January 28, 2008

St. Rose of Lima Dedicates New Science Center

(Short Hills, NJ) – Before an audience of donors and guests, including Rev. Kevin M. Hanbury, Ed.D., Vicar for Education and Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Newark, and featuring a guest speaker from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and lab demonstrations by students, St. Rose of Lima Academy formally dedicated the Oy Ling Chun Science Center, the school's new science lab, on Sunday, January 27, 2008. Designed by Charlie Bambara, Vice President of Technology and Founding Partner, The ChemPro Group, LLC, a chemical engineering firm specializing in modular- process plant design and construction, in collaboration with Christopher J. Gnash, AIA, the lab far exceeds existing standards for a middle-school science facility. The new lab is fully equipped for experiments, lessons and demonstrations in all areas of the science curriculum and has the capability to readily adapt to future curriculum requirements and technologies as they evolve.

Safety, durability and adaptability stand out in the design of the lab. Each of the six lab stations is equipped with a sink, gooseneck faucet, gas jets and spare jets for later use, GFI electrical outlets, abundant storage and a chemical-resistant cast-epoxy work surface. The lab floor is also chemical-resistant epoxy that is virtually invulnerable to damage, with an expected lifespan of decades. Further enhancements include a wireless network, hardwired SmartBoard, a laptop computer for each lab station, dedicated ventilation system that replaces the air in the lab with fresh outdoor air several times an hour, portable fume hood, chemical storage cabinets, automatic failsafe gas-line shutoff, and industrial safety shower.

Aesthetics were given full attention, as well. One wall of the lab is outfitted with handsome oak display and storage cabinets, with a built-in prep counter and sink, to match the oak lab stations and computer worktables. The suspended ceiling has been removed to reveal the structural elements and ductwork, lending the lab an open, modern industrial look. The capstone is an impressive suspended stainless-steel light fixture laser cut with the lab's name.

The renovation project was shepherded through the planning, fundraising, procurement and construction phases by a committee of parent and parish volunteers. In addition to Bambara, whose children attend the school, school parents Colleen D'Alessandro, Don Goncalves, Nicole Warganz, Marita Wolff, and parishioner Pauline Everson served on the committee. "We have done something great here for the children—giving them a state-of-the-art laboratory to advance their education in the sciences. The opportunity for me to share my passion for science with the children of SRL has been wonderful. I hope this lab instills an inquisitive mind and a love of science in the students who pass through its doors," said Bambara, whose sentiments were echoed by his fellow committee members.

In addition to the committee, invaluable leadership and support was provided by the pastor, the Rev. Msgr. George R. Trabold, the school principal, Dr. Karen Fasanella, and the pastoral associate for ministries and development, Mrs. Joan Schultz. Their work was vital to the success of the project at every stage and particularly in fundraising, where they secured strong support for the project from the wider parish community. "The science lab demonstrates the remarkable things that can be achieved when the various components of our community work together," said Monsignor Trabold. "The lab will not only be an educational benefit to our students, but inspire them to dream dreams and strive for greatness in all they do."

The renovation project was conceived as a memorial to a devoted St. Rose science teacher who taught at the school for six years. The goal of renovating the lab was first voiced by Oy Ling Chun, and her

death gave rise to a determination to see the project realized in her honor. “Every fiber of Oy Ling Chun’s being was dedicated to exciting students about all the disciplines of science,” said Dr. Fasanella. “A devoted teacher, she touched her students deeply, and she also touched her colleagues deeply. I was personally moved by her ability to teach, mentor, excite and challenge her students. She dreamed of a model science lab at St. Rose, and it is fitting that through the generosity of so many individuals, her dream has become a reality.” The dedication of the Oy Ling Chun Science Center, which opened to students on November 12, was scheduled for this month to allow for the family of the former science teacher, who passed away in December 2005, to attend the ceremony.

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