

# St. Elizabeth Catholic School

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Principal

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School Principal Receives Work of Heart Award

**Dallas, Texas, April 6, 2009** - Christina Clem, Principal of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School recently received the Work of Heart Grand Award from the Catholic Foundation. Established in 2005 by an anonymous Dallas Family through the Catholic Foundation, The Work of Heart Award program honors educators and staff of Catholic lower, middle, and high schools located in the Diocese of Dallas. Mrs. Clem has served the St. Elizabeth Community for over 19 years and both of her grown sons graduated from St. Elizabeth School.

Christina Clem began her career in Catholic education for the Diocese of Dallas in 1975 and has served as an administrator since 1995. Before coming to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School, she taught Music at St. Pius X in Dallas and taught 1st Grade and Music at St. Francis of Assisi in Lancaster. She came to St. Elizabeth School in 1986 as a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and Religion Coordinator and in 1995 was promoted to Assistant Principal. She served as Principal of St. Mary of Carmel from 1997-2001 and returned to St. Elizabeth School in the fall of 2001 as Assistant Principal and advanced to Principal in 2005. "Over the years I have worked for four schools in the Dallas Diocese and I have stayed here because God has called me to be here. This is my vocation and my life to help build the kingdom of God through my educational ministry. It is important to me to continuously strive to do the best I can to make a difference in the lives of the children God has entrusted to me," says Mrs. Clem regarding her commitment to Catholic Education. "Whenever an individual from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School is honored in some way, it brings honor to our school because we are all many parts of one body. I am very humbled that others would want to bring honor to our school through this special recognition. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful faith-filled community."

"As our principal, Mrs. Clem has a great heart. She is always in tune with the personal necessities of our teachers and she is always there to provide assistance. She has taken a couple of teachers on spiritual retreats, has performed many unexpected acts of kindness and is constantly praying for all of us. Mrs. Clem is a true woman of great faith," states Rosa Barrientos, Spanish Teacher at St. Elizabeth School who is one of several individuals who nominated Mrs. Clem for this award. "Mrs. Clem deserves this award because she is a true Christian example of our school. She is also a great mentor and goes that extra mile to help families and students in our school."

Recipients of the Work of Heart Awards are selected from written nominations from students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community members and then submitted to the Catholic Foundation. Nominees are judged based on traditional merit including tenure and leadership, enthusiastic instruction, individual or unexpected acts of kindness or charity, Christian example, mentoring or "simply going the extra mile." Works of Heart Grand Award recipients also receive a \$5000.00 grant in recognition of their outstanding service.

**About St. Elizabeth Catholic School** – Founded in 1958, St. Elizabeth Catholic School is a highly respected parochial school in southwest Oak Cliff, offering a complete education program from PreK-4 through the eighth grade. The 300+ students, both Catholic and non-Catholic, represent the rich cultural diversity of our community. Recognized as a National Exemplary School and cited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department as “a model school for Catholic education,” we continue to earn a reputation for academic excellence and sound discipline practices as well as for instilling strong Christian values in those we serve.

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