



# DeTOURS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL

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SUMMER 2019

## St. Martin's Class of 2019



*Photo Credit: Logan Hsueh*

Belicia Bonanno  
Mia Branham  
Viangelo Cedeno  
Simon Cooksey  
Andrew Diaz  
Jefferson Duarte Martinez  
Thomas Fegley  
Jack Griffith  
William Harris  
Samuel Herrera

Gaithersburg High School  
Academy of the Holy Cross  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Quince Orchard High School  
Quince Orchard High School  
Watkins Mill High School  
Undecided  
Watkins Mill High School

Mao LaMotteo  
Samson Lynch  
Madeline McClure  
Kristofer Nguyen  
Julien Payen  
Joseph Peralta  
Sunkarie Samura  
Isabella Siedlecki  
Andrew Subida

Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Pooleville High School  
Clarksburg High School  
Clarksburg High School  
Watkins Mill High School  
Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Seneca Valley High School  
Magruder High School  
Pooleville High School

## Two Teachers Leave Lasting Legacies

Rare is the teacher who does not leave a lasting impression. Indeed, outside of parents, teachers are often the most important adults in children's lives. Linda Joseph and Annamaria Zimmerman have touched the lives of thousands of children, parents, and staff in countless ways over the past several decades at St. Martin's. Both these longtime educators plan to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. We congratulate and thank Linda Joseph and Annamaria Zimmerman for their many years of faith, dedication, and hard work to St. Martin's School.



**Linda Joseph**

Fourth grade teacher Linda Joseph has taught hundreds of St. Martin's students over these past twenty-six years. Mrs. Joseph is the name often repeated by so many alumni as their favorite teacher. Prior to St. Martin's, she taught at international schools in Europe and in an urban school in San Francisco, where many students were English language learners. She

was excited to come to St. Martin's because of our vibrant and diverse community. "Our families and our diversity are our strengths," she emphasizes. She has put in great effort to infuse tolerance, kindness, and patience on to the next generation. Mrs. Joseph conscientiously encourages and models good character throughout the school day. Student after student has said that she instilled Catholic values that have carried them through high school and beyond. She says, "I expect them to be great people and to lead lives of significance."

Mrs. Joseph is a product of Catholic schools and believes in the solid academic foundation that Catholic schools offer, such as exceptional reading and writing skills. She has a reputation for teaching strong Language Arts skills and for her ability to get the best from her students. When technology such as Smartboards, notebook computers, and internet access were introduced to the classrooms, Mrs. Joseph was inspired by these new educational capabilities and their potential impact on learning. She encourages both staff and students to share their time, talent and treasure with others. In addition to her classroom duties, she has led many clubs and edited quite a few yearbooks. In her twenty-six years, her passion and love for teaching has never diminished. We are grateful and blessed by her years of distinguished teaching and for the legacy she leaves with the lives she has touched. In her retirement, she plans to visit family and to travel with her husband.



**Annamaria Zimmerman**

Mrs. Zimmerman is a warm and caring educator who goes beyond her responsibilities in assisting staff and caring for children in all grades. For her first sixteen years at St. Martin's, she worked alongside Kindergarten teacher Roxanne Moore, welcoming our youngest students as the Kindergarten aide. For the past sixteen years, Mrs. Zimmerman has

teamed up with first grade teacher Susan Feudale as her aide. Her ever-present smile and abiding patience encourages her students as she works with small groups in reading and math. "When I am with my students, I give them my all," she notes. Her duties through the years have included managing the lunchroom volunteers and the children in the Aftercare Program. Mrs. Zimmerman has been a parishioner

since 1977, just two years after Fr. Americo DiNorcia became pastor. She began volunteering in the parish and school offices when her son Dan started Kindergarten at St. Martin's. In all she does, her Catholic faith and gentle spirit provide an example for our school community.

