



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



Catholic schools mold students' spirits and minds to know, love and serve God

By Gina Fleming

As I consider the tremendous impact that Catholic education has had on individuals, families and entire communities, I am reminded of a poem entitled "Unity" (author unknown).

The first stanza reads, "I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there. The clay they used was a young child's mind, and they fashioned it with care."

The two referenced sculptors are the teacher and the parent. However, in Catholic schools, we would identify God as the master sculptor, and each of us as his apprentices.

Our Catholic schools are able to provide a unique foundation upon which these masterpieces are built, thanks to strong parent and Church investment, our holistic approach to teaching and learning, and our constant focus on learning about and living our Catholic faith.

But what does Catholic education "take"?

With 68 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, our educators take these beautiful children of God—beginning at three to four years of age—and develop readers, writers, scientists, historians, mathematicians and artists.

Catholic schools channel curiosity and energy while striving to empower learners to become advocates for themselves and others through Christian service and strong morals.

Our schools mold creative spirits and critical minds to form strong, well-rounded Christian men and women who serve as leaders committed to knowing, loving and serving God.

Catholic education takes young people and develops doctors, teachers, lawyers, business leaders, musicians, artists and scientists. Priests, deacons, and men and women religious spring from the work of our Catholic schools, as do dedicated spouses, mothers and fathers.

Catholic schools teach us how to align our choices to Gospel values through the study of Sacred Scripture,

Church traditions and infinite examples of our Catholic faith.

Catholic schools recognize the gifts with which each individual has been blessed and work collectively with parents and students to fully develop these gifts and glorify God.

The "Unity" poem concludes with, "And each agreed they would have failed if each had worked alone, for behind the teacher stood the school, and behind the parent, the home."

In our Catholic schools, God works through students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators and supporters to provide opportunities to deepen relationships with him, making future celebrations sweeter and hardships lighter.

Catholic schools do not limit the focus on student growth from ages 3 to 18, but instead use precious time with youth to prepare them for college, careers and most importantly, heaven.

With God's grace, Catholic schools take children and develop the masterpieces God created them to be. †

Students grow in service, leadership through Maley Foundation

By Natalie Hoefler

Two years ago, Christine Williams, principal of Holy Name of Jesus School in Beech Grove, decided she wanted to do less talking and have more action when it came to promoting the concept of service for the school's middle school students.

"I wanted something to remind [the students] of our larger purpose outside of what they see every day," she said. "Every day they're learning about our Catholic faith, but I wanted an opportunity for them to put it in action."

But where to begin, how to organize such an effort and how to help the students process their experience were a challenge.

Enter the Joseph Maley Foundation, a non-profit started in Indianapolis by St. Monica parishioners Vivian and John Maley. Their son, Joseph, died of leukemia at the age of 18 in 2008.

"Joseph was born with a lot of different disabilities," said Vivian. "Joseph had four brothers, so my husband and I were used to teaching others how to work with and accept others with disabilities."

In 1991, Vivian started a disabilities awareness program at St. Monica School in Indianapolis, where her four other boys were students. That program started as the launching point for the Joseph Maley Foundation in 2008.

In just six years, the foundation has grown to offer 11 different programs that range from raising disability awareness, to developing a spirit of servant leadership in youths, to serving families suffering from infant loss.

"We created a broad mission statement on purpose so as the foundation grew and more ideas came about, we could do other things that would serve children of all abilities and not focus just on children with disabilities," Vivian explained.

While the Joseph Maley Foundation offers its programs to any school, it started in Catholic schools and the word spread from there. The foundation recently added a few businesses to its list of clients.

Williams utilized the foundation's Service Day program to get the Holy Name middle school students active in serving others.

"They work with your culture and your vision," said Williams, who wanted the students to volunteer particularly at Catholic organizations.

The staff at the foundation found three Catholic nonprofits in the Indianapolis area—Anna's House, Hearts & Hands of Indiana, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They then divided the students into three groups. Teachers and parents drove the groups to their assigned organization, where they spent half a day volunteering.

"When they came back, the leaders from the Joseph Maley Foundation led the kids through a reflection on the day," said Williams. "The kids loved it. They all left on a positive note."

She was so impressed with the outcome that she asked the Joseph Maley Foundation to organize a day of volunteering for the entire school, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

"They designed a curriculum that included the academic standards for each grade, and had lessons that connected to the service project that students were doing, and were even able to tie service points into what the teachers were covering in their instructions," Williams said.

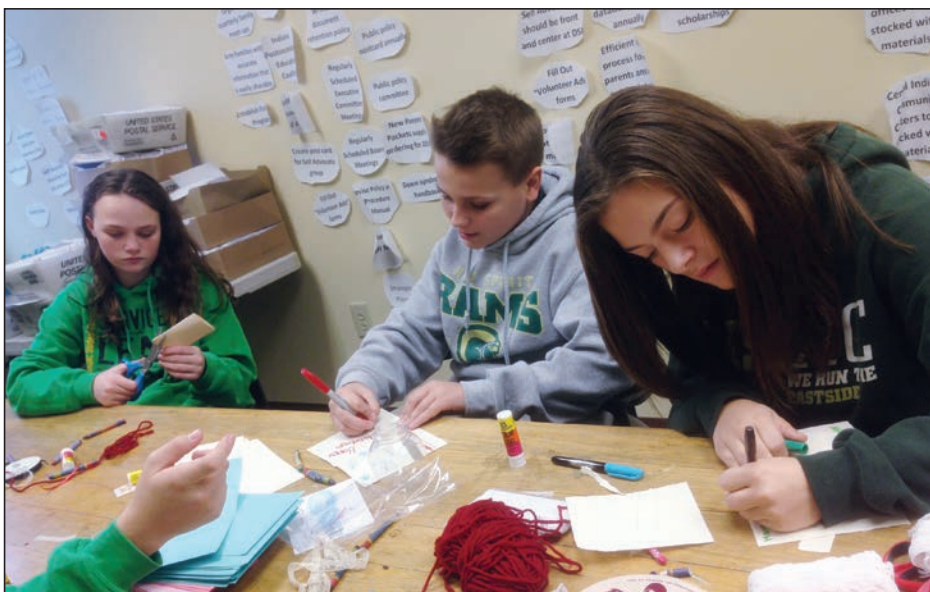
"It was a really neat initiative and incredible to see all of our students participate in service at the same time."

Not far away at Holy Spirit School, students for the last five years have participated in the Service Day program and other Joseph Maley Foundation programs to instill the values of service and leadership into the youths.

"Until students are actively engaged and actually seeing the places they're going and doing the work, they're not really going to understand service," said principal Rita Parsons. "By giving them that opportunity, you're empowering them to go on serving in the future."



Above, Holy Spirit School students decorate the Joseph Maley Foundation office for a Christmas party on Dec. 9, 2014, to be offered for an organization serving families in need. Students raised money to provide gifts which they purchased for the families. (Submitted photos)



Left, as part of a Joseph Maley Foundation Service Day activity, Holy Spirit students make Christmas cards on Nov. 13, 2014, for members and families of Down Syndrome Indiana.

"We're seeing [Holy Spirit graduates] in high school becoming involved in service, going to St. Vincent de Paul on Saturdays or joining their high school service club. They take initiative now because they know what it's like to pay it forward, and they know service makes them feel good."

Students from Holy Spirit have also become involved in the foundation's disabilities awareness programs, including Disabilities Awareness Week and the Kids on the Block puppet troupe, which puts on puppet shows at schools to teach children about disabilities.

"With the Kids on the Block program, the kids went out for a week of training during the summer," Parsons explained. "It really developed the leadership of the students. They had to create and build the stage, know their roles, act out their parts, then lead a question-and-answer session. And it's all done by the students."

Both disabilities awareness and leadership are outcomes of the foundation's Disabilities Week program as well, said Amy Moran, a counselor at Holy Spirit

School who helped coordinate the program.

"The most amazing thing of that week is not only awareness, but how friends and peers come to the help of the students who have been assigned a disability," she said. "Kids will ask, 'Can I eat lunch with you? How can I help you?' It's fabulous to see them step up as the leaders and role models we know they can be."

As with Williams of Holy Name School, Parsons has seen graduates of Holy Spirit School continue with volunteering. One graduate now serves on the Joseph Maley Foundation Junior Board.

That one graduate is how Vivian Maley sees the foundation working: "One little bit at a time, making the world a better place," she said.

"The Joseph Maley Foundation is a continuation of Joseph's legacy. We're all about planting seeds and growing miracles."

(For more information about the Joseph Maley Foundation, log on to www.josephmaley.org.) †

Students' special "Soup in a Jar" helps to nourish needy families



Fourth-grade students Jack Bryant and Sophia Denison of Holy Family School in New Albany help to create "soup in a jar" to benefit families in need. (Submitted photo)

By John Shaughnessy

For 20 years, Amy Huber and Kim Huff have helped their fourth-grade students at Holy Family School in New Albany add a special touch of warmth to the lives of families during the holiday season.

