



## HOLY SPIRIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Holy Spirit Preparatory School Named One of America's Top 50 Catholic High Schools – Second Year in a Row**

(ATLANTA, November 10, 2008) Holy Spirit Preparatory School was named one of America's top 50 Catholic secondary schools by the Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second consecutive year. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. It is a critical resource for parents and educators that distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: *academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.*

This is the second year that Holy Spirit Prep was eligible for consideration and the second year in a row they have earned top honors. "We are proud and grateful to be named one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in America," said Holy Spirit Prep President Gareth N. Genner. "Our dedicated faculty and staff as well as our committed parents make Holy Spirit Prep a unique place. We thank the Catholic High School Honor Roll for this distinction. We look forward to continuing to build a legacy of academic excellence and Catholic faith formation"

Nearly 1,300 Catholic high schools were invited to apply to the Honor Roll by completing surveys that measure academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education. With this high level of competition, inclusion on the Honor Roll indicates outstanding success in each of the disciplines examined.

The best schools demonstrate a balanced excellence, which includes an active Catholic culture, sound college preparation and integration of Church teaching in all departments. These schools also display sound moral, catechetical and civic formation that prepares students for vocations in the world as political, religious, scientific, and business leaders.

"We are all very pleased to learn that Holy Spirit Preparatory School has been named for the second year in a row as one of the top 50 secondary Catholic Schools in the United

States,” said Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue, Rector of the School. “Mr. Genner and the faculty and staff are especially to be recognized for producing excellence in both education and character formation. Also, large part of the praise must be reserved for the parents of the students, who are unsurpassed in their support and generosity. But most of all, we congratulate the students themselves, whose enthusiasm for learning, whose capacity to grow in maturity, and whose loyalty and love for the school, make honors of this kind actually happen.”

Overall, 23 states are represented on the Honor Roll and Holy Spirit Prep is one of only two schools from Georgia ever to be named to the top 50.

"I would like to congratulate the Holy Spirit Prep School community for this well-deserved recognition," said Diane Starkovich, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. "By achieving 2008 Catholic High School Honor Roll Status, the strengths of the school's programs are once again confirmed by an outside agency. I applaud the efforts of the administration, teachers, parents and students for achieving this prestigious award for the second year in a row."

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is facilitated by the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. The Honor Roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars drawn from the University of Notre Dame, Catholic University of America, Gonzaga University, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Pontifical College Josephinum, University of Tulsa, DeSales University, Christendom College and Creighton University.

Advisory board member Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, President of Catholic University of America, said the Honor Roll's evaluation method is indispensable. "Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the Church's educational calling," he said. "The Honor Roll strengthens schools by encouraging high standards and vibrant Catholicism."

In addition to its High School which graduated its third class in 2008, Holy Spirit Preparatory School offers programs of instructions for students in its Preschool beginning at age 2, and at the Lower School for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Holy Spirit Prep's Upper School includes a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Junior High and a 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade High School.

Holy Spirit Preparatory School ([www.holyspiritprep.org](http://www.holyspiritprep.org)) was founded in 1996. It is an independent, coeducational, Catholic, college-preparatory school serving students from Pre-K2 through high school on three distinct campuses conveniently located inside the Perimeter in Sandy Springs.