



Embracing the power of God’s love

The foundation and quality of a Catholic education in central and southern Indiana are built upon God’s love for children, his gift of the Eucharist and the hope to be reunited with him in heaven.

In this third year of the National Eucharistic Revival, *The Criterion* is dedicating this Catholic Schools Week supplement to the transformative power of God’s love.

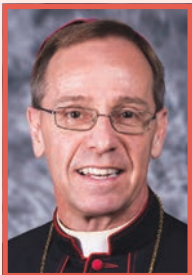
It’s a power that shows up in the dedication of Catholic school educators across the archdiocese, the service that Catholic school children and youths offer to people in need, and the support and sacrifice of parents, grandparents and families who embrace the faith and Catholic education—and strive to share these gifts through the generations.

We hope you enjoy the stories and photographs that bring to life the difference that a Catholic education makes—to students now and to graduates who continue to be blessed by its focus on faith, family and friendship. †

Our 68 Catholic schools transform lives and instill hope

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have embarked on the Jubilee Year, exhorted by Pope Francis to be “Pilgrims of Hope.” There is no greater means of experiencing hope than in communion with the Holy Trinity—God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This focus of our Jubilee Year is enhanced by the national theme for Catholic Schools Week, “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” The 68 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

of Indianapolis provide a transformative impact of instilling hope for individuals and families throughout central and southern Indiana

Our Catholic schools excel in academics, athletics, the arts and service. Most fundamental to the identity and mission of any Catholic school, however, are its roots in the Church’s task of evangelization and catechesis. With a primary focus on forming missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, our Catholic schools strive to form hearts and educate minds in the two-fold command of loving God and neighbor as a means of transforming students and educators as well as families and society.

In the spirit of synodality, we must be intentional about calling forth each baptized member to embrace the universal call to communion, participation and mission in the life of the Church. For a Catholic school to be credible and effective in its core mission, its members must strive to cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, which requires a commitment to both worship and service.

It is the task of both students and educators to grow in the life of faith through an openness to the Holy Spirit by means of prayer, both personal and communal, the Word of God, the grace of the sacraments, the teachings of the faith and a life oriented toward service.

As a mission of the Church, Catholic schools strive to transform rather than be transformed by culture. Catholic teaching is predicated on the firm belief

in the saving grace of the *kerygma*—namely, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that Catholic schools are equipped with crucifixes, immersed in daily prayer, and find their ultimate meaning in the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass, the source and summit of our identity and mission as Catholics.

With assurance of my continued prayers, especially for blessings upon our Catholic schools, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Charles C. Thompson

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson



Schools embrace Eucharistic Revival’s focus on ‘mission’

By Natalie Hoefer

When the bishops of the United States called for a National Eucharistic Revival, they laid out a three-year, three-themed vision.

Year one focused on diocesan revival. Year two focused on parish revival.

Year three, which began in June 2024 and ideally never ends, focuses on the theme of mission: “sending out every member of the Church to spread the good news—sharing the gift of our eucharistic Lord with those on the margins” (eucharisticrevival.org).

Catholic schools throughout central and southern Indiana are striving to instill this third-year revival theme of mission in their students. The methods are many.

Here, principals from four archdiocesan schools share with *The Criterion* how they’re helping students embrace the importance of mission.

Call ‘to live out the Gospel values’

Serving those in need—even when not in person—is one way of sharing Christ’s love.

The National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last July offered a service project led by Million Meal Movement. The Indianapolis-based organization set up stations for participants to create pre-packaged meals for those in need in Indiana.

“After the congress, there were still funds available for more meals to be put together,” says Gina Fleming, principal of Holy Spirit School in Indianapolis. “The [archdiocesan] Office of Catholic Schools contacted several schools to participate in making more meals.”

She accepted the opportunity for Holy Spirit. On Nov. 19, older students were grouped with younger ones in shifts to participate in the project in the school gym.

“We were able to engage our kindergarten through eighth-grade students in packaging over 17,000 meals that will be distributed to local pantries and organizations in central Indiana,” Fleming says.

The students did not simply show up for the activity. Gatherings were held “leading up to our Million Meal Movement day where we talked about Jesus calling us to feed the hungry. We tied it in with the Beatitudes and with his call to all Christians to live out the Gospel values,” Fleming explains.

