



inner-city scholarship fund

*A Child. A Chance. A Future.*



Newsletter of Inner-City Scholarship Fund | **Spring 2023**

## INSIDE:

45th Annual Awards Dinner	1,3
Letter from Our Executive Director	2
St. Thomas More Award Luncheon	3
Keeping Up With The Juniors!	4
Inner-City by the Numbers	5
Catholic School Test Scores	6
Superintendent of Schools Update	7

## 45th Annual Awards Dinner

Supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund raised over \$1 million at the 45th Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner on Thursday, December 1. Almost 300 guests attended the event at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, which was emceed by Mo Rocca of CBS Sunday Morning. Funds from the evening will help support Inner-City in its mission to provide tuition assistance for underserved students attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 →

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

How inspiring it has been over the last several months in my new role as Executive Director of Inner-City Scholarship Fund to witness the dedication of donors, colleagues, and most of all, our students.

For over 50 years, Inner-City has been devoted to making a Catholic education a viable option for students in need. One of the joys of working with Inner-City is seeing young people set and achieve goals that, without the support of our generous donors, would be unattainable. We have students who have graduated now pursuing careers in the medical field, engineering, the arts, law, and much more. Despite adversity these students may have faced, they are some of the most resilient people in New York.

I believe the solution to giving young people a chance to escape poverty is through education. Your support of Inner-City not only provides an opportunity for thousands of under-served youth to flourish while they are in school, but also prepares them for a lifetime of success. With 98% of our seniors pursuing post-secondary education after graduation, your commitment is a promise of hope for a brighter future.



Thank you for backing Inner-City's essential mission of providing access to a high-quality Catholic education for our students. 🙏

Sincerely,



Jill Turner Lloyd  
*Executive Director,  
Inner-City Scholarship Fund*

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*Archbishop of New York*

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*Joskarl Nunez, scholarship recipient*

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

“This year we’re giving over \$14 million in scholarships to deserving students all across the city and that wouldn’t be possible without Inner-City’s impressive team and dedicated donors who support our students to reach new heights,” said Peter T. Grauer, Chairman at Bloomberg and President of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, during his opening remarks.

His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, presented the 2022 Inner-City Scholarship Fund Award to John R. Greed, Chairman, President, and CEO of Mutual of America. During his acceptance remarks, Mr. Greed discussed his affinity for Inner-City’s mission, sharing that he benefited from a similar assistance program when he attended Catholic school. He expressed the profound positive impact his education had on him and how it shaped him into who he is, saying “I did not want a handout, but I needed a hand-up. That is exactly what the Inner-City Scholarship Fund is all about and does each year for its 8,500 students.”

Catholic school student Joskarl Nunez, a junior from All Hallows High School in the Bronx, gave a moving speech about how blessed he feels to be a part of the Catholic school community. At the height of the pandemic, he felt supported by his teachers, both during remote and in-person learning. Because of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, he feels that he has

benefited from great teachers who have given him the tools he needs to follow his dreams. He aspires to attend Fordham University and is interested in pursuing a career in biological sciences.

The evening included festive holiday performances from St. Raymond Elementary School choir and the Notre Dame School of Manhattan choir. 🎵

***Save the date for Inner-City’s 46th Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, November 28th.***



*Mo Rocca at the 45th Annual Awards Dinner*

# 33rd Annual St. Thomas More Award Luncheon

On October 19, His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, honored Lucy A. Brusco, Head of Treasury Legal at Morgan Stanley, at the 33rd Annual Saint Thomas More Award Luncheon at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan.

Hosted by the Lawyers Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund, the annual luncheon welcomed over 300 guests, raising more than \$350,000 in support of Inner-City's mission to provide scholarship support for underserved Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of New York.

Thomas J. Meloro, Partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher, was presented with the John P. Cooney Award for Mentorship and Community Involvement. Mr. Meloro has been a dedicated Inner-City Scholarship Fund donor for 24 years.

Shania Marte, a scholarship recipient and senior at Notre Dame School of Manhattan, spoke at the event about the great opportunities that her Catholic school education has offered her, including volunteering at a shelter in El Paso, Texas to support the migrant community. This past summer, thanks to Inner-City's Job Opportunities Program, Marte gained real-world experience in the field of law through an internship at McMahon, Martine & Gallagher, LLP in Brooklyn. Marte hopes to create positive change in society in the future and dreams of attending an Ivy League school after graduation.



