

**The REACH Dyslexia Lab, where students learn through multisensory learning, serves students in grades K-6.**

**There is a fee (in addition to tuition) for this service.**

### **Mission Statement**

To provide a nurturing place to promote the joy and power of reading, to encourage the development of lifelong users and creators of information, and to empower students to become critical thinkers and skillful researchers.

### **Namesake**

Bl. Margaret of Castello was born in the fourteenth century in Metola, Italy. When the news was brought to the new mother that her newborn daughter was a blind, hunchbacked dwarf, both parents were horrified. Little Margaret was kept in a secluded section of the family castle in the hopes that her existence would be kept secret. Here she lived until she was sixteen, never being allowed to come out. The parish priest became a good friend, and took upon himself the duty to educate her. He was amazed at her docility and the depth of her spiritual wisdom.

Deprived of all human companionship, Margaret learned to embrace her Lord in solitude. Her cheerfulness stemmed from her conviction that God loves each person infinitely, for He has made each person in His own image and likeness. This same cheerfulness won the hearts of the poor of Castello, and they took her into their homes for as long as their purses could afford.

She was beatified in 1609. Thus, the daughter that nobody wanted is now one of the glories of the Church.

Feast: April 13

In November of 2016 the programing for children with special education needs was named the Blessed Margaret of Castello REACH (Religious Education for All Children) Program.

### **Mission Statement**

The Blessed Margaret of Castello REACH (Religious Education for All Children) Program in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, is committed to providing measurably superior services that address the unique and diverse needs of all students. This commitment supports our belief that all students have the right to an effective education. We believe that this focus on providing an effective education in an atmosphere of Catholic Faith Formation, prepares students for their roles as Disciples of Christ, and sets the stage for them to become lifelong independent learners and compassionate and contributing members of a diverse society.

## **Program History**

In 1962, Bishop Tracy established special education services in schools. In 1981, the program was consolidated into a special school that was housed in the present day Tracy Center on the grounds of the Catholic Life Center. In 1987, it was relocated to the school campus of St. Louis King of France so as to address “least restrictive environment” concerns. In 1988, the high school-aged students were moved to the campus of Redemptorist High School. In 1990, the remaining elementary students were moved to the campus of St. Gerard, which is now Redemptorist Elementary School. In 2010, the program was once again consolidated on one campus, that being Redemptorist High School. In 2014, a task force came together to revisit best practices of special education and in the fall of 2015, opened on 6 school sites with 30 students whose needs for services ranged from students on the spectrum to students needing lab services to remediate dyslexia. Currently, we have 4 schools with Special Education classrooms and 9 schools with a Dyslexia Lab and Instructional Support Services.

Founded in 1962, the Special Education Program serves the Diocese of Baton Rouge by providing special education centers. The Program serves both Catholic and non-Catholic students from the ages of 6 to 21 who have been identified with an exceptionality according to the Louisiana Department of Education, Bulletin 1508.