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Redirecting tax dollars for greater equity at Saint Thomas More School

2 / ALUMNI IN THE HOUSE!

Classmates from 2014 gather, reminiscing and looking forward exciting adventures ahead

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Alums weigh in from Indiana, NYC, Rhode Island, Vatican City and more!

THE UTOPIAN

Fall 2018 | Newsletter of Saint Thomas More A Catholic School in the Jesuit Tradition

“Finding God in All Things”

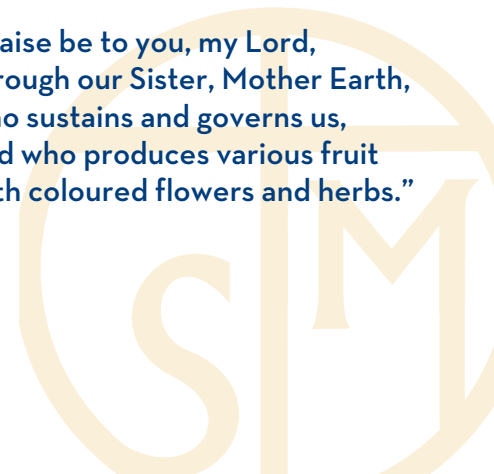


STM Responds to Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment

STM's Garden was established in response to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si', on Care of Our Common Home*, which invites each of us to love and care for our creation. Led by the STM Garden Committee, two garden spaces have been created on campus and since then okra, cucumbers, strawberries, and garlic have been successfully planted, grown, and harvested.

Parents, students, and faculty have been working together to provide a garden that offers experiential learning that will enrich our academic curriculum while promoting healthy living. During the third week of school, a member of our garden committee picked cucumbers with the kindergarteners and first graders, sliced them, and made them available to our students to taste during each lunch period.

“Praise be to you, my Lord,
through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit
with coloured flowers and herbs.”



Give the Gift of GRACE by Redirecting Your State Taxes

The goal of GRACE Scholars is to assist families with financial need to be able to afford a Catholic education while providing donors with an opportunity to use their tax dollars towards Catholic school scholarships. GRACE Scholars is the only Student Scholarship Organization (SSO) that exclusively supports Catholic education. GRACE Scholarships are available to qualifying students who are entering Catholic school for the first time.

In 2018, 51 donors redirected their Georgia tax dollars to support incoming students who demonstrate financial need

at St. Thomas More School. Through the incredible generosity of these donors, we currently have 29 students receiving \$90,568 in GRACE scholarships.

If you have any questions, please visit gracescholars.org or contact Ansley Murphey at amurphey@stmga.org.



GRACE scholarships are funded by Georgia taxpayers who redirect a portion of their Georgia state income tax to GRACE.

How does it work?

1. Make a contribution to GRACE Scholars
2. Designate STM School to receive 100% of your contribution
3. Receive a tax CREDIT (dollar for dollar) on your Georgia taxes

The process is very simple:

1. Pre-register online at gracescholars.org by December 15, 2018 for the 2019 tax year. *The online form takes less than five minutes to complete!*
2. Approval letters are mailed by the Georgia Department of Revenue in January 2019.
3. Donors have 60 days from the date of the approval letter to make their donation.

SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL FAMILIES, FRIENDS & ALUMNI:

If you know a family who might want to consider enrolling their children at STM, please help us spread the word about our great school by sharing this newsletter!



**STM OPEN HOUSE (for all grades)
October 28, 2018, Mulhern Hall
1:45 p.m. registration
2 p.m. program**



In May, we welcomed the **STM Class of 2014** for an Alumni Reception. The alumni enjoyed reuniting with one another and visiting with their former STM teachers and staff one last time before heading off to college. *Congratulations as you begin this new chapter in your lives!*

ALUMNI UPDATES

Carson Evans, STM 2005, graduated from Marist in 2009 and Yale University in 2013. She received a MFA degree in Graphic Design from Rhode Island School of Design in June 2018. **A**

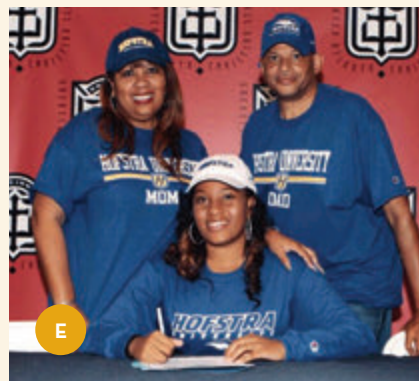
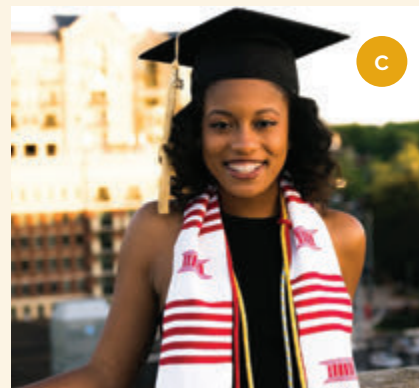
Joseph Amoroso, STM 2010, graduated from Marquette University in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in Finance. He is a graduate of the Applied Investment Management Program. Joseph has accepted a Corporate Banking Analyst position with RBC Capital Markets in New York. **B**

Kayla Cooper, STM 2010, and St. Pius X Catholic High School Class of 2014, graduated from Vanderbilt University in May 2018 with a double major in Medicine, Health and Society, and Spanish. Kayla served as a member of the Undergraduate Advisory Board for the College of Arts and Science and was a member of the Undergraduate Honor Council. Kayla cemented her love for medicine through internships at the Vanderbilt Medical Center Infectious Disease Department and at the Tennessee Department of Health. She also received various awards for community service including the Chancellor's Award and the Vanderbilt Award for Leadership Excellence: Reverend James Lawson Award for Campus and Community Leadership. Kayla was also selected as one of Vanderbilt University's Top 10 outstanding seniors for the class of 2018. Kayla is a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Kayla is currently an Intramural Trainee Award Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. During this two-year fellowship, Kayla will conduct research in the genomics department on health disparities for those living with Sickle-Cell Anemia. After her fellowship, Kayla plans to attend medical school. **C**

Rachel Heard, STM 2011, is a senior at the University of Notre Dame. She is a Finance major in the Mendoza College of Business. Rachel was named to the dean's list for outstanding scholarship during the 2018 spring semester. She is also a team captain and a defender on the soccer team. Rachel has started every game and has led the team in minutes played the last two seasons while making the ACC Academic Honor Roll every semester. **D**

Caria Reynolds, STM 2014, graduated from Greater Atlanta Christian School in May 2018 and has decided to further her academic and basketball career by playing Division 1 basketball at Hofstra University in New York. **E**

Noah Vanous, STM 2016, attends St. Louis University High, a Catholic Jesuit High School in St. Louis, Missouri. Noah is a member of the school's band and had the incredible opportunity to perform for the Pope during spring break. At the conclusion of the performance, the Pope took the time to shake hands with each member of the band. **F**



Are you an alumni or parent of an alum with news? Please email amurphey@stmga.org so that we can share it in our next newsletter!

Saint Thomas More

A Catholic School
in the Jesuit Tradition

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We are

- 🐾 Creative problem solvers
- 🐾 Innovative thinkers
- 🐾 Collaborative teachers
- 🐾 Looking inward and reaching out
- 🐾 Educating the mind, body, and spirit

Saint Thomas More School!



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