It's all part of an effort that is called "Soup in a Jar."

"Parent volunteers come in the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and help the students make 'Soup in a Jar' to raise money for the less fortunate," Huber says. "The children bring in their orders of soup, and the money they raise goes to buy food and Christmas gifts for needy families. Holy Family's cafeteria is warmed with not only soup but the sheer joy of making someone else's Christmas

extra special."

The experience provides a satisfying feeling for the students, too.

"It is important to help others because it makes you feel good about yourself," says Presley Kirk. "When you do this, God is very happy, and you are following God's rules."

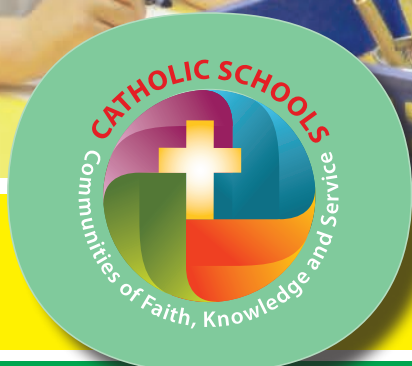
Fourth-grader Brantley Whitlock adds, "It is nice to help others because it is the way Jesus taught us."

Huber sees a long-lasting benefit to "Soup in a Jar" for her students.

"They are brought together to give thanks for everything they have and to touch the hearts of other families. By participating in this service project, their faith is also strengthened, and they are shown that anyone can make a difference." †



2



reasons to celebrate Catholic schools in the archdiocese

By John Shaughnessy

1 Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis was one of 71 Catholic schools in the country and just three in Indiana to be named a 2014 School of Excellence by the Catholic Education Honor Roll—a recognition for schools that are “marked by the integration of Catholic identity throughout all aspects of their programs and excellence in academics.”

2 Jenny Lents of St. Louis School in Batesville is one of nine elementary school teachers in the country who has been chosen to receive the 2015 Distinguished Teacher Award from the National Catholic Educational Association.

3 In 2014 ratings by the Indiana Department of Education, 59 of the 67 Catholic schools in the archdiocese received either an “A” or “B” grade—and 21 schools improved their ratings since 2013.

4 At the Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards event in Indianapolis on Nov. 5, it was announced that a record \$6.1 million had been raised in 2014 to help children in the archdiocese receive a Catholic education.

5 The girls’ volleyball team of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville won their second straight Class 2A state championship.

6 Cathedral High School in Indianapolis won the Class 5A state championship in football, tying Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis with a record 12 state championships in the sport.

7 Patricia Mattingly of Providence High School was named the winner of the Class 2A Mental Attitude Award for girls’ volleyball, recognizing her mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

8 Jared Thomas of Cathedral High School was honored for those same qualities when he was selected as the winner of the Class 5A Mental Attitude Award for football.

9 Rebekah Israel of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison earned a first-place finish in the National Youth Engineering Challenge in September in West Lafayette, Ind.

10 In his 49th year of teaching at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, James Ratliff received national recognition for the fact that his students have won an annual national architectural design competition 10 times in the past 18 years.

11 During the past five years, enrollment in Catholic schools across the archdiocese has increased from slightly more than 22,000 students in 2009-10 to nearly 24,000 students in 2014-15.

12 Ninety-seven percent of Catholic high schools students in the archdiocese graduated.

13 Based upon his impact on his players and the community during his 37 years of coaching football at Father Thomas Seccina Memorial High School in Indianapolis, Ott Hurrel became the first Indiana coach to receive the national Power of Influence Award from the American Football Coaches Association and American Football Coaches Foundation.

14 Bill Hicks, longtime speech and debate teacher and coach at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, became only the third person since 1925 to earn the National Speech and Debate Association’s “Distinguished Service Plaque—Eleventh Honors.”

15 St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis won the Teamwork Champions Award in the elementary school competition of the Third Annual Indy VEX Robotics Championship in Indianapolis in November.

16 Ed Tinder, longtime executive director of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for the archdiocese, received the 2014 National Catholic Youth Ministry Award, recognizing his efforts “to enforce the idea that CYO coaches are youth ministers while challenging them to teach and model Gospel values for their players.”

17 The St. Roch Junior Spell Bowl Team of Indianapolis earned their third straight state title in the Indiana Association of School Principals Spell Bowl State Championship. The team correctly spelled 69 of a possible 72 words.

18 A senior at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, Sarah Bacon earned three national titles during the U.S. Junior National Diving Championships in August.

19 Roncalli High School’s board of directors is one of five boards from across the country that has been selected to receive the 2015 Outstanding Board Award from the National Catholic Educational Association.

20 More than 95 percent of Catholic high school graduates in the archdiocese went on to college. †

Seeds of faith blossom, bear fruit at Holy Cross Central School

By Sean Gallagher

For many years, Father Christopher Wadelton has had the heart of a missionary. It has led him on many occasions to minister to the poor in Honduras in Central America.

Now he serves as pastor of St. Philip Neri Parish in Indianapolis. One of the ministries of the parish is Holy Cross Central School, which is also part of the archdiocese's Mother Theodore Catholic Academies.

In being present to the some 250 students enrolled there, Father Wadelton, school principal Ruth Hittel and its teachers have all found a mission field close to home.

Nearly all of Holy Cross' students live at or below the poverty level. More than half are not being raised by their biological mother and father. Most are being raised by single parents or grandparents. About half are Catholic and half not Catholic.

Many seeds of faith have been planted in this mission field, and they are starting to bear great fruit.

Over the years, Hittel said that a small handful of students would annually ask to come into the full communion of the Church.

That increased to about 35 students during the 2013-14 academic year.

Hittel said that this spike was not the result of any formal evangelization program. Instead, she credits the increase to the good example of the Catholic teachers on staff at Holy Cross, where 17 of the 20 faculty members are Catholic, and the enthusiasm of Father Wadelton.

This positive, faith-filled environment, combined with the brokenness that many of the students experience in their families and social situations, affected many of the students in their journey of faith.

"The students find Holy Cross as a stabilizing factor in their lives," Hittel said. "The school and the Church are literally their rock and one place of safety. ... By coming into the Church, the children find one more ray of hope, for some in a near hopeless future."

One of those students is Savannah Lee, a sixth-grader at the time she was received into the Church last year. She enjoyed coming into the Church with so many other students from the school, but she understood that it was her decision alone.

"When they were getting baptized, it was peaceful," Savannah said. "I felt like they had that peace."

"I wanted to be baptized because I was in a Catholic school and I wanted to have



Savannah Lee, a seventh-grade student at Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis, kneels on Jan. 12 in Holy Cross Church, which is adjacent to the school. She was received into the full communion of the Church last year along with more than 30 other students in the school, which is a part of the archdiocese's Mother Theodore Catholic Academies. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

that religion. I chose to do it, and I like it."

Katie Loudon is Holy Cross' second-grade teacher. She also helped form the other students to be received into the Church last year and is working with about 30 students during this academic year.

"The kids won't say it out loud like in a lunch table conversation, but it's something that they're wanting," said Loudon, a graduate of Marian University in Indianapolis. "It kind of just grows and expands [within them]. And it's not just the bandwagon thing to do. It's like, 'If he can do that, then that's something that I can do, too.'"

Hittel attended a Catholic school as a youth when nearly all the students were Catholic. She started her career as an educator in a similar situation.

She now appreciates ministering as an administrator of a Catholic school where many of the students do not share her faith—at least at first.

"Working with children who were not raised as Catholics, but who have embraced the faith because of what they're living every day when they're at school, is fabulous," Hittel said.

"Nobody's telling them that they have to receive the sacraments. They are choosing it. That's what's beautiful."

On the day when many of the students were baptized last year, one young girl at the last moment did not have a godparent available for the sacrament.

Hittel stepped up and offered to play that important role in the young student's life of faith.

"I went over and said, 'Would you do me the honor of allowing me to be your godmother?'" Hittel recalled. "The next thing you knew, her mom was in tears. Since then, I've brought the girl to church on several Sundays because that's one of my jobs as her godmother."

Holy Cross is doing things to encourage all the students and their families to come to Sunday Mass at Holy Cross Church. They call it "Pack the Lord's House," and it is scheduled about four times a year.

"We're hoping to create that habit and make a big deal out of coming to church on Sunday," Hittel said. "If we get them once a quarter, well now let's try twice a quarter."

Those who asked to be received into the Church were given a card that they

were to have signed by the priest who celebrated the weekly Sunday Mass that they attended.

Being an example of faith and a person whom the students can ask about the faith is why Father Wadelton likes to visit Holy Cross on a regular basis, in addition to celebrating Mass for the school community.

"Evangelization was definitely a big part of why I like being in the school, both for the Catholic kids and the non-Catholic kids," he said. "It's an opportunity for them to ask questions and for me to be with their inquisitive minds."