Mrs. Zimmerman is one of the first educators to arrive at school each day and is soon busy preparing her room and the school. She is always quick to volunteer to help fill in for a teacher, to set up for special events, and to help with special projects. Mrs. Zimmerman leads our Library Club and diligently heads our SMS's Safety Committee to ensure our school is prepared for any emergency. In earlier years, she helped with the Word Wizards Club and the school store. She is a nurturing and caring person who loves teaching children. As she prepares to preside over her "walkers' dismissal" post for the very last time at St. Martin's, she does so feeling grateful for the experiences she's had and the community she's grown to love. She says, "Although much has changed, what has stayed the same is our school mission, our commitment to faith, and our sense of community." In her retirement, Mrs. Zimmerman hopes to spend more time traveling with her husband. We are grateful and blessed for the love Mrs. Zimmerman has lavished on innumerable children and adults in our school community these past thirty-two years.

## Congratulations to Our Eighth Grade Scholarship Recipients

These students were offered \$178,000 for scholarships for the next four years in academic achievement, leadership, service, arts, and speech.

### Mia Branham

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Arts Scholarship (Visual Arts)  
The Academy of Holy Cross Sancta Crux Scholars Scholarship  
The Academy of Holy Cross Fine Arts Scholarship (Visual Arts)

### Viangelo Cedeno

Our Lady of Good Counsel St. Francis Xavier  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship

### Simon Cooksey

Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Arts Scholarships  
(Instrumental/ Visual Arts)

### Andrew Diaz

Our Lady of Good Counsel Speech Scholarship

### Thomas Fegley

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship

### Mao LaMotte

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship  
St John's College High School Principal Scholarship

### Julien Payen

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship  
St. John's College High School Presidential Scholarship

### Andrew Subida

Our Lady of Good Counsel Xaverian Scholarship  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Fine Arts Scholarship (Art)





## Scholarship Recipients Honored

### Mary Alyce Sullivan Award

This rising eighth grader embodies the values of scholarship, service, and leadership by her works, words, and persistent character. Congratulations to this year's winner, Rita Antonetti.

### Youstra Family Scholarship

This new scholarship has been established as a tribute to Jo and Ray Youstra and their family, for their generous hearts and their many years of extraordinary service to St. Martin's. This scholarship benefits a rising eighth grader who has excelled academically, shown leadership qualities, participated in service projects, and demonstrated faith through character. We had two equally qualified candidates for this award. As the first recipients of this scholarship, we congratulate Thea Javelosa and Hank Lynch.

### Branagan Family Scholarship

This rising seventh grader demonstrated the most personal and academic growth through the course of the school year. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Hugo Díaz.

### Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship Award

This scholarship was established in memory of Carl Waclawik, a graduate of the St. Martin's Class of 2006. This scholarship is awarded annually to help further the education of a St. Martin's middle school student. The recipient is to be an academically strong student of good character. Congratulations, Medwin Nora.

### Annie B. Shaw Scholarship

This scholarship is named in memory of the grandmother of Kaitlyn Matsko, Class of 2017. It is awarded to a rising seventh or eighth grader who embodies exemplary academic effort and character. We congratulate Nora Manyin, recipient of this year's scholarship.

### Murphy Family Scholarship

This rising sixth grader demonstrated outstanding service, scholarship, and citizenship. Congratulations to this year's recipient, Danielle Revilla.

### Please Support Our Students

To enable us to continue to support extraordinary students such as these award recipients, please consider contributing to one of these scholarships. To donate, please mail a check payable to St. Martin's School to 115 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Be sure to include to which scholarship you are contributing. Thank you and we appreciate your support to St. Martin's and our students!



**Many Gifts, One Nation**  
*A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools*

St. Martin's second annual "Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving," which began January 29 at 12 noon and continued for 24 hours, was a tremendous success. For the past two years, during Catholic Schools Week, the National Catholic Education Association has sponsored a 24-hour social media campaign, encouraging those who have benefitted from Catholic education, to donate to a local school. Through social media, St. Martin's invited alumni, parents, students, faculty, parishioners, and all those who have been impacted by Catholic school education in ways big and small, to donate to St. Martin's. Through generous contributions, we raised \$4,700 for our school's greatest needs.

