

Branches on the Vine

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

OCTOBER 17 - 23, 2026

Liberty Bank Seeds New Scholarship Fund for *Catholic Academy of Hartford*

- Story by Shelley Wolf

With smiles all around, David W. Glidden, president and CEO of Liberty Bank and president of the Liberty Bank Foundation, delivered a grant check on Sept. 21 for \$100,000 to Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne to seed the Catholic Academy of Hartford's new scholarship fund. The fund will be managed by the Connecticut Catholic Foundation.

Standing outside the school on Asylum Avenue in Hartford, Glidden handed over a jumbo-size replica of the check as staff from the Archdiocese of Hartford, officials from its Office of Catholic Schools and others looked on.

"Liberty Bank and community partners like the Connecticut Catholic Foundation are perfectly aligned when it comes to our shared commitment to improving the lives of individuals and families in our communities," Glidden said in a prepared statement.

With branches in Connecticut and Massachusetts, Liberty Bank is a large community bank with corporate headquarters located in Middletown. The bank also operates the Liberty Bank Foundation, noted for its philanthropic giving in the communities in which it serves.

"Team Liberty is proud to build on our longstanding commitment to Catholic Charities — this time by ensuring younger students have access to affordable and supportive educational opportunities right here in Hartford, and at an early age," Glidden said.

Glidden praised Archbishop Coyne for having the vision to create a new educational destination in the capital city that will not only serve children but also revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. He predicted, "It will have a profound impact in this community for generations to come."



Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne, in black, receives a check from Liberty Bank Foundation President David W. Glidden, far right, outside the future Catholic Academy of Hartford. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

Expressing gratitude for the large donation, Archbishop Coyne said, "This means a lot. It's the first major donation from a bank right here in Hartford. We're very, very grateful. This generous contribution will help to ensure that all families in Hartford have access to quality education, regardless of their ability to pay."

"For Hartford, we're offering an alternative education. Catholic school outcomes are very good, and we want to bring that to Hartford, especially to the North End," said Archbishop Coyne, stressing the merits of Catholic schools.

"This is an extremely generous grant from Liberty Bank. They're the anchor," said Paul McMahon, executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropy arm of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Connecticut Catholic Foundation created its program, the Hartford Neighborhood Families Scholarship Program, expressly for the Catholic Academy of Hartford.

Describing the new program as an "endowment fund," McMahon noted it will be used to educate the children of Hartford in the hopes that a Catholic education will help them to achieve their potential. "I think a good, sound Catholic education is going to make a very big difference in the lives of many," McMahon added.

In September 2025, the Archdiocese of Hartford purchased a former three-

story office building at 765 Asylum Ave. for use as a school. In October 2025, Archbishop Coyne announced the creation of a new Catholic school, in keeping with his promise to bring Catholic education back to the city of Hartford after a more than 10-year absence.

The school property is located diagonally behind the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Plans are to renovate the former office building before opening it as a school, possibly in the fall of 2028.

The Catholic Academy of Hartford will initially welcome Hartford students in pre-kindergarten through the second grade. The plan is to add one grade each year, expanding up to the eighth grade.

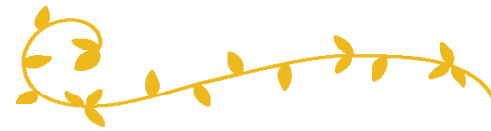
The archdiocese is aiming to serve Hartford residents first, regardless of their faith tradition or creed, and to make a Catholic school education more affordable through a "tuition-accessible, sliding scale" tuition model that adjusts for families of all income levels.

"I'd like to encourage other organizations to donate to the school," Archbishop Coyne added. "It's all going to the kids."

To donate to the Catholic Academy of Hartford, visit catholicacademyofhartford.org.



Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 18 @ 1:30PM
**"I WILL ALWAYS BE JOYFUL": SAINT PIER
GIORGIO FRASSATI'S LIFE AND WITNESS**
Bl. Michael McGivney Parish, St. Mary Church
Hall, New Haven

Father Philip Nolan, O.P., editor of the Magnificat magazine, will discuss the youthful sanctity of recently-canonized Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati and his relevance for today. All welcome to attend!



