

## **The Graham and Meredith Rooke Memorial Scholarship**

Rochester Catholic Schools

One particular scholarship is designated specifically for families with children in the RCS elementary schools. **The Graham and Meredith Rooke Memorial Scholarship** was established in 1998 following the tragic car accident that claimed the lives of two St. John the Evangelist elementary school students.

Graham Sparks Rooke and Meredith Osborn Rooke followed in the family tradition of their mother as dedicated students in the Rochester Catholic Schools system. Graham was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Meredith in 1<sup>st</sup> grade when they passed away. Despite their short lives, their impact on those who knew them was remarkable.

Graham enjoyed Star Wars and Legos, but his greatest passion was his love of nature, especially dinosaurs. He befriended the woman who discovered the largest, most intact, *T. rex* fossil, Sue Hendrickson. They were looking forward to being together at the opening of the SUE exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago; sadly, his untimely death did not make this possible. In tribute to Graham and Meredith, and spotlighting their love for learning about dinosaurs and the environment, Ms. Hendrickson donated a replica *T. rex* skull that is on permanent display at Quarry Hill Nature Center in Rochester. Graham also loved baseball, tennis and scouting; he had achieved his Parvuli Dei award as a Cub Scout.

Meredith was devoted to her family and her friends. Known among her classmates as “the peacemaker,” she embodied Christian joy. Her kindness and sweet disposition drew people to her; her flair and sparkle lit up a room, no matter the size. Her piety and prayerfulness brought all closer to their faith. Meredith enjoyed dancing (especially at her ballet recitals), piano, bike riding, reading, and tennis. She was a very proud Brownie scout.

Meredith and Graham cherished their Catholic faith, loved their school, and treasured their friends. In order to promote these important aspects of their lives in others, and to provide an opportunity for other children to make their own impact on the world, the Rooke family established the **Graham and Meredith Rooke**

**Memorial Scholarship** to continue the rich tradition of the Rochester Catholic elementary schools.

Graham and Meredith were the children of Thom and Julie Rooke. The Rookes are blessed to have three sons (Griffin, William and Stephen) currently enrolled in Lourdes High School and St. Francis of Assisi elementary school.