“We shared with students the fact that over a million individuals in our state don’t know where their next meal is coming from, and that one in five children fit that [description], and that moved them.”

Fleming recalls fourth-grade students asking if the school could hold another Million Meal Movement day.

“When I explained we would have to raise money, they were asking how we could do fundraisers to do [the project] again, and you could see the wheels turning to help tackle hunger in central Indiana.”

‘To live as Christ taught us to live’

It’s easy for students of St. Rose of Lima School in Franklin to recite what’s important at school and in their lives. All they need to do is look at the school name, ROSE: R-Respect for all, O-Obedience to Christ, S-Service to others, and E-Excellence in education.

The first three values tie in perfectly with the revival’s third-year focus on mission, says St. Rose principal Kim Tekippe.

“The students are told to respect everyone, no matter if there’s a difference in family, education or even faith,” she says, noting 50% of the student population is not Catholic. “We tell them respect for all means to act as Jesus did, to treat each other the way you want to be treated.”

That message ties in with obedience to Christ, “to live as Christ taught us to live,” says Tekippe.

“We emphasize the importance of also being obedient in prayer. We pray at the beginning and end of the school day and before and after lunch, and we have weekly Mass.”

This year, Tekippe added taking part in the parish’s weekly day of adoration to the school schedule.

“That’s how we’ve been keeping the revival mission alive,” she says. “In this hustle and bustle world, people don’t take time for prayer. I think it’s crucial for the kids to learn that.”

When it comes to service, students are taught that it is “not just getting out of class—it’s doing good. It’s bringing Christ to others and being Christ for others. We teach them that service can be a canned food drive, and it can also be as simple as opening the door for someone.”

Students practice service throughout the year, from writing letters to residents at a nearby senior community, to penny drives for child cancer patients, to pairing with the parish’s respect life committee for toy and coat drives.

The ROSE values are reviewed each week during a school gathering.

“Focusing on those values, the students can know how to go out into the community and share their faith,” Tekippe says. “We tell them to ‘go out into the world, making sure you’re a rose.’ ”

‘Christ as the source and summit’

During each year of the National Eucharistic Revival, the students of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood have focused on a specific theme.

“This year’s theme is ‘Embrace the Source and Summit,’” says principal Rebecca Stone. “It’s about embracing Christ as the source and summit of our lives and how to live that out.”

The theme is emphasized through looking at saints as models of Christ-like behavior and by recognizing students and teachers who do the same.

“Every class is learning about one saint a month, learning about their lives and how they can lead us closer to Christ,” says Stone. “We use them as role models. They recognized Jesus as the source and summit of all that’s good, so how can we model ourselves after them?”

“We talk about how, when we embrace Christ as the source and summit, it is across our lives—morning, noon, night.”

To encourage such behavior, one student and one teacher are recognized each week for modeling Christ-like behavior, whether in big or small ways.

“One student received the award for owning up to a mistake,” says Stone. “Because it’s important to know that we’re not perfect, that it’s OK to admit that, and that God loves us the same.”

Each receives a picture of Christ with children to hang on the wall outside of their classroom for the week.

“It’s a way of noticing the little and big things we do to embrace that Christ is in us and how he should influence all the things we think, say and do,” says Stone.



Students and staff of Holy Spirit School in Indianapolis prepare pre-packaged meals for Indianapolis-based Million Meal Movement in the school’s gym on Nov. 19, 2024. (Submitted photo)

‘I look for it to become a tradition’

Prince of Peace Schools in Madison have embraced new traditions during this third year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

“For years, we did adoration in the junior/senior high,” says Curt Gardner, principal of Father Michael Shawe Jr./Sr. High School and assistant principal of Pope John XXIII Elementary School. “We increased our frequency when the revival started. Our goal is for each student to go at least once a month.”

This year, adoration was added to the schedule for upper-level students at the elementary school.

“They went from zero to weekly,” says Gardner. He credits the elementary school’s principal and fourth- and fifth-grade teachers with starting the new tradition.

He also credits Pope John XXIII staff with planning the two neighboring schools’ first eucharistic procession in memory.

The procession was held the day before the schools’ Thanksgiving break and was led by Father Christopher Craig, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison.

