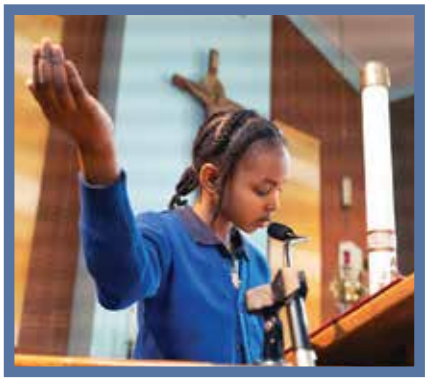
FULCRUM NEWS
Fulcrum Foundation's Newsletter | Summer 2025

74 Communities, One Mission



At the heart of the Fulcrum Foundation's mission lies a powerful truth: Catholic education changes lives. Across Western Washington, Fulcrum supports 74 Catholic schools, each nestled within a distinct community and shaped by its own people, culture, history, and hopes. While every school has its own story to tell, what unites them is far greater than what sets them apart.

Every school reflects the heartbeat of its neighborhood—urban schools drawing strength from multicultural vibrancy; rural schools offering sanctuary in close-knit settings; and suburban campuses where generations have passed through the same halls. From the foothills of the Cascades to the shores of Puget Sound, these schools form a living tapestry of Catholic education, woven with threads of faith, service, academic excellence, and community spirit.

Yet for all their differences, these schools are bound by a common purpose: to form students not only in mind and body, but in spirit. Daily prayer, sacramental life, and a commitment to Gospel values give every child a firm foundation—no matter their zip code. Teachers, staff, and families form a circle of support, ensuring that no one walks their journey alone.

In every school community, we see this unity in action—food drives for local shelters, school Masses, and service projects that stretch across generations. Whether large or small, each school is a beacon of light, love, and learning, grounded in the truth that we are united in Christ.

Supporting these 74 schools means more than funding programs or tuition assistance—it means investing in 74 unique communities of hope. Each one is special. Each one is sacred. And together, they reflect the rich, vibrant unity of our faith.

Thank you for walking with us. Because of your generosity, Fulcrum can continue building a future where every child in every Catholic school is known, loved, and given the opportunity to thrive.

SUPPORTING Students | SUPPORTING Schools | SUPPORTING Educators

Each fall, NAIOP Washington State (Commercial Real Estate Development Association) hosts a day of community service that provides much-needed upgrades and maintenance to a selected site. We are excited to share their 2025 Community Enhancement Project: Holy Family School in Auburn!

Holy Family School serves a diverse population of students from pre-K to 8th grade on its 13-acre campus. The current student body is approximately 165 students from 17 zip codes in and around Auburn, many of whom are supported by Fulcrum's Tuition Assistance Program. The school has largely operated in the same building since its inception and is overdue for key maintenance and upgrades.

With the help of NAIOPWA members and sponsors, Community Enhancement aims to bring meaningful improvements that will help create a safe, healthy, and vibrant campus for students, staff, and the community to enjoy. Projects include landscaping, painting, safety improvements, new play equipment, and more.

Event Details

Saturday, October 4
Work starts at 7:30 a.m.
Work ends on completion of all projects (typically around 3-4 p.m.)

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Holy Family School
505 17th St SE Auburn, WA 98002

Suggested attire: We recommend long-sleeved shirts, pants, and boots, as well as rain gear. Work gloves and a volunteer T-shirt will be provided.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. Projects at all skill levels will be ready for anyone willing to work!

To join Team Fulcrum for a day of service and fun, contact Amy Hall at 206.226.5679 or hall.amy@fulcrumfoundation.org. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Fulcrum's First Ever School Bus Tour!

The Fulcrum board and staff hit the road for our inaugural School Bus Tour! We had the pleasure of visiting our friends at Bishop Blanchet High School and St. Alphonsus Parish School in Seattle. It was an inspiring day filled with connection, community, and a shared commitment to Catholic education.

We are grateful for the warm welcomes and look forward to the next stop on the tour!

