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For Immediate Release

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**POPE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ACADEMY
“CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2009” CELEBRATION**

DORCHESTER, MA—This year, the logo of Catholic Schools Week encourages all students of Catholic Schools to “Celebrate Service.” The students of the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy in Dorchester have wasted no time in incorporating this theme into their daily lives at home, at school, and in the community.

In observance of this theme, Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy has placed great emphasis on all aspects of service, following the example of Christ, by reaching out to others in need. Throughout the course of the year, students at the Academy have exhibited the hallmark of Catholic education: giving one’s resources and talents to others in a number of service projects, both on the five campuses of the Academy as well as in the neighborhoods of Dorchester.

Each day at the Academy, students show respect through service. Whether volunteering time to read to a student from a lower grade, assisting in the cafeteria during school lunches, or performing music or dance at Mass, the students of the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy have dedicated themselves greatly to the call of Christ – to love others as God has loved us.

In the community of Dorchester has benefited by this effort. This Thanksgiving, the Student Councils at each campus held food drives for the less fortunate members of the community. Canned goods were collected for the month of November at each campus so that all families could experience a Thanksgiving meal.

In addition to food drives, all campuses at the Academy will also sponsor concert performances and recitals to raise funds for local charities, as well as open houses, Masses, and activities for students, families, faculty, and the community. In a story that illustrates the strong sense of community at the Academy, the Lower Mills Campus has decided to donate the monies raised during Catholic Schools Week to the Boston Children’s Hospital, an organization that holds special meaning to all those in the Academy.

The gift to the Children’s Hospital will be given in the name of a current first grader of the Academy who was recently diagnosed with cancer, but has returned to his community at Lower Mills. The gift is offered in thanksgiving for the help to the Academy’s own.

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PJPII Catholic Academy Celebrates Service, 2

“For the cost of just \$1, students are encouraged to ‘Celebrate Service’ by supporting their friend and classmate while giving to a cause that brings benefit to the entire Boston community,” stated Mrs. Kim Mahoney, the principal of the Lower Mills Campus.

The Academy plans to celebrate service not just during Catholic Schools Week, but for the remainder of the school year. Focus on service is an integral part of the school’s mission and will continue to live and thrive on the Academy’s five campuses.

For more information about this release or about the Academy, please contact Nat Connors at 617-265-0019 extension 7006 or by email at nathanael.connors@popejp2catholicacademy.org.



Photo by Greg Tracy

Above: Students of the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy celebrate service by performing at a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Sean O’Malley in September.

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The Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy is an elementary Pre-K through Grade 8 school, located on five campuses in the Dorchester and Mattapan neighborhoods of the City of Boston, that dynamically prepares children for life in the 21st century. A stimulating and robust curriculum, enlightened by Catholic teaching, and rich in the arts, offers all our students an excellent education in a faith-filled and supportive environment. Our Academy strives to create an atmosphere where community in Christ is experienced, service to our brothers and sisters is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of God is reverently and joyfully celebrated.