



# The Mustard Seed



News from Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School

Vol. 5 No. 4

Transforming Urban Birmingham One Student At a Time

Winter 2011

## Cristo Rey Student Shines at UAB School of Nursing



Re'Gine White, a senior at Holy Family Cristo Rey, sorts mail at UAB's School of Nursing.

For UAB School of Nursing, partnering with Holy Family Cristo Rey's Corporate Internship Program has been a great experience.

Karen Buckner, Director of Operations at UAB, said the students have been able to assist with a lot of the daily departmental responsibilities including administrative work and offering support for various events.

"It has really been a wonderful opportunity for all of us and our college students who support the work of our school. The Holy Family students have provided a solid support system

throughout the week to allow us to better manage our workflow. We depend on the students here and they often help us to expedite the completion of projects that otherwise would have taken more considerable amounts of time to accomplish," Buckner said.

UAB School of Nursing has been a CIP Sponsor for two years and currently employs four students who comprise a FTE (Full Time Equivalent).

*(continued on page 2)*

From the Desk of  
Fr. Alex Steinmiller, C.P.



"God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to redeem it." Yes, God loves this world with an intensity beyond that of the sun. Surely that intensity inspires you. I thank our loving God for you. Your "God given gifts" have enabled Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School, in its infancy of four years, to be an integral part of the transformation of our students' lives. The sacred Nativity story is the pattern, paradigm and blueprint for any mission taken on in God's name. This world changing event is a "spiritual GPS" for missions undertaken for the sake of the poor. Such mis-

sions assume unpredictability, challenges, and the personal sacrifice of one's ego. Can you think of any chronic societal issue that does not appear to be irresolvable? Begin with the whole notion of high school students embracing workforce development with real jobs to help pay their tuition. Indeed, the concept can be perceived in an incredulous world as a "voice crying in the wilderness." Staff and faculty say "yes" to the challenge of overcoming mediocrity with excellence. Like the young, mother-to-be of

*(See Fr. Alex on page 2)*

## Cristo Rey Students Make the Grade

Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School's freshman, sophomores and juniors made great improvements in their recent EPAS testing. The ACT's Educational Planning and Assessment System is utilized by high schools in order to better prepare students by focusing on developing thinking skills that are important for success after high school.

Students who significantly increased their composite score on the Explore or PLAN tests were recognized with a small cash prize by school principal, Robert Larcher. Seniors with significant Grade Point Average increases were also rewarded.

A total of 41 students were recognized for their achievements. Ten sophomores increased their benchmark composite score by four or more points. Seven juniors claimed increases. Also, 12 freshman got awards for top scores in one of the four academic fields.

Nine seniors posted G.P.A.s of one full point higher than their average.

Larcher says he is excited about the students' recent improvements.

"We are truly proud of all students who excelled in these academic areas. I really enjoyed handing out lunch money to so many of our kids," Larcher said.

(UAB continued from page 1)

The paid entry level jobs cover 70 percent of the students' tuition.

Re'Gine White, a senior at HFCR, said she enjoys her job at UAB School of Nursing.

"I really love my job at UAB School of Nursing. I have gotten a lot of really great work experience," White said.

Buckner said she has really noticed some positive changes in the students since they began their internships.

"It has been a joy to see the students grow in their confidence and their skills. Often this is the first opportunity for these students to interact in a professional manner on a business level and it is incredible to see their responsiveness and their interactions with others step up to more of a peer relationship as time goes on. Their learning to take initiative in their work and pride in their outcome shows in so many ways," Buckner said.

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(Fr. Alex continued from page 1)

our Savior having disturbing feelings about just what the message from God meant, (Luke 1:29) faculty wrest with how to enable a student "to learn how to learn." And the mutual commitments made by our Corporate Internship staff with corporate partners is like unto Mary's husband, Joseph, who trusted his instincts that he needed to be part of this mission (Matthew 1:25). I could go on, but rather you pause deliberately to explore, examine and meditate upon the greatest "paradigm shift in the world": God's love becoming a human being. I gratefully pray that this exercise will allow you to distill the significance of this feast. I also pray that it instills in you God's affirmation and purpose to fulfill what ever mission is yours so that you, like Mary, will believe that "the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45).

### HFCR Student to Participate in Youth Leadership Forum



Kieara Mays was one of 45 Birmingham-area students chosen to participate in Youth Leadership Forum of Birmingham. YLF is a city-wide program for high school sophomores and juniors. The program is designed to familiarize participants with community needs and opportunities and also to encourage participation in community affairs.

Participants are chosen based on demonstrated leadership ability, letter of recommendation and a desired interest to learn more about Birmingham.

