Dear Friends of Nativity,

“Still I Rise.” Gracing our Nativity t-shirts and communicating an idea of persistence and resiliency, this simple phrase served as the theme of Nativity’s 2007 Summer Session. Taken from Maya Angelou’s poem of the same name, the words also help to frame what made 2006-07 such a magical year for the school.

It was a year of great academic achievement, a year of remarkable high school placements and a year of profound generosity. It was a year of ever-higher expectations.

It was a year of rising.

Faced with escalating crime in the City of Worcester (a near 10% increase in arrests over the past year) and a sobering high school drop-out rate (only 65% of our boys’ peers will graduate from the resource-strapped Worcester Public Schools), our students arrive every morning at 7:30am – and stay most days until 6:30pm - trying to buck these odds.

They come with a desire to do more for themselves and more their families. They come to silence the deafening pressures and to let their hearts and minds be free. They come to learn. They come to rise.

And what has risen this past year?

- We placed members of our Xavier Class into the area’s best high schools. As you read this, members of our Xavier Class now attend Canterbury School, St. John’s High School (8 students!), Worcester Academy, the newly-constructed Worcester Vocational Technical High School, and A Better Chance New Canaan School.

- We further put into practice a rigorous curriculum designed to meet the different learning styles of our students, effectively setting the stage for the next two years of the accreditation process.

- We observed and assessed growth and deficiencies in student achievement, heightened through our implementation of the thorough Stanford-10 standardized test.

- We saw our boys transformed by their informational visits to Babson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the College of the Holy Cross and Williams College.

- We witnessed the generosity of two colleges – Assumption College and Clark University – as they met the professional development needs of our Fellows.

- We watched a highest caliber production of Wizard of Oz, replete with a cameo by our Board Chairman (Chick Weiss) as the Wizard.

- We honored two of the most distinguished persons this school has ever seen – Dr. Kathleen Gorski and Rev. William Campbell, S.J. – at this year’s Spring Gala.

- We were awestruck by the generosity of our donors in a record-breaking year for donations.

- And most of all, we continued to teach the mission of our school: to make our boys men for others in the Jesuit tradition.

We thank you for believing in this mission. It is because of you that we will continue to rise.

Best,

Matthew Brunell, Esq.
Executive Director
WHEREAS: The Students of The Nativity School are very polite, well-behaved and motivated young adults.
WHEREAS: These same students are also excellent athletes and were victorious over the fine faculty members of this superior institution in a game of Basketball on March 25, 2007, with a final score of 83 to 31.
WHEREAS: If these terrific students were given free time, they would never waste it by playing video games, or going online to MySpace or YouTube, or playing pool, etc.
WHEREAS: These students are all good, practicing Christians and they should enjoy the Peace that the Easter Holidays provide.
WHEREAS: Easter Monday is a day that these young men can continue to feel inspired by the great Celebrations.

RECOMMEND: I, Konstantina B. Lukis, Mayor of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts do hereby proclaim Easter Monday, April 9, 2007 a Holiday from classes at The Nativity School of Worcester. I urge all students to have fun on their day off.

Konstantina B. Lukis
Mayor
One time that I showed perseverance was the time that my brother and I made a pie. It wasn’t going very well and my brother started to give up. He told me not to continue with it. But I said to take risks, take changes, make mistakes, and if it works, great! If it doesn’t, at least we tried! I kept on going and it worked.

(Brandon Locke, 6th Grade)
One time that I showed perseverance was when I learned how to skateboard. When I was learning, I would always fall and get cut, so then I stopped skateboarding. Then after a few days I got back on my skateboard and I didn’t stop trying until I learned.

(Alexis Santiago, 6th Grade)

When I tried out for the basketball team, I was having trouble during try-outs. I didn’t end up making the team, but instead of giving up, I asked to be manager. The manager goes to practices and games, but doesn’t get to play. After practicing with the team for awhile, the coach saw me hustle and asked me to play on the team. During the season I did pretty well.

(Jordy Melendez, 8th Grade)

I think that Rosa Parks was resilient. During her time, African-Americans were treated wrongly by white people. When she sat in the white section of the bus, she was faced with adversity, but she overcame it and helped African-Americans and whites become equal. We should admire her because of her bravery.

