

## Overview - Blue Ribbon Annual Fund 2019

*"We shall know more, love more, and do more, if we be more."  
- Founder of the Paulist Fathers, Isaac Hecker*

The mission of Old St. Mary's School is to prepare students to be productive, responsible and impactful members of the world community. This year, Old St. Mary's was named a [National 2019 Blue Ribbon School](#) by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of exemplary teaching and learning. As such, Old St. Mary's School truly embodies the 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic School theme: LEAD. GROW. SERVE.

### LEAD

The vision of Old St. Mary's School (OSM) was brought to life in 2004 by a group of committed parents who wanted their children to be able to attend a Catholic elementary school in the burgeoning South Loop, Old St. Mary's Pastor Fr. Frank DiSiano, CSP, and our school's first principal, Barbara Smith. Steadfast in their shared vision and leadership, they laid the foundation for Old St. Mary's School and welcomed 18 students in our first year.

In 2007, Old St. Mary's launched its "Phase II" Capital Campaign, *Traditions Shaping Tomorrow*, to construct a new school building. More than 500 parishioners, parents, neighbors, businesses, friends and school children donated to the campaign. Doors to the new school opened in 2011.

### GROW

Even before Old St. Mary's held its first commencement, it was evident that the success of the school had exceeded expectations. The new school building was beautiful, but lacked a gym and the Parish needed a modern gathering space. Parishioners, parents, friends, and neighbors again came together for "Phase III" to raise funds to grow our community and build the *Petermann Parish Center*, which opened in 2016.

Old St. Mary's enrollment has grown every year since opening our doors. Over 500 children - from preschool through eighth grade - now call Old St. Mary's home. Old St. Mary's alumni are excelling in high school, and OSM's earliest graduates are thriving at top colleges throughout the country.

### SERVE

Each generation of Old St. Mary's families is called. Founding families led. Alumni families, along with many of our current families, supported our growth. As we embark on the next chapter of Old Saint Mary's School, we look to our current families to help shape our next calling: to serve those who help our children reach their goals and potential every day.

Old St. Mary's has established a **Blue Ribbon Annual Fund** to support the school's highest funding priority each year. For the 2019-2020 year, the Blue Ribbon Annual fund will have one goal: **to raise funds to support Old St. Mary's teachers**, for they are the champions of the faith-based education with which our children walk confidently into their futures and impact the world.