

LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

POPE JOHN XXIII SCHOOL SERVES FAMILIES THROUGH TUITION ASSISTANCE, NEW PROGRAMS

It's both an affirming notion and a reality check that Home Missions grants are available through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. They've been particularly encouraging at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, where school leaders have responded to an influx of Hispanic students whose families have moved to the small town on the banks of the Ohio River.

That may sound like a challenge for a school serving families from Madison and towns throughout the region. This includes both Catholic and non-Catholic families from as far away as North Vernon and Vevay and the Kentucky towns of Carrollton and Bedford.

Home Missions grants have provided tuition assistance for Hispanic students at Pope John XXIII. The grants are a timely blessing for the many new Hispanic families who have moved to the Madison area for jobs and opportunities. They have been welcomed by school staff and Prince of Peace Parish, the Catholic community that has served the Madison community following the 1993 consolidation of several smaller parishes. (Madison's Catholic roots date back to the 1850s.)

Pope John XXIII School's principal, Benedictine Sister Anna Rose Lueken, says Prince of Peace Pastor Father John Meyer has been a champion of the school. Recognizing the opportunity to serve Hispanic newcomers, Father Meyer has studied Spanish and added a weekly *misa en español* for Spanish-speaking Catholics. The Spanish Mass helps welcome the new families who send their children to Pope John XXIII.



*“The Home Missions grants
have been so important for us.”*

Sister Anna Rose says such support has been a critical resource for the preschool through sixth-grade school. She also points to the dedicated teachers and staff—many of whom have served for more than 20 years. In addition, the school has added numerous after-school programs. Fourth-grade teacher Ann Moore believes this is an additional element that has served many families and helped attract new students.

The menu of extended care programs at Pope John XXIII School is extensive. Options include dance programs, Spanish classes, a technology club and an “Exploravision” program in which students design solutions for social issues. The school also offers band programs for fifth- and sixth-grade students at the other parish school—Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School—plus all-day kindergarten and an on-site toddler program.

“These programs have been a real lifesaver for our families,” Moore says. “They also increase the community’s interaction with the school and extend the classroom experience.”

And it’s not difficult to see how it’s possible. Many volunteers and generous benefactors from the parish support the efforts with their time, talent and treasure.

“We’ve seen a growing relationship between the parish, school and community,” says Marta Belt, marketing director for Pope John XXIII School. “It’s helped us realize how Pope John XXIII School is such a huge part of the 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 fund future Home Missions grants which support efforts such as Our Mission of Education.