

# **Archdiocese Holds 8th Annual Gala for Catholic Schools Saturday; Event Expects to Raise \$800,000 for Tuition Assistance**

Archbishop William E. Lori will be joined by over 750 supporters of Catholic education at the 8th annual Archdiocese of Baltimore Gala Saturday, September 24th at 6 p.m. at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore. The event is expected to raise \$800,000 and provides tuition assistance for students attending Catholic schools.

Among those to speak at the event is Mr. Kelly Wright, Fox News Correspondent and national recording artist who graduated from St. Maria Goretti High School in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

One of the beneficiaries of the Gala is the Partners in Excellence (PIE) Scholarship Program. The program celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and recently received a \$1 million gift from the private foundation of Kevin Plank. Since its inception 1996, PIE, which raises money from businesses and philanthropic organizations to provide scholarships to students from low-income families in Baltimore City, has provided over 25,000 scholarships totaling nearly \$30 million.

Anne Kramer of WBAL Radio will emcee this year's Gala, which will also feature fine arts performances and artwork by students from several area Catholic schools.

There are approximately 24,000 students enrolled in 70 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in the 2016-17 school year.