

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



The gift of a Catholic education opens a child's heart

By **Gina Fleming**
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

A week prior to the final class of my administrative program several years ago, I stayed up until 3 in the morning putting



Gina Fleming

the final touches on the documentation I was to present to a group of 50 mentors, colleagues, family members and friends as my culminating project. Everything was compiled in one location on my computer, backed up on a jump drive that

remained in the bag with the computer, and tossed gently in the car before a productive day as principal. Running late to my son's game that evening, I did not have time to stop by home and drop off the computer. Instead, it remained in the car while we watched our then second-grader play basketball. As we approached the car later that

evening, we immediately noticed the shattered glass surrounding our vehicle. I blocked my son from getting closer. It then dawned on me—it was glass from my car window, and the computer bag was gone!

Spontaneously, I squatted down, held my face in my hands, and simply cried. Two years of work flashed before my eyes, as did the anguish of having to start all over. And then I felt two little arms wrap around my neck from behind. My 7-year-old gently said, "Mommy, we need to pray for those men because they have damaged their relationship with Christ."

Regrettably, I wanted to respond, "I pray they find God before I find them!" But I knew my son was right. I knew this little child of God understood the presence of and need for our Lord and Savior, for he benefitted from the tremendous sacramental preparation he had received and the amazing role models he shared his days with at his Catholic school.

In central and southern Indiana, we are blessed to have 69 Catholic school

communities sharing their faith through knowledge and service. The articles throughout this Catholic Schools Week Supplement are intended to give you a small snapshot of the learning, teaching, leading and proclaiming that takes place on our campuses in concert halls, on athletic fields, and throughout our communities every day.

If you really want to be uplifted and reminded of God's shining light in our world, visit one of our Catholic schools! Allow the principal to share a story or two about the phenomenal students, committed parents and dedicated teachers and staff members they serve daily. And while you are there, please pat him or her on the back for me with a "thank you" for the expertise, wisdom and passion for our faith that is demonstrated consistently.

Thank you to our pastors, who recognize our Catholic schools as beacons of hope for the world, and who support the ministry so readily.

Thank you to our school leaders, who know no boundaries when the education, formation and salvation of

students are at stake.

Thank you to our teachers and staff members, who relentlessly serve with zeal so that young people can flourish in college, life and heaven.

Thank you to our lay volunteers, parents, parishioners, business partners and donors, who support Catholic education in ways that benefit students today and for generations to come.

And thank you to our students, who not only see that all are made in the image and likeness of Christ, but who recognize their privilege in responding to God's love through service to others.

That 7-year-old boy of ours grew up, as they all do. As a product of one of our archdiocesan Catholic high schools, he can now look to the future with great anticipation, along with the other nearly 24,000 students we currently serve across more than 13,000 square miles of Indiana.

As a mother, I find tremendous comfort and joy in knowing that he and our other graduates will lead and serve our Church and world for years to come. †

'Road map' for life leads family to Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

GREENWOOD—Kathy Ducote believes that God has a road map for each of our lives.

And considering what happened at her father's funeral, Kathy figured that God was using that moment to lead her in a new direction.

By the time her dad died in the early summer of 2015, Kathy had already spent 20 years as an educator in a public school system, so she was disappointed by the number of people from her work life who showed up to support her in her time of grief.

"I could count on my hands the number of people who came [from work]," says Kathy, a member of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. "In contrast, I lost count of the people from my faith community who came. It was an outpouring of support."

It was also the final sign that led her to make a change she had already been considering. Two months after her dad's death, Kathy started life as a Catholic school teacher, teaching third-grade students at her parish's school.

"I knew that this was where God was calling me," she says. "I thought, 'This is a God thing.'"

She had the same thought during a time earlier in her life when she had walked away from her faith, a time when she met a man who asked her to go on a first date with him—to church.

Taking the leap

"I wasn't going to church because I didn't feel connected," Kathy recalls about that initial date with her now-husband, Harold Ducote. "I wanted someone who could connect the Gospel to my everyday life."

"He took me to his church at SS. Francis and Clare. Father Vince Lampert was the pastor when we began dating in 2007. He shared the Gospels in a way that applied to my life. For

that, I was extremely grateful. Going to Mass was a huge part of our relationship."

Her Catholic faith became a central part of her life. So did Harold. They were married at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church in 2009.

Now, there is the latest change of direction in their lives.

After seeing the joyful, faith-filled experience that Kathy had in her first year of teaching at a Catholic school, Harold decided that he wanted to have that experience, too. So the veteran public-school educator also made the switch to teaching at SS. Francis and Clare School this year.

"When she switched to Catholic education last year, she was so joyful after coming home from work," recalls Harold, who teaches math at the middle-school level. "She was like a new person. She said, 'They listen, they try.' I wanted that, too, so I took a leap."

That leap has led him to a life where he can live his faith at school, not hide it. He is involved in preparing eighth-grade students for confirmation, including serving as a sponsor for one.

"This was the best choice I have ever made," he says. "There are some days I feel like I am so filled with the Holy Spirit, it is hard to contain."

"One of the biggest things that has drawn me to Catholic education is to be able to illuminate, illustrate and just show



Harold, Gus and Kathy Ducote have found a home—and a place to live their faith—at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

that Christ can change your life, that he'll take you to successes and places you'll never dream of. The whole experience has deepened my faith any my connection to Christ. I want to impart this to my students and share with them the truth that they can find redemption and peace in Jesus."

Harold has felt Christ's influence in his life, especially in the early days of their marriage when the couple faced a health crisis that tested their wedding vows.

'It changed our love for the better'

"I had a stroke in 2009. It was 37 days after we got married," he says. "I had the anointing of the sick by the priest. I was instantly healed. It was miraculous."

"That was the biggest challenge of 'for better or worse.' It changed our love for the better. It made me slow down long enough to hear God."

That deep relationship with God hadn't always been a part of Harold's life.

"In my twenties and early thirties, I wasn't interested in going to Mass much. I was lost back then. I was looking for something I couldn't find in the world. It was Christ and his love and compassion."

Harold experienced Christ's love and compassion when his father died just five months after the death of Kathy's dad.

"We always had God to comfort us," he says. "There's so much positive in the world, but sometimes you have to seek it out. Every time I've turned my back on Christ, when I turn around, he's right there for me."

"One of my prized possessions is our family Bible. It's from my grandmother. She was a teacher, too. She wrote in the Bible, 'Just remember there is no problem in life too large for Jesus Christ.' She is absolutely right about that."

'God has road maps for us to follow'

That gift of faith is exactly what Harold and Kathy want for their son Gus, who is in kindergarten at SS. Francis and Clare School.

They also want Gus to experience the sense of family that they believe is at the heart of Catholic education.

"After taking care of my dad before he died, I've learned even more that family is important and life is precious," Kathy says. "Now I can take my son to school with me. Our paths cross. I can get that smile or hug from him during the day. That's another gift from God. At SS. Francis and Clare, my family is around me. Even my students, they truly are my kids."

She sees the special impact her students have on her.

"In my first year here, I'd get emotional every month on the 26th—the day my dad died—and they'd know it. They wrapped their arms around me during those times. I was so touched. That's what Catholic education does. That's what we want for our son."

It's also what she wants to do for her students.

"My faith class lasts from 8 in the morning to three in the afternoon," she says. "I can talk about faith, morality and values at any time, and incorporate them in any subject."

"In teachable moments with my kids, I can jump into those moments with the Catholic faith. The more you can put a child in a real-life situation and have them use their minds to experience it, it's going to stay with them. That's how I feel I need to teach my kids."

It's all part of the new direction in life for their family. Kathy and Harold are enjoying the ride.

"God has road maps for us to follow," Kathy says. "He knows what's happening in our lives ahead of us." †



Kathy Ducote uses signs throughout her third-grade classroom at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood to lead her students closer to God. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Student shares three favorite things about her Catholic school

Special to The Criterion

Gracie Ripperger's enthusiasm overflowed when she and the other members of the fifth-grade class at St. Michael School in Brookville were asked to write an essay about their school.

