



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Bridgetown, Barbados. 12 July 2023- Students of the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School will benefit, for at least five more years, from Michael Mansoor scholarships which are funded by CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank.

The Michael Mansoor scholarships honour the legacy of the late Chairman who helped found the regional bank in 2002 and led it until his retirement, 12 years later. He credited his academic development to the grounding and education he received at a Roman Catholic school and so in 2014, the bank committed a minimum of Bds \$200,000 - \$20,000 annually for an initial 10 years - to provide scholarships for children at Roman Catholic Schools in Trinidad and Barbados.

Recently, principal of the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School in Barbados, Dr. Marvalene Roach and Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown, the Most Reverend Neil Sebastian Scantlebury received the final tranche of scholarship funds under the current ten-year contract.

The bank, however, assured them that the end of that contract was not the end of the relationship, rather a new contract would be offered.

Dr Roach and Bishop Scantlebury expressed gratitude to the bank on behalf of the school's administration, pupils and parents noting that the school was upgrading its programme to meet the needs of its pupils, which included the scholarship beneficiaries.

Bishop Scantlebury drew attention to plans to establish new science and art labs as he thanked the Lord and CIBC FirstCaribbean for honouring the legacy of Mr. Mansoor by giving students access to a good primary education.

Responding, Dr. Roach pointed out that from September, the school would be developing a special learning unit having recognised the number of students suffering with disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD and autism.

"We will not be taking them out of their regular classrooms generally, instead they will have periods with specially trained teachers," she said.

Dr. Roach pointed out that they had already started the programme with the help from personnel of the University of the West Indies who had been conducting sessions with the students, but the school was now creating a dedicated space for the programme and would be adding resources, human and non-human.

She added that the school was also looking to source at least 20 computers to outfit its computer lab.

Mrs Lynda Goodridge, who presented the scholarship funds acknowledged the strides the school were making and pointed out that the late Mr. Mansoor was extremely keen on giving young people access to education as he believed and stressed its importance to their growth and development and that of the Caribbean.

Goodridge, who worked with him for several years, stressed that he would have loved the gesture and CIBC FirstCaribbean was therefore very pleased that the school had allowed it through its charity arm, the FirstCaribbean Comtrust Foundation, of which she is a trustee, to memorialise Mansoor in this way.

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Students of the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School, in the front row, witnessed as Mrs Lynda Goodridge, trustee of the FirstCaribbean ComTrust Foundation (backrow left) presented the scholarship funds to Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown, the Most Reverend Neil Sebastian Scantlebury. At right is Principal Dr. Marvalene Roach.

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