

St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School Press Release

Event:

Campaign Kick-Off

Thursday, January 28th, 2010

Submitted by Janice Pruett – January 30, 2010 contact 268-3278

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More than 120 people attended a dinner to support the public launching of St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School's \$10 million capital and endowment campaign last Thursday.

Key note speaker Bishop Larry Silva, Hawaii's Catholic bishop, emphasized the importance of Catholic education at St. Anthony, which serves as the only Catholic High School in Maui.

"The Catholic values of faith formation, leadership skills, and service and justice are all taught here at St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School every day. This school is a gem that we need to work together to polish and restore to its luster," he said.

A portion of the monies the school's campaign seeks to raise will build an endowment to benefit student tuition assistance. More than 44 percent of St. Anthony students are currently receiving such help, putting a great strain on the school's annual operational budget. When the \$10-million campaign mark is reached, as much as \$180,000 from the annual operational budget will be freed up to allow the school to address other immediate needs.

In addition, the campaign will also help provide competitive salaries for St. Anthony teachers. Currently, an average teacher salary is approximately \$6,000 less than an equally experienced teacher at a public school. The faculty endowment is projected to increase St. Anthony's faculty salaries by 24 percent over six years, and will reduce and potentially eliminate wage differences between Maui's only Catholic High School and public educational institutions.

Another \$500,000 of the campaign's \$10 million goal is designated for the school's other immediate needs, including building maintenance, adopting green initiatives, enhancing athletic programs, and expanding technology.

Fr. Jim Orsini, St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School principal, said,

“The endowments will allow the school to retain and reward talented teachers while enabling us to provide more assistance to students interested in a quality education.”

JoAnn Moniz, the parent of a graduate and a 9th grader, agreed the campaign is exciting, particularly in regards to the affect it will have on future pupils.

“St. Anthony has been so wonderful for my daughter. I am so glad to see that St. Anthony is making such an effort to ensure that the opportunities my daughter received will be provided for more students in the future,” she said.

The St. Anthony campaign has already raised more than \$2.2 million from 70 donors, with a \$1 million donation and \$500,000 donation contributed from anonymous donors.

Campaign Honorary Chairman David “Buddy” Nobriga, a 1951 alumnus of the school, finds such gifts encouraging in helping St. Anthony reach its goal.

“We have over 5,000 St. Anthony alumni all around the world, many living here on Maui,” he said. “If each of us did our part to give back, to pay it forward, we could reach our goal.”

Sr. Sara Sanders, CSJ, a long-time teacher of St. Anthony, shared her pride and excitement for the new direction and vision of her beloved school.

“Our school has always taught the values of respect, compassion and hard-work,” she said. “This campaign will allow our school to provide this quality education to more students. Hopefully every student who chooses to receive our guidance and instruction will be able to come.”

If you have any questions, concerns or are interested in donating, contact Kathleen DeLima, St. Anthony’s development director, at (808) 244-4190, extension 268 or kdelima@sasmaui.org. More information can also be found at the school’s website: www.sasmaui.org.

