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From: Catholic Communications Office
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Catholic Communications Office
Subject: Survey Confirms GRACE Scholars Reaching Underserved Groups

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2012

Survey Confirms GRACE Scholars Reaching Underserved Groups

The characteristics of Georgia Catholic school students receiving GRACE Scholars' awards line up well with the organization's goal of serving underserved populations, a December 2011 survey of the 36 elementary and secondary schools which participate in GRACE Scholars revealed.

The survey found that 45 percent of the current 421 recipients come from racial and ethnic minorities. More than one-third qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Mean family income is \$48,000 with one in four recipients coming from families with adjusted family income of \$27,000 or less.

The group is 27 percent non-Catholic. The survey found that 53 percent of the students live outside of Metro Atlanta.

"The survey," said David Brown, GRACE director, "confirms that GRACE is enabling students and families overcome financial obstacles that might prevent attendance in Catholic schools."

Brown pointed out that GRACE Scholars awards are only made to students who demonstrate financial need as determined by outside, independent firms.

GRACE Scholars, Inc. is a Georgia student scholarship organization and 501(c)(3) organization. Georgia taxpayers can redirect a portion of their state income taxes to GRACE Scholars and receive a 100 percent tax credit.

GRACE Scholars, Inc. was established in 2008 by Georgia's Catholic bishops. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta and Bishop Gregory J. Hartmayer OFM Conv. of Savannah serve on the GRACE Scholars board of directors. Participating schools include schools in both dioceses.

A summary of the survey findings is attached.

GRACE Scholars, Inc.

Scholar Profile – December 2011

Gender	
Female	50.34%
Male	49.66%
School Type	
Elementary	72.44%
High School	27.56%
Religious Affiliation	
Catholic	72.31%
Non-Catholic	27.69%
Race and Ethnicity	
African American	31.35%
Asian	2.29%
Biracial/other	3.20%
Caucasian	54.46%
Hispanic	8.70%
Geographical Location	
Albany	1.59%
Athens	2.96%
Augusta	7.29%
Columbus	5.01%
Macon	8.43%
Metro Atlanta Area	47.15%
Rome/Warner Robbins /Brunswick	6.61%
Savannah	17.54%
Valdosta	3.42%
Free or Reduced Lunch Program Qualified	
No	62.06%
Yes	34.66%
Unknown	3.28%
Family Income	
1st Quartile	\$27,750
2nd Quartile	\$46,664
3rd Quartile	\$64,531
90 th Percentile	\$82,056
Mean	\$48,419
Count	421