Father Wadelton hopes that the faith that he, Hittel and the teachers at Holy Cross have helped pass on to the students there will continue to grow in the years to come.

"I hope that they will maintain that enthusiasm," Father Wadelton said. "Most of them are old enough that they recognize the enthusiasm, and it's fresh enough that when they really need to rely on their faith in high school and college, that enthusiasm is still going to be there. They'll be comforted by their faith in times of need." †

A child's song captures essence of Catholic education for teacher



Kim Higdon's smile reflects the joy she gets from working with her students to praise God through music. (Submitted photo)

By John Shaughnessy

As a music teacher at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, Kim Higdon believes that "one of the greatest joys in life is singing praises to God through hymns and liturgical music." Higdon has also come to understand that her greatest rewards as a teacher often come unexpectedly.

"It is so important for me to connect with my students one on one," she says. "My first year at St. Barnabas, I had a first grader named Helen who rarely spoke to anyone. When it was her turn, she would sing alone in the tiniest voice imaginable, with barely a whisper coming from her lips. She would sing along in class looking down at her lap with her lips

barely moving.

"Helen remained quite shy until around third grade. One day when I asked for a volunteer to sing, I caught Helen looking at me eagerly. Even though she hadn't raised her hand, I asked her if she would like to give it a try. She nodded and stood up and faced her class.

"As I began to play my guitar softly, out came this sweet, pitch-perfect, gentle voice singing, 'When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still You're there, right beside me.' The class exploded into applause as Helen smiled shyly and took her seat. In subsequent years, Helen volunteered to sing psalm verses at Mass, sang a duet in her eighth grade Christmas program, and performed a major solo in the Spring Musical.

"Rewards are there every day." †

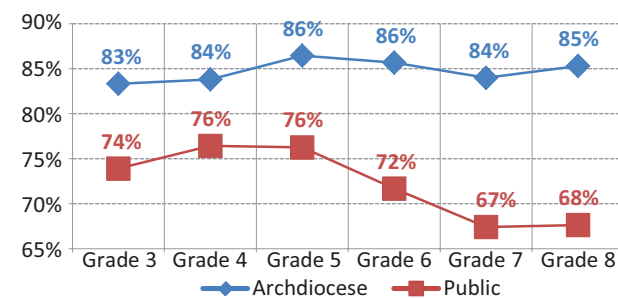
12 reasons to choose Catholic schools

The National Catholic Educational Association offers "A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools":

1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate; 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all. †

Spring 2014 ISTEP+

Indiana Proficiency & Archdiocese Average Passing Both English/Language Arts & Math





CYO SPORTS

Catholic education of the body, heart and spirit



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Digital tablets bring change, opportunity to Catholic schools

By Sean Gallagher

BATESVILLE—Digital technology keeps advancing at a quick pace in society, and administrators and teachers in Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana are working hard to find the best way to use these devices in teaching their students.

St. Louis School in Batesville was the first elementary school in the archdiocese to have all its students use Apple iPads—a device which was initially launched only in 2010—in all their classes and for homework.

In the year and a half that the digital tablets have been used in the Batesville Deanery school, they have transformed the way that teachers gauge students' learning.

In the past, St. Louis eighth-grade teacher Jenny Lents graded tests or quizzes by students at home, gathered all the scores on her own to see how the entire class was doing and then a day or so later could adjust her lesson plans to meet the needs of individual learners.

Lents says, however, that iPads, give her “immediate feedback” when students answer on their iPads questions projected onto a screen in the classroom. She receives their answers as soon as they enter them.

“Then I can go immediately in and help the kids that need more help,” she said. “Or if it’s the whole group not understanding something, then I can go back and reinforce that. It has saved me a ton of time.”

Mary McCoy, assistant superintendent of schools in the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education, said that the data on student learning in the past was more “summative,” collected at the end of chapters, in quizzes or tests. Now, she says, it is more “formative,” being gathered on a daily basis in ordinary classroom interaction.

“They’re constantly seeing what those students need or don’t need,” McCoy said. “They’re able to adjust their lessons, right there on the spot.”

St. Louis fourth-grade teacher Jill Hollins says that the digital devices have brought about a greater interaction between her and her students.

For example, they may have in the past been given a worksheet on which they would write down the meaning of vocabulary words. Now, on the iPads, students write a sentence with the words and either draw a picture or find a photo online to go with it. Each student’s page for each vocabulary word is then projected onto a screen in the classroom.

“When they use paper and pencil, a lot of times they’re just thinking, ‘I just want to get this done,’” Hollins said. “I think they take more interest and care more about their work with the iPad.”

Jessica Emil, director of technology at St. Louis, said that putting tablets in the hands of children starting in kindergarten isn’t as groundbreaking as it might seem since they have grown up around touch-screen devices.

“They’re very much digital learners, more so for kindergartners through the fourth grade than the sixth through eighth grades,” Emil said. “They’ve never not had a touch screen in their lives.”

“It’s more fun to learn with the iPads,”

said fourth-grader Evelyn Storms. “And I kind of learn faster with the iPad.”

Recognizing the advantages of using digital devices that children have grown up with in their instruction is one thing. Making it financially possible is another.

St. Louis School was able in large part to put iPads in the hands of its nearly 350 students through a \$125,000 grant it received from the Batesville-based John A. Hillenbrand Foundation.

Initially purchasing the iPads may be a big cost. But maintaining the use of them over the course of several years seemed to be a challenge, according to St. Louis principal Chad Mueller.

He noted a study that estimated that, over the course of an academic year, 20 percent of tablets used in a school would be broken and need to be replaced.

Given St. Louis’ enrollment, that would have been about 70 iPads. Parents and local business leaders on a study committee thought that this would make the initiative unfeasible.

“I kept saying to this group, ‘I cannot see our kids breaking 70 of the machines,’” Mueller said. “It became a joke. But at the end of last year, we had seven that were broken.”

He thinks that this fact is indicative of the Catholic identity of the school, and the way it and the parents who enroll their children there form them to be good stewards.

“It shows the type of kids that attend Catholic schools,” Mueller said.

Instilling Gospel values through the use of iPads at St. Louis also means that filters are installed in their Internet browsers, social media websites are not available and that the only apps the students may download to the devices are those directly related to instruction. The school also has a “digital citizenship” committee that helps parents and students to be safe and use good values online.

Lents and her students also used the iPads on the first feast of St. John Paul II last October to learn more about the recently canonized pontiff.

“I had the kids within five minutes find 20 interesting facts about him [online],” she said. “Then we shared it as a class on their iPads.”

Using tablets to deliver instruction has also made it possible for some schools in central and southern Indiana to continue the educational process even on days when winter weather forces schools to close.

Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville is one school in the archdiocese that has received approval from the Indiana Department of Education to use the “virtual option” during such closures.

On such days, teachers have to post lessons and assignments online by 9 a.m. and have to be available either through text messaging, e-mail or by phone during regular school hours to answer students’ questions.

Providence has developed its own iPad application—PHS iTeach—on which students can access assignments. Teachers at the New Albany Deanery school also have the capability to post videos of instruction online, and to hold online video meetings with students on closure days.

The virtual option can potentially bring more consistency to a students’ educational experience. In the 2013-14



A sixth grade student at St. Louis School in Batesville works on a graphics design project on an iPad in an arts class. (Submitted photo)



Light from an iPad screen shines on Lydia Gigrich, left, an eighth grade student at St. Louis School in Batesville on Jan. 8. The Batesville Deanery school is a year and a half into having all of its students use iPads in its classrooms and for homework assignments. Sitting next to Lydia is eighth grader Alex Greers. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

academic year, which included many severe winter storms, Providence was closed on nine days and had to make up seven of those days during other planned vacation periods.

“The whole point is that it allows instruction to continue instead of having stops and starts,” said Providence principal Mindy Ernstberger.

Providence put the virtual option to the test for the first time last November when the school was closed after a snowstorm passed through southern Indiana.

Ashlyn Edwards, a senior at Providence, told her school’s online newsletter she liked how the virtual option worked.

“It was a useful experience because I still got all my lessons, but I could do them at my own leisure and get my work done at my pace,” she said. “I believe it is a better alternative to snow days because ... it makes the schedule more definite because it eliminates the question of whether we

will really have days off or whether we will have to come in as a snow make-up day.”

Other schools in the archdiocese that have been approved for the virtual option include Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, both in Indianapolis.

Leaders at St. Louis School in Batesville did not seek approval for the virtual option because they felt that elementary school students need more face-to-face time with teachers than those in high schools.

Ernstberger also recognizes the importance of the classroom experience. She said that Providence won’t always use the virtual option when they have to be closed because of inclement weather.

“We want to keep our options open,” she said. “If we have a really bad winter and we feel like we’ve had too many days off in a row, we want to be able to make decisions that would still be in the best interests of our students’ instruction.” †

Motto of ‘live for Jesus’ helps teacher to shape her faith with children

By John Shaughnessy



Teacher Jenny Lents takes advantage of every opportunity to share her faith with her students.