*Shania Marte, scholarship recipient*

The Lawyers Committee of Inner-City Scholarship Fund is made up of some of the most distinguished members of New York's legal community and has long been a very active and effective ally in Inner-City's effort to help inner-city students and their families. 🙏

**To learn more about the Lawyers Committee, contact Alyson Vetter at [Vetter@InnerCityNYC.org](mailto:Vetter@InnerCityNYC.org)**



*John P. Cooney Award recipient Thomas J. Meloro*



*Cardinal Dolan with honoree Lucy A. Brusco*



# Keeping Up With the Juniors!

## The Junior Board of Inner-City Scholarship Fund has been busy!

On December 1, members of the Junior Leadership Committee attended the 45th Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner, joining other passionate supporters of Inner-City Scholarship Fund. The very next day, December 2, the Juniors hosted an event at Common Ground NYC, benefitting scholarships and enrichment programs for inner-city students.

The Juniors have also hosted several school holiday parties and field trips for inner-city students since the beginning of the school year. In December, they hosted a Christmas party where students and volunteers made Christmas themed arts & crafts, cookies, and even had a visit from Santa. In February, they celebrated Valentine's Day with arts and crafts, cupcake decorating and creating Valentine cards to send to friends and family. Most recently, they organized a field trip to the Museum of Natural History.



*Junior Board volunteers with students at Christmas party*

Junior Board volunteers dedicate their time to provide firsthand experiences to under-served students beyond their classrooms and neighborhoods. We have more opportunities taking place soon thanks to the support of junior volunteers. 🙌

***Interested in getting involved? Email us at [Juniors@InnerCityNYC.org](mailto:Juniors@InnerCityNYC.org)***

## INNER-CITY BY THE NUMBERS

**99%**

of high school seniors graduate

**98%**

pursue post-secondary education

**72%**

of students live near or below the federal poverty level

**46%**

of students are raised by a single parent

**91%**

of students enrolled are minorities

**42%**

of students are non-Catholic

**8,500+**

scholarships provided annually

**\$14M**

in scholarships awarded annually

# Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York Report Continued Excellence in Test Scores

**It is with great pride that we share with you our schools' outstanding results on the 2022 New York State tests.**

Once again, the Catholic values-based curriculum taught in the Archdiocese of New York has produced results that lead most schools in the state of New York.

Scores reported for schools in the Archdiocese of New York in 2022 from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for grades 3-8 reflect nearly 52% of students passed math and 64% of students passed reading. When compared to NYC government schools, where 37.9% passed math and 49% of all students passed reading, you can see why we are so proud of our Catholic school students. Looking nationally, while different from the state assessments, Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of New York consistently outpace peers across the country on the NWEA MAP® tests.

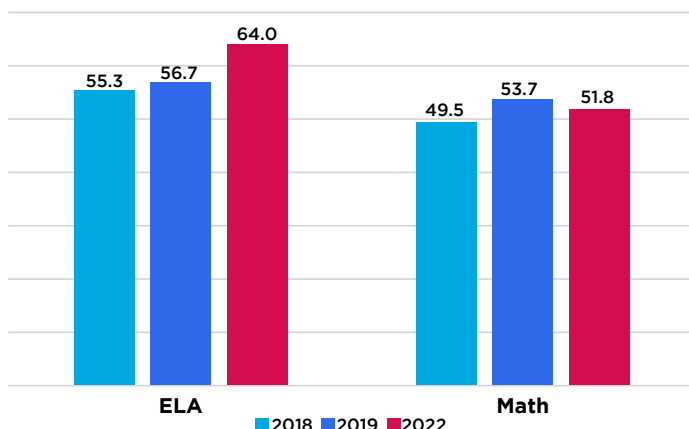
Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York have maintained a level of excellence with the support and leadership of His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Mr. Michael J. Deegan, Superintendent of Schools in the Archdiocese of New York. The archdiocese invested heavily in curriculum, professional development, technology, and social-emotional support for students and staff alike. These efforts mitigated and often eliminated the degree of learning loss experienced during the pandemic in school systems around the country.