Check out our fantastic photo album on Facebook.com/fulcrumfoundation

Honoring the Vocation of Teaching

Fulcrum's St. John Baptist de la Salle Educator Excellence Award

In 2024, the Fulcrum Foundation launched a new and deeply meaningful tradition: the St. John Baptist de la Salle Educator Excellence Award. Named for the patron saint of teachers, this award honors Catholic school educators in the Archdiocese of Seattle who embody the highest ideals of their vocation—faith, service, innovation, and a profound commitment to forming young minds and hearts.

St. John Baptist de la Salle, a 17th-century priest and educational pioneer, believed that teaching was a sacred mission. He devoted his life to uplifting the dignity of every student, especially the poor, and to forming teachers who would serve not just with knowledge, but with compassion, humility, and deep faith. Today, his legacy continues in every classroom where a Catholic school teacher helps a child discover their God-given potential.

A 2024 St. John Baptist de la Salle Award winner, Will Chambers, of O'Dea High School, Seattle.

The Educator Excellence Award recognizes those who reflect this legacy in extraordinary ways—teachers who go beyond the lesson plan to inspire, mentor, and accompany students on their spiritual and academic journeys. Whether they teach kindergarteners to read or high schoolers to lead, these educators serve as models of Gospel-centered leadership and love.

This year's were nominated by their peers and community members for their outstanding dedication, creativity, and impact in the classroom and school community. These are the teachers who arrive early to greet students with a smile, who turn challenges into learning moments, and who see their work not as a job, but as a ministry.

By recognizing excellence in teaching, Fulcrum reaffirms a core belief: teachers are the heart of Catholic education. When we invest in their growth, celebrate their achievements, and support their mission, we strengthen the foundation of every Catholic school in our archdiocese.

We are proud to uplift these exceptional educators—and grateful for the thousands more who teach in the spirit of de la Salle each day. Through their quiet, faithful service, they shape the Church of tomorrow.

As St. John Baptist de la Salle wrote, "You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care." This award celebrates those daily miracles.

We are honored to announce the award recipients for 2025. These individuals will be honored this fall at a special Fulcrum event and celebrated individually within their own school communities.

Congratulations

to these 2025 awardees—and to all educators who continue to live this mission with excellence.

Kasey Bell
Immaculate Conception Regional School, Mount Vernon; 6th Grade

Erica Billard
Christ the King Catholic School, Seattle; Director of Early Childhood Education

Madeline Butterfield
Pope St. John XXIII STEM Academy, Tacoma; Kindergarten

Angela Greenfield
St. Anthony School, Renton; Kindergarten

Plinio Gutierrez-Delgado
Bellarmine Preparatory School, Tacoma; Spanish Language

Amy Lee-Despard
St. Cecilia Catholic School, Bainbridge Island; 7th/8th Grade

Emma Metzger
Sacred Heart School, Bellevue; 5th Grade

Andrew Nutter
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Vancouver; 7th Grade

Fulcrum Impact Days 2025: *October 27 & 28*

This fall, Fulcrum volunteers, board members, and staff will once again visit all 74 Catholic schools across the archdiocese for our second annual Fulcrum Impact Days. These special days offer a powerful opportunity to celebrate the gift of Catholic education and personally visit each school community.

During each visit, we also share a customized report detailing the grants and funding Fulcrum has provided over time—underscoring the long-term commitment we've made together. Since

2002, Fulcrum has invested more than $88 million in students, schools, and educators—an extraordinary testament to your generosity.

Experiencing the impact of this support firsthand—meeting students, connecting with educators, and witnessing the strength of each school community—is always deeply moving.

We invite you to be part of this celebration! If you'd like to join a Fulcrum Impact Day visit in your area, please contact Senior Advancement Director Amy Hall at hall.amy@fulcrumfoundation.org.

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THE FULCRUM POINT

Uplifting Catholic Education

The Fulcrum Point is an entertaining monthly podcast providing an insightful look at Fulcrum's work—powered by impactful conversations, meaningful stories, and an inspiring vision for Catholic education.

Find our first six episodes on Spotify, Apple,and other platforms.

LISTEN NOW!

Save the Dates

FULCRUM

Advent Mass

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Celebration of Light

Sheraton Grand Seattle
January 30, 2026