



June 2025



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June Newsletter



Graduates Roxi, Kyle and YiLin proudly pose with the Expanded Services team at Bishop O'Connell HS on graduation day.

Dear Friends,

Happy summer, everyone! We hope this message finds you well and that the warmer weather brings opportunities for rest and rejuvenation. We especially wish all the children across our Diocese a wonderful break from school, filled with fun, faith, and cherished family moments.

This month's newsletter is also packed with valuable information and opportunities. We're excited to share a link to register for our insightful webinar series on **Catholicism and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**, and we encourage everyone to join us for all three sessions. You'll also find information on a meaningful way to leave a lasting legacy by including **Porto Charities in your estate planning**. Additionally, we've included a link to a remarkable document compiled by the attendees of the **National Convening on Disability and Catholic Education** – we truly hope you take the time to read it.

We're bursting with excitement and joy as our Diocese makes [national headlines for the impressive number of men who became priests this month](#)! We've seen firsthand how many of our members with disabilities have been lovingly brought into the Catholic faith thanks to the welcoming hearts and guiding hands of the priests in our Diocese. We trust that [these 12 new priests](#) will continue this beautiful tradition of welcome and spiritual guidance for our community, as they follow the example of our beloved Bishop Michael Burbidge and the many priests in our nationally recognized Diocese.

Sincerely,
Porto Charities

Make a Gift to Porto Charities

Bright futures ahead: Three Students Graduate from Expanded Services at Bishop O'Connell High School

A huge, heartfelt congratulations to the graduates from Bishop O'Connell High School's **Expanded Services program**! What an amazing accomplishment! We are so incredibly proud of each of you for your hard work, dedication, and spirit.

We're especially thrilled to see where your journeys will take you next! **YiLin**, congratulations on your acceptance to the **University of Delaware Career and Life Studies Certificate Program (CLSC)** – what an exciting adventure awaits! **Roxy**, we're so happy for you as you embark on the **PEP Program at the Arlington Career Center**. And **Kyle**, we wish you the best as you join the **Davis Career Center in Fairfax County**. Each of you is starting a wonderful new chapter, and we can't wait to see all the incredible things you'll continue to do. Congratulations, graduates!



Roxy Naltchayan enthusiastically showing off her diploma

Leaving a Lasting Impact: How Your Estate Plan Can Support Our Mission



Generating an estate plan is an important part of financial planning for everyone, even for those of relatively modest means. While the end of life may be uncomfortable to contemplate, careful advance planning can give you the peace of mind of knowing that your assets will be put to good use after your death, while also helping to document and clarify your intentions and desires for your executor and your family.

These intentions can include support for your favorite charities. You may not realize it, but through your estate plan, you can provide charitable donations after your passing, establishing a legacy that supports charitable needs well into the future. Just about any tangible asset can be donated to a charity in this manner, such as cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, life insurance proceeds, etc. You have full control of the asset while you are alive, and at your death all or part of the asset, per your desires, passes to the charity. In many cases, this donation will have the added benefit of reducing taxes on your estate (consult your tax advisor!).


We realize that Porto's mission of increasing the educational and employment opportunities available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities requires funding and support that extends well into the future. We have, therefore, established the Legacy Society to recognize those individuals who have made support for Porto Charities part of their personal legacy through their estate plan. Joining the

Porto Charities Legacy Society is easy: just commit to making Porto Charities a part of your estate plan for any amount, no matter how small, and let us know. We will then recognize you as a Legacy Society member, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you will be supporting our mission long after you're gone.

To get started, please consult your estate planner and/or tax advisor and/or wealth manager to determine the most appropriate way for you to include Porto Charities into your estate plan.

Webinar on ABA this Summer

Join us this Summer for a three-part Webinar Series: **"Catholicism and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)"** This series offers a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of faith and science, understanding how the principles of ABA can be harmonized with Catholic teachings to foster loving and effective outreach. Whether you're a parent, educator, healthcare professional, or simply curious, these sessions will provide valuable insights into behavioral science within a Catholic framework. Don't miss this chance to deepen your understanding and discover practical applications from an expert. Register now to receive your Zoom link for this enriching series!

**PORTO
CHARITIES™**


**Inclusion in Action
Webinar Series**

Catholicism and ABA

*Looking at Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
through the eyes of our Catholic faith, how science
can help us reach out in love*

Joseph Clem, BCBA

Joseph Clem is a Catholic husband and father of four children and a Lifetime Member of Youth Apostles. He has been working with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 2011. He became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in 2016.



