

# LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

*For Our Children and the Future*

## CARDINAL RITTER'S LEGACY LIVES AT INDIANAPOLIS WEST DEANERY HIGH SCHOOL

THE CLAMOR IN THE HALLWAYS AND CLASSROOMS AT CARDINAL RITTER HIGH JUNIOR/SENIOR SCHOOL ON THE WEST SIDE OF INDIANAPOLIS IS GROWING. It's where a surging student enrollment signals a growing demand from families throughout the Indianapolis West Deanery for quality Catholic education.

It's also music to the ears of Paul Lockard, president of Cardinal Ritter, and Ritter Principal Jo Hoy. As leaders of the Indianapolis West Deanery school, they're proud that so many graduates and current students are carrying on the examples set by Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter, the first Archbishop of Indianapolis and eventual cardinal and archbishop of the St. Louis Archdiocese.

As the spiritual leader of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 1934 through 1946, Cardinal Ritter's achievements included leading a desegregation movement within archdiocesan Catholic schools. The efforts came more than 15 years before the United States Supreme Court ruling in the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* case, which ordered schools to admit African-American and other minority students.

"If Cardinal Joseph Ritter were to walk these halls today, I can't help but believe that he would be happy about his namesake school," Lockard says.

Today 60 percent of the school's student enrollment is white, while approximately 25 percent of the student body is African-American. The rest of the other students are from Asian, Hispanic or other backgrounds.

That context is central to the campaign case presented by Ritter officials for the archdiocesan *Legacy for Our Mission*



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campaign. Lockard says 40 percent of Ritter students attend the school with some level of financial aid. In addition, Ritter's staff and board of directors have also outlined the pressing needs of the school's physical plant. Planned renovations and expansion work will enhance classrooms and other facilities such as science labs and instruction rooms necessary for today's curriculum.

These renovations and expansion efforts will also help address the space needs presented by a student population that has swelled to 450 students. Lockard says the school plans to contain its growth, but demand could push the enrollment to as many as 500 students by this fall. Upgrades will also help Ritter educators stay on pace with student improvements in school ISTEP scores.

Lockard admits it's a terrific "problem" to have as he and Hoy work to serve as many students and their families as possible. That's why they contribute to the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign by speaking at local parishes and helping with other efforts that ultimately will benefit Ritter's future. Funds raised in the campaign will help the school build its endowment—a primary source of tuition assistance—and tackle deferred maintenance needs.

Somewhere out there, Lockard says, spreading the message about Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese—and at Ritter in particular—will touch someone and help them realize how they can make a significant impact by contributing to their parish campaign.

"We are one Church and one body—that's why people should help," Lockard says. "Our role at Cardinal Ritter is so stabilizing in this community."

*Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese's capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic education. By contributing to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to future ministry needs and distributed to efforts such as Our Mission of Education.*