“All of the grades lined up, K-12,” says Gardner. “As the procession passed, they went to their knees then joined. They were so respectful and reverent. I look for it to become a tradition that later, people will say, ‘They’ve done this forever.’ ”

He also said the staff has “used the revival as a way to refocus on the students’ charitable giving. We looked at how to help them better understand the charitable side of what we do when we bring up the gifts [during Mass], that they represent what we give to Christ.”

Now for the offertory procession during school Masses, students “bring in items for the charity we’re supporting that month and place them by the altar. It helps them see how we’re supposed to be sacrificing our own gifts with Christ’s sacrifice.” †

Catholic schools provide life-changing path for ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

By Brian Disney

Superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese

One of the most significant events in the Church’s journey is the Jubilee Year, a time of reflection, renewal and reconciliation. The 2025 Jubilee Year offers an important opportunity for Catholic schools to deepen their role in the Church’s mission, providing a life-changing path for their students, families, educators and the larger community as “pilgrims of hope,” the theme for the jubilee. As we celebrate this special year, our Catholic schools are renewing themselves with the themes of the jubilee, emphasizing faith, reconciliation and hope.



Brian Disney

The term “pilgrims of hope” suggests a journey, one that is both personal and communal. Pilgrimage, in Catholic tradition, is not just about a physical journey to a sacred place, but also a spiritual journey toward holiness.

Similarly, Catholic schools are places where students embark on a pilgrimage of faith, growing in their understanding of God’s love, their relationship with Christ and their responsibility to serve others. The 2025 Jubilee Year acts as a catalyst for reinvigorating this journey, guiding students toward a deeper sense of purpose and a stronger commitment to living out their faith in the world.

The theme of “hope” is central to the jubilee year. In a world that often seems fractured by division, injustice and uncertainty, Catholic schools can provide a beacon of light. Hope, in the Christian sense, is not a naive or passive optimism but an active trust in God’s promises.

Catholic schools have the responsibility of fostering this hope

within their students, helping them to see that their lives have meaning and that they are called to contribute to the transformation of society. This is not just about academic excellence, but about forming individuals who are compassionate, loving and committed to the common good.

In this context, our Catholic schools strive to cultivate an environment where students can encounter Christ, encounter one another, and encounter the world with eyes of faith. The 2025 Jubilee Year offers a perfect occasion for our schools to renew their commitment to integrating faith into every subject, every interaction and every decision. Religious education is not compartmentalized but permeates the entire school culture, forming students not just academically but also spiritually, emotionally and morally.

Reconciliation is another key theme of the jubilee year. Catholic schools are uniquely positioned to be places where

students learn to practice forgiveness, dialogue and understanding, modeling these virtues in their relationships with others. By promoting reconciliation, Catholic schools can create environments where students learn to overcome conflict and division with the love and mercy of Christ.

In this pilgrimage of hope, Catholic schools have a vital role in the Church’s mission during the 2025 Jubilee Year. By fostering a deeper relationship with Christ, encouraging active hope and promoting reconciliation, Catholic schools help to form a new generation of faithful, compassionate individuals who carry the light of the Gospel into a world in desperate need of healing and transformation.

The 2025 Jubilee Year is not only a time for personal reflection and growth, but also a time for Catholic schools to reaffirm their commitment to being sources of hope and beacons of faith in the world. †



‘My faith came alive’: A conversation with God changes a student’s life

By John Shaughnessy

The defining moment of Christian Mack’s four years of high school came in his freshman year—during a conversation with God.

At the time, Christian was on a bus with other students from Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg, traveling to Lucas Oil Stadium for the National Catholic Youth Conference in 2021.

“I said a little prayer on the bus ride up. ‘All right, God, I don’t really know what’s going to happen, but I’m going to try to keep my heart open to whatever you have in store,’” he recalls.

Christian has no doubt that God answered his prayer in a moment he shared with more than 10,000 other youths from across the country in the stadium.

“Everyone was kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament,” he says. “I started crying and weeping. I could really feel something. It was pure joy. My faith came alive. I truly felt at peace. It was the moment when I felt my life is now different, so I have to do something about it. It inspired me to change my life and make it more about using the joy I had to create a faith-filled life at Oldenburg.”

Christian’s closeness to God has continued in his four years at Oldenburg, including the challenging moments that nearly all high school seniors face at some point.