"Have you ever loved a place so much that you want to be there for the rest of your life? That's the way I feel about St. Michael School," she began.

She then shared her three favorite parts about her Catholic school.

"My number one favorite thing at St. Michael's is Mass because I get to spend time with God. I get to be in God's

house four times a week. And I get to learn how to praise and follow God.

"My second reason is you have smaller classes, and I like that, because I get to be with one class. I get to make close friends, and I get more individual learning with teachers. The teachers are amazing inside and outside of school."

"My last reason is I get to play sports. I love this because you get a chance to have a team. I get a chance to have more physical activity, and I get to do something good for my school."

"I love these things because they make up my life. St. Michael's is not just a school. It is my school." †



Gracie Ripperger's brilliant smile reflects her love for her school—St. Michael School in Brookville. (Submitted photo)

20 Reasons to Celebrate Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese

By John Shaughnessy



The success stories in Catholic schools in the archdiocese are countless. They range from a young child in grade school learning to read *and* learning the fundamentals of the Catholic faith to a high school student preparing for college and becoming involved in service that helps change the life of another person.

There are also the success stories that come when students give everything they have to their academics, their athletics, their artistic pursuits and their faith.

The 2016-17 school year in the archdiocese has already led to numerous successes, ones that happened quietly and others that gained headlines. Here is a sampling of those successes, captured in a recap we call, "20 Reasons to Celebrate Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese." †

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| <p>1 St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis is one of four Catholic schools in the country to earn the 2016 "Let's Move! Active Schools National Award." The award is the nation's top physical education distinction for schools, and celebrates a school's commitment to providing students with at least 60 minutes a day of physical activity.</p> | <p>2 Brent Adams, a math teacher at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, was selected as a 2016 International STEM Fellow, recognizing his excellence in teaching his seventh- and eighth-grade students in science, technology, engineering and math. As part of the honor, he traveled to China to participate in a program with Chinese educators.</p> | <p>3 Cathedral High School in Indianapolis was named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Cathedral was one of only 50 private schools across the country to receive the honor in 2016, and the only high school—public or private—to be so recognized in Indiana.</p> | <p>4 Catholic schools in the archdiocese have earned 31 National Blue Ribbon awards.</p> | <p>5 Roncalli High School in Indianapolis received the Urban League's "Educational Excellence" Award for its pioneering efforts to welcome students with special needs.</p> |
| <p>6 Curt Eckstein, a senior at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg, won the 2016 boys' Indiana high school cross country championship. He was also named the winner of the Charles F. Maas Mental Attitude Award for the state cross-country tournament.</p> | <p>7 A team of teachers at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis is in the midst of a special three-year program at the University of Notre Dame that focuses on helping teachers inspire student learning in science, technology, engineering and math. St. Barnabas is one of just 10 schools from across the country chosen for this program.</p> | <p>8 Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg, is a recipient of the "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award" from the National Catholic Educational Association. The award honors "the outstanding work of Catholic school educators in communities across the country."</p> | <p>9 Five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis became part of the Notre Dame ACE Academies network. The five schools—Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross Central, St. Anthony and St. Philip Neri—joined a network that strives to help children from low-income areas receive a Catholic education and grow up in a community of faith.</p> | <p>10 Carl and Mary Kay Wolford of Holy Family Parish in New Albany were honored with the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National Catholic Educational Association. The national honor recognized the couple for the way their lives have impacted Catholic education "and the well-being of our nation's youths."</p> |
| <p>11 Father Thomas Scecina was inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame in November. The namesake of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis served the United States as a military chaplain during World War II before dying at sea with other prisoners of war in 1944.</p> | <p>12 The 2016 football team of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis captured the Indiana class 2A state championship with a 28-6 win over Eastbrook High School on Nov. 25.</p> | <p>13 The overall high school graduation rate in the archdiocese is 97 percent.</p> | <p>14 The 2016 girls' volleyball team of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis won its second straight class 4A state championship by defeating top-ranked Crown Point High School in the finals on Nov. 5.</p> | <p>15 St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis received the Urban League's "Educational Excellence" Award for their ongoing commitment to excellence in serving students of diverse races and ethnicities.</p> |
| <p>16 The Junior Spell Bowl team of St. Roch School in Indianapolis won their fourth state championship in five years during the annual spelling competition at Purdue University.</p> | <p>17 The football team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis culminated an undefeated season with a dramatic 34-22 win over Northwood High school in the Indiana class 4A state championship.</p> | <p>18 St. Mary School in Greensburg added a seventh- and eighth-grade to its school.</p> | <p>19 27 aspiring Catholic school leaders joined the archdiocese's new Catholic School Leadership Academy, which helps to prepare great leaders in Catholic schools.</p> | <p>20 Catholic school enrollment in the archdiocese is nearly 24,000 students, an increase of about 2,000 students since 2010. All schools focus on the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of every child, with the main goal of preparing them for heaven.</p> |

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High schools in archdiocese host groups of international students

By Sean Gallagher

The Church is by its nature universal. But it's not unusual for students in Catholic schools in the archdiocese and elsewhere to have a limited exposure to other cultures and languages.

Two Catholic high schools in central and southern Indiana are participating in programs to expand their students' perspective on the world and helping to spread the Gospel in the process.

This was especially true since the international students came from largely secular cultures where faith-based schools are rare or non-existent.

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis had about a dozen students and two teachers from Leipzig, Germany's Rudolph-Hildebrand School in their community for a month at the start of the 2016-17 academic year.

At the same time, a similar size group of students from China were welcomed to Seton Catholic High School in Richmond through the Foreign Links Around the Globe initiative.

Roncalli's experience was part of the German American Partnership Program, co-sponsored by the U.S. and German governments. About a dozen students from Roncalli will spend three weeks in Leipzig in June.

"For our young people to experience different cultures is just part of a life prep experience that is getting close to essential," said Roncalli principal Chuck Weisenbach. "... Understanding cultures, experiencing them and certainly the opportunity to live in the midst of that culture are going to be very life-giving for them."

Rick Ruhl, Seton's principal, said having a group of students from another country for a limited time is easier for families of Seton students to host

than having to be responsible for an international exchange student for an entire academic year.

Even though their time together was relatively short, it had an effect on both groups of students.

A student who went by the name of "Pony" lived with Seton junior Emily Schmidt and her family, including worshipping at Mass with them on Sundays.

Although Pony wasn't Catholic and knew little about the faith before coming to Richmond, he has kept in regular contact with the Schmidts since returning home and has attended Mass in China with his family.

"It was really cool for me to learn that," said Emily. "It really showed that we were making a difference in his life."

Pony living with her family made a difference in Emily's life, too.

"It was just a really different experience opening your home to somebody who can barely speak English," said Emily. "It was tough at first. But we got used to it after a while. It taught us a lot of patience."

The experience also helped her understand her Catholic faith in a deeper way.

"In theology class, we talk about how the Church is universal," Emily said. "I think this really put it into perspective for us. We were able to see how much our faith can be spread, and how it affects the whole world and everybody around us."

Ruhl said Seton's welcoming of the Chinese students flowed from its Catholic identity.

"It ties in seamlessly with what we're called to do as Christians and Catholics to share the Gospel," he said. "The whole program fits nicely into that. When you're



Yiwen Cao, left, and Sara Matthews, a seventh-grader at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, decorate cupcakes in Sara's home at the start of the 2016-17 academic year. Yiwen was part of a group of Chinese students who visited Seton for about a month. (Submitted photo)

opening your home to a stranger, you're sharing the Good News."

Another aspect of Catholic schools that was shared with the international students is its focus on community. This made a strong impression on Jacqueline Redlich, a teacher at Rudolph-Hildebrand who was part of the group that spent time at Roncalli.

"We all felt that Roncalli is an amazing and special place," she said. "It seemed like a big family, and we soon felt part of this community. The teachers at Roncalli put a lot of effort and care into seeing their students succeed, and at the same time they emphasize the faith, which was new for us."

