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Padua Franciscan High School

Press Release

Padua Franciscan High School sets new school record & raises \$41,041 for needy during 52nd annual *Christmas for Others* Charity Drive

PARMA, Ohio – (December 20, 2023) **Padua Franciscan High School set a new school record collecting \$41,041 in cash, in addition to thousands of donations for families and charities in need.** Throughout the month of December, our students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in our 52nd 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.

We distributed the money and goods during our CFO Liturgy on Wednesday, 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
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. Francis School (Cleveland)
St. Herman's
SubZero Mission
West Side Catholic Center
William Cosgrove Center

Our students raised funds in a number of ways. The most exciting was our Coin Wars competition. This year, in 20 minutes, we collected over \$9,585 cash for local charities and families in need. Students collected canned goods for local food pantries. Our Italian Club hosted a Spaghetti Dinner. Spanish Club sold nachos. Art Club sold handmade jewelry. We had a student vs. faculty volleyball game, where \$1 admission went to a good cause. We also had a blood drive, where students and faculty helped save 93 lives. Our 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 52nd 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 52 years, the Padua community has come together in the Franciscan spirit of giving. Since its inception in 1971, CFO has raised over \$500,000 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 750 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.