“It’s a really stressful time with college and choosing where I’m going to be the next four years of my life,” he says. “It’s almost where I have to completely rely on God and his will. I have to trust he has the right things in store for me.”

Christian has found those “right things” during his time in Oldenburg, in a wealth of opportunities.

He has competed on the boys’ soccer team for three years, played drums and the violin in the school’s orchestra, led retreats for younger students, sang with the school’s Academy Singers, and experienced an internship with a law firm in Batesville.

“It was really cool,” he says about the internship. “It helped solidify the idea that I want to focus on criminal law later in life.”

He also participated in one of the special programs that Oldenburg offers—the Adopt-a-Sis program that connects students with the Sisters of St. Francis at Oldenburg.

“That’s a program where we get to eat with the Sisters of St. Francis for lunch once a month,” he says, his voice filled with joy. “It’s like a whole new world. When you walk in, it’s really cool to see their eyes brighten. They’re really excited to see you and talk with you. It offers a different perspective to my life. It makes me realize how fortunate I am to have all the blessings that I have in my life—and all the people who surround me.

“It shows that not only am I blessing their lives a little bit, they’re blessing me by letting me see their life.”

Christian feels the same way about the group of friends he has made at Oldenburg.

“I think it’s really important that you pick a group in high school that supports you. At Oldenburg, I’ve definitely been able to do that. I’m friends with a lot of good guys, and they’ve really helped me grow in my faith.”

Those friendships have been enhanced by participating together in ECyD, standing for “Encounters, Convictions, your Decisions”—an international Catholic organization of youths who make a pledge of friendship with Christ and with each other.



Christian Mack has played three seasons on the boys' soccer team at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg. (Submitted photo)

It’s been really cool to see how far we’ve come, and everything we’ve done together,” says Christian, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville. “Oldenburg has been a really good vessel for my faith. It’s almost completely transformed it.

“When I came in as a freshman, it was like my parents’ faith. Now, it’s mine. I’ve led the freshman retreat my junior and senior years. I’ve been able to give witness. It’s definitely inspired me to branch out in my faith and do more because it’s something I really love.

“To put it plainly, my relationship with God is good. But it can always use some work. I’m really trying to work on it.” †

‘You’ll have a forever family’: a senior embraces a gift shared by generations

By John Shaughnessy

All the time she was growing up, Samantha Manley heard how wonderful and life-changing the place is, a place where the emphasis on faith, family and a quality education is stressed—and where a sense of community is alive, thriving and passed down through the generations.

That description fits all of the Catholic high schools in the archdiocese, but for Samantha, all these conversations were focused on Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

It’s where her maternal grandparents, Charles and Barbara (Fitzgerald) Kehrer, met as members of the class of 1968; where her paternal grandmother, Barbara (Greener) Manley, graduated in 1959; where her parents, Michael, class of 1990, and Jennifer (Kehrer) Manley, class of 1991, met; and where her sister Kylie graduated from in 2022.

“I’ve always been excited to come here,” Samantha says. “Growing up, people would tell me Scecina is a small school, but the biggest thing about it is the community. My sister encouraged me to join a lot of things here and make the best of my experiences.”

Four years later, Samantha has found the same sense of community at Scecina.

“I know all my peers and a lot about them, and that’s what makes it special,” she says. “We have a lot of leadership in our class. Everyone steps up. Everyone has a drive to be involved. We have this thing called Crusader Cup this year. Each class gets points for showing up for different things—not just sports—and for excelling in certain things in school. I saw a lot of change from that. We’re more united, just overall closer.”

As the president of the senior class, Samantha has been at the heart of that effort.

She was involved in the school’s Warm Winter drive as a member of the National Honor Society, collecting clothing for refugees being served by Catholic Charities Indianapolis. During the Christmas season, she and other members of the senior class went shopping for gifts for children to make the day more joyful for them.

She was also a student leader at a retreat for sophomores this year. And she serves as an ambassador for the school at events, including giving a talk at Scecina’s annual fund dinner.

“When I first came here, I wasn’t able to present or talk in front of people,” she says. “They’ve given me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and reach my best potential. I feel I’ve had the education that will help me succeed in things other than high school.”

Samantha especially appreciates how her Catholic education has deepened her faith.

