

Planting Seeds of Faith:  
*Join Our Monthly Giving Mission This Spring*

As spring breathes new life into our community, we are reminded of the beauty of growth, renewal, and the small seeds that blossom into something extraordinary. Here at Father Marquette Catholic Academy, the seeds we plant in our students each day—through faith, learning, and service—are nurtured by your continued generosity.



This spring, we're inviting you to become a vital part of our mission by joining our Monthly Giving donors. With as little as \$10 a month, you can help sustain and grow the Christ-centered education we offer our students—today and for years to come.

*“We believe FMCA is a great choice for families because your family will be welcomed into the community, your children will be challenged academically and spiritually, and grow to be inquisitive and respectful.”*

Why **Monthly Giving?**

Monthly donations are more than just a convenience—they're a commitment. They reflect a shared mission to uphold the values of Catholic education and ensure that every child in our care is formed not just academically, but spiritually.

- **\$10/month** helps provide classroom supplies and materials
- **\$25/month** supports faith formation programs
- **\$100/month** helps fund scholarships for families in need

No matter the amount, your consistent support allows us to plan wisely, invest confidently, and reach more families with the light of Christ. 60% of donors say they prefer giving smaller amounts more frequently because it *feels more manageable*.



We're setting our sights on welcoming **20 new monthly donors** this spring. *Will you be one of them?*

Joining is easy, and every gift—no matter how small—is a powerful act of faith. Together, we can continue to grow our Catholic school, rooted in tradition and reaching for excellence.

As Catholics, we are called to be stewards of the blessings we've received. Giving is not just an act of charity—it is an expression of gratitude and trust in God's provision. Your monthly support allows us to continue this sacred mission of forming the next generation of disciples, scholars, and compassionate leaders. *Let this spring be the season you choose to give consistently, joyfully, and faithfully.*

**BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY—  
AND HELP OUR SCHOOL BLOOM.**

How do you give monthly?

To set up and manage a monthly donation to FMCA through PayPal, simply visit the FMCA donation page on our website, or scan the QR Code and select the option to make your gift a recurring monthly donation. You will be directed to log in to your PayPal account to authorize the recurring payment. Once set up, PayPal will automatically process your donation each month. To manage your donation—such as updating your payment method, changing the amount, or canceling future donations—log in to your PayPal account, go to “Settings,” select the “Payments” tab, and click on

“Manage Automatic Payments.” From there, you can find FMCA in your list of active subscriptions and make any necessary changes. Alternatively, you can also contact your financial institution of choice to set up an automatic check dispersal. This allows your bank to send a check to FMCA on a recurring monthly basis, offering another convenient way to support our mission.



Scan this QR Code now to set up and manage a FMCA monthly PayPal donation.

Father Marquette  
Catholic Academy

Only One Thing is Necessary

Newsletter | Spring 2025



*Propelling Students into the Future*  
BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION: CULTIVATING FAITH FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS



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In Him, We Find Purpose:  
Living the FMCA Mission

By Melissa Pillifant, Principal

In this newsletter, you see snapshots of the Father Marquette Catholic Academy mission lived out; you see our students participating in a deeply human education, an education that truly forms the WHOLE person because it begins with their deepest and most central identity, that of being a child of God. It is an education with their true end in mind, that of eternal happiness with God. Our mission statement begins “Centered in the person of Jesus Christ. . .” Jesus really is at the center of all we do; He is why we are here, and He is part of it all. It is only in Him that our students discover their true identity and purpose, allowing them to go out and “launch into the deep” trusting our Lord to walk with them. What a true blessing it is to be part of this school community!

Melissa Pillifant



“Witness to Faith”

Middle school students at Father Marquette Catholic Academy recently embarked on a unique journey of faith—not through maps or textbooks, but through the eyes of a world-traveling Catholic, Irene Esquivel. Originally from Los Angeles, Irene now lives in Marquette and is an alumna of the NMU Catholic Campus Ministry. As a Delta flight attendant, she has gained a unique perspective on the Catholic faith around the world. Her presentation, “Witness to Faith: One Church, Many Faces,” highlighted the universal beauty and unity of Catholicism across cultures.

With vivid images and personal stories from places like Ireland, France, Mexico, Israel, and more, Irene showed how the Church, though culturally diverse, remains united in faith. A photo montage of Catholics worldwide in prayer and service led students to reflect on a powerful question: “What do all these people have in common?” The answer—faith in Christ lived out in many ways. The Church is home, no matter where you go.

Students discovered how the Mass is celebrated worldwide with different languages and customs, yet always rooted in the Word, Eucharist, and community. Stories of saints and faithful Catholics from around the globe brought the lesson to life, inspiring students to see holiness in every culture. The session ended with a powerful reminder: Remember the WHY behind the Faith.

As one student said, “I didn’t know there were so many ways to show our faith. It makes me want to do more.”



A New Path, A Stronger Foundation: Why We Chose FMCA

As our children grew older, we felt it was time to explore a different path with our schooling. While considering our options, we spoke with friends who shared our values and found many had ties to Father Marquette Catholic Academy. Their stories were positive, and several encouraged us to attend the open house. Upon leaving the open house last year, we felt that FMCA was the right fit for our youngest, who already knew a few classmates. Our oldest was leaning toward a public middle school. We invited her to tour FMCA, and halfway through, she pulled us aside and said, “This is where I want to go.” She was struck by how well-equipped the classrooms were, the low student-to-teacher ratio, and how the staff engaged with her. That was our first glimpse into the connection FMCA teachers foster with their students. They’re invested in their students’ growth and well-being.

Over the past year, our kids have grown academically by leaps and bounds. They’ve embraced new subjects and taken on new responsibilities. Transitioning to a different learning style has challenged them in the best way, and it’s been rewarding to watch. One of the most notable differences at FMCA is the incredible sense of community. That became especially clear during the middle-school biking field trip earlier in the year. While volunteering, we witnessed teachers, parents, and students encouraging one another throughout the ride. It was more than a fun outing. It was a reflection of the camaraderie and support that define this school. FMCA isn’t just about academics; it’s about building resilience, character, and relationships.



“If someone asked us why they should consider FMCA, we’d say this: it’s a place where academics are strong, the teachers are devoted, and the culture fosters compassion and integrity. Education here goes beyond textbooks. It nurtures the whole child.”

Another area where FMCA shines is in meaningful, hands-on learning. Our youngest loves the Jacobetti visits, which foster an appreciation and respect for older generations and the value of community engagement. We also love the dedicated green space for middle schoolers that supports outdoor learning and resourcefulness.

Beyond academics and community, one of the most touching aspects of our journey has been sharing it with the girls’ maternal grandmother.

Watching her reconnect with her faith joyfully has been a gift for our whole family. If someone asked us why they should consider FMCA, we’d say this: it’s a place where academics are strong, the teachers are devoted, and the culture fosters compassion and integrity. Education here goes beyond textbooks. It nurtures the whole child. We’re deeply grateful for the experience so far.

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