



Press Release

**For more information contact
Barbara Esteves-Moore
298-4525, ext. 272 or
estevesmooreb@dominicancampus.org**

**St. Cecilia Academy hosts The Nashville Catholic College Fair and
College Red Carpet Week**

The Nashville Catholic College Fair celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, as it returns to St. Cecilia Academy from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26. Students and families from across Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky are invited to the free fair, which will include representatives from 25 Catholic colleges and universities from throughout the country.

Bigger, well-known Catholic schools – like the University of Notre Dame and Boston College – will attend, but also participating are smaller schools like St. Anselm in New Hampshire, Fairfield University in Connecticut, Thomas Aquinas College in California, and Christendom in Virginia.

“The Catholic College Fair is a great way to introduce students and their families to the many options in Catholic higher-education,” says Diane Connolly, St. Cecilia Academy college counselor.

“Many local high schools have college fairs, but the Catholic College Fair is really something special. First, you have Catholic schools all in one easy-to-navigate spot. And secondly, the entire family can learn more about the college and meet its representatives. Most fairs are during the school day, but this fair is in the evening so parents and students can ask questions together.”

The Catholic College Fair is just the first event in a busy week at St. Cecilia Academy, which takes pride in its very personal approach to college counseling. Following the fair, St. Cecilia “rolls out the red carpet” for more than 90 college reps during its Red Carpet Mornings, now an annual tradition. These one-hour morning fairs offer lots of time for one-on-one meetings with colleges from across the country.

With 258 students in grades 9-12, St. Cecilia is an all-girl, Catholic school offering a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. St. Cecilia currently offers 18 Advanced Placement courses, 10 Honors-level classes and advanced math courses in Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations and AP Statistics through the new Online School for Girls. AP Biology students can receive eight college credits through a dual-enrollment program with Aquinas College.

Last year's graduating class "all found great-fit colleges," according to Connolly. The 56 members of the class of 2011 are now attending 41 different colleges in 19 states and ninety-one percent of the Class of 2011 earned college scholarships totaling \$7.3 million.

St. Cecilia Academy is Nashville's oldest private high school, founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation. The Academy has been named to Top 50 best Catholic high schools in the U.S. list five times since 2004.

For a complete list of colleges represented at The Nashville Catholic College Fair, visit http://www.stcecilia.edu/academics/documents/CatholicCollegefair2011list_001.pdf or <http://www.stcecilia.edu/academics/counsel.php>.