety and protection from their abusers. Unfortunately, not all survivors have the financial resources to pay for legal assistance, leaving

them vulnerable to continued abuse and violence. That's why our free legal services are so important. By providing survivors with free legal representation, we're ensuring that financial constraints don't prevent them from getting the help they need.

Our services can mean the difference between a survivor being able to break free from an abusive situation and being forced to stay in it. Your support allows us to continue providing these critical services to those who need them most. We thank you for being a part of our mission, and our clients thank you as well. ■



Sister Helen celebrates with Joseph at his graduation from Holy Name in June 2023.

From Generation to Generation

There are many families who have been attending Holy Name School for generations. This newsletter highlights our fourth family — and there are many others to present in upcoming newsletters! Joseph was one of our very successful students in the Class of 2023. Along with good grades, he is also successful on the football field. He is really looking forward to playing football in high school.

Joseph's mom, Delilah, attended Holy Name (and was taught by Sister Helen in second grade) and graduated in 1999. "I have only happy memories when I think of my years at Holy Name. I'm so happy that my son attended and graduated from the same school as I did in 1999," his mom proudly stated. Delilah graduated from Camden Catholic in 2003 and her son will attend Roman Catholic this fall. Congratulations Joseph! ■

*Hope to see you
on November 9th
at the Riverton
Country Club!*