



Educating Mind † Heart † Spirit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL STEPS UP FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION RAISING OVER \$50,000 FOR 10TH ANNUAL STEPS FOR STUDENTS RACE

Conroe, Texas --- February 23, 2015 --- Raising more than \$50,000, Sacred Heart Catholic School recently joined over 10,000 participants and more than 60 schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to come together and support Catholic awareness and education at the 10th Annual Steps for Students.

Steps for Students is an annual archdiocesan-wide event where all school and parish communities can come together as one to support Catholic education. It is a day of family fun that includes a 5k USA Track and Field Association sanctioned race, the David K. Guite Memorial 1k Family Fun Run, Catholic School Parade and Post Race Party. The goal of Steps for Students is to raise awareness of the importance of a Catholic education and provide much needed resources for Catholic Schools.

“We are so proud to be a part of this wonderful tradition that unites all of us together,” said Deb Brown, Principal. “Supporting education is near and dear to our hearts and bringing this type of platform for our schools to encourage families and communities to get involved is absolutely a blessing for all off our children.”

Sacred Heart kicked off a local campaign in November setting the school’s first ever goal for the event at \$40,000. Led by a small committee and challenged by a competition between Brown, Father Philip Wilhite and Father Oscar Dubon to see who could raise the most support, the school engaged the students and the families into the event formulating several activities

including student incentives, top fundraising prizes and the first annual spaghetti dinner for the local community. Several students will get to throw a pie at their favorite teacher for raising donations and for reaching the \$40,000 goal, the whole school earned a free day off school.

“This has been a humbling experience for all of us and we are so fortunate to have our school and parish communities come together and surpass our goal,” said Development Director Beth Istre. “I am amazed daily by the kindness and generosity of others and honored to be part of such a remarkable and dedicated staff and group of volunteers at Sacred Heart.”

264 registrants made up of students and parishioners fundraised for Sacred Heart. While Brown just beat out Father Philip for top donations raised (\$11,400 and \$9,700), Father Oscar was the first of the three to cross the finish line at the Steps for Students 5k race.

Brown added, “This has been a wonderful experience for our school and our students to be a part of something that will serve a great cause. We are truly blessed to be able to show them they are part of larger community in our faith and our genuine compassion for education and that we are all here to help make a difference for their future.”

Founded in 1958, Sacred Heart Catholic School is an Accredited School in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and is dedicated to educating the heart, mind and spirit. Serving Montgomery County, Sacred Heart is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and School Council and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Sacred Heart promotes academic excellence and fosters life-long learning while providing a loving and supportive environment for Pre-K through eighth grade.

For more information about Sacred Heart Catholic School or to schedule a tour of the school, please call 936-756-3848 or visit the school’s website at www.shcstx.com.

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**Photo Captions attached*

STEPS FOR STUDENTS PHOTOS

Photo 1: Father Philip Wilhite with students Jacob Lee, Madeleine Bartholet and Colson Istre before the Steps for Students 5k race. Sacred Heart Catholic School raised over \$50,000 for the event to support the school.

Photo 2: Sacred Heart Kindergartner Blake Landry crossed the finish line with Father Oscar Dubon at the 10th Annual Steps for Students 5k race to support Catholic education and awareness.

Photo 3: Sacred Heart students Katherine Lee and Allison Vacek cheer on Sacred Heart and over 3,000 runners with 3rd Grade Teacher Michelle Vacek at the Steps for Students event in Houston at the Co-Cathedral. With 264 members registered to support and race in the event, Sacred Heart Catholic School raised over \$50,000 to support the school.

Photo 4: Father Oscar Dubon running in the Steps for Students 5k race for Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Photo 5: Sacred Heart Catholic School at the 10th Annual Steps for Students event.

Photo 6: Representing Sacred Heart Catholic School at the 10th Annual Steps for Students race, Father Philip Wilhite, Principal Deb Brown and Father Oscar Dubon welcome the Joyce family to the schools tent in the Catholic Schools Village. Mr. Joyce promised his first grade twins, Vincent and Breann, if they raised their goal of \$2,500, he would race in a tutu skirt at the event.