As part of their morning ritual, the students and staff members at St. Louis School in Batesville say these words, “Live for Jesus, love others, and learn.”

As a teacher there, Jenny Lents had the opportunity to live that motto in a special way when the school hosted several junior high school exchange students from China.

“The students had very limited exposure to Christianity,” Lents recalls. “As part of my language arts class, I have a writing workshop day each week where students may choose a topic of their own to write about. As I was conferencing with my young authors, one of the Chinese students, Ann, told me that she wanted to know more about ‘him’ as she pointed to the crucifix hanging

on my wall.

“I knew this was possibly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Ann, so I quickly said a silent prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance and began to share the Good News with her. She smiled and began to write about Jesus.

“This was so rewarding for me because it was an open opportunity to witness for Jesus and plant some seeds of faith. As a Catholic educator, you hope you are planting seeds of faith in your students every day, and that your students are receptive to it, but you don’t always get to openly see the difference you are making.

“This was a chance that reaffirmed that what I do every day matters. It energized me to work even harder for Jesus, the Master Teacher, in word and action.” †

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart on page 10B), AND
- A student who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.i4qed.org/sgo.

INDIANA SCHOOL VOUCHERS

What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-8 can receive a maximum of \$4,800 per school year. High school students can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

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- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart on page 10B), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year.

Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

How do I apply for a Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit www.doe.in.gov/choice.



archindy.org/schools

WHAT AM I ELIGIBLE FOR?

See the chart on page 10B to see if you qualify for Tax Credit Scholarships and Vouchers





ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS Catholic Schools



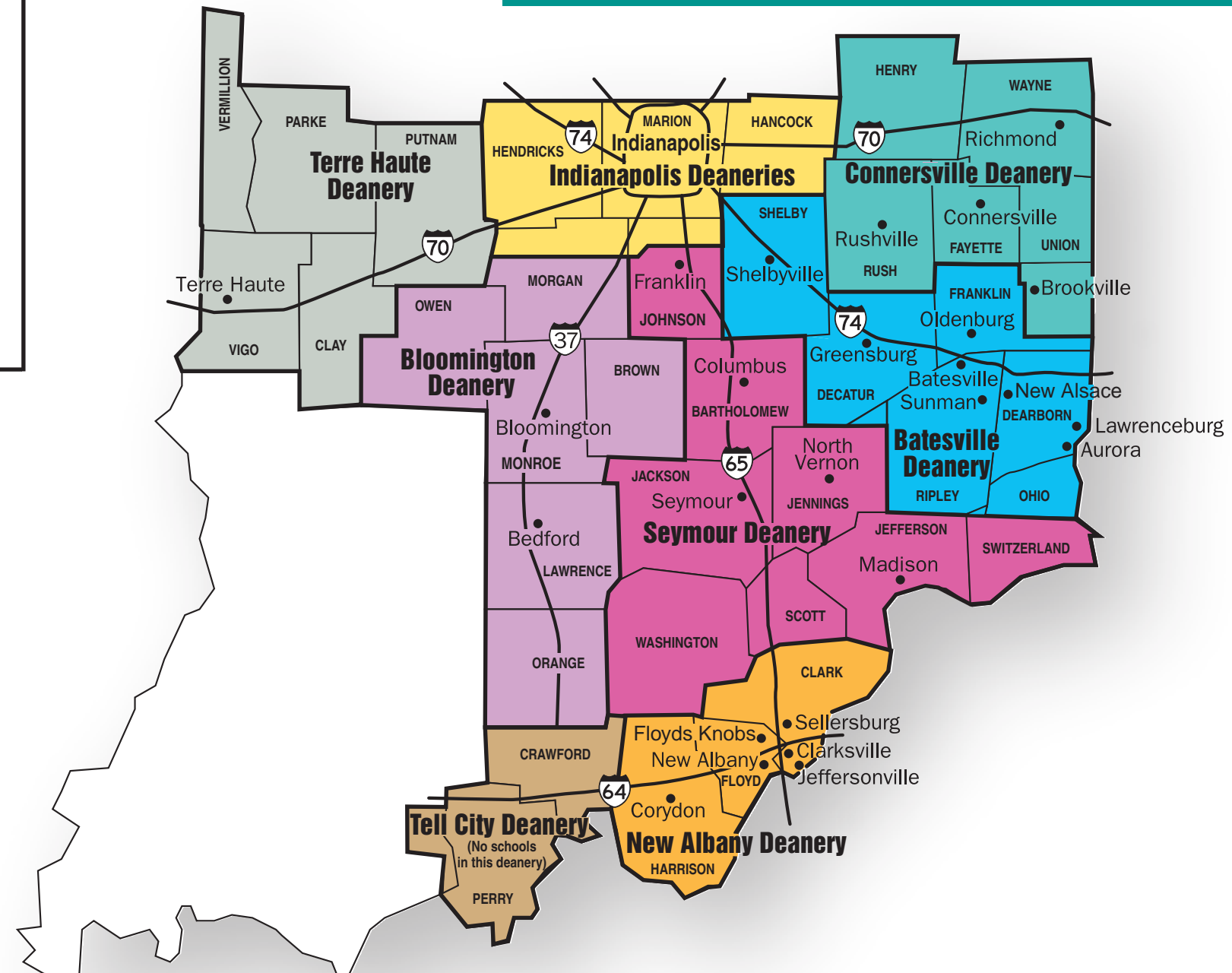
DEANERY SCHOOLS

<p>Batesville Deanery Aurora St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8) 211 Fourth St. Aurora, IN 47001 812-926-1558</p> <p>Batesville St. Louis School (K-8) 17 St. Louis Place Batesville, IN 47006 812-934-3310</p> <p>Greensburg St. Mary School (P-6) 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way Greensburg, IN 47240 812-663-2804</p> <p>Lawrenceburg St. Lawrence School (K-8) 524 Walnut St. Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 812-537-3690</p> <p>New Alsace St. Paul School (P-6) 9788 N. Dearborn Road Guilford, IN 47022 812-623-2631</p> <p>Shelbyville St. Joseph School (P-5) 127 E. Broadway Shelbyville, IN 46176 317-398-4202</p> <p>Sunman St. Nicholas School (P-8) 6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive Sunman, IN 47041 812-623-2348</p>	<p>Bloomington Deanery Bedford St. Vincent de Paul School (P-8) 923 18th St. Bedford, IN 47421 812-279-2540</p> <p>Bloomington St. Charles Borromeo School (P-8) 2224 E. Third St. Bloomington, IN 47401 812-336-5853</p> <p>Connersville Deanery Brookville St. Michael School (K-8) P. O. Box J, 275 High St. Brookville, IN 47012 765-647-4961</p> <p>Connersville St. Gabriel School (P-6) 224 W. Ninth St. Connersville, IN 47331 765-825-7951</p> <p>Richmond Seton Catholic High School (7-12) 233 S. 5th St. Richmond, IN 47374 765-965-6956</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (P-6) 801 W. Main St. Richmond, IN 47374 765-962-4877</p> <p>Rushville St. Mary School (P-6) 226 E. Fifth St. Rushville, IN 46173 765-932-3639</p>	<p>New Albany Deanery Clarksville Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School (7-12) 707 Providence Way Clarksville, IN 47129 812-945-2538</p> <p>Corydon St. Anthony of Padua School (P-8) 320 N. Sherwood Ave. Clarksville, IN 47129 812-282-2144</p> <p>Floyds Knobs St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (P-6) 3033 Martin Road Floyds Knobs, IN 47119 812-923-1630</p> <p>Jeffersonville Sacred Heart School (P-8) 1842 E. Eighth St. Jeffersonville, IN 47130 812-283-3123</p> <p>New Albany Holy Family School (P-8) 217 W. Daisy Lane New Albany, IN 47150 812-944-6090</p> <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (P-8) 1752 Scheller Lane New Albany, IN 47150 812-944-7676</p>	<p>Sellersburg St. Paul School (P-6) 105 St. Paul St. Sellersburg, IN 47172 812-246-3266</p> <p>Seymour Deanery Columbus St. Bartholomew School (P-8) 1306 27th St. Columbus, IN 47201 812-372-6830</p> <p>Franklin St. Rose of Lima School (P-8) 114 Lancelot Drive Franklin, IN 46131 317-738-3451</p> <p>Madison Father Michael Shave Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12) 201 W. State St. Madison, IN 47250 812-273-2150</p> <p>Pope John XXIII School (P-6) 221 W. State St. Madison, IN 47250 812-273-3957</p> <p>North Vernon St. Mary School (K-8) 209 Washington St. North Vernon, IN 47265 812-346-3445</p> <p>Seymour St. Ambrose School (P-8) 301 S. Chestnut St. Seymour, IN 47274 812-522-3522</p>	<p>Terre Haute Deanery Terre Haute St. Patrick School (P-8) 449 S. 19th St. Terre Haute, IN 47803 812-232-2157</p> <p>Private High School Oldenburg Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12) 1 Twister Circle P.O. Box 200 Oldenburg, IN 47036 812-934-4440</p>
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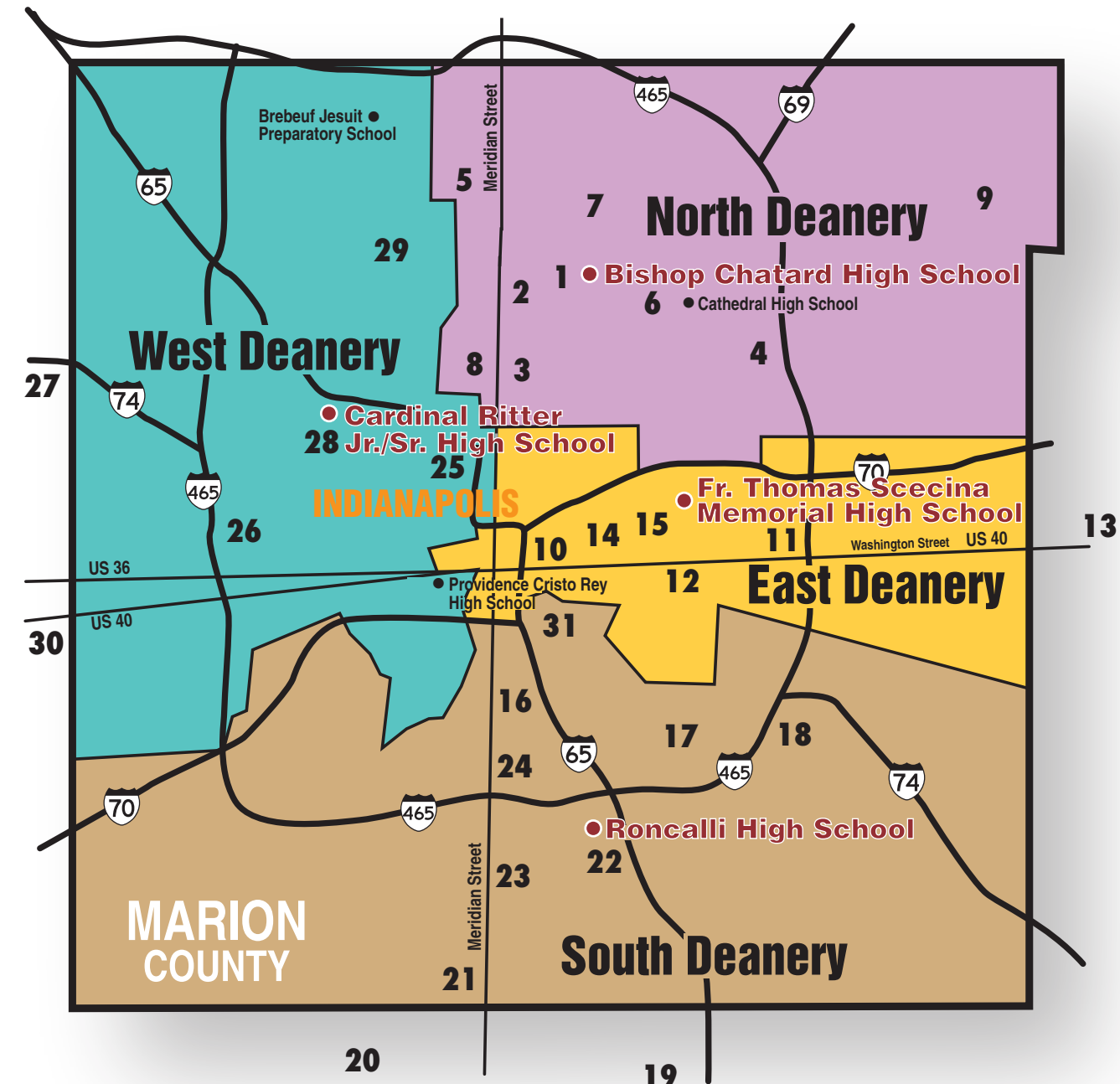
GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

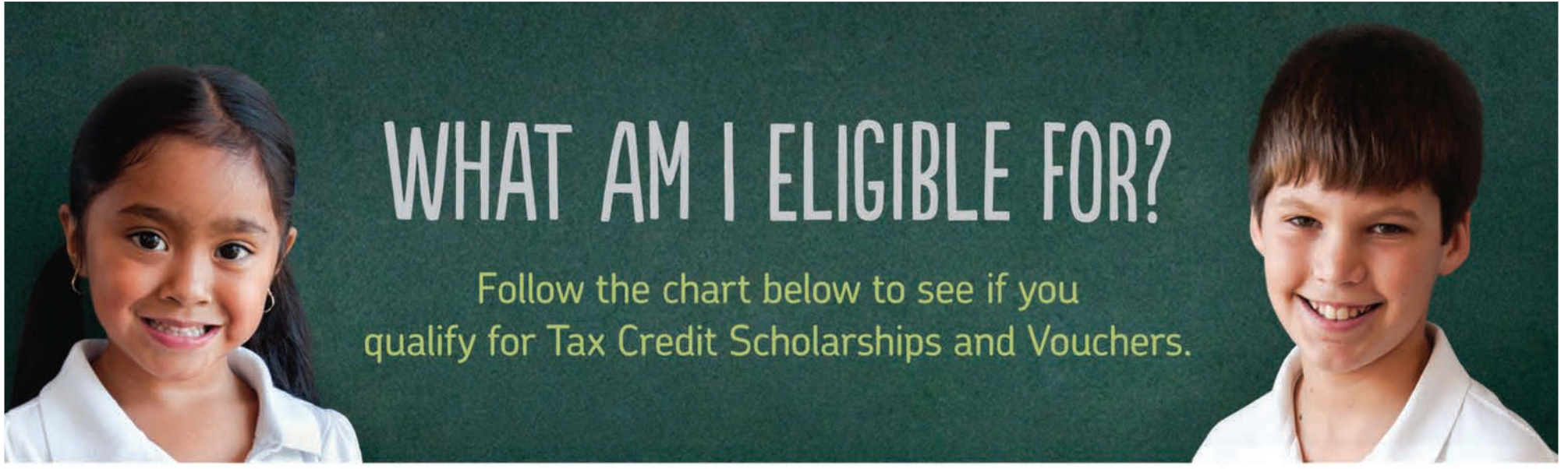
<p>Indianapolis North Deanery • Bishop Chatard High School (9-12) 5885 N. Crittenden Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-1451</p> <p>1. Christ the King School (K-8) 5858 N. Crittenden Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-257-9366</p> <p>2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8) 317 E. 57th St. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-255-5468</p> <p>3. St. Joan of Arc School (P-8) 500 E. 42nd St. Indianapolis, IN 46205 317-283-1518</p> <p>4. St. Lawrence School (P-8) 6950 E. 46th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226 317-543-4923</p> <p>5. St. Luke School (K-8) 7650 N. Illinois St. Indianapolis, IN 46260 317-255-3912</p> <p>6. St. Matthew School (K-8) 4100 E. 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-3997</p>	<p>7. St. Pius X School (K-8) 7200 Sarto Drive Indianapolis, IN 46240 317-466-3361</p> <p>8. St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8) 4600 N. Illinois St. Indianapolis, IN 46208 317-255-6244</p> <p>9. St. Simon the Apostle School (P-8) 8155 Oaklandon Road Indianapolis, IN 46236 317-826-6000</p> <p>Indianapolis East Deanery • Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12) 5000 Nowland Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-356-6377</p> <p>10. Holy Cross Central School (P-8) * 125 N. Oriental St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317-638-9068</p> <p>11. Holy Spirit School (P-8) 7241 E. 10th St. Indianapolis, IN 46219 317-352-1243</p> <p>12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (P-8) 30 S. Downey St. Indianapolis, IN 46219 317-357-3316</p> <p>13. St. Michael School (P-8) 515 Jefferson Blvd. Greenfield, IN 46140 317-462-6380</p> <p>14. St. Philip Neri School (P-8) * 545 N. Eastern Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-636-0134</p> <p>15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus/Little Flower School (P-8) 1401 N. Bosart Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-353-2282</p> <p>Indianapolis South Deanery • Roncalli High School (9-12) 3300 Prague Road Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-787-8277</p> <p>16. Central Catholic School (K-8) * 1155 E. Cameron St. Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-783-7759</p> <p>17. Holy Name School (P-8) 21 N. 17th Ave. Beech Grove, IN 46107 317-784-9078</p>	<p>18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (P-8) 3310 S. Meadow Drive Indianapolis, IN 46239 317-357-1459</p> <p>19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (P-8) 399 S. Meridian St. Greenwood, IN 46143 317-881-1300</p> <p>20. SS. Francis and Clare School (P-8) 5901 Olive Branch Road Greenwood, IN 46143 317-215-2826</p> <p>21. St. Barnabas School (K-8) 8300 Rakhe Road Indianapolis, IN 46217 317-881-7422</p> <p>22. St. Jude School (K-8) 5375 McFarland Road Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-784-6828</p> <p>23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (K-8) 541 E. Edgewood Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-786-4013</p> <p>24. St. Roch School (P-8) 3603 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-784-9144</p>	<p>Indianapolis West Deanery • Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12) 3360 W. 30th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-924-4333</p> <p>25. Holy Angels School (P-6) * 2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. Indianapolis, IN 46208 317-926-5211</p> <p>26. St. Christopher School (P-6) 5335 W. 16th St. Indianapolis, IN 46224 317-241-6314</p> <p>27. St. Malachy School (K-8) 330 N. Green St. Brownsburg, IN 46112 317-852-2242</p> <p>28. St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (K-8) 3352 W. 30th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-926-0516</p> <p>29. St. Monica School (K-8) 6131 N. Michigan Road Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-255-7153</p> <p>30. St. Susanna School (P-8) 1212 E. Main St. Plainfield, IN 46168 317-839-3713</p>	<p>Private Schools 31. Lumen Christi Catholic School (K-12) 580 E. Stevens St. Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-632-3174</p> <p>• Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12) 2801 W. 86th St. Indianapolis, IN 46268 317-524-7128</p> <p>• Cathedral High School (9-12) 5225 E. 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226 317-542-1481</p> <p>• Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12) 75 N. Bellevue Place Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-860-1000</p> <p>* Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (Consortium)</p>
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ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS





My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVELS FOR INDIANA VOUCHERS AND TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS			
	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Number of Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a 90% Indiana Voucher	Annual household income limit for a 50% Indiana Voucher	Annual household income limit for a Tax Credit Scholarship (or 50% Indiana Voucher)*
1	\$21,590	\$32,385	\$43,179
2	\$29,101	\$43,651	\$58,201
3	\$36,612	\$54,918	\$73,223
4	\$44,123	\$66,184	\$88,245
5	\$51,634	\$77,451	\$103,267
6	\$59,145	\$88,717	\$118,289
7	\$66,656	\$99,984	\$133,311
8	\$74,167	\$111,250	\$148,333

Number includes all adults in household

NOTE: a 90% voucher scholarship is the lesser of the tuition and fees charged by the Catholic school or up to \$4,800 in grades K-8 and more for grades 9-12. A 50% voucher is half of a 90% voucher. Income levels are determined in accordance with verification rules at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

*A family at between 150 and 200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility may be eligible for a 50% voucher if the student received a voucher for 2013-2014 OR if the student has a disability requiring special education.

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2015
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship, or Voucher, the previous school year.

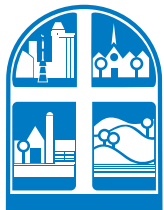
AND one of the following:

My family is between 150% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at 150% or below, of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

SCHOOL VOUCHER

Contact your local Catholic school or for more information about schools, contact:



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Office of Catholic Education
(317) 236-1430
(800) 382-9836
www.archindy.org/oce/



Letters tells story of bond between students and seniors

By John Shaughnessy

Lilly Boring and her fellow eighth-grade students couldn't hide their excitement as they waited for their special guests to arrive.

For months, the students at St. Rose of Lima School in Franklin had been exchanging pen-pal letters and photographs with residents of Morning Pointe, an assisted-living home in the same community. The connection turned to anticipation when the students' religion teacher, Lynne O'Brien, told them that some of the residents would be coming to the school for lunch in November.

"We couldn't wait," Lilly recalls. "The day finally arrived, and we all had a blast. Only eight residents were able to come, and my pen pal was not one of them. However, it was still special to see how excited everyone was when they arrived to school. We all talked and had a great time. I sat with my friend, Brooklyn, and her pen pal, Margaret. Even though Margaret was not my pen pal, she kissed me and treated me like I was hers. It was amazing."

Lilly had the same feeling when she saw the interaction between other students and residents.

"One of the other pen pals, Johna Mae, sat down and was joined by my good friend, Valerie. Johna Mae started crying, and Valerie was concerned. 'I'm just so happy I finally get to meet you,' Johna Mae said. She gave Valerie a hug. Valerie

found out that Johna Mae recently had a stroke, but she didn't want Valerie to worry so Johna Mae waited until Valerie could see she was OK."

After lunch and a few hours of hugs and conversation, the special guests had to leave—but not before a memorable goodbye.

"My eighth-grade class lined up at the door and cheered as they filed out the door," Lilly says. "They smiled and gave us high-fives. One of the pen pals said, 'This is the best send-off I've ever had.' They couldn't have looked any happier. They all waved from the bus until they couldn't see us anymore. The entire day was so special."

Another special moment came when Lilly met her pen pal, Betty, a few weeks later.

"I met her when we went to play volleyball at Morning Pointe on a Saturday afternoon," Lilly says. "I found out she has Alzheimer's and doesn't remember writing to me. Mrs. O'Brien told me that someone told her that Alzheimer's patients often do not remember what happened to them that day or who they talked to. But they do remember how they feel.

"She told me Betty wouldn't remember why, but she would feel happy that night when she went to bed. That was enough for me. It makes me and my classmates feel good to know that we are spreading God's love to these special friends." †



Lilly Boring of St. Rose of Lima School in Franklin gets a kiss on the cheek from Margaret Rainey. The two became friends through a pen-pal program between students at the school and residents of a nearby assisted-living community. (Submitted Photo)

Voucher program leads to more students in Catholic high schools

By Natalie Hoefler

When the Indiana state voucher program, now called the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, went into effect on July 1, 2011, there was an expectation that Catholic school enrollments would rise.

The numbers did not disappoint.

Last November during the Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards event, archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools Gina Fleming announced that Catholic high schools in the archdiocese saw an increase of more than 600 students between last school year and this school year alone.

The Criterion spoke with two school presidents—Philip Kahn of Prince of Peace Catholic Schools in Madison and Joe Therber of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis—to get their take on the voucher program's impact on school enrollment and on the effects the growth is having on their schools.

'Great for our school and our families'

On the banks of the Ohio River hugging a bend in the state's natural southern boundary lies the town of Madison, population approximately 12,000.

Despite the town's smaller size, says school president Philip Kahn, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School has benefitted from the voucher program, growing from a student enrollment of 150 during the 2009-10 school year to 177 students this school year. That's a 16 percent increase over a five-year span.

The increase hasn't raised issues of space and staffing yet, he says.

"We had room to grow, so we have reorganized a few of the teachers and their responsibilities, but haven't had to add more positions at the high school level," he says.

But the increase of students at Pope John XXIII Elementary School, over which Kahn is also president, resulted in the addition of four new elementary level teacher positions.

"I think down the road that [increase in student enrollment at the elementary level] is going to have us looking seriously about adding more teachers or faculty members at the high school," he says.

In addition to the state voucher program, Kahn

attributes part of the reason for the growing student enrollment at Shawe Memorial to the rollout of a new marketing plan that happened to coincide with the creation of the voucher program. Six years ago, the school adopted a principal/president model of administration. As president, Kahn is able to focus his attention on marketing and promoting the schools.



Philip Kahn

"Marketing has been a big help because we have more time to get the word out and follow up with those who express an interest," he explains. "But obviously the voucher program opened the door

to more families who might have been interested."

With the school drawing from "seven or eight counties and students living as far as 30, 40 minutes away," says Kahn, the voucher program helps to attract more families than just those residing in Madison.

"The Choice Scholarship Program has been a wonderful opportunity that has enabled so many different families to get a high quality Catholic education that maybe weren't able to do it before," says Kahn. "It's been great for our school and our families."

'God's blessing on the school'

For more than 60 years, Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School has served as the archdiocesan high school for the Indianapolis East Deanery.

In the last five years, enrollment has grown by 104 students, equating to a 33 percent increase in student population.

While Scecina president Joseph Therber primarily attributes the growth to "God's blessing on the school," he acknowledges the impact of the Choice Scholarship Program, as well as alumni support, ongoing facility improvements and strong relationships with deanery- and other local schools.

Therber specifically credits the voucher program for the increasing diversity within the student population.

"I think the voucher program has increased the number of Latino and African-American students," he says. "You

can go in our hallways and see the kind of diversity you expect in our city, in New York, in other parts of the country."

He estimates that about 60 percent of Scecina's students are Caucasian, followed by Latinos, African-Americans, Asians and other ethnicities.

"From a racial and ethnic point of view, we think that's a really healthy situation in which to go to school," Therber says. "That [diversity] gives our students the opportunity to be exposed to the real world, to prepare them for college and life."



Joseph Therber

With diversity come challenges—good challenges involving personal growth, says Therber.

"I think when you have an increase [in enrollment] that is also an increase in diversity, it gives us a great opportunity to live the mission of our Church and improve the future health of our community," he says. "The students have a rich array of backgrounds and academic interests. That whole cultural expansion is a good thing."

