

# ST. DOMINIC SAVIO

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



### **Mártir José Sánchez del Río**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

St. Dominic Savio is happy to report that the school has been granted a Charter in the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. “The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish and Portuguese and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The purpose of the society is to recognize high achievement of high school students in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and to promote a continuing interest in Hispanic and Portuguese studies.

Any secondary school student who has maintained an honor average in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters and is in the 10th grade or higher is eligible. Definition of “honor grade” is left to the discretion of the individual sponsor but it should be remembered that the SHH is an honor society for those students of high academic achievement” (<http://www.sociedadhonorariahispanica.org>).

St. Dominic Savio’s Charter will be called the Beato José Sánchez del Río Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. Sra. Pojman is the advisor.

### **Biography of José Sánchez del Río**

In the latter part of the 1920s, the Mexican government was persecuting the Catholic Church. The Cristeros were rebels against the government. José Sánchez del Río was 13 when the Cristero War broke out in 1926. His brothers joined the rebel forces, but his mother wouldn’t allow him to fight. The rebel general also refused his enlistment. The boy insisted that he wanted the chance to give his life for Christ. The general finally relented and allowed José to become the flagbearer of the troop.

During heavy fighting on January 25, 1928, the government troops captured José and imprisoned him in the sacristy of the local church. The government forces ordered him to renounce his faith

in Christ, under threat of death. José refused. The government forces made José watch the hanging of another Cristero, but instead José encouraged the man, saying that they would soon meet again in Heaven.

According to one witness, on February 10, 1928, the government forces cut the bottom of José's feet and forced him to walk toward the cemetery. They also cut him with a machete until he was bleeding from several wounds, but he did not give in. They told him 'If you shout 'Death to Christ the King' we will spare your life.' José told them "I will never give in. Viva Cristo Rey!" When they reached the place of execution, they stabbed him numerous times with bayonets. He only shouted louder, "Viva Cristo Rey!" The commander, in a fit of rage, pulled out his pistol and shot Blessed José Sánchez del Río in the head. After being shot, José drew a cross in the ground, a cross with his blood, and kissed it before dying.

### **Requirements for Membership in *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* at St. Dominic Savio:**

- Complete a minimum of three semesters of Spanish ;
- Sophomores or higher are eligible;
- 3.5 Grade Point Average in Spanish Classes\*

### **Application Process:**

Applications will be available in Mrs. Pojman's classroom and in the main office beginning Friday, December 10, 2010. Completed application is due to Sra. Pojman by January 4, 2011. Official notification letters will be mailed out on January 21, 2011.

### **Induction Ceremony:**

The *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* Induction Ceremony will be combined with the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on February 22, 2011 at 7pm.

\*The only grades considered for acceptance to the *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* are Spanish class grades. Other core subjects or electives are not considered.