DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG – SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION
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January 6, 2026

Dear Elementary and Secondary School Principals of the Diocese of Harrisburg,

I am pleased to announce that the Donahue Family Foundation will once again sponsor the annual Golden Apple Award Program for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Through the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, the Golden Apple Award Program was established to honor outstanding teachers and administrators for their dedication to education in Catholic schools.

Listed below is some background information on the Donahue Family Foundation:

- Jack and Rhodora Donahue are parents of thirteen children, all of whom were educated in Catholic schools.
- The Donahue family was eager to express their deep appreciation to Catholic school teachers for providing quality academic and faith-filled education for their children.
- The Donahues approached Bishop Donald W. Wuerl, then the Bishop of Pittsburgh, who immediately embraced the idea of a Golden Apple Award, and the first group of teachers in the Diocese of Pittsburgh was honored in 1992.
- The Donahue family later instituted a similar program in other dioceses, and in May of 2005, invited the Diocese of Harrisburg to establish the Golden Apple Award Program.
- The Donahue Family Foundation, Inc., is located in Pittsburgh, PA, and William J. Donahue, a son of Jack and Rhodora, is president of the foundation.

The Golden Apple Award will be presented to six teachers and one principal in the Diocese of Harrisburg, and each awardee will receive the following:

- **A cash award of $5000.00**
- **A certificate of achievement**
- **A Golden Apple award**

This year's Golden Apple awardees will be honored at a dinner to be held on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at the Best Western Premier, the Central Hotel in Harrisburg.**

Nomination and application materials are to be completed and submitted online. Eligibility requirements, as well as links to nomination and application forms, can be found under the "Golden Apple Award" heading on the *Schools* page of the diocesan website. **The submission deadline for online nominations is February 2, 2026, and completed applications for those who have been nominated and who wish to be considered for the award must be submitted by February 27, 2026.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel Breen
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of Education