“I think it’s made my relationship with God stronger,” says Samantha, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. “I’ve gotten a better understanding of my relationship with God and how to strengthen it. I feel like I’m surrounded by my faith every day here. Little things like my prayers and talking to God have increased a lot. I just feel I’m a lot more confident in my faith. I feel I’m trusting him more.”

It’s all part of her growth as a person, a Catholic and a friend who now understands the fullness of what her grandparents, parents and sister told her as she was growing up.

“I’ve made so many memories and so many friends here. I feel like I’m super grateful, but I’m not ready to leave yet.”

Still, the third-generation member of



Samantha Manley, center, and other members of the National Honor Society at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis show the bounty of clothing they collected for refugees being served by Catholic Charities Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

Scecina is now in the position of sharing what makes the school so special to her.

“I would say to anyone, ‘Make the best of all the opportunities you’re given, and you’ll have a great experience here. You’ll have a forever family, whether that’s with your classmates or the people who work here. You’ll meet lifelong friends and have special moments you’ll remember forever.’” †

As a student’s faith grows, so does her friendships with God and others

By John Shaughnessy

Landry Cox’s smile reveals so much as she talks about her Catholic education.

Her smile gets wide as she reflects on the ways her friendships have grown and her relationships have deepened during her 14 years in Seton Catholic schools in Richmond.

“I’ve known most of my classmates since I was 4,” says Landry, now a senior at Seton Catholic High School. “I feel like we’re a family. You don’t have to worry about feeling left out or bullied because someone is always there for you.

“We’ve all gotten our first Communion together. We’ve all gotten confirmed together. It’s awesome to have these experiences together and see them grow and mature as Catholics. You just feel like a family.”

That feeling has been fostered at every step of the way by the education she has received at Seton Catholic. The school has also shaped her attitude toward her life.



Landry Cox

“It’s definitely prepared me for the hard moral challenges in today’s society,” says Landry, 18 and a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

“Making the hard choices—do you want to drink at a party or do drugs? They’ve definitely set us on the right path to know what the right choice is. And that we can make that choice. With the teaching I’ve had, I know what’s right. I know what’s wrong. I’m strong in myself. I can be confident in myself and my decision-making.”

She also appreciates the opportunities that Seton has made possible to deepen her faith, starting with Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology’s One Bread One Cup, a summer program designed to help young people grow in their faith and their leadership skills.

“I loved it,” she says. “It definitely molded me into the Catholic I am today.”

So did the opportunity to participate in the eucharistic procession at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July, joining more than 50,000 people on the streets of downtown Indianapolis to honor the Blessed Sacrament.

“That was incredible. It was so cool,” she says. “You’d walk and you’d hear people praying the rosary. It just felt

like a family. That’s what I love about the Catholic Church.”

She also enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the Mass that Archbishop Charles C. Thompson celebrated for high school seniors from across the archdiocese at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg on Dec. 4.

“In this world, we often feel alone and isolated from Catholicism,” she says. “I really like going to these kinds of activities because you get to see you’re not alone, that there are other Catholic teens who share the faith and share the belief in God. I feel that can help ignite faith because you don’t feel alone.”

Best of all, she says, is the way her education at Seton has helped her deepen her relationship with God.

“It used to be, ‘Oh, he’s up there. He’s aloof.’ But now through my faith and all these experiences I’ve had, he kind of feels like my best friend. He’s always there with me. I can always talk to him.

“A lot of people pray the rosary over and over again. At Seton, they’ve taught us that you can do that stuff—and you should—but you can also talk to him. I’ve definitely benefitted from that because sometimes you just need someone to talk to. Even when I’m scared or confused, I know God’s got me. I definitely feel like he’s my best friend.” †



10 guiding principles for everyone involved in Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

For 17 years, Kristin Mitchell has dedicated her life to teaching in a Catholic school, trying to model her approach on her favorite teacher. “There is no better leader than Jesus,” says Mitchell, the middle school coordinator and teacher of health and physical education at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington. “He guides my teachings on a daily basis.” When Mitchell became a finalist in the 2023-24 school year for the Saint Theodore Excellence in Education Award—the highest honor the archdiocese gives an educator—she shared an essay that could serve as a guide for everyone involved in Catholic education. Gleaning from her essay, here are 10 guiding principles to consider.