“Our English Language Arts scores jumped by 7.3 percent, while our math scores held steady with a slight decline from pre-pandemic levels,” said Deegan. This is a testament to the dedication of our pastors, principals, and teachers in delivering a Christ-centered, academically excellent education. These results demonstrate that our work will continue to achieve positive outcomes and elevated expectations for all our students.”

Thank you to all our donors who help our students receive a Catholic education and build a foundation for a bright future. 🙏

## ADNY New York State Exam Performance





# Superintendent of Schools Update

In December, His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan announced the retirement of beloved educator Michael J. Deegan as superintendent of schools effective August 31, 2023.

"I am so very grateful to Cardinal Dolan for entrusting me with the care and stewardship of this great Catholic school system which gave me so much as a student, as a young man and ultimately as a Catholic educator for half a century," shared Deegan.

Mr. Deegan is proud of his tenure during which he made certain that every student received a first-rate academic education, as well as a solid grounding in their Catholic faith. He and his team faced complex challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of New York became national leaders at providing in-person instruction at a time when most school districts remained shuttered. He attributes increases in test scores during this time to the dedicated principals and teachers of the Catholic schools. Among the many accolades he received during his career, the one that has meant the most to him is the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award.

"Mike first asked to retire nearly five years ago, but we have been extremely fortunate that he instead agreed to my request that he stay on as superintendent," said Cardinal Dolan. "These past five years have been among the most consequential years for Catholic education, particularly in this archdiocese, and Mike has steadfastly guided us through these difficult years. The legacy that Mike will leave on Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New York is immeasurable. I thank God for his service and wish him and his family a long and happy retirement."

Over Mr. Deegan's time as superintendent, he has worked closely with Inner-City Scholarship Fund. "Inner-City's mission of making a Catholic education possible for underserved students would not be possible without the hardworking educators who deliver a high-quality product that teaches students to be life-long learners and to realize their full potential. Mike has been a committed leader for the schools and will be missed" says Jill Lloyd, Executive Director of Inner-City Scholarship Fund.



**Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.,**  
*Incoming Superintendent of Schools*

After an extensive search process, wide consultation, and much prayer, **Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.,** has accepted Cardinal Dolan's invitation to serve as the next Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York.

Sister Mary Grace is no stranger to the Archdiocese of New York. A member of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a religious congregation of women with a particular devotion to education, she has served in the archdiocese as both a teacher and principal in our Catholic schools, as well as receiving a Ph.D. in Educational Administration/Church Leadership from Fordham University.

In addition, among her many other assignments, she has served as Provost for Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Hartford, and prior to that as Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of Education and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport. Currently, Sister Mary Grace is President of Cor Jesu Academy in Saint Louis, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Educational Association, and a Trustee of Foundations in Education. She is a Provincial Councilor for her religious community and serves as a director on all of their corporate boards.

Our deep gratitude to Mr. Deegan for his unwavering service to Catholic education. Please join us in welcoming Sister Mary Grace back to the Archdiocese of New York. 🙏



**Michael J. Deegan, Outgoing**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



**inner-city scholarship fund**

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[innercityscholarshipfund.org](http://innercityscholarshipfund.org)



## SAVE THE DATE

**FRIENDS Gala: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at Cipriani 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

### Inner-City Scholarship Fund Staff

Jill Turner Lloyd  
*Executive Director*

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*Student Learning Advocate*

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*Chief of Finance and Operations*

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*Manager, Special Events*

Audra Evans  
*Development Associate*

Faiza Hamlani  
*Development Administrator*

Wendy Kwitny  
*Manager, School Relations*

Vanessa Luciano  
*Manager, Sponsorship Operations*

Josiah Marquez  
*Direct Marketing Associate*

Danielle Ramsey  
*Gift Processing Coordinator*

Kathryn Riecks  
*Data Manager*

Alberto Robaina  
*Chief of Staff and Special Counsel*

Federico Romero  
*Development Associate*

Mary Spencer  
*Manager, Institutional Support*

Alyson Vetter  
*Director of Development and Events*

Jennifer Ward  
*Manager, Scholarship Operations*

Olivia White  
*Marketing Associate*