With the proceeds, we purchased a new sound system for school productions in the gym. The new state-of-the-art audio board, speakers, and microphones increase our capabilities and improve sound quality. Throughout the year, our students have the opportunity to experience performing on stage, and audio equipment is a critical component to these productions. We are sincerely grateful to those who gave during our 24-hour Day of Giving and for the positive impact these gifts create.

### The Best Night of the Year

This year's Annual Dinner, Dance, and Auction, held on March 16, lived up to its promotional tag; it truly was St. Martin's "best night of the year." A dedicated Auction Committee, led by Nekiera Woodland, began planning in the fall for this fabulous evening, which was held at the elegant Hilton North Gaithersburg for the second year in a row. With over 170 guests attending, we raised over \$30,000 to benefit our students with support and equipment for educational programs. Along with dining, dancing, and fundraising, the night included a few unexpected highlights. New this year was a fun and profitable fundraiser, the Dessert Dash. Our community donated and bid on delicious and stunningly decorated desserts for the dinner. Some of the live auction items included: Dinner with Father Wells; vacation weeks in New York City, historic Williamsburg, or the National Harbor; and passes to Disney World. One particularly poignant bid brought tears to the eyes of many guests - two parents teamed up and generously bid to name the upper hallway in honor of Greg Jasper, a loved and respected school parent who went home to the Lord last summer at the end of a battle with cancer. If that was not wonderful enough, many other guests joined in by waving their bid paddle to contribute to the effort.

Among the 300 silent auction items were one-of-a-kind class creations such as Kindergarten's Pete the Cat rocking chair and fourth grade's Praying Hands photo. The evening also included an opportunity to play roulette and a 50/50 raffle. It was such a wonderful school community event; many ended the evening already looking forward to next year's Dinner, Dance and Auction event!







## As I Say Goodbye

By Mia Branham

This year is my ninth and final year at St. Martin of Tours. I started in kindergarten nearly a year younger than everyone else. On my first day, the sense of community in the school was immediately apparent. As I look back, I fondly remember all the good times and the bad times. Both helped me to learn and grow as a person, mentally and in my faith, and for that, I am thankful. I

look back and I remember all the people I have grown up with and all the teachers who took the time to show me they cared. As I leave St. Martin's, I remember all the friendships, caring teachers, and the all-around acceptance of this family.



One of the most important lessons I've learned at this school is that diversity is a great thing. That being different is okay, is one of the first things I learned here. I've never been teased about the way I act, look, or where my family comes from. Rather than tear each other down, everyone in the community builds each other up. Friends, peers, and teachers make sure you feel supported and proud to be who you are. I've always been pretty quirky, and coming into this school, I was worried about people finding me really weird. Instead, I found friends willing to open up and be goofy with me. I wanted to learn an instrument this year, and immediately people would encourage me and tell me I was doing a great job. Sometimes when I would practice, they would sing along with Maddie and me. Those were some of my favorite days. Everyone sees past your differences and looks for the good in you. This, in turn, taught me to do the same with others.



Being at St. Martin's for nine years, I've gotten to know a lot of people. The friends I've made at St. Martin's are the smartest, most thoughtful, and most reliable people I know. I know that even as I go off to high school, we will still be close, because I still keep in touch with good friends who have already left the school. Although I will miss seeing them every day, goofing off during recess, helping them with work (or more often, vice versa), and sharing stories at lunch that would make us laugh until we choked. I thank them for their friendship and how they prepared me to make new friends at my new school. More than anything, I thank them for the lessons they taught me that I only could've learned from them.

You'll notice in kids shows, the teachers in elementary/middle school are seen as annoying and mean. I'm sad to say that that's what I thought my teachers would be like when I started school, but I was pleasantly surprised to find teachers that really and truly cared for their students and their success. My teachers stop and ask me about simple things like my day, or how I'm feeling, and even though it's a small action, it shows just how much they care. I used to have teachers who would stand in the hallways just to give students hugs as they pass by. These teachers are one of the many reasons I will miss St. Martin's.