But with such diversity comes the challenge to "teachers, counselors, coaches and administrators to become more responsible and connect with a student body that has life interests, academic interests and different backgrounds that are always expanding," he admits.

The increase in student enrollment has also led to the hiring of more teachers, new class offerings, and expanding student and counseling services.

As Therber looks to the future, he sees continued growth for Scecina's student enrollment. That growth, he says, is "not just for numbers' sake.

"We are very committed to growth that is intentional, that can be managed for the good of the school environment and the quality of school programs."

Whether through the voucher program or other means, there is one benefit that reigns supreme, says Therber.

"When your enrollment grows by 33 percent, you've got more [youths] attending Mass every week and receiving the benefits of getting Catholic theology every day of their high school career." †

Message of Christ's victory guides teacher to help students in tough times

By John Shaughnessy

Matt Hollowell stood in front of his first period classroom, struggling to find the words to help his students—and himself—deal with the heartbreak of one of the most shocking mass killings at a school in the United States.

Less than 24 hours earlier, a lone gunman walked into the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut, on Dec. 14, 2012, and killed 20 students and six adult staff members before shooting himself.

As a math and physics teacher at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, Hollowell always starts his classes with some kind of prayer, but he felt at a loss of

what to say or pray that morning until, he believes, God provided the words for him.

"I told my students that as sad as the events were that took place just the day before, the thing that comforts me is that the battle between good and evil had already been fought and won 2,000 years ago when Jesus allowed himself to be crucified," Hollowell recalls.

"From that moment on, there will never be any doubt that good is the ultimate victor. I then concluded my brief reflection by reading one of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus."

From that heartbreaking day came one of the most rewarding teaching experiences for Hollowell—the

2014 recipient of the Saint Theodora Guerin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for a Catholic educator in the archdiocese.

"Five months later, on the last day of school, I came back in my room, once all the students had left for home, to find a card sitting on my desk," he says.

"Upon opening the card, I read an extremely thoughtful thank-you note from a student who was in that first period class. The student concluded her note by writing, 'I will never forget the lesson you taught us by saying that evil was defeated by good over 2,000 years ago when Jesus died on the cross. Thank you for sharing that with us. It made everything so much better for me that day.'" †

Robotics teams overcome challenges to become champs

By John Shaughnessy

Jose Garcia jumped from his seat. Garrett Johnson leaped into the air. And that was just the beginning of the fun for the two high school freshmen as they joined in the celebration of a championship that didn't seem possible just three days earlier.

On the Thursday evening before the Third Annual Indy VEX Robotics Championship in November, Jose and Garrett were part of the frustrated robotics team at Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis—a team that watched in disappointment as three sets of gears on their robot snapped.

And yet here they were on Sunday evening—after three days of testing, improvising and fine-tuning under pressure—jumping with joy.

Just seconds earlier, it had been announced that the alliance formed between their team, the team from Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis and the team from Irvington Preparatory Academy in Indianapolis had just won the VEX Tournament Champion award.

Suddenly, four months of designing and programming a robot led to some unforgettable human reactions.

“I was in the air,” Garrett recalled. “I was jumping around and yelling.”

Jose smiled and added, “When I saw we won, I just jumped out of my seat. The feeling I had was just amazing.”

Garrett chimed in again, “To be honest, it was surprising. We stuck together, we conquered our problems, and we went out and showed it. We were able to work together to get the most out of our robots.”

Seeing that persistence in the Providence Cristo Rey team members was just as satisfying as seeing them hold the championship trophy, said the team's



Members of the robotics team at Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis fine-tune their robot during the Robotics Championship in November. Andrew Watkins, left, Garrett Johnson, Jose Garcia and Armon Badgett are in the forefront while Ajay Pandya is partially hidden in the back. (Submitted photo)

three coaches—Jon Osborn, Elaine Grant and Anna Sluka.

“What's so special is that we spent 12 hours on Saturday and 13 hours on Sunday at the competition, and the kids didn't crack,” Sluka said. “They kept their focus, and they kept their attitude together.”

That approach made the four months of planning and preparation worthwhile for Jose, Garrett and the other members of the Providence Cristo Rey robotics team: Armon Badgett, Kaylyn Hicks,

Ajay Pandya and Andrew Watkins.

That approach was also shared by the 27 members of the Bishop Chatard robotics team, including the four students who created the robot that competed during the city championship: Joe Bormann, Jackson Frederick, Thomas Horlander and Jacob Pletcher.

“Winning the alliance championship was a validation of all of the hard work and planning that our kids have put into their robots,” said Amanda Horan, who

coaches the Bishop Chatard robotics team with Gary Pritts. “It gave our entire team confidence and motivation.”

Both teams know the joy of a championship—and the joy of the journey.

“It's just amazing,” Jose said. “You get to spend time with your friends. And you not only get to direct a robot but build it, design it and program it. We all cooperated in what we had to do. If somebody needed help, we would all be there for each other.” †

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317.352.1243
www.holyspirit-indy.org
Grades PreK-8

PRINCIPAL | Rita Parsons
rparsons@holyspirit-indy.org

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www.ollindy.org
Grades PreK-8

PRINCIPAL | Chris Kolakovich
ckolakovich@ollindy.org

St. Therese
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1401 North Bosart
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317.353.2282
www.littleflowerparish.org/school
Grades PreK-8

PRINCIPAL | Kevin Gawrys
kgawrys@littleflowerparish.org

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Unlikely journey leads teacher to find her destiny

By John Shaughnessy

Considering the way that she met her husband, it's understandable that Amaranta Kemple believes in destiny and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now a pre-school and Spanish teacher at St. Mary School in Rushville, Kemple was living in her native Mexico 16 years ago when her work had her traveling to the small town of Morelia on a crowded bus.

"I was really upset that I was going to this small town when all my friends were going to Mexico City," she recalls.

Yet during the bus trip, she sat next to a man from the United States who was headed to that same small town for two weeks to learn Spanish. And their enjoyable conversation on the bus kept evolving into something more and more interesting as they kept running into each other during those two weeks.

"After that, we talked on the phone and visited each other. We talked on the phone for a whole year. We decided it was going to be cheaper to get married than to pay the phone bill," she says with a laugh about her relationship with her husband Joseph.

Then she turns serious, "I think the Holy Spirit put me on that bus. That was my destiny."

Kemple also believes it is her destiny to be a Catholic school teacher—another journey that has been marked with some interesting twists.

For the first five years of their marriage, the Kemples lived in Michigan. Eleven years ago, Joseph knew he needed to return to his hometown of Rushville to care for his mother, a widow who has Parkinson's disease. Searching for a pre-school at the time for their daughter Clara, Amaranta didn't find the right one until she stopped by St. Mary School in Rushville.

Soon, everything fell into place.

"We met people, we joined the Church, and when Clara was in first grade, I volunteered in her classroom once a week," Kemple says. "I asked if I could teach them Spanish. Then I was hired as the pre-school teacher, and I continued teaching Spanish as well."

The school became a home for Clara and her sister, Sofia. It also became a home for their mother.

"As a mother, I love that my kids are safe in school. As a teacher, I love that we can talk about Jesus," she says. "The kids behave very well, and they're kind. We're like a big family. You always see kids helping other kids, teachers helping kids, and kids helping teachers. I love that when someone is having a bad day, we can stop and say, 'Hey, let's pray about that.' And we can help each other."

Kemple also strives to help her students—especially her pre-schoolers—understand that their lives and the world are full of possibilities.

"As a teacher, I want them to know that the world is open for them. That's why I teach Spanish. I want them to know there are no limits, that people around the world love Jesus. I don't want my students to be just good. I want them to be *outstanding*. I love when they say, 'We're outstanding!' That's a big word for a little pre-schooler. We teach that Jesus is our leader, and they can be good leaders, too."

Besides being a teacher, Kemple also serves St. Mary School in another leadership role—as the president of the parent-teacher organization.

"I like to do things for the school. The school has done so much for my children. And I have to give back to St. Mary's for that. Being the president of the PTA helps me give back in another way."

She also gives by sharing her faith with the non-Catholic students at



Amaranta Kemple strives to help her students at St. Mary School in Rushville understand that their lives and the world are full of possibilities. (Submitted photo)

the school.

"We have so many non-Catholic students. When we take them to church, it's the first time for many of them. Just to see the joy in their lives is so amazing."

So is the commitment that Kemple has to the school and the parish, says Sherri Kirschner, principal of St. Mary School.

"Without her being here, we wouldn't be able to offer Spanish to our students," Kirschner says. "She also does a great job in communicating with our Hispanic families. And she tutors them after school if they need it."

"She's also our PTA president, she's on the school's safety team, and she helps out with Sunday school. That says how much she believes in what St. Mary's gives to

our students, and how she wants to make it as best as possible for her children and all children."