OCTOBER 22 @ 7PM
**HOLY HOUR AND CONSECRATION
TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**
Mount Sacred Heart Chapel, Hamden

Join the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a grace-filled prayer service to entrust yourself or your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus! Each person or family will receive a blessed image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for their home.

The ceremony will include:
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
A special prayer of consecration
A blessing of each individual and family
A blessing of house keys



OCTOBER 24 @ 9AM - 2PM
FINDING JOY AT WORK
Charitas Christi Center, Hamden

Join Young Catholic Professionals Central CT for a Free half-day St. Joseph Saturday retreat focused on discovering how to find joy, purpose, and God's presence in our everyday work. Whether you love your job, feel stuck in a routine, or are discerning your next step, take a morning to step away from the busyness of life and reconnect with God. We will conclude the retreat with adoration, confession, mass, and lunch. E-mail info@ycpcentralconnecticut.org to learn more.



OCTOBER 25 @ 4PM
**AWARD WINNING CATHOLIC COMPOSER &
SINGER, IVÁN DÍAZ, WILL BE PERFORMING WITH
THE SAINT ANN CHOIR**
St. Ann Church, Milford

Iván Díaz will be performing as the guest artist with the Saint Ann Choir. In 2025, Iván received the Catholic Music Award in Rome for Best Liturgical Song for "Pan del Cielo, (Bread From Heaven)," which appears in the Breaking Bread/Music Issue hymnal. And in 2024 Iván was honored by the Association of Catholic Publishers as "Distinguished Catholic Composer of the Year." Iván has performed at the 2019 & 2023 World Youth Day celebrations. For tickets and more information, call the parish office at: **203-874-0634**.



NOVEMBER 1 @ 3PM
**FROM BROADWAY TO THE MET:
A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HAITI**
St. James Church, Rocky Hill

You are warmly invited to an uplifting afternoon of music. Admission is free, and donations will be gratefully accepted to support our sister parish, St. Anne in Saintard, Haiti. Our program spans Broadway favorites, Classical masterpieces, and Sacred music.

Approximately 50 singers from various parishes across our diocese, as well as professional soloists Rochelle Bard and Daniel Juarez, will present beloved classics including The Prayer, Bring Him Home from Les Misérables, For Good from Wicked, Nessun Dorma, and much more. Bring your family and friends to experience this musical celebration for a wonderful cause!



NOVEMBER 7 @ 1PM - 4:30PM \$45
STARRY NIGHT SILK SCARF PAINTING
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford

What is the perfect accessory for your Advent prayer table, backdrop for your nativity set, or item to wear or give as a gift? A silk scarf in blues and purples, highlighted in gold! Painting on silk is enjoyable for all ages. Everything will be provided. All you need is to wear old clothes and bring a spirit of adventure. Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult.

This retreat is sponsored by The Monastery Gallery of Art.

Offering: \$45, includes supplies.
Register using the QR code.



NOVEMBER 27 @ 5PM
MEN'S EVENING OF REFLECTION
St. Paul Parish, St. Paul Church, Berlin

Young Men of Faith - this night is for you!

Join us for a free evening of fellowship and renewal!

We'll start the evening by gathering in the church hall for great food and fellowship. It is always a special time to reconnect, catch up on one another's busy lives, and enjoy the gift of friendship. Then, the Franciscan Friars of Our Lady of the Angels Province will lead us in an inspiring time of learning more about St. Francis and his joyful way of following Christ. This event is hosted by the St. Paul Church Young Men's Group.

Register using the QR or contact:
EveningOfReflectionRegister@gmail.com



2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

As of today, **16.76%** of all Archdiocesan parishioners raised **\$10 million** for our Archdiocesan ministries.

Imagine the difference if one in four parishioners joined in.
Help us reach **26%** participation in 2026!!



WE ARE  NE

www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal