

HIGHLANDS SENIOR, MARY TOATES, HONORED FOR PRO-LIFE WORK!

Irving, Texas (March 9, 2009) – Highlands School senior, Mary Toates, will be recognized at *The Bishop's 16th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner* on March 28th. As the first teen to win one of the Bishop's dinner awards, Mary admits her first reaction was that of surprise and excitement. "All I could do was to keep repeating "oh my gosh!"

For four years, Mary has been both a junior assistant and an officer for Youth for Life, [YFL] a ministry of the Catholic Pro-Life Committee. Initially, she became involved with the organization because her older sister, Emily, was also a member. She recalls, "The winter of my freshman year, the YFL director, Jacquelyn Smith, hosted SCAT night (side-walk-counseling all night training) at my house, so I was sort of obligated to go. It was definitely the Lord's will that I be there. The next morning, we went to Fairmount Abortion clinic and helped change the mind of a fifteen-year-old girl who was about to get an abortion. When I saw how happy this girl was with choosing life, I knew it was my calling to put that look on more women's faces."

Mary is passionately involved in the movement to save the lives of the innocent. In addition to her participation in the March for Life in both Austin and Washington, she helped organize the Roe Memorial Girls Retreat in 2007. For the past three years, she has worked at the Bishop's Dinner and attended a Pro-Life Boot Camp, and she has been a prayerful presence at the abortion centers, as well. Currently, she is a counselor at the White Rose Women's Center. At the Highlands School, she regularly gives presentations to her classmates.

One of five children, Mary has attended The Highlands School since her freshman year and is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. She plans to attend Benedictine College in the fall and study theology and youth ministry. With regard to her involvement with Youth for Life, Mary says, "I think it is a very important organization, because having youth voices in the pro-life movement makes a huge impact. Particularly, teens should feel empowered to participate because of the price their generation is paying for this holocaust."

About the Pro-Life Dinner

The Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell invites you to attend *The Bishop's 16th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner, "Life, the First Right,"* benefiting the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Hilton Anatole Dallas, 2201 Stemmons Freeway. The evening begins with a Silent Auction at 5:00 p.m. and a seated banquet at 6:30 p.m., featuring a keynote speech by Gianna Jessen, a powerful witness to the sanctity of human life. This event raises critical funds for local pro-life education and activities, and life-saving services for babies and mothers! Reservation price is \$70 for an individual seat, \$700 for a table of ten, and \$50 for a student ticket. Ticket price includes parking. Premium tables and VIP reception tickets are available for \$1,000 and up. Raffle tickets are on sale now; winners will be drawn at the dinner for a 2009 Honda Accord LX, 6-day Carnival cruise and a Garmin Nuvi 750 Personal Navigator. The dinner reservation deadline is **March 16, 2009**. Credit card

reservations may be made by phone, 972-267-LIFE (5433), or online at www.prolifedallas.org. Spanish translation headsets will be available.

About The Highlands School

Established in 1986, The Highlands School is a Catholic college-preparatory school. Offering grades Pre-K through 12th, the mission of The Highlands School is the development of the whole person through Integral Formation, consisting of a profound intellectual, human, apostolic, and spiritual formation. Personalized attention from faculty, staff, and religious provides each student with the maximum opportunity for growth.

For more information about THE HIGHLANDS SCHOOL, or to schedule an interview with John Borley, please call Chris Hannis, Director of Development, at 972-438-8218 ext 261 or email Chris at channis@thehighlandsschool.org.