As I say goodbye, I look back on all the lessons I've learned and friendships I made. Going to St. Martin's has taught me a lot. This wonderful school turned me into a better person and continues to do so even now. It teaches me how to be kind and accept others and their differences. I will always miss this school because it played a key role in making me into the person I am today.



## Honor Roll of Donors

Every Gift Matters. Every Giver Makes an Impact.

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for their generous support of our School Operating and Financial Aid Endowment Funds this past year. It is the collective impact of our entire community – including you – that enables us to continue to deliver on our mission. The principal of each Fund is invested responsibly in line with our Catholic values. The interest generated from the Operating Fund helps defray the cost of a Catholic education that tuition revenue alone does not cover. This Fund supports all areas of St. Martin's Catholic School, including religious activities, curricular enhancements, technology upgrades, and facility improvements. The interest generated from the Financial Aid Fund provides financial assistance to students who could not otherwise afford a St. Martin's education. Forty-two percent of our students receive need-based financial assistance. These investments allow your generosity to make a difference year after year.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our School Operating Fund or to our Financial Aid Endowment Fund. On the envelope enclosed, please check the box to designate which Fund should receive your generous donation.

The Honor Roll of Donors includes gifts donated to the Funds from June 15, 2018 – June 15, 2019. If an error or omission has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact Anne Gemunder, Director of Development, at [agemunder@smsmd.org](mailto:agemunder@smsmd.org).

### DeTours Club \$3,000-\$5,999

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Anonymous

Dr. Natalie Branagan

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

### Dulce Maria Diaz Alvarenga

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend Loyola University in Maryland in the fall, majoring in History and minoring in Latin America Studies.

### Therese De Leon

Graduated from Clarksburg High School. Will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall, admitted to the Public Health Science program.

### Julia Herrera

Graduated from Watkins Mill High School. Will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall, majoring in Computer Science.

### Brandon Louis

Graduated from St. John's Catholic Prep in Buckeystown, Maryland. Was a four-sport athlete & recipient of The Arc Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Will attend Widener University in Pennsylvania in the fall, majoring in Business Administration. Will compete in Intercollegiate Football.

### Janet Martins

Graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross. Will attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall.

### George Roach

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall, admitted to the College Park Scholars program.

### Grace Schuler

Graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Will attend Drexel University in Philadelphia in the fall, majoring in Hospitality Management.

## Class of 2016 Layla Abudayeh Leads Service and Stewardship



Families that entrust their children to St. Martin's know that, together with offering a strong academic education, we will also continue to reinforce the Christian values that are important to them; our students grow in morality, strength of character, and compassion. Layla Abudayeh, Class of 2016, epitomizes all she has learned at St. Martin's, and continues to live them out in her high school career at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Olney. As a freshman and sophomore, she took advantage of their Campus Ministry's spiritual formation and service opportunities. In her Junior year, she was given the opportunity to become a member of the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools (XBSS), which is an organization of student leaders who participate in works of service and stewardship in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers. Good Counsel is one of thirteen schools in the United States that follow the values and teachings of the Xaverian Brothers. Each school has an XBSS team of students that represents their school.

In March, Layla attended a retreat with the XBSS teams from each school. The five-day long assembly was held at a retreat center in West Hartford, Connecticut. Through the retreat, they learned what it means to be an XBSS leader and how they can make the values of the Brothers present in their school communities. "We all came up with something we wanted to do at our individual school to better our community," said Layla. She plans to spend her senior year continuing to apply the lessons she learned at St. Martin's by taking advantage of leadership and spiritual growth opportunities.