"In my opinion, the Catholic identity and faith-based education create a strong feeling of togetherness, and it was great for us to experience firsthand this school spirit."

Weisenbach was similarly pleased to see how the faith of the Roncalli community was passed on to their German visitors in a way that also

showed they were committed to academic excellence.

"It gave me chills," he said. "It was what I was probably most deeply touched by. For them to see that education and faith could be so co-mingled was fascinating."

Roncalli senior Emily Gant and her family hosted a German student in their home, who also happened to be named Emily. The two students have kept in touch and become good friends.

"I'm always going to remember this. I made a dear and close friend from this opportunity," she said. "I also got deeper into my knowledge of German. It's a great way to connect students from around the world."

Emily thinks other Catholic schools should consider welcoming groups of international students.

"It shows how much we care for others, how it's good to get to know other people through our faith and spread our faith to them," she said. "It's great for us to be messengers for Christ." †

Roncalli Celebrates Catholic Education



◆ The Class of 2016 earned over \$32 million in college scholarships.

◆ Over 60% of the RHS Class of 2016 graduated with an Academic Honors Diploma or higher.

◆ Roncalli awarded more than \$1.9 million in need-based tuition assistance to RHS families for the 2016-2017 school year.

◆ In the past 24 years, Roncalli students have collected more than 1.6 million canned food items for the poor.

◆ The Class of 2016 completed over 64,100 hours of community service during their four years at RHS, with every Roncalli student performing more than 150 hours of community service prior to graduation.



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visit www.roncalli.org



High school students from Leipzig, Germany, try to look like American football players while visiting the football locker room at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. The German students and two of their teachers visited Roncalli for about two weeks at the start of the 2016-17 academic year. (Submitted photo)

Students live out value of helping others in profound ways

By Natalie Hoefler

Serving others, helping those less fortunate, performing acts of mercy—all are actions and values each Christian is called to emulate. Catholic schools support and nurture these traits.

Some students live out such charity in bold and heartwarming ways. Here are the stories of two such students—Olivia Dudas, a fifth-grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond, whose “Traveling Bags of Kindness” project made national news; and Rachel Kent, a senior at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, whose fundraising efforts for the nonprofit Unbound help those in need in 20 countries around the world.

‘When serving others and passions intersect’

When Rachel Kent heard about Unbound, a lay Catholic-founded nonprofit organization working in 20 countries to overcome poverty, she knew she wanted to participate in their sponsor-a-child program.

But once the then-sophomore at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis was matched with teenage Divya in India, she wanted to do more.

“Helping Divya was great, but there are so many kids in the program who don’t have sponsors,” says Rachel, now 17 and a senior. “I wanted to help them, but wasn’t able to financially.”

So she decided to turn a hobby she’s passionate about into a way to raise money for Unbound.

“I learned to make friendship bracelets at camp, I think it must have been like eight years ago,” says Rachel. “I kept making them, and I got pretty good. People would tell me, ‘You should sell those!’ and I’d say, ‘No, they’re friendship bracelets. You don’t sell friendship!’ But I thought this cause was good enough to sell the bracelets.”

In her junior year, Rachel started an Etsy webpage called Knot Your Average Bracelets (KYABracelets). For \$7, she makes a bracelet for the purchaser and

one for Unbound to give to a child. All proceeds go to the organization.

Each bracelet takes about two hours to make, says Rachel.

“The other day I was making a lot of bracelets and I was like, ‘Oh, man! This is a lot!’” she admits. “But then I thought, it’s a labor of love. ... I hope that these kids, even though they might not fully know or fully understand what went into the bracelets, that they still know that they’re important and loved.

“And the money is cool. It’s awesome that I’m able to create something that is larger than I, or larger than I could do by myself.”

As of early January, Rachel had made 200 bracelets and raised more than \$1,400, including some donations.

“I want all of the money to go to Unbound, so I buy my own supplies,” she says. “Sometimes I’m faced with, ‘Do I buy this new shirt, or do I buy the bracelet string?’ It’s what’s more important. If it makes you a bit uncomfortable, I would say that’s a good thing, because you’re giving more of yourself.”

The member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis says the project was “a leap of faith to start.

“But I think you have to tell yourself, ‘I’m going to do this.’ God calls us to serve other people and to help the less fortunate, especially those most in need.

“And [making friendship bracelets] is something I love to do. It’s one of my passions. I think when serving others and your passions intersect, that’s kind of like you found your niche.”

‘It just matters what’s in your heart’

That 10-year-old Olivia Dudas was voluntarily watching a televised segment on kindness speaks to her tendency toward generosity. Her reaction to the segment says even more.

“The [Indiana] Pacers were at Riley Children’s Hospital,” recalls the fifth-grade student of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond. “They were taking pictures with patients and signing autographs. The kids were smiling. One

of the nurses said that they don’t regularly smile. It just popped into my head—I want to do that in Richmond.”

Olivia’s mother Andrea Dudas says her daughter “went upstairs, and 15-20 minutes later she sent me a text” with a plan she called the “The Traveling Bags of Kindness.”

The idea was to purchase a few large gift bags, pass them on to family and friends to add an item a child would like, then for the bag to be passed on to another person, and so on. The filled bags were then delivered to Genesis Women’s Shelter in Richmond and Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in Indianapolis.

The project started with three bags one week before Thanksgiving. By Dec. 20 they had traveled to Ohio, Delaware, Georgia and Florida, and multiplied from three bags to 63, plus diapers, two scooters and three boxes of books.

The story of Olivia’s project was picked up by the Associated Press and spread nationally. A member of “The Today Show” staff contacted Andrea to let her know they were discussing the possibility of including Olivia’s story on a segment they were planning on kindness.

Olivia is “very empathetic,” says Dudas. “She has a gigantic heart, always has.”

Olivia, now 11, acknowledges that giving “makes others happy.” But more importantly, she adds, “I feel like I should do it. Christ died on the cross for us. I [can] pay him back and pay it forward.”

While Olivia and her mother are not Catholic—they attend First Baptist Church in Richmond—Andrea says she “knew when Olivia was born that I wanted her to go to Seton.

“Going to Seton has helped nurture that [giving] side of her. It’s not only the curriculum—they teach love and understanding” at Seton, she says.

And now Olivia is seeking her classmates’ help in her next project: delivering 1,000 homemade Valentines to the residents of all the nursing homes in Richmond.

The idea started when Elizabeth Higgins Clark, actress and founder of the #KeepAmericaKind project, contacted Olivia. She encouraged the girl to



Scores of friendship bracelets in the foreground are ready to be shipped to the international nonprofit Unbound while their creator, Cathedral High School senior Rachel Kent of Indianapolis, makes another to add to the stack. For each bracelet she sells, Rachel makes one for Unbound to give to an impoverished child in a foreign country, and gives all proceeds to the lay-Catholic founded organization. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

continue her acts of kindness into 2017, and said to help, she would send Olivia Valentine’s cards to hand out.

“I decided that I want to step it up and go to every nursing home in Richmond,” says Olivia, whose great-grandmother resides in a Richmond nursing home. “That’s 10, and we have to make over 1,000 Valentines.”

She is enlisting the help of her classmates—and numerous other volunteers—to make and personally deliver the Valentines to each resident. She is also making boxes of treats for the staff of each nursing home.

Dudas posted the project on Facebook.

“It’s gone crazy,” she says. As of Jan. 18, she had homemade Valentines coming from California, Wisconsin, Texas and even Canada.

When asked what advice she had for those who want to help others, Olivia was full of encouragement.

“You can do anything, no matter what your age,” she says. “It just matters what’s in your heart.”

Those interested in contributing a handmade Valentine to Olivia’s latest project may send them to RMD-Patti Insurance Agency, Attn: Andrea Dudas, 36 South Ninth St., Richmond, IN 47374. Valentines must be received by Feb. 10. If more than 1,000 Valentines are received, the additional ones will be delivered to patients at Riley Hospital for Children. †



Olivia Dudas, a fifth-grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Richmond, poses in her home on Dec. 21 with gifts collected by the “Traveling Bags of Kindness” project she initiated to benefit children. (Submitted photo by Andrea Dudas)

Teacher’s creative class helps students overcome challenges in life

By John Shaughnessy

Emily Denton views Catholic education as having a simple purpose: “To pursue academic excellence and to follow the model of Christ in all that we do.”