# Thanks to You, We Are The School That Works!

We offer sincere thanks to our many friends who have donated time, talent and treasure during the past 12 months. Every effort has been made to accurately list our friends. Please contact the Advancement Office 205.263.0137 if you have been overlooked or listed incorrectly.

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## The IRA Charitable Rollover Extension

On December 17, 2010 the President signed into law an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover.

### **So what exactly does this mean to you?**

This means that if you transfer a gift from your IRA to Holy Family Cristo Rey for year 2011, you could receive significant tax incentives while helping us provide a proven college preparatory education to motivated students from families who cannot afford traditional private school!

- The law permits individuals aged 70½ and older to make tax-free, qualified charitable distributions from their IRAs of up to \$100,000 per taxpayer per taxable year 2011.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School or other qualified charitable organization.

### **To take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover, a part of the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2010, and to help support our mission, you must be aware of the following important tips on handling this charitable gift:**

- You must be at least 70 1/2 years old at the time you transfer the gift to HFCRCHS
- The transfer must be made from the IRA directly to Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School. Contact your IRA custodian for their policies and procedures for the transfer.
- A qualified charitable distribution is not subject to income taxes.
- The maximum total qualified charitable distribution amount each year is \$100,000 per person.
- Only standard IRAs and Roth IRA accounts qualify under this law.
- If you do not itemize your deductions, you may be able to make gifts from your IRA without increasing (and maybe even decrease) your adjusted gross income.
- If you have been thinking about making a larger gift, this may provide a tax-advantaged time-frame for doing it.

Call Scott Denton, VP for Advancement, at 205.263.0137 if you have questions about making a gift to Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School. Please be sure to consult your tax counsel and plan administrator before making any charitable gifts from your IRA.

As always, we are truly grateful for your incredible support of our mission and goodwill towards Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School!

## Planned Gifts to HFCRCHS Are a Legacy to the Future

A provision in your will is the simplest way to include Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School in your estate plan. An up to date will can enable you to provide for your family, distribute your assets according to your wishes, save on income, gift and estate taxes and leave a legacy without giving up assets now.

You may have considerations that call for another way to make a planned gift. Naming Holy Family Cristo Rey as a beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy or retirement plan assets may provide substantial savings on your taxes and help protect your assets. We would welcome talking with you to review your options.

To ensure that your planned giving arrangements are legally valid and effective, we urge you to consult with an attorney during their preparation.

For more information about how to make a planned gift to Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School, or to let us know that you have already included HFCRCHS in your estate plan, please call Scott Denton, VP for Advancement, at 205.781.3860. All conversations will be strictly confidential.

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## CRISTO REY SPEAKERS BUREAU WILL ADDRESS YOUR GROUP

Are you looking for an informative and interesting program presentation for your organization, club, church or civic group?

Holy Family Cristo Rey can provide speakers on a number of relevant and current topics ranging from workforce development and job readiness, to the challenges of motivating youth and providing a proven college prep education to families who cannot afford private schools.

We will cater our presentation to meet your needs. Call 205.263.0137 for more information or to book your speaker today.

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## Increase Your Donation To Holy Family Cristo Rey with Corporate Matching Gifts

Does your company have a matching gift program? Corporate matching gifts allow you to s-t-r-e-t-c-h your gift and provide added support for Holy Family Cristo Rey. Ask your Human Resources office how to apply.

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Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national or ethnic origin in its student admission policy, faculty or staff hiring practices, educational policies, financial assistance, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

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## The Mustard Seed

Published quarterly by Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School in March, June, September and December.

Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School provides a proven college preparatory education to qualified students in a Christian environment.

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**Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School is  
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**[www.hfcristorey.org](http://www.hfcristorey.org)**

**May the Passion of Jesus Christ**

**Be Always in Our Hearts**

Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School  
2001 19th Street, Ensley  
Birmingham, AL 35218  
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<b>The Raising Dollars for Scholars Luncheon &amp; Silent Auction</b>	<b>The 4th Annual BBQ at the Zoo</b>
<p>Save the date for the 6th Annual Raising Dollars for Scholars Luncheon and Silent Auction on April 20, 2011 to benefit Holy Family Cristo Rey!</p> <p>The 2012 event, featuring a keynote address by Drayton Nabors, former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, will be held at the Harbert Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tickets are \$60 per person. Sponsorships are available. Call 205.263.0137 for reservations or more information.</p>	<p>BBQ at the Zoo is an amateur barbecue competition and party that benefits students at Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School.</p> <p>Join us at the Birmingham Zoo on April 28 from 2-8 p.m. Enjoy live music, great food, a silent auction and kid-friendly activities.</p> <p>General admission is \$10. Children 10 and under attend for FREE. For more information visit our Web site at <a href="http://www.hfcristorey.org">www.hfcristorey.org</a>.</p>