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Re: Richard & Shelli Steckel

La Academia at the Denver Inner City Parish is a non-denominational private school for at-risk, low-income Latino youth in grades seven through twelve. We received a wonderful treat this year for our 2010 Graduation Ceremony when Richard & Shelli Steckel photographed the ceremony.

They did a remarkable job of telling the story of the graduation, but much more. Through their compelling and thoughtful photos they were able to tell the story of the challenges, obstacles and victories of our student's lives.

Upon my first viewing of their work, I cried, cheered, laughed and applauded. The second viewing ended in the same result but with even more emotion. After the third viewing I wondered if they had been hiding in the closet of the school unnoticed for two or three years, because I was amazed how they could understand our school and our youth so well in such a short time.

Richard & Shelli "get it!" they understand who we are, what we are about, their pictures tell our story and expose our soul – not an easy trick. I am delighted by their efforts and I am forever grateful for their documentation of La Academia at the Denver Inner City Parish.

Respectfully,

D. Todd Clough,
Executive Director