What has always amazed Denton during her 11 years of Catholic teaching are “the incredible things that can be accomplished when guided by this simple purpose.”

In that spirit, Denton created “Challenge Box” for her junior high students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis.

“Challenge Box is a 30-minute period, during Friday’s religion class, when students can anonymously submit questions, thoughts or challenges to a shoebox to be discussed,” Denton explains. “During this time, we move all the desks to the edges of the

classroom and sit in a circle. After reading aloud a ‘challenge’ submitted by a student, I give my own advice and then open it up to the other students to offer their advice or thoughts on the situation.”

It’s become an experience, Denton says, when she’s seen her students, “who can seem so tough and independent at times, open up about their biggest insecurities and offer sincere advice to others who are struggling.”

Challenge Box has also led to one of the most rewarding teaching moments for Denton, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

“A student had submitted the following question: ‘What is the nicest thing that anyone has ever said to you?’

“The students took a while to think about this, and gradually almost all

of their hands went up. A couple of students mentioned a coach who had said something they never forgot, and others talked about compliments from family members. Then a girl, who had transferred to our school mid-year due to a move, raised her hand.

“She said, ‘I don’t know exactly what the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me is, but I know it’s something that’s been said here in the last few weeks. This is the first time I’ve had people who I know are my real friends.’

“Her classmates’ faces were beaming, and a couple of the girls blurted out that they were so glad she was here. It was one of those moments when I could just step back from the class and watch them take care of each other as a community. I see the effects of Challenge Box. I hope that it gives my students a sense that we’re all on this journey together, and we are here to care for each other.” †



Emily Denton strives to give her students at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis “a sense that we’re all on this journey together, and we are here to care for each other.” Here, she works alongside Owen DeLaney. (Submitted photo)

Catholic schools witness to the Gospel through service

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic schools across central and southern Indiana—and indeed across the nation—are known for their academic excellence.

They're also dedicated to helping their students take what they learn in their classrooms, including their knowledge of the Catholic faith, and applying it in service to the broader community.

Middle school students at Our Lady of Lourdes School and St. Simon the Apostle School, both in Indianapolis, have done this in a variety of ways throughout this academic year.

With their school situated in the heart of Indianapolis' east side, an area affected by poverty and crime, Lourdes students have taken action to promote peace in their Irvington neighborhood. They put a peace banner along the school's fence facing high-traffic Washington Street, gave speeches at a peace rally, and created artistic "peace posts" that share messages of peace that will be placed on the grounds of faith communities on the east side.

Small groups of St. Simon students throughout the year go out from their northeast side school to assist at charitable agencies. But the entire 240 middle school student body fanned out on Oct. 27, 2016, to serve in food pantries, shelter homes and other charities for the school's annual Fall Day of Service.

In sponsoring service events, educators in both schools spoke of a purpose

beyond forming their students to give of themselves. They also see it as a way for their schools to be witnesses to the Gospel in the broader community.

"It's a witness to our faith," said Lourdes middle school teacher Angie Therber. "And I think that's as important as the academics that we're teaching in the building. That was really the impetus for the whole thing, to combine the two."

"It makes you step back and be in awe," said St. Simon assistant principal Laura Mates of how the Fall Day of Service demonstrated the Catholic faith to others. "It was such a wonderful gift for us to be out and be stewards of the Catholic faith. For us to be that example of our religion was pretty powerful."

Mates did a lot of logistical work in arranging some 50 drivers to take the students across the Indianapolis area to serve people in need at agencies such as the Wheeler Mission Thrift Shop, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's food distribution center and Seeds of Hope.

"To hear the casual conversations when [the students] got back with their peer groups about what they did, the impact they had and they joy they had in doing it makes it all worth it," she said.

St. Simon eighth-grader Nicholas Zink has learned a lot about the importance of service in his nearly three years as a middle school student.

"It shows others our faith," he said. "It shows how God is affecting them through the community by knowing how people



Our Lady of Lourdes middle school teacher Angie Therber and Lourdes eighth-grade students Grace Swinefurth, left, and Olivia Wilson show the "peace posts" created by the Indianapolis school's eighth graders to promote peace in the school's east side neighborhood. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

are helping them. They aren't alone. People are there to help."

Nicholas says that God is also affecting him when he leaves his school to help others. It builds in him a habit of service which he described as "something that I just do, like going to sports practices or to school."

Mates said middle school is a key time to nurture this habit in students.

"By doing it in the middle school, we have a lot of molding and shaping that we can do before some of their ideas are cemented in place when they get to high school," she said. "This can be an entry way for them to figure out what they can do to help others."

Leaders at Lourdes are as dedicated to growing hearts for service in their middle school students as well. But the difference in that school's context and focus in service from St. Simon shows the various ways that Catholic schools can approach this aspect of education.

Lourdes has only 18 middle school students and is located in a historic neighborhood. St. Simon, on the other hand, has 240 middle school students and is in a suburban community developed during the past few decades.

Leaders at Lourdes chose to focus on promoting peace, while St. Simon sent their students to a broad array of

charitable agencies.

Yet both schools incorporate service into the learning that goes on in their classrooms in ways that let all students discover and use their gifts.

"This [peace post] project gave everybody a chance to excel at something," Therber said. "We had everything: reading, discussion, writing, presenting, speaking and art. They can all carry it forward in some way. They know that they have a God-given talent that they can use for the betterment of others."

Lourdes eighth-grader Grace Swinefurth appreciates her chance to take part in the peace efforts of her school.

"It has been an incredible experience," she said. "I love sharing everything that I have learned with other people and making the world a better place. My family is super proud. My friends are super proud. Everybody in the community is feeling better because we did this project."

The experience has had a similar impact on Therber.

"It's probably one of the most rewarding things that I've done as a teacher, honestly," she said. "I feel proud that we're doing something that's beneficial to the community, and is reinforcing the Catholic Christian ideals that we try to teach." †



A group of middle school students from St. Simon the Apostle School sort donated clothes at St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, both in Indianapolis, on Oct. 27 during St. Simon's Fall Day of Service when its 240 middle school students helped people in need in several charitable agencies in the Indianapolis area. St. Elizabeth Coleman is a ministry of Catholic Charities Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

'Most important student' leaves his unforgettable mark on teacher

By John Shaughnessy

In more than 11 years as a Catholic school teacher, Brittany Geswein has always had the approach of valuing "each and every student." Yet, her most rewarding experience in education involved a child who never entered her classroom.

"The year I started my teaching journey as a freshman [in college] was the same year my brother Brandon started kindergarten," recalls Geswein, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School in Floyd County. "From the very beginning, I took him under my wing."

"After observing his difficulty with reading, I suggested we have him formally assessed. In the fourth grade, he was diagnosed with a severe reading comprehensive disability and attention deficit disorder. I helped write his plan to assure he was receiving needed

accommodations in the classroom."

She continued her work with her brother through his time in junior high and high school.

"We read together in the evenings and all summer long for years," notes Geswein, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

"We tackled everything from science fair projects and research papers to organizing notes and preparing for tests. We faced every difficult challenge and celebrated every success together."

Through it all, "Brandon was the most important student I ever taught," she says.

"This isn't because he was my brother, but because of what he taught me. He forever changed my daily performance in the classroom and the relationship I have with each of my

students. I had high expectations for Brandon's teachers and wanted the best for him. In the same way, I set high expectations for myself knowing the impact I was having on the lives of my students.

"Working with him taught me the importance of meeting kids where they are and lifting them higher. Learning has to be fun and engaging. Brandon taught me that even those students who don't like schoolwork can love going to school if they have someone who believes in them."

The lessons—and the closeness of their relationship—continued until Brandon suddenly died three years ago when he was a sophomore at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

"He died in his sleep from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy, a disease which had lain dormant in his brain for nearly 10 years," Geswein says.



