



# JOYFULLY CATHOLIC

By Mary Beth Miller | Photos by Rob Rousseau

This summer we celebrate the completion of the first academic year of Chesterton Academy of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a joyfully classical high school in the Catholic tradition. Chesterton Academy Frassati is the newest high school in the Portland metro area. Upon welcoming our first group of students last September, we did so on faith and trust in God's Providence. It has been a joy and a privilege for our family to work alongside other faithful Catholics this inaugural year to provide a learning environment for our children centered on goodness, truth, beauty and a place of authentic Catholic joy within the Chesterton Academy Network.

During our "To The Heights Gala" this spring, we witnessed the fruits of this unique educational model as two Class of 2022 graduates from the Chesterton Academy of the Willamette Valley gave their personal testimony in compelling speeches. True pioneers for the Faith, these students represented the first graduating class from the first Chesterton Academy in Oregon. As Oregon's second Chesterton Academy, Chesterton Academy Frassati aims to realize its mission to raise up a new generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and in the truths of the Catholic Faith.

Dedicated to tried-and-true methods and a devoutly Catholic curriculum from the Chesterton Schools Network, Chesterton Academy Frassati joins a nationwide network of 45 member schools which is expected to grow to 60 by next year. Our



Verso l'Alto - Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati: Our Talented Students



The Chesterton Academy Choir sings "Salve Regina," the official school song

faculty and leadership team take an oath to the Magisterium and our students and staff attend Mass every school day.

Let me give you an image of our students heading out of our school building at Holy Rosary Parish to go to Mass. In picturing Portland, the first thing that comes to mind isn't necessarily a group of scholarly, devout, and joyful teenagers—dressed in their school uniforms—girls wearing sweaters and knee-length skirts, boys wearing blazers and ties—pouring out of their school building to cross the street for Mass. But that is exactly what our students do every school day, right in the heart of Portland.

It was this vision—a high school with a higher purpose for serious and joyful students—that was in the minds of our founding parents in the fall of 2020, amidst seeing the continued chaos on the streets of Portland. We saw too many schools, public and private, remove classics from their curriculum while adding topics antithetical to our Catholic Faith. Chesterton Academy is different. Using an integrated great books curriculum, our students study the best writing and most influential ideas from the ancients up through modern times, with theology as the centerpiece. Chesterton students are formed in their Catholic Faith, to develop a resilient faith, one that will withstand going off to college, and whatever comes later in life. Our students are being formed to become the Church's future thinkers and leaders.

Our son entered Chesterton Academy Frassati last year as a ninth grader; and we have been blessed to see wonderful growth in him—spiritually, intellectually, and in his character. The parents, board of directors, faculty, volunteers, and generous benefactors take seriously the mission of Catholic formation. Our family first became acquainted with Catholic liberal education in 2017 when we began looking at Newmanist college schools for our oldest. Our daughter just completed her junior year at Thomas Aquinas College, and the similarities between her education and what Chesterton Academy offers students at the high-school level are striking.

At Chesterton Academy Frassati, we form the whole student, preparing them to succeed in college and professional life, and to excel in service of family, country, and Christ our Lord. As a board member and involved parent, it is my prayer that other families will seek out our school as a faithful and joy-filled high school option for their sons and daughters. To learn more about Chesterton Academy Frassati, the Chesterton Schools Network, and the Chesterton difference, we invite the community to contact our office at 360-355-3362 or visit our website at [chestertonfrassati.org](http://chestertonfrassati.org).

Most home insurance doesn't account for inflation at claim time. Ours does.



Shellie Monsivais, OR, WA, ID, NV  
4905 SW Griffith DR, Ste 106  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
[www.countryfinancial.com/shellie.monsivais](http://www.countryfinancial.com/shellie.monsivais)  
[shellie.monsivais@countryfinancial.com](mailto:shellie.monsivais@countryfinancial.com)  
(503)430-2398



Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

1020-525HC\_26628-3/21/2023