(Michael Perry-Moen, 8th Grade)
On June 15th, the Nativity community celebrated the graduation of our second class of graduates, the Xavier Class. It is the preeminent day on the school calendar, a pinnacle in the Nativity education. And yet, the graduation of the Xavier class was less about their past Nativity experiences and more about the future opportunities that await them at the area’s most select high schools.

The night was marked by inspiring words and lasting images. Graduates processed into All Saints Church, adorned in Nativity ties, raising high their self-designed class banner. Teachers, families, and supporters of the school looked on proudly. Cristian Esparza gave the valedictory speech, charging his classmates to continue to look out for each other. He also spoke of a deep sense of gratitude: “Thank you for joining us in celebrating our achievements, and our dreams.” Nino Rivera presented the class banner, noting the courage and mental acuity needed for the world outside of Nativity. Noel Stemm closed the ceremony with a heartfelt blessing.

The Xavier Class chose Dr. Kathy Gorski, Nativity’s founding teacher and esteemed winner of the Einstein Fellowship, to deliver the keynote speech. Dr. Gorski reflected upon the Xavier Class’s time at Nativity through “the three c’s” (a sense of Community, a development of Confidence, and the ability to adapt to Change). All three are pivotal, Dr. Gorski stated, to the stable foundation that Nativity has laid for their futures. And certainly, a bright future awaits all of our graduates.

The road to graduation is long and hard. Much is demanded from the 12-hour school days for students and staff alike. And yet, there is tremendous joy in seeing our boys speak of returning to Nativity to do community service, to mentor our other students and to return (one day) as Nativity Fellows.

Mark your calendars: The Faber Class graduates on June 13, 2008!
Today is a day of particular joy and pride, since we, the Xavier Class, culminate a milestone in our academic lives. I am here to talk about my experience and life at Nativity. First I’d like to start off by saying that my tenure here has been both an interesting and enriching experience. It was very hard in the beginning when I came here because I am smaller than my other classmates (I still am by the way!) and I think most of you can relate to how it feels to be the new kid. Another challenge that I faced at Nativity was gym class. Dodge ball was the root of all evil to me since I was always facing the Ignatius class. But when I look back at those times I notice that dodge ball is sort of like life. Sure there are some pains but you can’t help it, you’re having fun! It’s a game of gain and loss or loss and gain – however you look at it, it’s still one of the greater joys of life. Thomas Paine once said, “the harder the conflict the more glorious the victory.” Because of these learned lessons, within a short period of time, with the assistance and commitment of everyone here at Nativity, I began to settle in. I soon realized that Nativity was the place I wanted to be and the place where I belonged.

Let me tell you why I hold such high regard for The Nativity School of Worcester. Nativity gives every student a unique opportunity to be educated by dedicated, conscientious, supportive, and incredibly smart teachers. They do no only help you academically. They are also keen in assisting us with our confusions, frustrations, stress, and even the girl problems (thanks Ms. Hardy and Ms. Taylor).

Teachers are the basis of our knowledge and they teach us that we can build an empire with our minds. Today we are being crowned kings of knowledge of a certain level, but there will always be higher ones to conquer. Thanks to the skills we have learned at this unique school, we are confident that this conquer is possible.

This evening may be about our graduation but this moment is really a promise and a hope for a luminous future for us as students. Our dreams of obtaining and achieving excellence through quality education have been realized.

Cristian Esparza
Last year, the Nativity School of Worcester and Coach Jim Briggs, a former baseball coach at Williams College, forged a very special and important relationship. Not only has Coach Briggs become an avid supporter of our school, but he has also introduced many of his former Williams’ players and current Williams staff to our community. Their visit was positively inspiring: the energy and enthusiasm of this group is a real testament to their unwavering belief in our school and its mission. Their belief has transformed into a desire to make Nativity into the flagship of an entire network of schools, an army of schools that help guarantee an excellent education in academics and in life. The group believes that there is truly something special in the hallways and corridors of Nativity-Worcester, something to which countless more disadvantaged boys and girls in America are entitled. We are deeply grateful for support of this Williams College group, and look forward to working with them closely in the future.

