

The Founding of Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School A Timeline of Events

April 2006: The Chicago Province Jesuits and the Midwest District Christian Brothers, with the approval of the Cristo Rey Network®, agree to sponsor a feasibility study for a Cristo Rey model high school in the Austin neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago.

May 16, 2006: First meeting of the Feasibility Advisory Committee (FAC), a group of over a dozen educators, Jesuits, and business and community leaders who are charged with the task of demonstrating both the need and support for a Cristo Rey model high school in Austin. Jack Crowe is appointed Chairman of this committee.

June 9, 2006: The FAC meets again and appoints committee member, Jack Macnamara, as Director of the Feasibility Study, Bridget Grady as Coordinator and Minister Vivian Gaulding, Chaplain at San Miguel School, as the Community Outreach Leader. This three person group becomes known as the Coordinating Team.

July 12 – December 31, 2006: The FAC gathers demographic data targeting the youth population on the West Side as well its need for quality, secondary educational schools. It discovers that though there are 14,000 high school age youth in Austin, the community only has 7,000 spaces for students at existing high schools. The FAC interviews 88 community leaders, 119 parents and 531 students. A Jobs subcommittee of the FAC introduces Chicago area businesses to the opportunity of supporting potential students of a Cristo Rey school on the West Side. The proposed school receives over 70 letters of intent for jobs.

January 1, 2007: The FAC submits its Report on the Feasibility of a Cristo Rey Model High School in the Austin Neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago and Request for Full Sponsorship to the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus (the “Jesuits”), the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Cristo Rey Network. The report includes a \$6 million pledge for support from an anonymous group of donors.

Spring 2007: The FAC engages in a dialogue with the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus regarding its interest in sponsorship. Through an agreement between the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA) acquires property at the Resurrection Campus on Laramie and Jackson. CJA agrees with the FAC to share this parcel of property should the proposed high school meet approval and Jesuit sponsorship.

May 21, 2007: Very Rev. Ed Schmidt, SJ, offers conditional approval of Jesuit sponsorship, contingent on the approval of Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

June 2007: His Eminence Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, offers his approval and enthusiastic support for the proposed school. Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, approves the foundation of the new Jesuit high school. Father Schmidt appoints Rev. Christopher Devron, SJ, president of the new school, contingent on eventual board approval. Father Devron announces that the school will be named “Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School” (CTK).

July – August 2007: Father Devron arrives in Chicago to take up his responsibilities as president of Christ the King. CTK is incorporated as a non-profit entity with the state of Illinois. Mr. Preston Kendall is appointed vice president for corporate internships, Ms. Sonji Cooks is appointed director of admissions, and Mr. Brendan Conroy is appointed principal (effective October 1).

(continued from page 1): A prominent group of Chicago area religious, business and educational leaders—including those with roots in the West Side of Chicago—is appointed to the founding board of trustees. Award-winning architect John Ronan is selected for the task of master-planning the Resurrection campus, in cooperation with Chicago Jesuit Academy.

Fall 2007: At a September 12 press conference and community celebration, CTK is officially announced by the Chicago Province Jesuits and the Archdiocese, and the board of trustees meets for the first time. Following that initial meeting, John Ronan and the building committee of the board will plan the campus, CTK will hire development staff to complete the founding leadership team, and new board members will be added. CTK will officially kick off its marketing campaign for student recruitment by finalizing marketing materials and reaching out to the community. The curriculum committee will be formed and begin meeting to develop a strategic plan for curriculum and a \$33 million capital campaign. CTK leadership team will coordinate a “best practices” tour to visit other Cristo Rey model schools throughout the nation.

Winter 2008: The leadership team writes student handbook and parent CIP contract. Principal will draft classes to be offered; school schedule and calendar, including religious life (e.g., masses, retreats) and all co-curricular student activities. The curriculum, building and development committees will meet to discuss progress and next steps. CTK will obtain permits from City to begin construction on school site.

St. Martin de Porres Parish (Washington Blvd. and LeClaire Ave.) and the Archdiocese of Chicago agree that CTK will occupy the St. Martin de Porres School Building for the 2008-09 school year. This will allow time for the school to build new facilities at the Resurrection Campus.

Late Spring/ Early Summer 2008: The key faculty (department heads) will join the startup team and curriculum committee, class recruitment will be finalized, teacher meetings will be scheduled, curriculum will be presented and lesson planning will begin. Corporate internship staff creates job team assignments.

Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held on June 26th at the Resurrection Campus. His Eminence, Cardinal Francis George, will preside at the groundbreaking and blessing of the site and The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago, will offer remarks.

Late Summer 2008 (Projected): Mass of the Holy Spirit will be conducted and Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School opens with approx. 120 students, at the anticipated interim site, St. Martin de Porres School.

Summer 2009 (Projected): Ribbon cutting event and dedication celebrates Christ the King permanent home at Resurrection Campus. Cardinal George is invited to dedicate and bless the new chapel at the campus. The board plans to meet the goal of raising a total of \$15M.

Late Summer/Early Fall 2009 (Projected): Christ the King freshmen and sophomore classes begin at the Resurrection Campus, making it the first time ever that Jesuit schools of two national models (Cristo Rey model and the Nativity model) share the same campus.