



## PRESS RELEASE

### **National Contact**

Robert L. Cummings  
Vice President for Advancement  
Cristo Rey Network  
14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1200  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
Phone: 312-784-7206 (direct)  
Fax: 312-784- 7201  
[www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org)

### **Local Contact**

Ellie Werner  
Executive Assistant  
San Miguel High School  
6601 S. San Fernando Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85756  
Phone: 520-294-6403 ext. 1113 (direct)  
Fax: 520-294-6417  
[www.sanmiguelhigh.org](http://www.sanmiguelhigh.org)

## **CRISTO REY FOUNDER RECEIVES WHITE HOUSE HONOR**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a White House ceremony today, President Bush bestowed The Presidential Citizens Medal upon Rev. John P. Foley, S.J., founder of the Cristo Rey Network. Father Foley was honored for his groundbreaking work in bringing educational opportunity to thousands of young people throughout the United States. San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona is one of the twenty-two schools in the National Cristo Rey network of high schools.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was established in November, 1969 to recognize U.S. citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for the nation. Bestowed by the President, it is our nation's second highest civilian honor, second only to the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Past recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal include Henry "Hank" Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Taylor, Senator Bob Dole, and pioneering HIV researcher Dr. David Ho.

Founded in 2002, the Cristo Rey Network is an association of 22 schools across America that uses an innovative work-study model to make a quality, college-prep education possible for urban young people from economically challenged families. "Fr. Foley is a visionary who developed a creative solution to fund a quality education for students from families of limited financial resources," said Elizabeth Goettl, President of San Miguel High School.

Father Foley, a Jesuit priest, served as president of the original Cristo Rey school in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood from 1995-2002 and as executive chairman of the Cristo Rey Network since 2002. He is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from

## **STUDENTS WORKING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



Fordham, Georgetown and Marquette universities. In 2007 the National Catholic Education Association awarded Father Foley its Seton Award.

*Cristo Rey Network schools provide a Catholic, college prep education to economically challenged young people in urban communities. In 2008-2009, 22 schools serve more than 5,300 students. 95% of Cristo Rey students are racial minorities; 34% are African American, and 55% are Latino. The schools educate students of all faiths and cultures; this year 37% of Cristo Rey students are not Catholic. 99% of the Network's 2008 graduates were accepted in a two or four year college and, through their work-study jobs, students earned more than \$27M toward their tuition.*

San Miguel High School is a private, Catholic, college preparatory high school serving students from families of limited financial resources. For information about the school, call 520-294-6403 or e-mail us at [admissions@sanmiguelhigh.org](mailto:admissions@sanmiguelhigh.org).

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