As a school, we were able to take a trip to Williams College this past spring, where our entire school was able to meet with Coach Briggs and other supporters for an informational and fun day at the college. Our students were even invited to spend some time with the Williams College Baseball Team, where they attended a baseball clinic and joined forces with the team in order to scrimmage against each other. It was a great day for both our boys and the Williams College baseball players – we look forward to another opportunity to play ball at Williams this spring!

The Nativity School is very thankful for the continued support of Jim Coghlin, Sr., CEO of the Coghlin Companies. Mr. Coghlin and his companies recently donated 30 iPod Shuffles, which have been great additions to our Music and Foreign Language Programs. We were lucky enough to have Mr. Coghlin stop by recently and join Mr. Schnelle’s music class for a demonstration of his donation!

The Nativity School of Worcester has meant a lot to our family over the last four years. We have cleaned classrooms, stuffed fundraiser envelopes, collected sports equipment for the school, been counselors at the summer camp, and attended awards ceremonies, Christmas plays and the spring awards gala.

What we realize in all of these interactions is what great kids there are at Nativity. They are bright, interested in learning and really engaged in the School – probably moreso than any students we have ever seen. The experience with Nativity has opened up a whole new world for them – and for us. And it certainly makes us better appreciate all that we have – growing up in a world where we don’t have to worry daily about the stability of our family lives.

-Gil, Todd, Sarah and Chase Haylon

We are proud to support the Nativity School of Worcester because it fulfills an incredibly important mission in our city. Through the school and its programs, Nativity helps young men from challenging circumstances recognize and reach their full potential. We see how these young men benefit from a supportive environment where they learn the value of education and the importance of respect and dignity for all. They then go on to area high schools where they reflect the wonderful values they have learned at Nativity and ultimately become an inspiration for others.

-Patricia and Jeff Forts
In supporting NSW, we see an immediate benefit to the boys who gain access to a great academic and moral education in the Jesuit tradition. Beyond this, we have great hopes for the improved opportunities this education can bring within reach not just to the students themselves but, over time, to the whole of their extended families.

-Mike and Julie Kaneb

The collective commitment to the education and development of these young men is staggering and the results speak for themselves. My family and I are thankful that we can contribute to and be part of something that is truly great.

-Eric Hard hun

The Nativity Fellows—those recent college graduates who devote two years of their life to the school—serve as the emotional and physical heart of Nativity. Possessing great passion and persistence—as well as educations from Boston College, Holy Cross and Boston University—they play a focal role in this fight for quality urban education. A perennial institutional need was how to take this goodwill and generosity and translate it into quality classroom instruction. Assumption College recently helped us take a major leap in the professional development of our Fellows. Assumption will offer five graduate degree programs—including Master’s degrees in Special Education and School Counseling—completely free of tuition cost to our Fellows. This represents an extraordinary statement of Assumption’s answering the call to do more for the less fortunate. Assumption also warmly invited our entire school to visit for dinner and a home football game. Current Assumption undergraduates and administrators made a presentation about the importance of a college education and the application process. The visit was a great way to start off the school year, allowing our boys to envision the promising academic future which can be built on top of their Nativity foundation. We are grateful for the administration of Assumption—particularly President Francesco Cesareo, Dr. Fred Bayon, Christian McCarthy, Michael Tsotsis, Dean Mary Lou Anderson and Prof. Cathy Stutz—for seeing the value and purpose of such a program and high regard for our school.

I am so proud of my Holy Cross roommate, Joanne McClatchy, for all her efforts as the first Executive Director of the school. I am pleased that my children, Anne and Jimmy have had the opportunity to help, volunteering their time and donating money, and to learn the meaning of “men and women for others.” For all of us in this endeavor to continue to make Nativity a success, every little bit helps.

-Nancy & Jimmy Williams

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-Mike and Julie Kaneb
Still I Rise
ANNUAL REPORT 2007

ANNUAL STATEMENT 7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007

$100K
Highland Street Foundation
Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP

$100K – $75K
Jesuit Community (Holy Cross)

$75K - $50K
Mary DeFeudis
Bill & Polly Haylon

$50K - $25K
Hermann Family Foundation
Mike & Julie Kaneb

$25K - $20K
Anonymous
Alden Trust
Bill & Lynda Glavin
Chris & Shirley Kelly

$20K - $10K
Clark Charitable Foundation
Stephen Doherty
Nancy & Joe Flaherty
George & Sybil Fuller Foundation
Cis & Bill Glavin
Al & Diane Kaneb
Linda & Austin Lydon
Rose & John Mahoney
Roger McNairy
JoAnn McGrath
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Shields

$10K - $5K
Gregory & Ann Avis
Katie & Don Bramley
Susan & Jim Briggs
Citigroup Foundation
Carolyn & Eric Harthun
Michael & Carol Haylon
Dennis Murphy
Michael & Kathleen Nilles
Sue & Spike Schellenger
Charles Thurston
UnumProvident

$5K - $1K
Wayne & MaryAnn Archambo
Timothy Austin
Belen Jesuit Prep
Eileen Botty
MaryLou & Jim Briggs
Dean & Carol Burpee
Donald Bussman
David Calabro
Maria Teresa Calderon
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Society of Jesus of New England
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Stephanie A. & David A. Spina Family Foundation
Mike & Dot Tsotsis
United Way of Central Massachusetts
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Chick & Gale Weiss
George & Eileen White

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Christina & AJ Andreoli
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ATR Industries Inc.
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Lynn & Kevin Bradley
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Richard Brown
Arthur & Joan Brunell
Danuta Bukatko
Theresa & Bruce Bunke
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Robert Wynne
Joseph Yamron
Kelsa & Don Zereski

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Rebecca Carriere
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Michael & Brittany Grenon
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Jane Lemire
Denise & Peter Leone
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Carol Logan
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Dennis Lucey
Dr. & Mayor Lukes
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Ben Masterman
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Kathleen McCarthy
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Michael McLoughlin
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Ogretta McNeil
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Duncan Millay
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Roberts Family Foundation
Bruce Robertson-Darcy
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St. Rose of Lima Parish
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Randy Swillo
Tina Taturn
Francis Taylor
George Tetler
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Louise & Dick Thorson
Edmond Tinsley
Margaret & Gordon Togersen
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Jane Van Doren
Peter & Sharon Viles
Don Viaoste
Mary & Peter Ward
Tom and Andrea Ward
Ken & Julie Webb
Judy & Marvin Weiss
Jack & Kathleen Welch
Michael Welch
Wellesley Gentlemen’s Society
Wells Fargo
Deirdre White
Beth Wilberding
Nancy Williams
Travis Woodward
Don Wren
Natalie & Rod Wright
Worcester Academy
Melissa Zangari
Cathy & Don Zereski

IN-KIND GIFTS
John Carey – Knitted Materials
Prof. Judith Chubb – Books for our Library
William Els – Costume materials, window candles, and batteries
Lisa Gonyea – New Stargazer Acoustic Guitar
Michael Hamill – Recorders
Jamie Oil Company, Inc. – Oil donation (To St. Bernard’s for Use of Gymnasium)
Alice Laffey – 2 floor lamps and one wood coffee table
Society of Jesus of New England – Computer, Printer and Related Equipment from Archivist
Worcester Sharks – Tickets to a game
Joseph Yamron – Baby Grand Piano, $3000

OPERATING BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2007:
$XXXXXX

Of this total – X% went to programming.

Donations increased X% from fiscal year 2006.

Last year, we contributed $15,000 to meet the gap between the financial aid awarded to our students and the remaining cost of tuition at our graduates’ high schools.
Our Mission

Nativity School of Worcester is a tuition-free, independent Jesuit middle school for inner-city boys living in the vulnerable neighborhoods of Worcester. Now in its fifth year, Nativity exists first and foremost to provide an exceptional educational opportunity to boys from disadvantaged backgrounds. In a structured learning environment – including an 11-hour school day, an extended school year, individualized tutoring and less than 15 pupils per class – our students are pushed to higher and higher academic heights while being supported by an unwavering, compassionate staff.