- 1 “Teaching is a work of art, and it is a true commitment to give each child the gift of grace, acceptance and love. These are the same gifts that Jesus bestows upon each of us daily.”
- 2 “Mistakes, poor choices, confusion and bad attitudes will happen, yet how we react to those issues is always under our control. Modeling self-control, mercy and grace for our students, no matter the circumstance, is a valuable part of leadership.”
- 3 “Before we can expect our students to excel and prosper, we must create an environment in which they are included, seen and valued.”
- 4 “I pray daily for the strength and patience to make a positive contribution to our school.”
- 5 “The culture of our school chooses joy over judgment, faith over negativity, and hope over despair.”
- 6 “Each day, I set a goal to smile and greet every student that comes my way. I love to stand at the door and make eye contact with every sweet soul that enters the gym or my health classroom.”
- 7 “I work to know my students’ interests, stories, struggles and passions. Connecting with students is the very important first step to being able to teach them. I believe that the Lord desires a connection with each one of us.”
- 8 “I work to integrate the Catholic faith into all I do as a teacher. This is apparent in the physical education setting as we constantly discuss sportsmanship and the true purpose of sports and games. I tell my students that God did not create sports for personal glory, but rather as an opportunity to come together in fellowship to better ourselves and our opponents.”
- 9 “My students are often reminded that how we treat each other in a sport or game is more important than individual statistics or the number of victories attained. We leave our true mark on others not with superior skill, but by choosing respect, kindness, sportsmanship and integrity.”
- 10 “The Catholic faith is present in my health classroom as we discuss making choices that God would want for us. My students know he desires a relationship with us and hopes to guide us, but we need to embrace the power of a pause to let God into our choices. We discuss the power of thinking, ‘What would Jesus do?’ before we make quick, impulsive decisions.” †



Kristin Mitchell, the middle school coordinator and teacher of health and physical education at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington, shares a moment of joy with students Evelyn Glant, left, Enedina Kassamanian and Lucy Laughlin. (Submitted photo)

Central Catholic School
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CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Page 4B | The Criterion | January 24, 2025



Faith is at the heart of Bishop Chatard High School’s athletic program

By Sean Gallagher

Anni Felts’ nerves start to rise as she steps into the batter’s box as an outfielder for the softball team of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

Just 43 feet away from her stands a pitcher on the opposing team poised to throw a softball toward the plate at up to 65 miles per hour.

As she awaits that first pitch to come blazing her way, Anni turns her heart and mind to God.

“I tell myself to try my best and that God only wants my best,” she explains. “That usually helps calm my nerves.”

But even with her nerves calmed, she knows that mistakes will still happen.

“Softball is a sport where you’re always going to make a mistake,” says Anni, a senior at Bishop Chatard and a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Her faith and the faith of her teammates, though, help them to put those mistakes in the rear-view mirror.

“It’s special to have that focus on faith, not just personally, but also as a team,” Anni says. “We can always come together. And if any of my teammates makes a mistake, we can always pick each other up and move on.”

During the past four years, Bishop Chatard’s softball team and its 27 other boys’ and girls’ athletic squads have taken intentional steps to form the faith of their student athletes in a faith formation program tailored to their needs.

In the 2023-24 academic year, more than 75% of Bishop Chatard’s 732 students were members of the school’s extracurricular sports teams.

Putting faith at the heart of its athletic program is a key way for Bishop Chatard to help its students apply what they learn about the faith in the classroom to life in the broader world and to grow in holiness.

‘More than just a sport’

Kerry Lynch, the head coach of Bishop Chatard’s softball team, knows the impact



Kerry Lynch

that fostering the faith of her players can have in their lives, leading them to take on important student leadership roles in the school community.

“That’s not something that we make them do,” Lynch said. “It’s because we have given them the

opportunity to make their faith a priority and encouraged them to do it. The more that we encourage them to apply what they’re learning about their faith in the classroom, they’ll see that it’s OK to do.”

She also knows in a personal way how athletics and faith can be closely interwoven.

Lynch played softball as a student at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. So did her younger sister Katie, who died of cancer in 2011 at 17 while a student at Roncalli.

Though rivals on the field, the softball teams at Bishop Chatard and Roncalli now gather annually with others for a fundraising walk for a foundation established in Katie’s honor that supports scholarships and gives help to families with hospitalized children.