## Class of 2017 Fred Stamper Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Fred Stamper, Class of 2017 and member of Scout Troop 1397 from Damascus, earned the Eagle Scout rank from the Boys Scouts of America this spring. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program. Only five percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank, after completing a lengthy review process. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

One of the requirements in the process is to plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to a religious institution, school, or community. Fred's project involved planting 75 native saplings at Little Bennett Regional Park. The trees were planted in a closed section of the Old Tobacco Barn trail. That section of the old trail wound through an environmentally-sensitive area the park wanted to preserve. Fred is keeping data on the planted trees - including survival rate and growth, which he will give to the Little Bennett Park administrators in another year. That data will help the park determine which tree species are hardiest, how soon to remove protective tree cages, and where to plant trees for best survival.





## Class of 1945 Hon. James A. Belson Attains Remarkable Achievements

A long life full of extraordinary accomplishments has many chapters. The Honorable James A. Belson, St. Martin's Class of 1945, has attained remarkable achievements in his life. One of his first chapters began, like hundreds of others, at St. Martin's School, with learning the basics, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. As a judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and later for the D.C. Court of

Appeals, lessons learned from Sister Agatha, then principal and seventh and eighth teacher, have been put to great use through the years. "I admired Sr. Agatha. She taught us well, especially how to diagram a sentence," said Judge Belson.

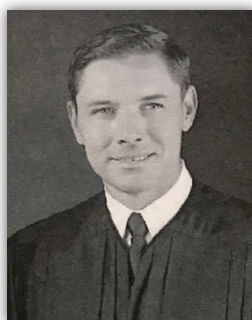
Jim Belson attended St. Martin's while Fr. Myers was pastor. One of his favorite memories was a lunchtime football game on Fr. Myers field. He was one of two boys along with eight girls in his eighth grade class. With Sr. Agatha's permission, he and another boy took turns picking boys in various grades for their teams. One day during lunch, the entire school gathered at the field to root on their team. Jim selected his team well, being astutely aware of the athletic ability of each boy. His team won handily. Perhaps the seeds of judicial temperament were first planted on that field that day.

Jim Belson, born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was one of four children. The family moved during WWII, when his father was offered a position with the American Trucking Association. Housing was scarce with so many moving to the D.C. area during the war. They initially moved into a Victorian home on Montgomery Avenue in Rockville, later moving farther west on Route 28. They joined St. Mary's parish. St. Martin's was the only Catholic school in the area and the school bus picked up children from the Rockville, Potomac, Darnestown, and Gaithersburg areas. Jim attended St. Martin's for seventh and eighth grade. All the Belson children graduated from SMS. At the time, there were four classrooms on the top floor of the old school building. Each classroom combined two grades - first and second, third and fourth, and so on, totaling over 100 children. The library and principal's office also shared a space. The first floor housed the church until the present church was built in 1957. Just after the old building was demolished in 1988, Jim spoke at the eighth grade commencement.



One of Jim Belson's most impressive memories was how diverse the backgrounds were of the students who attended SMS. "It was a country school attended by farm children from the Gaithersburg area but many students were also from city and suburban neighborhoods similar to where I was from in Milwaukee." The housing shortage during the war brought people together at St. Martin's from diverse backgrounds, broadening students' perspectives.

Building upon the foundation from St. Martin's and following his brother Bill's lead, Jim made his way to Gonzaga in D.C. for high school. During those years, many of his classmates attended either Georgetown Prep or Gonzaga. Jim was an exceptional student, in the top tier of a talented class. Later as an alumnus, Jim led a group of devoted class leaders in establishing what is now one of Gonzaga's largest endowed scholarships. He went on to attend Georgetown University and was elected to the Student Council and became President of the Debate Society. He then entered Georgetown University Law Center, where he became one of the editors of the Law Journal, receiving the Kaufman Medal for his outstanding contributions. Upon graduation, he was chosen to be clerk for the esteemed judge, Honorable E. Barrett Prettyman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court, for whom the Federal Courthouse is now named. Just prior to the start of his clerkship, law professor and distinguished trial lawyer Edward Bennett Williams handpicked Jim to assist him in a very high profile case defending notorious Mafioso boss Frank Costello. They won the case.



