



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

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### **Saint Dominic Academy Receives \$1 Million Endowment from Anonymous Donor**

June 26, 2019

AUBURN---Saint Dominic Academy (Pre-K through Grade 12) has received an unprecedented \$1 million endowment from an anonymous donor, the academy's largest gift since the building of the Auburn campus nearly 20 years ago. Endowment funds will be used to assist local families in bridging the financial challenges of providing their children with the opportunity of a Catholic education.

"We are overwhelmed by the generous spirit of this donor and the confidence it shows in the academy," said Marianne Pelletier, the new superintendent of Maine Catholic Schools. "The donor is passionate about St. Dom's, having observed the difference it makes in the lives of students and alumni. It is an exciting time both at the academy and in Catholic education, and a strong endowment helps us offer the St. Dom's experience to those who wish to benefit from it."

"On behalf of the diocese, I publicly wish to express my sincere gratitude for this remarkable contribution to the St. Dom's community," said Bishop Robert P. Deeley. "When I visit the academy, I often tell the students that helping those in need is a way in which they can grow the seed of God's love within them. This endowment will help families send their children to a school with a long history of promoting academic excellence and service in the context of a faith-based education. The academic, spiritual, and social benefits of a Catholic education are well-documented. This donation is another example of generous individuals appreciating that reality."

The announcement of the \$1 million endowment is the latest in a series of celebratory moments at the academy this month. On June 11, Pelletier, the former principal of St. Dom's Lewiston campus, was promoted to her new position as superintendent and will work primarily out of the academy's Auburn campus. On June 17, Roger LaChapelle, a locally and nationally respected educator, was named interim principal of the Auburn campus for the 2019-20 school year. In addition, the 2019 Dion Challenge raised over \$320,000 for the academy. Donald Dion, Jr., a 1972 graduate of St. Dom's, challenged the St. Dom's community to raise funds to offer tuition assistance to local families. The challenge came in the form of a \$150,000 matching gift.

“The energy and enthusiasm among our students, school families, and faculty are high. This is a great time to be a part of this growing school community,” said Pelletier. “The academy is committed to preparing our students for the world in which they will live, academically and spiritually. We have a 100% college acceptance rate and great kids. Our parents, volunteers, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and benefactors joyfully invest in this institution, and we are dedicated to upholding the excellence that has defined St. Dom’s for nearly 80 years.”

The Catholic Foundation of Maine has several endowments supporting the academy and its students. For more information about contributing to an existing endowment or creating your own, contact Elizabeth Badger, director of the foundation, at (207) 321-7820 or [elizabeth.badger@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:elizabeth.badger@portlanddiocese.org). You can also visit the foundation’s website at [www.catholicfoundationmaine.org](http://www.catholicfoundationmaine.org).

To learn more about Saint Dominic Academy or to schedule a tour, contact Debra Anthoine, director of advancement at the academy, or LaChapelle at (207) 782-6911. You can also visit the academy’s website at [www.stdomsmaine.org](http://www.stdomsmaine.org).