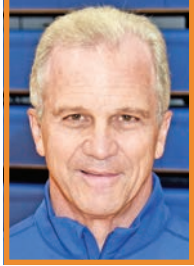
“Every girl, from freshmen to seniors and those who have graduated, and parents—they all know about Katie,” Lynch said. “The whole team shows up and they make her a priority because it’s bigger than a game, a sectional championship or a state championship. It’s doing the right thing for other people.”

“It shows that it’s more than just

a sport or competition,” said Bishop Chatard senior Anna Caskey, a starting pitcher on its softball team and a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. “Everybody is there to benefit the common good, grow together and care for the people we love. You take the competitiveness out of it.”

‘It’s who we are’

Dan Wagner has been a leader in one way or another of Bishop Chatard’s girls’ basketball team for 30 years. In his fourth year as its head varsity coach, Wagner knows from his



Dan Wagner

long experience the importance of keeping faith at the forefront of his players’ hearts and minds.

“It’s who we are,” he said. “Everything we do is tied in with our faith.”

Making faith a priority in the life of his team has allowed Wagner to be a witness of his faith to his players. This has led a couple of them to ask him to be a confirmation sponsor for them.

“I take it as a high honor when a kid asks me to do that,” Wagner said. “It’s a great opportunity to speak further to that individual about what’s important to her with her faith.”

But while he wants to be a good example of faith to his players, Wagner is especially gratified to see them lead each other in faith.

At the end of a practice, he’ll gather the team to talk about what went well and what they need to improve.

“Then we’ll grab pinky fingers, and I’ll say, ‘Who’s got this?’ And, invariably, one of the girls will step up and will offer an extemporaneous prayer,” Wagner explains. “It’s relevant to what we just went through or what we’re in the process of going through. They’re not just making things up.

“Just the way that they bring the activity we’re doing to the prayer that they’re making for guidance and help is very impactful. It’s a joy to see.”

Whatever the team members might ask God for in prayer, Wagner said that they never ask for a win in their next game.

“The only thing that we pray for is that we do our best and have no regrets,” he said. “We are looking for guidance, help and to do our best.”

‘It’s opened my eyes to faith in everything that I do’

Brian Shaughnessy, a theology teacher at Bishop Chatard and a former head coach of its boys’ varsity basketball



Brian Shaughnessy

team, oversees the school’s athletic faith formation program.

“We’re always trying to make connections to the kids’ journeys of faith that we’re doing here at school,” Shaughnessy said. “It strikes me that, as a Chatard grad myself,

the thing that I was often looking forward to most in my day at Chatard was the extracurriculars and the athletics.

“So, if you can make some connections between the students’ faith and the things that they love to do, that could really bring their faith to life.”

What he also knows from having been a coach and closely observing teams at Bishop Chatard is that “there’s a special kind of close” when a team fosters the faith of its members and practice it together as a team.

“‘Close’ matters in high-intensity



Anni Felts, a senior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, swings at a pitch as a member of her school’s softball team. The school seeks to put faith at the heart of its 28 boys’ and girls’ athletic teams, in which some 75% of its students participate. (Submitted photo)

games,” Shaughnessy said. “Close teams have an advantage.”

More important for Shaughnessy, though, is recognizing that the closeness of teammates who are bonded in a shared faith is that it mirrors what those student athletes are called to be as members of the Church.

“It’s what we’re meant to be as the body of Christ,” he said. “This should be getting us closer to a sensibility that we are one body in Christ. If they can see that in microcosm on their team, that’s an awesome thing.”

Anna Caskey, a senior and starting center on Bishop Chatard’s girls’ varsity basketball team, in addition to being on

its softball team, says that, during her nearly four years at the school, faith has become the foundation of everything she does athletically—and in the rest of her life.

“Right now, I couldn’t really imagine basketball and softball without that faith aspect,” she said. “It’s opened my eyes to faith in everything that I do, whether it’s school, sports, hanging out with my friends, activities with my family. All of that can involve faith and help me to grow closer to God.

“Learning how important it is to have God in my athletics shows me how important it is to have him in every aspect of my life.” †



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By John Shaughnessy

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From the heart: A child celebrates Jesus by writing a song about the gifts he shares

By John Shaughnessy

As a second-grade student, Emma Brose felt so inspired about going to confession for the first time and receiving her first holy Communion that she did something that has touched the hearts of people.