Brittany Geswein holds a canvas that captures her favorite Beatitude and the photos of her students—past and present—at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School. (Submitted photo)

"With his passing, he taught me a final lesson. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see the face of God. Being a Catholic school teacher is a ministry in which I get to spend my days preparing those with the purest of hearts for their eternal life in heaven." †

Family gets winning hand through Notre Dame ACE program

By John Shaughnessy

Three years removed from the heartbreak of being homeless with six children, Kevina White shares a story of finding hope and a home for her family.

With a calm joy, White talks about the home she has found for her children at Holy Angels School, one of the



Kevina White

five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis that became part of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program at the beginning of this school year.

"It's a family community—and because of that, we're able to grow

together, we look out for each other, and it's made my life a lot easier being able to know and trust the adults here, and know they really care about my children," White says as she stands on the school's playground.

"We're more stable—spiritually, physically, and the children academically. Things that help you to succeed are an education and college and, of course, your faith. That's what helps you get to heaven. Here at the academies, they do instill that in children—to be believers of Christ, to have faith and to press forward. And that, with education, you can't get anywhere else."

White's family is one of many who are benefitting from the start of a new era in the archdiocese in which the Notre Dame ACE Academies are continuing the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies' legacy of providing a Catholic education to children in

Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross, St. Anthony and St. Philip Neri schools.

The archdiocese has partnered with the University of Notre Dame to provide a broader pool of resources and support to serve the children who attend those five schools, according to Gina Fleming, superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.



Fr. Timothy Scully, C.S.C.

Research data confirms the importance of Catholic schools in the lives of its students and alumni, noted Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, co-founder of the ACE program.

"If you graduated from a Catholic school, you are half again as likely to graduate from a high school, and you're 2 1/2 times more likely to graduate from college," he said.

"You hold political views that are more tolerant of other people, and you're much less likely to go to jail. You're three times more likely to become a priest or religious. Just from a civic, from a community, and from an ecclesiastical perspective, these schools are essential to our American Catholic life."

In becoming part of the Notre Dame ACE Academies, the five center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis have joined a network that includes schools in Tucson, Ariz., Tampa, Fla., and Orlando, Fla.

Those schools have already begun to close the achievement gap that many inner-city students experience, Notre Dame ACE officials note. From



The goals of the Notre Dame ACE Academies in Indianapolis are two-fold: college and heaven. (Submitted photo)

fall 2011 to spring 2015, on average, students improved in math from the 31st percentile to the 67th percentile, moving from the bottom third to the top third in the nation.

In 2015, the Notre Dame ACE Academies network was recognized by the White House as an outstanding resource of educational excellence for Hispanic students.

The partnership between the archdiocese and Notre Dame follows a similar blueprint for success—drawing from the resources of the university, the archdiocese, the Indiana parental choice program and local community support. ACE faculty and staff also work closely with school and archdiocesan leaders in Indianapolis.

"Our children have the opportunities

they deserve to break the cycle of poverty, and to share the richness of the gifts with which God has blessed them," Fleming said. "As I witness the faith, innovation, service, and grit of our children, it is obvious to me that there is hope for our world."

Kevina White has already seen the difference that partnership has made to her family.

"I'm grateful for programs such as this, so families can get the catapult—just something they need to help them get to where they need to be, so we're able to give back as well," said White, who now has a job. "I just praise God that we're able to do that at this time."

(To learn more about the Notre Dame ACE Academies, visit: ace.nd.edu/academies.) †

Celebrating National Catholic Schools Week

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5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Register online at brebeuf.org

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2801 W. 86th St | Indianapolis, IN 46268
317.524.7050 | brebeuf.org





ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS Catholic Schools

Open Doors



Open Arms



Open Hearts

What Makes a Catholic School Special

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ...

- Centered in the person of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- Distinguished by excellence
- Committed to educate the whole child
- Steeped in a Catholic world view
- Sustained by Gospel witness
- Shaped by communion and community
- Accessible to all students
- Established by the expressed authority of the bishop

(“Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools”; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)

RESEARCH SAYS ...

- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement and student achievement (Marks, 2009).
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).
- When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

(University of Notre Dame. For more information, log onto ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools)



Champré Kemp and Sam Kennedy lead the procession of 2016 Bishop Chatard High School graduates on May 20, 2016. (Photo courtesy of Tiffany Photography Studio)

LEARN MORE

Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts

The students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic schools are doing great things! Please take the time to review a special publication from the Office of Catholic Schools at www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2016-2017/index.html highlighting our Catholics schools and those who help make us what we are today!



How can we AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

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

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR			
	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a "90%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship*
1	\$21,978	\$32,967	\$43,959
2	\$29,637	\$44,456	\$59,274
3	\$37,296	\$55,944	\$74,592
4	\$44,955	\$67,433	\$89,910
5	\$52,614	\$78,921	\$105,228
6	\$60,273	\$90,410	\$120,546
7	\$67,932	\$101,898	\$135,864
8	\$75,591	\$113,387	\$151,182

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* Document available at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

* For a household size of nine (9) or more, add \$7,696 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "100%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "90%" Choice Scholarship.

** Add \$11,544 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "150%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.

*** Add \$15,392 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "200%" of Reduced Lunch Eligibility "50%" Choice Scholarship.

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), 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.

Additional local scholarships may also be available. Contact your local Catholic school.

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, 2017
- 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 at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

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

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

K-12 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-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), 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, AND/OR
- A student with learning exceptionalities qualified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

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.

Pre-K vouchers are available in Marion and Jackson counties. For more information, log onto www.in.gov/fssa/4944.htm.



Catholic Schools

Open Doors

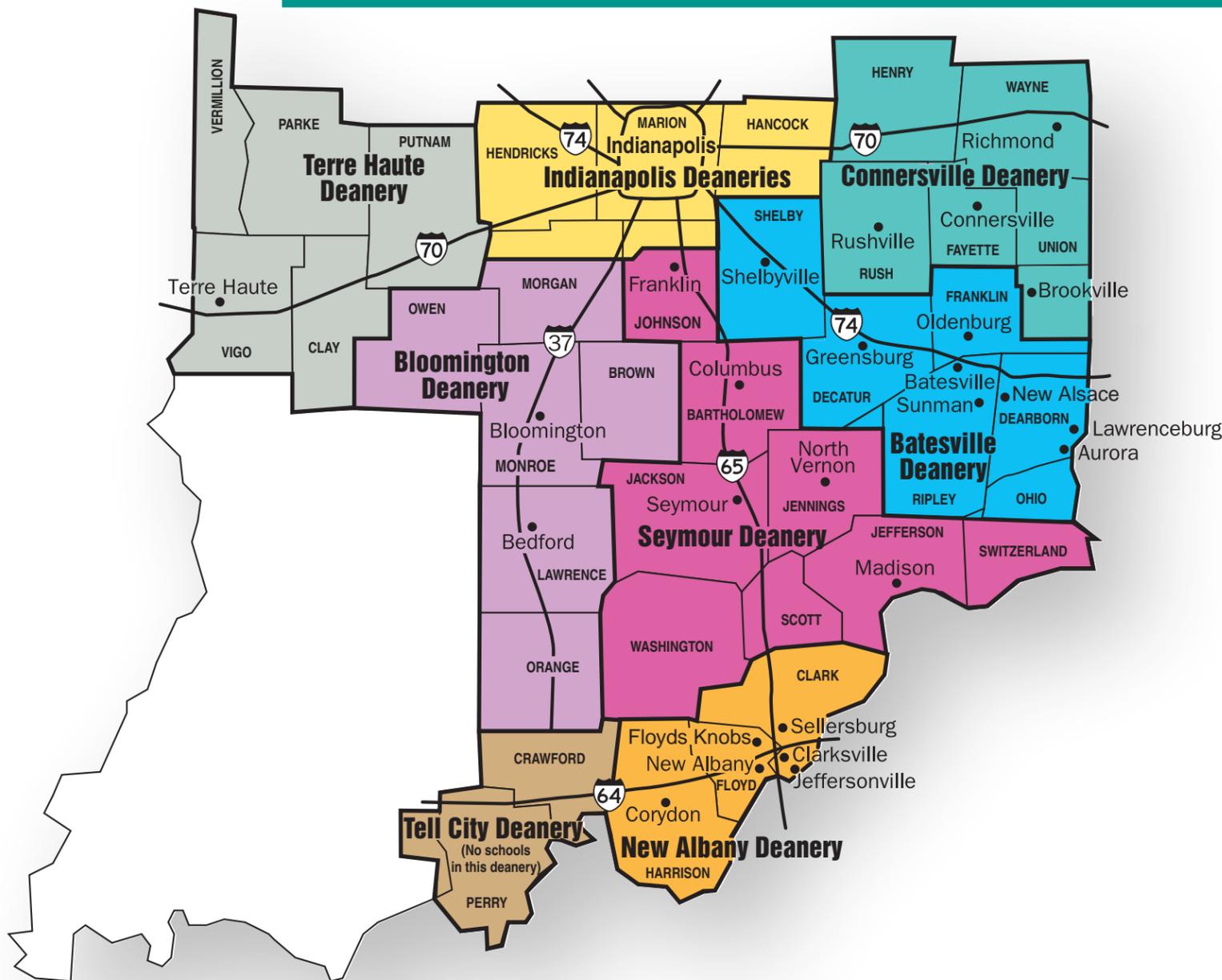


Open Arms



Open Hearts

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



DEANERY SCHOOLS

Batesville Deanery

Aurora
St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception School (K-8)
211 Fourth St.
Aurora, IN 47001
812-926-1558

Batesville
St. Louis School (PK-8)
17 St. Louis Place
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-3310

Greensburg
St. Mary School (PK-8)
1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way
Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-2804

Lawrenceburg
St. Lawrence School (K-8)
524 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-537-3690

New Alsace
All Saints Catholic Academy
(PK-8)
9788 N. Dearborn Road
Guilford, IN 47022
812-623-2631

Shelbyville
St. Joseph School (PK-5)
127 E. Broadway
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-398-4202

Sunman
St. Nicholas School (K-8)
6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
Sunman, IN 47041
812-623-2348

Bloomington Deanery

Bedford
St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8)
923 18th St.
Bedford, IN 47421
812-279-2540

Bloomington
St. Charles Borromeo School (PK-8)
2224 E. Third St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-336-5853

Connersville Deanery

Brookville
St. Michael School (PK-8)
275 High St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961

Connersville
St. Gabriel School (PK-6)
224 W. Ninth St.
Connersville, IN 47331
765-825-7951

Richmond
Seton Catholic High
School (7-12)
233 S. 5th St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-965-6956

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
School (PK-6)**
801 W. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-4877

Rushville
St. Mary School (PK-6)
226 E. Fifth St.
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3639

New Albany Deanery

Clarksville
Our Lady of Providence
Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
707 Providence Way
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-945-2538

**St. Anthony of Padua
School (PK-8)**
320 N. Sherwood Ave.
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-282-2144

Corydon
St. Joseph School (PK-6)
512 N. Mulberry St.
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4549

Floyds Knobs
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
School (PK-6)
3033 Martin Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
812-923-1630

Jeffersonville
Sacred Heart School (PK-8)
1842 E. Eighth St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-283-3123

New Albany
Holy Family School (PK-8)
217 W. Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-6090

**Our Lady of Perpetual
Help School (PK-8)**
1752 Scheller Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-7676

Sellersburg
St. John Paul II Catholic
School (PK-6)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-3266

Seymour Deanery
Columbus
St. Bartholomew School (K-8)
1306 27th St.
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-6830

Franklin
St. Rose of Lima School (PK-8)
114 Lancelot Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-3451

Madison
Father Michael Shawe
Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
(7-12)
201 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-2150

Pope John XXIII School (PK-6)
221 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-3957

North Vernon
St. Mary School (PK-8)
209 Washington St.
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-3445

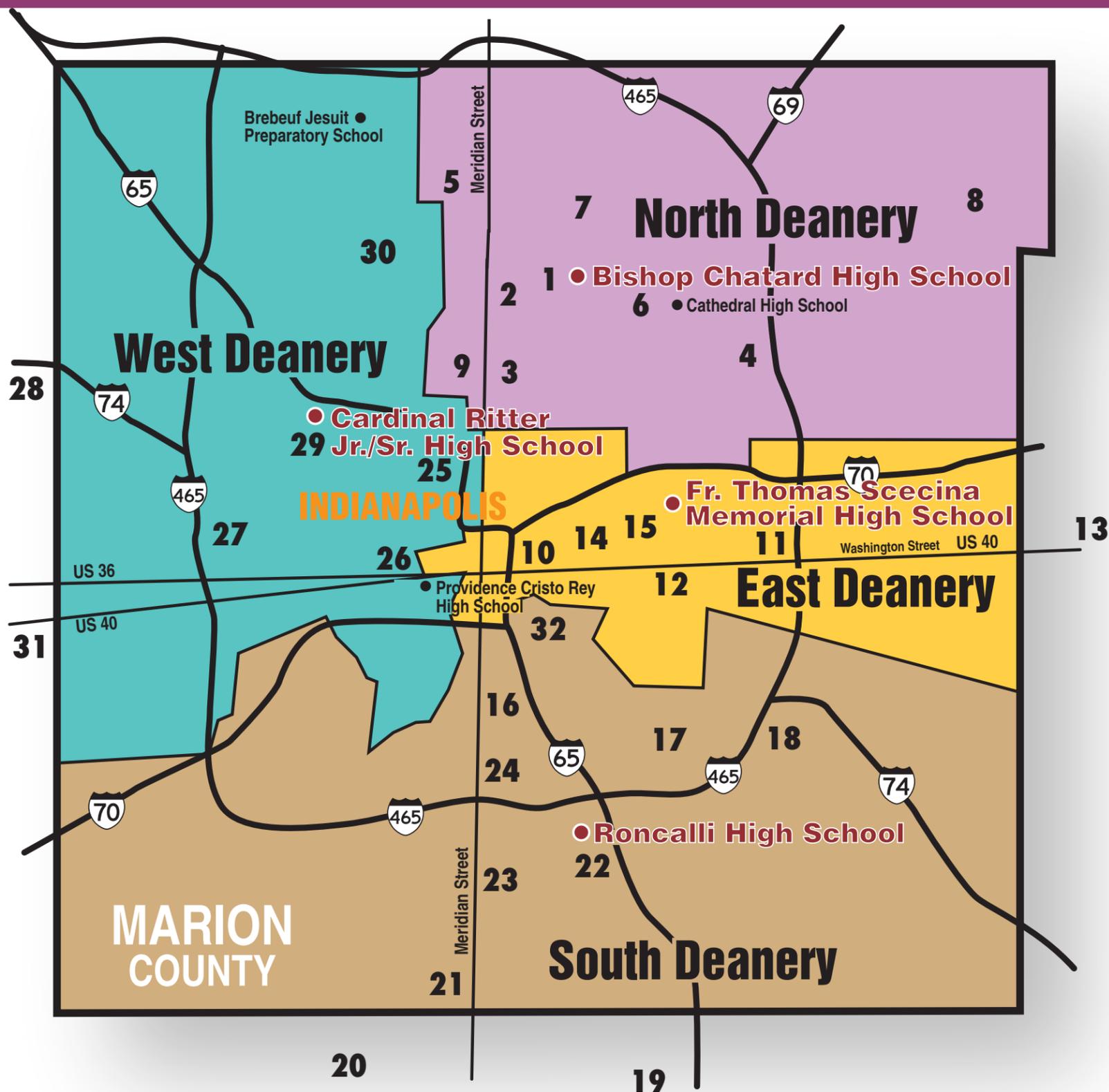
Seymour
St. Ambrose School (PK-8)
301 S. Chestnut St.
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-3522

Terre Haute Deanery

Terre Haute
St. Patrick School (PK-8)
449 S. 19th St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-232-2157

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

GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

Indianapolis North Deanery

- **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451
- 1. Christ the King School (K-8)**
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366
- 2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468
- 3. St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518
- 4. St. Lawrence School (PK-8)**
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923
- 5. St. Luke the Evangelist School (K-8)**
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912
- 6. St. Matthew the Apostle School (PK-8)**
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

- 7. St. Pius X School (K-8)**
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3361
- 8. St. Simon the Apostle School (PK-8)**
8155 Oaklondon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000
- 9. St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)**
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-255-6244

Indianapolis East Deanery

- **Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)**
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377
- 10. Holy Cross Central School (PK-8) ***
125 N. Oriental St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-9068
- 11. Holy Spirit School (PK-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

- 12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)**
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316

- 13. St. Michael School (PK-8)**
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380
- 14. St. Philip Neri School (PK-8) ***
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134
- 15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School (PK-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-353-2282

Indianapolis South Deanery

- **Roncalli High School (9-12)**
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277
- 16. Central Catholic School (PK-8) ***
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759
- 17. Holy Name School (PK-8)**
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078

- 18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)**
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459
- 19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)**
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300
- 20. SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)**
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826
- 21. St. Barnabas School (PK-8)**
8300 Rahke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422
- 22. St. Jude School (K-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828
- 23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)**
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013
- 24. St. Roch School (PK-8)**
3603 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-9144

Indianapolis West Deanery

- **Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333
- 25. Holy Angels School (PK-6) ***
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211
- 26. St. Anthony School (PK-8) ***
349 N. Warman
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739
- 27. St. Christopher School (PK-6)**
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314
- 28. St. Malachy School (PK-8)**
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242
- 29. St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (PK-8)**
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516
- 30. St. Monica School (PK-8)**
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153

- 31. St. Susanna School (PK-8)**
1212 E. Main St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-839-3713

Private Schools

- 32. Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)**
580 E. Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174
- **Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)**
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-524-7128
- **Cathedral High School (9-12)**
5225 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-542-1481
- **Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)**
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

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Teacher finds the right chemistry at Catholic high school

By John Shaughnessy

After teaching for six years in a public school, Dan McNally experienced a refreshing change on his first parents' night at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"The mother of a chemistry student who was having some difficulty in my class pulled me aside and said, 'The last chemistry teacher always gave the kids the easy way out. We're so glad you're here,'" McNally recalls. "It seemed as though providing a challenging curriculum was desired instead of criticized, as was common at my past schools.

"Soon, it was clear that Bishop Chatard provided an environment for both teachers and students where the primary desire was to support one another. Parents were always going to support their kids, but they were also going to support the teacher. It is as though parents have faith that teachers have the best interest of the student in mind, and are confident that we can all pull

together to ensure the best outcome."

Now, after 32 years of teaching at Bishop Chatard, McNally has developed a deeper appreciation of the gift the Catholic school provides.

"One finds that there is a genuine effort on the part of all interested parties to see the face of God in each other," says McNally, a finalist for the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. "A simple outlook, but one with profound results—the personification that Jesus brought to Earth doesn't have to be limited to Jesus himself."

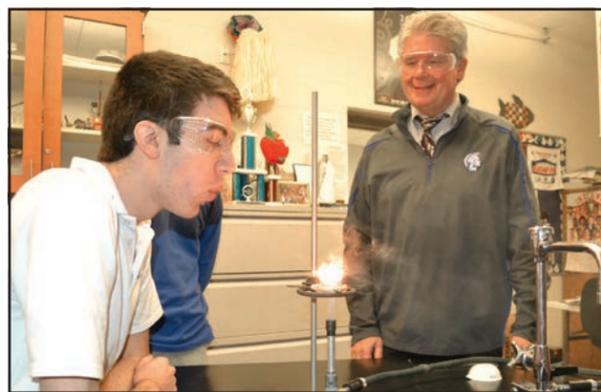
McNally has also tried to keep that perspective in 60 seasons of coaching boys' and girls' tennis at the archdiocesan Indianapolis North Deanery high school. He shares the story of one young man—"let's call him Evan"—a former public high school student who wanted to join the team seemingly because it "might give him a head start at becoming familiar and comfortable in a new setting."

"Evan was not particularly skilled on the tennis court, and he didn't show the athleticism that would predict much improvement. As it turned out, there was exactly the number of guys trying out that we needed, so we kept him on the team.

"Four years later, we had a young man who had obliterated the school record for most career losses. Sure, he got better as he grew up and got stronger. He even got to play a varsity match against a weaker opponent and won!"

Years later, Evan still comes by Bishop Chatard to reconnect with McNally—a reality that leads his former coach to share a reminder with all coaches and teachers.

"As teachers and coaches, we need to remind ourselves every single day of the immense influence we are privileged to exert on our students and athletes. They process every word and every action. It



Bishop Chatard High School chemistry teacher Dan McNally smiles at Daniel Burger's reaction to an experiment. (Submitted photo)

might be just another class or just another practice to us. But it just might be the most important class or practice of their life. The care we take in the preparation and execution of a lesson plan or practice plan can never be discounted.

"If we can do those things while looking for the face of God in each kid, we are bound to be successful educators." †

Jesus' example leads teacher on the best course for her students

By John Shaughnessy

As a first-grade teacher, Jeanine Ritter always looks for ways to make her students smile and have fun as they learn.

One day, her boys and girls will be connecting with students in Japan through video technology.

Another day, they'll be learning about penguins in Antarctica by collaborating with a scientist living among the penguins.

They also make photo stories of a personal "hero" in their lives.

And during each Christmas season, they have a baby shower for Jesus, bringing in gifts for an archdiocesan program that helps parents of infants.

"Through all of these projects and others, my students love learning and take away valuable lessons about our world and their place in it," says Ritter, a teacher at St. Pius X School in Indianapolis and a finalist for the 2016 Saint

Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

For Ritter, it's all part of the most important lesson she wants to share with children.

"We don't just talk about God during our religion class," she says. "God is present everywhere. Every day brings with it a chance to praise God. The kids truly live their faith by helping others and showing acts of kindness each and every day."

Ritter says she tries to set that example for her students by following the example of Jesus.

"Jesus was the greatest teacher and, in a Catholic school, we are called to follow his example every day," she says. "It is our responsibility to be an example worth following. For this reason, I teach with compassion, understanding, patience and love.

"I treat each child as an individual child of God, working hard to understand their distinct needs and



Jeanine Ritter always has a feeling of joy when she is surrounded by her first-grade students at St. Pius X School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

working to make each find success in their specific learning situations, both academically and socially. I teach acceptance of others and help each child find their gifts, strengths, positive qualities and passions." †

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School bequest is an ‘investment in the future’

By Natalie Hoefer

As the Ohio River meanders along the southern border of Indiana, its waters reflect the hilly town of Madison. There, in 1837, Father Michael Shawe started the area’s first Catholic school.

Now, 180 years later, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and Pope John XXIII School continue the legacy of Catholic education in Madison. It’s a legacy the institutions are proud of.

They are also proud of the fact that together as Prince of Peace Schools—named for Madison’s sole parish—the school system is one of only two in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis that is supported by a single parish.

So Prince of Peace Schools’ president Phillip Kahn says it was a “huge benefit” 30 years ago when a small group—mostly Madison Catholic school alumni—created Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc. (Friends), a nonprofit organization that established an endowment to support the long-term needs of the schools.

“The schools were doing no fundraising back then,” says Robert Barlow, Friends co-founder, current president and a graduate of Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School. “The idea was, and still is, to supplement the Catholic school experience and what the teachers could do.

“Friends is unique. With the [school administration] model now with a principal and president, most [schools] are doing their own development. If it was that way 30 years ago when we formed Friends, Friends might never have come into existence.”

Kahn, who helps oversee development efforts for the two schools, is grateful for the assistance.

“Most Catholic schools operate on tuition, which is the staple of everything, and then donations from community

members or alumni throughout the country,” he says.

