



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two schools earn “School of Distinction” Award from Diocesan Board of Education

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Feb. 4, 2014) – Two schools within the Diocese of Green Bay have received special recognition from the Diocesan Board of Education.

Holy Spirit Catholic School in Darboy and St. Francis Xavier Middle School in Appleton have been named “Schools of Distinction,” each receiving a banner and plaque honoring their achievement.

The schools were selected based on numerous criteria, including excellence in the areas of faith, academics and leadership. They also demonstrated “a realization of and commitment to spiritual growth and academic rigor” observed Dr. Joe Bound, Director of the Department of Education. Both schools excel in the way they “emphasize the awareness of Christ in all that they undertake ... forming youth to be Christian leaders of tomorrow in our churches and communities.”

Carrie Gossens, Principal of Holy Spirit, noted that, “Receiving this award is an affirmation of our efforts at Holy Spirit to provide a challenging, academic education within the Catholic tradition. As educators and parents, we strive to create a future full of ‘STARS’ for God: citizens who Serve their community, work as Teams to accomplish tasks, Appreciate and Respect themselves, others and the world God gave them while being Self-motivated in their lifelong learning. We pride ourselves in being a part of the Green Bay Diocese where faith integration and evangelization are in the forefront of all we do. It is an honor for our school to be recognized as a role model of Catholic education.”

Deacon Ray DuBois, President of the St. Francis Xavier Educational System, was equally pleased about the selection of St. Francis Xavier Middle School within his school system.

“On behalf of the students, families, faculty, and staff, I am honored that St. Francis Xavier Middle School has been named a ‘School of Distinction’ by the Diocese of Green Bay. This designation is visible acknowledgment of the standard of excellence that has been in place at Xavier Middle School for years,” he said of the commendation which was presented on February 4th. “In many ways this honor is an extension of academic excellence and commitment to service that is intertwined with our unambiguous Catholic identity at the partner campuses of Xavier Elementary School, where many of our middle school students received their early education. As our middle school students move on to Xavier High School they continue to reach for the standards of excellence reached at an early age.”

Everyone at Xavier was “very excited” with the recognition, added Deacon Tony Abts, St. Francis Xavier Middle School Principal. “We are thrilled to be receiving this honor. It is fitting testimony to the great job that our faculty and staff do day in and day out to equip our students with the skills they need to be successful in life and the faith that empowers them to make a difference for Christ.”

The Diocesan Board of Education extends congratulations to the many individuals within these two school communities who assisted to realize this well-deserved honor.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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