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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan High School sets new school record & raises \$41,374 for needy during 53rd annual *Christmas for Others* Charity Drive

PARMA, Ohio – (December 20, 2024) **Padua Franciscan High School set a new school record collecting \$41,374 in cash, in addition to thousands of donations for families and charities in need.** Throughout the month of December, Padua students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in our 53rd annual *Christmas For Others* charity drive. CFO is a program designed to make the holidays brighter for the less fortunate. It is the largest student-run fundraiser in Northeast Ohio.

Padua distributed the money and goods during our CFO Liturgy on Friday, December 20th. Non-profits, inner-city schools, local food pantries, animal shelters and many others (listed below) received their donations.

A Special Wish
Advent for Others/All Faiths Pantry
Birthcare of Medina County
Buckeye Buddies Special Olympics
Catholic Worker House
El Salvador Mission Trip (COAR)

Journey Center for Safety and Healing
Kid's Book Bank
Matt Talbot Inn
May Dugan Center
Parma Animal Shelter
Parma Hunger Center

Promise for Haiti
Providence House
St. Herman's
SubZero Mission
West Side Catholic Center
William Cosgrove Center

Padua students raised funds in a number of ways. The most exciting was its Coin Wars competition. This year, in 20 minutes, Bruins collected over \$7,414 cash for local charities and families in need. Students collected canned goods for local food pantries. The Italian Club hosted a Spaghetti Dinner. Spanish Club sold nachos. Art Club sold handmade jewelry. Padua had a student vs. faculty volleyball game, where \$1 admission went to a good cause. They also had a blood drive, where students and faculty helped save 81 lives. The main lobby was full of large bins to collect thousands of toys, books, coats, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, blankets and food.

“As we celebrate our 53rd year of *Christmas For Others*, I am so very proud of our Padua Franciscan community for its continued dedication to giving back to those in need,” said President Dave Stec. “Through the fun and competitions of CFO, our students learn that their sacrifice and donations make a real difference for those less fortunate. CFO transforms Padua students to be lifelong givers, knowing their generosity, even in small ways, changes our world.”

CFO Background: For 53 years, the Padua community has come together in the Franciscan spirit of giving. Since its inception in 1971, CFO has raised nearly \$1 million for charity. CFO is the largest student-run outreach program in Northeast Ohio. It is sponsored, organized and operated by the students, under the direction of Padua's Key (Kiwaniis) Club.

School Background: Padua Franciscan High School is located at 6740 State Road in Parma, Ohio. Padua is a college-preparatory, co-educational school with 777 students. Padua was founded by Franciscans in 1961 and bases its educational philosophy on the life and spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. The school's mission is to develop the unique talents of each student, while giving them the skills they need to succeed in college and beyond.