



O'Hara Catholic School



Press Release
For Immediate Release
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O'Hara Catholic School Receives National Award

March 3, 2008, Eugene, Oregon—O'Hara Catholic School has been selected by the professional journal, *Today's Catholic Teacher*, to receive the **2008 Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovations in Education** in the category of Total Community Involvement. The award annually honors 12 Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country that have led the way by implementing exemplary, innovative programs to improve teaching and learning. O'Hara is the only school in the northwest selected for this 2008 award.

The winning submission was O'Hara's 6th grade Annual Living Saints Project, led by middle school teacher Maryanne Obersinner. Over a three-month period, each student studies a saint and prepares a living presentation with the involvement and guidance of teachers, students, parents, local religious, art scholars, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and the public library.

The Living Saints Project was created by Maryanne Obersinner in 1998 and has become an impressive and extensive cross-curriculum educational project for 6th graders. It was featured in *The Catholic Sentinel* in the summer of 2007 and was the subject of a research paper written by a University of Washington student who cited the Living Saints Project as an excellent collaboration between the school and public library.

As a national award-winning school, O'Hara has been featured in a special section in the March issue of *Today's Catholic Teacher*. A copy of the article can be found on the home page of the O'Hara website, www.oharaschool.org. O'Hara will be presented the award at a special celebration banquet at the annual National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) conference in Indianapolis on March 26th. Artwork samples of this year's 6th grade Living Saints Project will be on display in the Eugene Public Library this spring. The 2008 Living Saints Presentation will take place on Friday, June 6 at O'Hara Catholic School. Over 1000 people visited the 2007 presentation.

About *Today's Catholic Teacher*

Today's Catholic Teacher is published six times during the school year and has a circulation of 50,000 with a readership of 200,000. There are 7,500 Catholic schools in the United States, six of which are featured in the magazine each school year.

About O'Hara Catholic School

O'Hara Catholic School serves students in Pre-School through 8th grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds. For more information about the curriculum, admissions policies or registration, contact Principal Dianne Bert at (541) 485-5291 or visit www.oharaschool.org.