



Roman Catholic Foundation
of
EASTERN MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES \$150,000 COMMITMENT FROM FUND
ESTABLISHED BY ROMAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF EASTERN MISSOURI**

*Gift from accounting firm RubinBrown enabling students to benefit from
Catholic education*

ST. LOUIS, May 18, 2015 – St. Mary's High School in South St. Louis City will have five additional students enrolled for the next five years, starting this fall, thanks to a \$150,000 gift from the SOAR! Scholarship Fund.

The SOAR! (St. Louis Opportunity and Achievement Realized) Scholarship Fund, which was established last year by the [Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri](#), provides tuition assistance to underserved students attending or who wish to attend select Catholic elementary or high schools in the City of St. Louis and North St. Louis County.

RubinBrown, a certified public accounting and business consulting firm in Clayton, Mo., is funding a generous gift to the SOAR Scholarship Fund. The Roman Catholic Foundation has allocated the gift to benefit [St. Mary's High School](#) over a five-year period. More than 60% of St. Mary's students receive some form of financial aid.

“In addition to providing a high-quality Catholic and college-preparatory education, our top priority is the continued evangelization of our students by providing them with a strong foundation of faith and spirituality,” said Mike England, President of St. Mary's High School. “Most important, thanks to the SOAR! Scholarship Fund, we'll be able to increase the number of South St. Louis students, who never thought they'd have the opportunity for a Catholic education, and extend our mission of making our school more accessible to all.

“However, St. Mary's is more than just about our school and our students,” England pointed out. “We've been committed to South St. Louis for more than 80 years, and we continually strive to be a catalyst and a stabilizing force for the entire community.”

St. Mary's High School, which is all-male and one of 10 high schools run by the St. Louis Archdiocese, has been an anchor in its South St. Louis neighborhood since it opened its doors in 1931. Highlighting the value of Catholic education at St. Mary's, which has more than 340 students enrolled this year, England provided the following data points:

- 100% of St. Mary's students graduate, compared to only 67% of their public school peers
- 92% of its graduating seniors last year went on to colleges, universities, or trade schools
- 25% of its 2015 seniors graduated with 25 hours of college credit
- 70% of St. Mary's faculty have a Master's degree or higher.

“St. Mary’s High School has been a pillar of strength in South St. Louis for generations, especially for local families who desire a top-notch Catholic education,” said Mark Guyol, President and CEO of the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri. “Providing these scholarships is a strong investment in the future of St. Mary’s, as well as the entire South St. Louis community.”

“RubinBrown is proud to support the SOAR Scholarship Fund,” says John Herber, RubinBrown Chairman and Managing Partner. “Our investments in education serve as the cornerstone of our long-time giving to the St. Louis community.

Plans call for a significant number of additional SOAR! Scholarships to be available to 11 Catholic elementary schools and 3 Archdiocesan High Schools, including St. Mary’s, located in St. Louis City or North St. Louis County, starting in the 2017-18 school year. All scholarships will follow the students during their high school years through graduation.

“The students and faculty at St. Mary’s are extremely grateful to RubinBrown for making such a generous gift to the SOAR Scholarship Program,” England said.

St. Mary’s High School, founded in 1931, is an integral part of St. Louis’s Dutchtown neighborhood. Its campus includes more than 27 acres, encompassing a blend of state-of-the-art academic classrooms to modern sports facilities, including the Center for Applied Sciences. St. Mary’s remains on the leading edge of secondary education and has continued to accomplish with a tuition cost that is significantly less than other all-make secondary schools in the St. Louis area. Rich in Marianist tradition, students are encouraged to explore their minds and grow, not only academically, but personally, spiritually, and athletically as well.

The [Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri](#), a 501(c) 3 public charity, independent from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, inspires giving and connects donors to Catholic ministries, sustaining the local Church for future generations. Fulfilling the vision of St. Louis Archbishop Robert Carlson, the Foundation was established to sustain the local church for future generations.

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