



St. Anthony Catholic School Unveils New Prayer Garden



This fall, St. Anthony Catholic School's prayer garden was renewed with blooming flowers, a fountain, saint statues, and a pathway with benches for all to use for prayer and to enjoy God's creation. As a part of the St. Anthony School Advisory Catholic Identity Committee, the garden was conceptualized to give the ability to reveal Christ to students, teachers, parishioners, and parents making sure our Catholic traditions are visible outside of our school campus.

"This garden is a visual that represents an extension of our school's pillars: faith, family, knowledge, and service. We wanted these core values that are present inside of our buildings to reflect outside of our building in a space that celebrates beauty and creation," shared Principal Kristine Galemmo.

St. Anthony Catholic School's House System raised money for this project through a Walk-a-Thon. "We began using the house system, 3K-8th grade, several years ago to promote positive character traits as well as to instill a sense of belonging and group pride across the grade levels at our school. Each house is named after a saint and has a motto, color, and shield. Two teachers in each house serve as deans to oversee the house and support the house leadership. The house leadership consists of a Prefect, an Assistant Prefect, a Scribe, and a Parliamentarian. The house leadership helps plan and lead house meetings each month. House members work together to earn points for their house by participating in church events, being involved in extracurricular activities, competing in school-wide contests, displaying positive behavior, engaging in service activities, and getting involved in additional activities that might be going on in the school, church, or community. Students learn to work hard individually and for the good of their house, along with working as a house team. Our house system encourages teamwork, friendship, cooperation and leadership. This year, considering our theme, "We are Keepers of the Flame", our Saint Houses will be doing service projects, putting their Faith into Action." shared Principal Galemmo.

In addition to the students of the House System raising \$8,000 for this project to come to fruition, the school is grateful to its generous families, the Men's Club, St. Anthony parishioners, St. Anthony Women's Guild, and the Knights of Columbus for contributing to the prayer garden. 4K teacher's assistant Hannah Davis designed the prayer garden. Catholic Identity Chair Tim Davis was the person who fostered and nurtured this garden from concept to completion with the help of Doug Amon who shared his time and talents of his masonry expertise and parishioner Tim King who shared his master gardening skills.

Father John Bosco stated, "I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have dedicated their time, effort, and resources to create and maintain this serene and sacred place. It serves as a beacon of light and hope for the entire school community, reminding us of the importance of faith, unity, and the pursuit of knowledge."

St. Anthony Catholic School students helped plant the flowers in the garden and they will continue to tend to the garden to share in taking care of God's creation. Kindergarten student Charbel Seif shared that the prayer garden makes him happy because he can pray there. When asked why it is important for the school to have a prayer garden, he said, "So God can make us healthy, strong, and grow."

When Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune visited the school for confirmation in October, he visited the garden and blessed it in front of the school and church community. He shared his excitement in all of the positive things happening at St. Anthony Catholic School.

St. Anthony Catholic School, a 3K-8th grade school is accredited by Cognia through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. For admissions information, contact Principal Kristine Galemmo at 843.662.1910.



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