



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

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John Paul II Catholic School to Benefit from \$3 Million Gift
~ Money will be used to Begin Construction on
Pope John Paul II Catholic School ~

The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, announced on Thursday that a \$3 million donation has been made to support the construction of Pope John Paul II Catholic School. According to Bishop Guglielmone, this donation will significantly enhance the efforts to build a Catholic school in the Lowcountry; the gift could allow the first phase of Pope John Paul II Catholic School to open its doors within the next two to three years. “This is exciting news for Lowcountry parishes and the diocese,” said Bishop Guglielmone. “This tremendous contribution will give high school and middle school students in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina the opportunity to receive a quality, Catholic education.”

The \$3 million dollars is a gift from the Richard D. Ennen Charitable Remainder Trust. The Ennen trust bestowed the money specifically to assist with the construction of the high school facility; however, it must be utilized within 5 years or be returned to the trust. The donation will be added to the existing \$2 million dollars already pledged and will provide the necessary funding to begin Phase I of the construction project. “We are committed to building Pope John Paul II Catholic School; however, we cannot undertake this tremendous effort alone. In the coming year, the Catholic faithful of the Lowcountry will be asked to financially commit to the school to bring the dream of a Catholic Middle and High School to fruition within the 5 year timeframe,” said Bishop Guglielmone.

Richard D. Ennen, the man who the trust is named after, died on January 18. He was the founder of NN Ball & Roller Company, a business that produces the steel balls that are used in ball bearings.

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Since opening its doors in 1980, the company has grown into a multi-million dollar corporation; it went public in 1994. Before his death, Mr. Ennen dedicated his time to charity work, especially food-for-the-poor projects and a high school in Tanzania. Over the years Mr. Ennen was a member of St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church on Hilton Head Island and most recently a member of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Bluffton.

The school will be built at a location central to the Diocese's Lowcountry Deanery on Highway 170 near Okatie, South Carolina. A construction timeline will be announced at the completion of the current capital campaign.

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