

September 2023



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Welcome Back: A New School Year Begins

Students in the Academy received a warm welcome as they returned back to school.

Everyone is so happy to be back and ready to learn! This year promises to be bigger and better as we prepare to unveil our newly expanded building with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Blessing on **Friday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m.** Our team has been working hard to create an environment that will truly enhance the experience of each and every student.

Our devoted staff members have been planning for the new school year and participated in professional development to ensure they are fully prepared to provide the best possible education and support for everyone. They share the same excitement and enthusiasm for the upcoming school year as our students. "The hallways are buzzing with joy and positive energy and it's contagious! I am so happy to be back," said Sabrina Rivera, Academy Staff. Together, we are poised to make this a truly remarkable year.

Our wonderful students are beaming with excitement about this school year. "I'm happy to be back because I like reading books" said **Fabricio**. "I'm happy to be back because I like the kids," said **Vinny**. "I have fun doing reading and math," added **Philip**. "I love it here," says **Jocelyn**, echoing the sentiments of so many others.

"Our students' excitement is a testament to the warm, welcoming environment we strive to create at Saint Catherine Academy," said **Eric Spencer**, Director of Education.

With the expansion on track to provide more opportunities and space for learning, we have high hopes for what this school year has in store. The enhancements to our facilities will undoubtedly elevate the educational journey of each and every



student, meeting them where they are to help them grow. [Click here to read more.](#)



Upcoming Event

Please join us in celebrating the completion of the Building for the Future expansion project.



Helen C. Burland and Monsignor Robert Weiss are Honorees at "Joy & Gratitude" Dinner on October 8

Each year friends of Saint Catherine Center gather at our Joy and Gratitude Dinner to celebrate and honor individuals within our community. Helen C. Burland will be recognized for her tenure as Executive Director with the Leadership Award and Monsignor Robert Weiss will be the recipient of the Volunteer Service Award on **Sunday, October 8**. The event will be held at the MClinch Family Center at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

We are thrilled to come together for a remarkable evening of celebration. This year, we have the honor of recognizing two extraordinary individuals who have dedicated their time, energy, and passion to the mission of our Center, nurturing the mind, body, and spirit of the young people we serve. Saint Catherine Center is a place where a community of love and care thrives.



Helen C. Burland will receive the Leadership Award. She has shown exemplary leadership while steering the ship of Saint Catherine Center toward success. Her dedication to our mission has been nothing short of inspiring. As Executive Director for 15 years, Helen has not only shared her expertise but also brought compassion, vision, and innovation to every aspect of our organization.

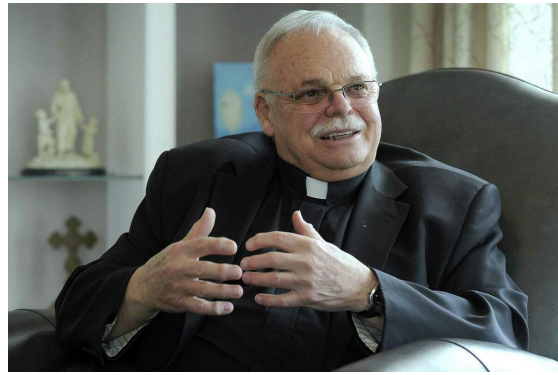
Under Helen's guidance, we have witnessed significant milestones at the Center, from the implementation of new programs, to expansion and improvement of facilities that give opportunities for growth and empower our students and young adults. Her tireless commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment has touched the hearts of everyone associated with our Center. Helen has left us poised to face the future with a strong foundation.

Monsignor Robert Weiss will be recognized with the Volunteer Service Award. His selfless dedication to Saint Catherine Center makes a profound impact on the lives of our students and young adults. Monsignor Weiss gives his time, energy, and unwavering support to enhance the personal and spiritual development of our individuals. He is a longstanding Board Member, advocating for our mission for the past 23 years.

His presence brightens the lives of our students and enriches the entire Saint Catherine Center community. "The Center is a true gift not only for our students and adults but for their families as well. It is an integral part of the mission of the Diocese and provides essential services. Miracles happen in the Center every day," said Monsignor Weiss.

"Helen and Monsignor Weiss have given themselves above and beyond to the Center," said Laura Grozier, Executive Director. "Their selfless dedication to our mission and growth give us this opportunity to recognize and celebrate their service."

[Click to register for the event or make a donation](#)





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