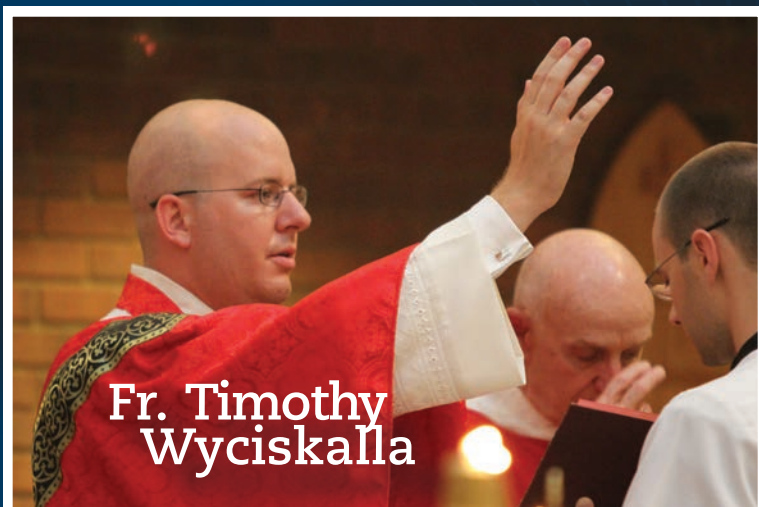
Kemple just sees everything she does as a reflection of finding her destiny.

"I remember growing up thinking, 'What's my talent?' I'd watch those talent shows and wonder if I had one. Now, I know my talent is teaching. You can share so much with children, teach them so much, and learn so much from them."

"I have learned from them that I can have fun. I've learned that I can sit down and color with them for 15 minutes and have a conversation with them. We talk about their feelings and their life."

"I've learned from them to enjoy my life." †

Roncalli Salutes Our Newly Ordained Priests



Fr. Timothy Wyciskalla



Fr. Benjamin Syberg

On June 7, 2014 two Roncalli alumni, Benjamin Syberg R'06 and Tim Wyciskalla R'06, affirmed their call to the priesthood and were ordained priests by Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin.

Father Syberg will serve as the new Associate Pastor at St. Barnabas, and Father Wyciskalla will serve as the new Associate Pastor at St. Malachy, in Brownsburg.

Congratulations and thank you for your devotion to our Catholic faith.



Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Teacher strives to launch interest of students in science

By Christa Hoyland
Special to The Criterion

CLARKSVILLE —Laura Swessel has worked with top engineers around the world and as a mission controller for satellite launches. She also has a patent on a fuel gauge for a satellite.

With those accomplishments, a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, she could work at a top engineering firm.

But Swessel chooses to teach junior high science and high school Earth/space science and physics at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

She came to the school in the fall of 2012 as a part-time honors physics teacher while also teaching as an adjunct professor at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. When the opportunity to teach full-time at Providence arose in 2013, Swessel gladly accepted.

Swessel began her career as an aeronautics engineer with Lockheed Martin in Princeton, N.J. When the plant closed eight years into her career, she and her fiancé, John, chose to marry and move to the Louisville, Ky., area, where he grew up. They moved a few miles north of the city to Georgetown, Ind., and she started her own consulting business and began teaching at IU Southeast, allowing her to pursue "the best of both worlds," she said.

She quickly embraced life as a high school teacher and said the Catholic school environment had a closeness between the students and faculty that was lacking in her own public high school in her home state of Maryland. She fosters that closeness in her classroom by holding

lunch meetings with her students at the beginning of each semester.

"I get more interaction in the classroom," she said. "It's a positive for them, and a positive for me. It's definitely worked out both ways."

While Swessel enjoys the opportunity to get to know her students better, her primary goal is to help them enjoy science—and ultimately explore a career in science or technology. Her efforts to that end extend beyond her classroom.

Last semester, she brought in a guest speaker from the National Weather Service. She also set up virtual sessions with an ocean drilling vessel. And she took her students on a field trip to the Living Lands & Water barge. Each session supplemented a classroom lesson or demonstrated a type of science career.

"I just like to introduce new concepts to kids to get them interested in a career in science and technology," Swessel said. "If they are already interested, I like to mentor or guide them."

A number of the guest speakers or virtual opportunities were a result of her participation in the Duke Energy Academy, a weeklong summer program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. During the program, she wrote and shared lesson plans with fellow science teachers and attended sessions that gave her ideas for labs and lessons for her students.

One of those sessions resulted in Providence receiving the temporary use of a vertical wind shaft from WindStream Technologies. Swessel said she was intrigued by the wind shaft's compact, lightweight design and how it is paired with solar panels to create a solar mill. She invited its inventor, Dan Bates, CEO of WindStream Technologies, to lead a before-school session for students. That session then led to future labs in which students created a mini-wind farm from



As a teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, Laura Swessel uses her engineering background and connections to make science come alive for her students. (Submitted photo)

repurposed materials.

Swessel also entered in several lotteries while at the academy and won the chance for students to witness a core extraction off the coast of Japan via a live video event with the crew of the JOIDES Resolution Ocean Drilling Vessel. Students received a virtual tour of the vessel and learned what the researchers were studying from the Earth's core.

Because of her degree from MIT, Swessel also made it possible for students to attend a virtual symposium as the university celebrated the 100th anniversary of its Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Students

were able to view a question-and-answer session with shuttle astronauts and a tour of MIT laboratories.

Swessel said she is always looking for ways to enhance her lessons to show her students how their subject matter can be used in their lives or a future career.

Maresa Kelly, a junior in Swessel's Honors Physics class, said she appreciates the speakers and opportunities her teacher has brought to the school this year.

"It's different than when you're in class, and all you do is math," Maresa said. "It was neat to see all the applications of physics in the real world." †

The West Deanery
celebrates

Catholic Schools Week!
Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

Holy Angels
Catholic School



St. Christopher
School



ST. MALACHY
PARISH SCHOOL



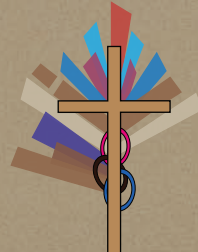
St. Michael-St. Gabriel
Catholic School



St. Monica
Catholic School



St. Susanna
Catholic School



Catholic Schools Week is a national and annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The West Deanery is proud to celebrate this week and take time to acknowledge the value-based, quality education our students receive.

Follow Catholic Schools Week on social media by searching the hashtag #CSW15.



Bishop Chatard High School



Christ the King



Immaculate Heart of Mary



St. Andrew the Apostle Church



St. Joan of Arc



St. Lawrence



St. Luke



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The Archdiocesan Schools of the North Deanery CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Record \$6.1 million raised to send children to Catholic schools

By John Shaughnessy

Shortly after it was announced that a record \$6.1 million had been raised this year to help children in the archdiocese receive a Catholic education, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin wondered if other people had the same reaction he did.

"I hope you gasped as I did when I heard that figure," the archbishop told the 600 people who attended the 19th annual Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards event at Union Station in Indianapolis on Nov. 5.

"It's an incredible sign of life in our archdiocese. A lot of you heard me thank God that last April at the Easter Vigil across the archdiocese, 1,000 people were received into the Church through baptism or through the profession of faith. This figure of \$6.1 million is another sign of our faith. It's a sign of the generous gifts of people within the Church and without, because they believe in what we are trying to do with Catholic education."

The record \$6.1 million—more than twice last year's previous record \$3 million—was among an impressive set of numbers shared during the event.

In recent ratings by the Indiana Department of Education, 59 of the 67 Catholic schools in the archdiocese received either an "A" or "B" grade—and 21 schools improved their ratings since last year.

"Over the past five years, our enrollment has grown from just over 22,000 students in 2010 to almost 24,000 this year."

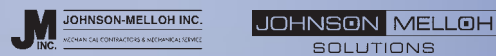


An archdiocesan celebration of Catholic education on Nov. 5 honored four individuals whose Catholic values mark their lives. Sitting, from left, are honorees Daniel Elsener, Beth Elsener and Robert Desautels. Standing, from left, are honoree Father James Wilmoth, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin and keynote speaker Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington. (Photo by Rob Banayote)



With his mischievous sense of humor and his deep heart for Catholic education, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, captivated the audience at the archdiocese's 19th annual Celebrating Catholic School Values event in Indianapolis on Nov. 5. (Photo by Rob Banayote)

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THANK YOU!

A special thank you is extended to the corporations, foundations, schools, parishes and individuals who made the 2014 Celebrating Catholic Schools Values event a success.

The Celebrating Catholic School Values event celebrated nearly \$6.1 million in Indiana tax credit scholarships and event support this year and allowed families to choose a Catholic school for their children.

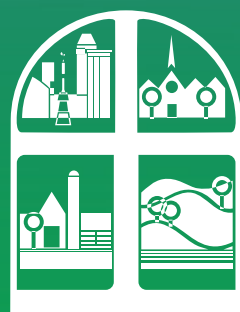
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