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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan Students Launch CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS Campaign

PARMA, Ohio – (December 1, 2014) On Friday, December 19, the students of Padua Franciscan High School will distribute cash, food, toys, and clothing to more than 20 area social service organizations and families in need as part of the “Christmas for Others” (CFO) campaign. CFO is a month long program designed to make the holidays a bit brighter for those less fortunate. For more than 40 years, Padua Franciscan students have collected over \$430,000 for area needy through the CFO campaign. In 2013, Padua set a new record with over \$31,000 in cash and donations.

CFO is the largest, student-run outreach program in northeast Ohio. It is unique because it is sponsored, organized, and operated by students under the coordination of the Padua Key Club. Decisions on how donations are distributed are made by the Key Club student officers, who determine the recipients and appropriate size of each gift.

The students raise funds in many ways, all of them involving a good deal of fun. For example, some of the money available for CFO projects comes from an inter-class “Coin War,” that pits grade levels against each other to see who can collect the most pocket change. **Last year’s Coin War produced over \$10,400 in just two weeks.** This year, the first \$2,000 will be used to purchase toys to be distributed through the Bishop Cosgrove Center which serves Cleveland’s homeless.

Other significant sources of income involve a music concert, a senior vs. underclass volleyball game, canned food drive, and various other projects sponsored by student organizations. In addition, members of the Key Club made direct deliveries of food and money to numerous needy families in the neighborhoods surrounding Padua Franciscan.

Photo Opportunities:

Inter-class Coin Wars in the gym - Tuesday, December 9, 8 a.m.: Last minute battle to raise funds.

CFO Liturgy and Assembly - Friday, December 19, 8:30 a.m.: Several agencies will appear before the student body to receive donations.

For further information, contact Kimberly Sherer at 440.845.2444 ext. 111 or at ksherer@PaduaFranciscan.com

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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 schools 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.