



Verbum Dei High School Serves as a Beacon of Hope

Watts, CA (June, 2010) - The William H. Hannon Foundation has made a \$100,000 donation to Verbum Dei High School, located in the heart of Watts in South Los Angeles. Founded in 1962, Verbum Dei is an all-male Archdiocesan four year college preparatory high school. Since 2000 the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) have partnered with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to reinvigorate the school which primarily serves students from Watts, Lynwood, Compton, Gardena, Carson, Inglewood and South Los Angeles. A large percentage of Verbum Dei's students come from single parent households with an average total household income of approximately \$27,000. A number of students live in poverty. The donation will be used for general operating support of the high school.

"Verbum Dei is a beacon of hope to hundreds of students. The administration has done an excellent job in cutting costs, but that only goes so far. The Archdiocese provides less than 1% of the school's funding, and the \$2,700 per year tuition, the lowest of any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese, means that Verbum Dei truly requires the assistance of outside funding sources. We are very pleased to continue our support of Verbum Dei, especially during these trying economic times," said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation.