

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS WORKS AT SHAWE MEMORIAL

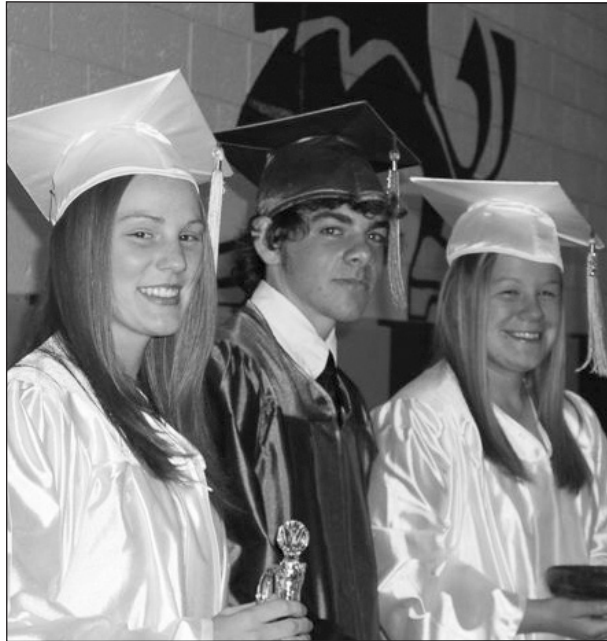
JERRY BOMHOLT THOUGHT HE WAS TAKING A STEP BACKWARD. He was afraid that he would be cutting himself off from real student interaction when he accepted the call to serve as principal and basketball coach at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, Ind. He was wrong.

“When I took this job three years ago, I thought that I would, in the administrator position, be further removed from students as opposed to being in the classroom. What happened was just the opposite,” Principal Bomholt said. “When I was a teacher, I dealt primarily with the kids in my classroom. As an administrator, I work with every student in the school on a certain level, a lot of them on a daily basis.”

Father Michael Shawe Memorial is a small junior and senior high school by state standards—just 158 students in grades seven through 12. The class sizes are small, too, with a nine-to-one student/teacher ratio. Principal Bomholt believes the school’s size and friendly atmosphere is why he can know the student body so well.

“The reward is that I feel like I get to deal with the entire student body. All of us here, because we are small, we know every student. We know every kid by name. We know their backgrounds, and we know their parents. It’s more of a family atmosphere.”

Parents of the students who attend Father Michael Shawe Memorial are heavily involved in the school, which contributes positively to the family atmosphere. “I think if you just took everything else away, I think the number one strength is the interest of our parents in the education of their



Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School students Patti Leiski, Joe Stack and Courtney King participated in the 2005 commencement ceremony.

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children,” Principal Bomholt said. “And that’s one of the reasons parents choose Shawe Memorial. We do have a partnership of involvement and concern with our students’ parents.”

Plans for the school include building state-of-the-art libraries and improving the science labs. Eventually, Father Michael Shawe Memorial hopes to physically join the two buildings that make up the school, which now are divided by a parking lot.

Father Michael Shawe Memorial prepares its students for the future—no matter what it may bring. “We want any student who goes through our junior/senior high school program to feel qualified to be accepted at any school in the country,” Principal Bomholt said. “They should feel comfortable and confident applying to any school of their choice.”

Principal Bomholt thinks the faculty and staff at Father Michael Shawe Memorial have created a unique experience for the students and parents. He said it contributes to the students’ receiving an education that is above and beyond the typical junior or senior high school experience.

“We are surrounded by a great faculty and staff who are dedicated to Catholic education,” Principal Bomholt said. “It’s an absolute pleasure to come to school every day, to stand out in the front lobby and greet every kid and try to make them feel like they’re coming to a place where they’re safe and where they’ll be nurtured.”

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese’s upcoming capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic education. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to Catholic schools such as the Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, Ind.