- **Wednesday 7/23 Part 1 - ABA & Catholicism**
- **Wednesday 7/30 Part 2 - ABA Concepts & Assessments**
- **Wednesday 8/13 Part 3 - ABA interventions & Resources**

All webinars will begin at 7:30pm via Zoom.

Register to receive the Zoom links:
www.portocharities.org/register

Register

Proceedings from National Convening are Now Available!



National Convening on Disability and Catholic Education

From May 20 to 22, 2025, Saint Louis University hosted a groundbreaking national convening focused on advancing the inclusion of students with disabilities in Catholic education. This inaugural event brought together 85 participants, including parents, diocesan superintendents, Catholic school principals, national leaders from Catholic organizations, policy makers, university faculty, and representatives from philanthropic foundations.

United by a shared commitment to the mission of Catholic education and the dignity of every learner, attendees engaged in a dynamic series of presentations and structured dialogues. These collaborative efforts culminated in the identification of key priorities and actionable strategies to strengthen the capacity of Catholic schools to serve students with disabilities.

A document was put together that captures the insights, recommendations, and collective vision that emerged from this historic gathering. Because Porto Charities participated in this National Convening, we have been given access to the proceedings and we are encouraged to share it with you. We really hope that you will take some time to learn from it.

[National Convening Proceedings](#)

Article Spotlight

Two articles that caught our eye this month really highlight the importance of Porto's

two-fold mission: inclusive education and meaningful employment. We invite you to read, share and be inspired.

[The Teacher Who Never Spoke](#), Maureen Swinger, *Plough*

“He did not need to prove to anyone that he was an asset. It was the reverse: he was able to contribute because his community knew that he was valuable anyway, as a brother. His presence with us brought the image of God to light – within him and within those who cared for him.”

[Uncle Jack: Disability and Belonging in the Neighborhood](#), Caroline LaFleur, *Word on Fire*

“We’ve gotten better at helping people perform academically and in careers and in conforming more closely to an ideal of what we envision a human life should be—perhaps with the intent of making those who are different feel they belong. But there was a time and place, sixty years ago in a small-town neighborhood bar, when Jack belonged just as he was.”

SAVE the DATE

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 03

TWIN LAKES “THE OAKS” CLIFTON, VA

**17TH ANNUAL
PORTO CHARITIES
GOLF
TOURNAMENT**
Be a Hero!

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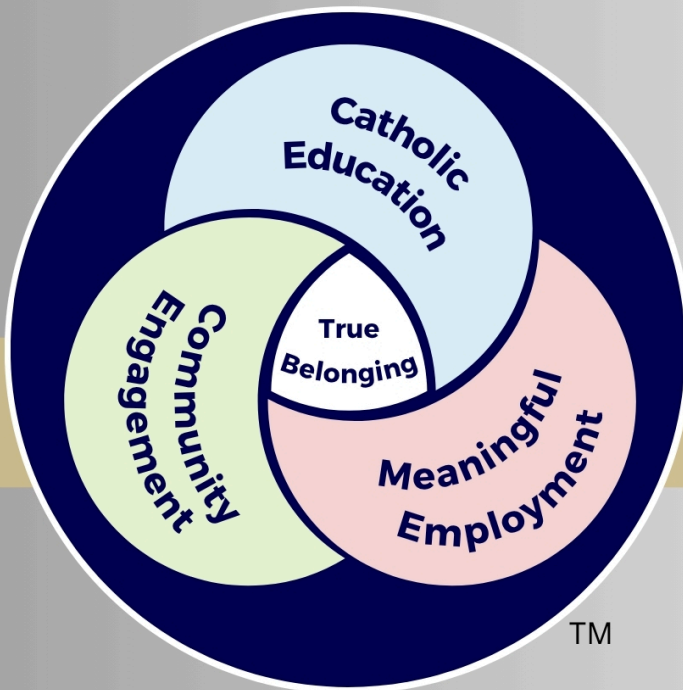
**AMAZING PRIZES,
RAFFLE & SILENT
AUCTION!**

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Funds will provide educator training and scholarships to support students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington



Building a Culture of Belonging



Porto Charities is a 501(c)3 organization that builds a culture of belonging for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by increasing their access to Catholic education, meaningful employment, and community engagement in the Diocese of Arlington.



*True Belonging
means being seen,
known and valued.*



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