At the conclusion of his clerkship, Jim served his country as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps of the U.S. Army (JAG). Just prior to his three-year assignment in Germany, he married Rosemary Greenslade. Through the years, they had four children together. They eventually settled in D.C. where Jim joined the law firm of Hogan and Hartson as a trial attorney, later becoming a partner. He distinguished himself as Chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the D.C. Bar Association. Both Chief Justice Earl

Warren and Attorney General Robert Kennedy praised his work on bail reform. At age 36, Jim was named by President Lyndon Johnson to be a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Belson to the D.C. Court of Appeals, on which he served full time until 1991 and in Senior Status until 2017. His forty-nine year career on the bench would include numerous judiciary committee chairs, Law Faculty positions, high profile cases, noteworthy rulings and opinions.

Jim has served on Our Lady of Victory Parish Council, as Director of the John Carroll Society, on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and as President of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Through the Order of Malta's Project Share, Jim made thirteen trips to Cuba bringing millions of dollars' worth of food and medical supplies to the Cuban people. In 1991, in recognition of his service to the Church, Judge Belson was awarded the Papal Medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

Jim Belson's devotion to intellectual growth, faith, and commitment to justice helped set the course of many St. Martin's graduates and serves as an example of remarkable service to our community and our world.



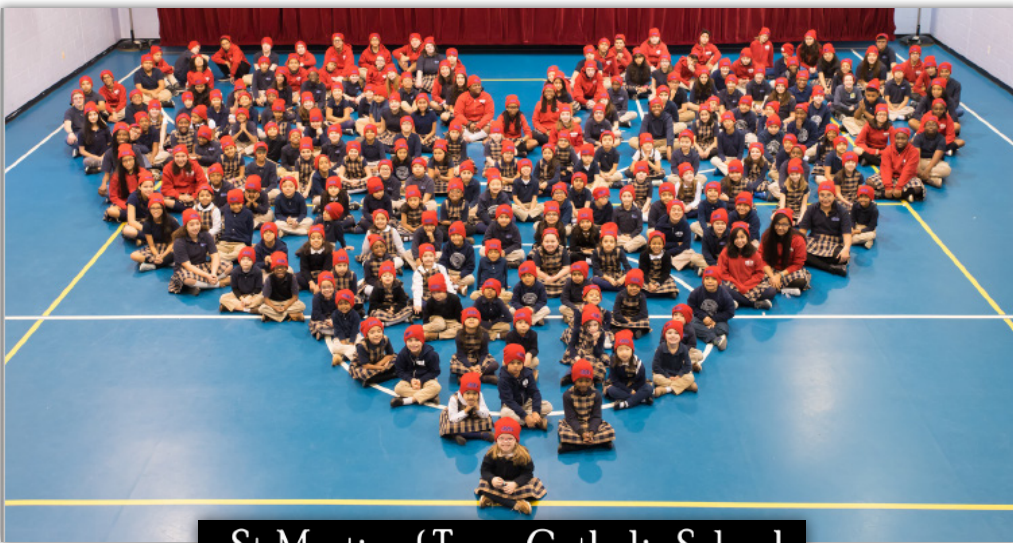




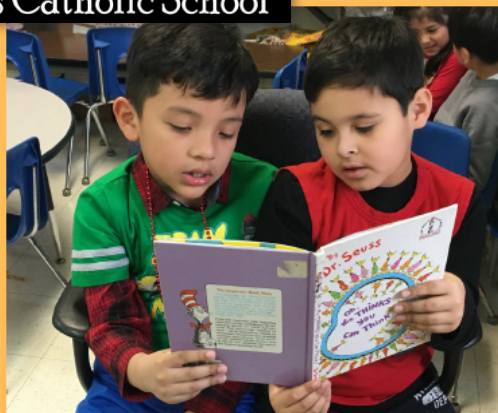
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