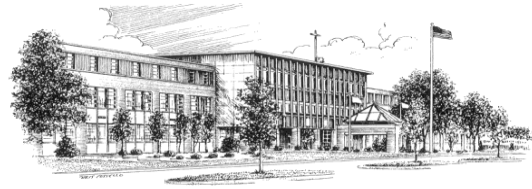


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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan Students Launch Christmas For Others Campaign

Forty Year-Old, Student-Run Outreach Program Raises \$25,000 Each Year to Benefit Local Families

(PARMA, OH) December 2: Beginning today, students at Padua Franciscan High School will spend the next month raising money as well as collecting toys and clothing for the area needy as part of Padua's 40 year-old tradition known as Christmas for Others. This milestone is particularly fitting as it falls in the midst of the school's 50th anniversary year.

Christmas for Others (CFO) is the largest student-run outreach program in northeast Ohio, designed to make the holidays a bit brighter for those less fortunate. In addition to cash, students will be collecting toys, food, blankets, coats, hats, mittens, and other clothing for agencies that serve the poor as well as providing direct assistance to local need families. It is projected Padua students will distribute some \$25,000 in cash and goods before departing for Christmas on December 23. Since its inception in 1971, CFO has raised more than \$350,000 for local charities.

The month-long program is unique because it is sponsored, organized, and operated by students under the coordination of the Padua Key (Kiwans) Club. This year Padua students will organize 16 events which will support the following charities: Bishop Cosgrove Center, Toys-for-Tots, Parma Animal Shelter, Salvation Army, St. Francis School, Church street Ministries, Parma Hunger Center, and the Parma Heights Food Pantry.

The following events will provide photo opportunities:

Inter-class Coin Wars – Wed., December 7 (8 a.m.) - Coin Wars pit grade levels against each other to see who can collect the most pocket change. The battle tactic is to stuff point-deducting paper money into the huge collection jars of opposing classes. **Last year this inter- class coin war competition raised more than \$13,000 in just twenty minutes!**

CFO Liturgy and Assembly – Friday, December 23 (9:30 a.m.) – Several agencies (listed above) will appear before the entire student body to receive donations as part of Padua's annual Christmas assembly. Immediately following, students will sort and pack hundreds of pounds of donated items for distribution to various food centers, charity programs, and private homes.

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School background notes: Padua Franciscan is located at 6740 State Road in Parma, Ohio. Padua is the largest private, co-educational secondary school in northeast Ohio. Today, it is one of less than twenty high schools officially chartered by the State of Ohio as college-preparatory. In 2004 and 2006, Padua was named one of the nation's top 50 Catholic secondary schools by the Acton Institute, and since 2007 has been recognized as one of the best school in Ohio by the Gerber Report. Padua is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement as well as the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association. An Ohio corporation, Padua was founded by the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart of Saint Louis, Missouri, and bases its educational philosophy on the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. As a school in the Franciscan tradition, its mission is to develop the unique talents of each student, while giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and beyond.

For Immediate Release