“More and more Catholic schools try to make a bigger pool of money through donations. That’s why we’re so lucky to have Friends, where people can leave a bequest which impacts the yearly gift Friends gives us.”

The endowment started by the Friends founders in 1986 was \$500,000. Barlow recalls the early days of the organization, when funds were used to fulfill “specific teacher requests, like going on a field trip to the state museum and funding [projects] at \$500 or \$1,000.”

Through their efforts and the generosity of the community and alumni of the schools, the endowment had grown to \$3 million—until recently.

Julie Berry, a Friends board member, describes Joy and Paul Buchanan as a “humble, unassuming couple.” They married in 1981 and had been members of Prince of Peace Parish. The couple had no children together, and Joy, a widow when she married Paul, had sent her son to a public school. She died in February 2012, and Paul died in November 2014.

Despite the lack of connection to the Madison Catholic schools other than through their parish, the Buchanans wanted to support the continuation of Catholic education in the area. So they left a bequest for Friends in their will—for \$1.2 million, believed to be the largest bequest in the organization’s history.

“I was really astounded, knowing what it would mean to our school in the short and long term,” says Kahn.

With the bequest, an annual tuition scholarship of \$2,500 in the Buchanans’ name was created for a student wishing to attend one of the Prince of Peace schools.

The board also set up a teachers’ fund of \$10,000 per year. The fund will help finance teachers’ projects that benefit students and staff that are not covered



The late Joy and Paul Buchanan of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison left a legacy to Catholic education at Prince of Peace Schools through a bequest to Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc., a unique nonprofit created to financially benefit the two Madison Catholic schools. (Submitted photo)

by the annual budget, such as field trips, faculty workshops or academic competitions.

“We have challenges in keeping a good school system going” in Madison, Berry says. “Certainly this is not a high-income area. ... But our children are entitled to a good Catholic education. So bequests like this are really great for our cause. It’s incalculable what their gift will give through the years for our endowment.”

Having received eight years of Catholic education in Madison, fellow Friends board member Rick Grote appreciates the benefits of attending a Catholic school.

“I think there’s a set of morals you get from Catholic education,” he says. “It helps you keep God in front of everything you do—he’s here, he’s alive and he’s

around. You have friends with similar morals and principles. That helps create a support system, a Catholic support system.”

Berry says the bequest—and any donation to Catholic schools—is an “investment in the future.”

“I think it’s important to support Catholic education in any way you can, through volunteering or donating,” she says.

“I hope [the Buchanans] will inspire people to think about what they can do. Maybe they can’t give a million, but I hope that somebody reads this and thinks, ‘Hey, I can do something like that.’”

(For more information on Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, Inc., log onto friendsofshawepj.org.) †

Service guides educator’s efforts to share Christ’s love

By John Shaughnessy

As a father and a Catholic school teacher, Doug Bauman is always looking for the opportunity to share moments that reveal “the incredible sacrificial love that God has for all of us.”

“We as teachers and parents are definitely fighting an uphill battle trying to convince our students that society has it all wrong, and that the real and authentic truth and beauty in life rests in the words and actions of Jesus Christ,” says Bauman, a math teacher at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis.

Bauman tries to convince his students through the way he treats them with respect and attention, through the example he sets by attending Mass with his family, and through an experience he considers as his most rewarding moment as a teacher—working with his students on the school’s annual canned food drive to help local food pantries.

“All of those cans are able to be donated because of the efforts and sacrifices of our students,” says Bauman, the recipient of the 2016 Saint Theodora Guérin Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the

archdiocese.

“They went out ‘canning’ in their neighborhoods. They gave up some of their money to purchase cans. They did extra chores around the house to earn ‘can money.’

“When I step into the back of that truck and work side by side with my students loading thousands of canned goods, we get to see a very different and special side of each other. I get to see their humanness firsthand. And they get to see their math teacher make an attempt to pack as many cans as possible into a very confined space. It’s during those moments that I’m reminded why we are here on Earth—to love God and to love one another.”

That lesson of “walking in the light of Christ” is the one that Bauman hopes endures for his students.



Doug Bauman tries to influence his students at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis by sharing his faith and emphasizing service. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

“Christ teaches us to love one another as he loved us. Enabling our students to experience that Christ-like love and service firsthand is the one teacher moment that will be forever instilled in my heart.” †

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Want more info? Contact Duane Emery, Vice President for Enrollment Management, at 317-968-7360 or demery@gocathedral.com. Or visit www.gocathedral.com/multistudent.



Moms share Catholic school experience with their children

By Christa Hoyland
Special to The Criterion

CLARKSVILLE—It's not uncommon for parents of Catholic school children to work at their children's school. Many of these parents have careers in education, or they're stay-at-home parents who want to be on the same schedule as their children or earn extra money.

What's unusual about Debbie Miller and Nan Fougousse is that they each left established careers in other fields to work at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

Miller, a 1987 Providence graduate, gave up a 20-year career as a nuclear medicine technologist to serve lunch in the school cafeteria. Fougousse, a 1984 alumna, had spent 20-plus years in the insurance claims field, and her role before joining the school's main office staff was as a claims analyst supervisor for an insurance recovery business.

Each took a cut in pay, but the benefits of working in a Catholic school and in the same building with their children are worth much more, they say.



Mia Fougousse, right, talks about her after-school practice schedule with her mother, Nan Fougousse, an administrative assistant in the main office of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

"I went from taking an hour to get home at the end of every day to a three-mile trip down Lewis & Clark [Parkway] in my jeans and T-shirt," Miller says. "I'm a happier mom since I've been here. I'm just more available for them."

Miller joined the cafeteria staff nearly three years ago before her son Trey, a sophomore, was even a student at the school. She enjoyed her previous job doing stress testing and heart imaging at a hospital in Louisville, Ky., but when her route to work was impacted by long-term bridge construction projects, she began looking for work in southern Indiana.

When she learned of an opening in the Providence cafeteria, she happily changed careers in order to be on the same schedule as her children, including a second son, Jake, who will be a freshman in 2018.

As much as she loved her previous job, Miller said she enjoys her new job even more, from watching the students hold impromptu cheer sessions during lunch to the camaraderie of her co-workers.

"Being back at my alma mater and being part of the Blue Pride and school spirit, it's been fun," she says.

She also likes the atmosphere of working in a Catholic school, from the values exhibited by the students and staff to taking part in morning prayer.

"I love the prayer that starts the day," Miller says. "It sets the tone for them and us. There's so much here outside the books. There's so much more than just an education. It's the values and the community feeling here."

Fougousse said she decided to apply for the office assistant job in the fall of 2015 because



Trey Miller, center, prepares to swipe his identification badge in the lunch line as his mother, Debbie Miller, accepts the charge at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

she felt like she was missing out on many of her children's activities. In the 2014-15 school year, her son Luke was a senior on the football team and her daughter Mia was a sophomore on the girls' volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She attended as many games as she could, but sometimes missed important school events.

"I was spending a lot of time in my car," Fougousse says of her previous job. "I just missed a lot of stuff."

Now that she has worked at Providence for 1 1/2 years, son Luke is in college, her daughter is a senior on the girls' volleyball and basketball teams, and son Alec is a freshman on the football and boys' basketball teams.

She works their school schedule and can attend their events at school and games in the evenings. She also is happy to be working in a more relaxed atmosphere and appreciates the opportunity to live her faith.

"I like that we have Mass, and you have people who will openly pray with you—and it's O.K. to say, 'God bless you,'" Fougousse says.

"What drove me crazy in high school—that everybody knew my parents and everybody knew me—is what I love about it now. I just like the community. It's a family."

That extra touch of family at school also works for their children.

"It's nice when I have a question," Mia Fougousse says. "I can just come down here and ask her. People tell me all the time, 'I love your mom.'"

Trey Miller shares that experience. He likes that when he talks about a fellow student, his mother is familiar with the person.

"Everybody knows my mom, and she knows everybody," Trey says. "It's interesting, sometimes a little awkward, but funny." †

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