She wrote a song that shares her love for Jesus. “A few people said, ‘The song is so beautiful, it made me cry,’ ” says Emma, a student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany. “And there’s this boy who’s in the children’s choir with me. He said, ‘How do you do that?’”

“I just love listening to the songs about God and Jesus at church, and I love singing. I’m always in theater, and that inspired me to write my own song. I just tried to put my feelings about Jesus into words.”

Consider some of the lyrics she wrote for “We Love You, O Lord”—lyrics that reflect the essence of the two sacraments that the now third-grade child received last spring.

“We praise you, O Lord,
“When we sin, he forgives us,
“When he forgives us, we come closer
“When we come closer, we will pray
“And say, ‘We love you, O Lord.’
“Dear Jesus, thank you for being the bread of life,
“For you’re the Savior of the world.”

She sang the song for the first time in public at a school Mass with the parish’s children’s choir in September, and later that month during a parish Mass.

“When I’m singing it in church, it makes me feel like I’m talking to Jesus,” says Emma, the 9-year-old daughter of Amy and Kay Brose. “I am very thankful for all he has done for us.”

As the director of liturgical music for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Katelyn Stumler remembers the moment when Emma approached her about her song.

“She just told me, ‘I wrote a song, and I want to

share it with you.’ I was really excited,” Stumler notes. “I remember when she first showed me her lyrics, which were just written out on a piece of paper by hand. I was truly inspired that such a beautiful prayer to Jesus had just come right out of her. And associating it with being in that year of receiving those two very special sacraments, I could just see how God was at work within her, using her talents and inspiring her to write this.

“And when I heard the tune she had come up with to go with the lyrics, I was really blown away—just how beautifully she had put it together. I asked her if it would be OK if we used the song for our children’s choir and use it at Mass to help other people pray and bring them closer to Jesus. It was really awesome, especially to see a second-grader come up with such a song.”

Using Emma’s lyrics and tune, Stumler wrote the sheet music for the song and the piano accompaniment for the piece—a collaboration that Emma described as “fun.”

Emma also notes that she wrote the song shortly after she received the sacrament of reconciliation and before she received holy Communion for the first time.

“It just kind of flowed when I was thinking about it. It just came out of me,” she says.

The joy of receiving both sacraments still lingers for her.

“It just felt like a sweet moment—both first reconciliation and first Communion,” she says. “I’m thankful for Jesus forgiving us when we sin. I’m thankful for him saving us from sin.”

Her gratitude for the gift of the Eucharist has especially deepened since the time she wrote the song, a time when she had yet to receive Communion for the first time.

“Now that I know what it’s like to receive Communion, I feel even better about my song.

“I feel closer to Jesus.”



As a second-grade student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, Emma Brose wrote a song praising Jesus, getting help with the sheet music for the song from Katelyn Stumler, director of liturgical music for the parish. (Submitted photo)

(To view a video of Emma singing “We Love You, O Lord” with the children’s choir of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, follow this link, tinyurl.com/OLPHEmmaSong.) †



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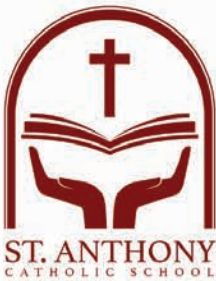


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In leading students to build community, teacher advises, ‘Be present, be pleasant’

By John Shaughnessy

Early in his teaching career, Dan Reichley had a conversation with a veteran teacher that has shaped much of his approach to education. It’s an approach that also offers a valuable way for anyone to live their life.

“One teacher, when I asked for advice about whether to proceed with a project, asked the question, ‘Does it build community?’ ” Reichley recalls. “That is the litmus test for any project. Does it bring people together? Does it foster communion? Having a community prepares the soil and allows the possibility for the seed of Jesus’ Gospel to be sown on fertile ground.”

Reichley has followed that guiding principle in his 22 years as a math and science teacher at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, both in the classroom and outside of it.

“I think in the classroom God wants me to engage in interactions with the students,” says Reichley, a finalist for last year’s Saint Theodore Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor the archdiocese gives an educator. “I try to give them a glimpse into what I’m thinking, what I’m praying about. We have a list of prayer intentions on the board. They know what’s on my mind and my prayer life, and I know what’s on their minds and their prayer life.”

Having set that foundation of accompanying his students in their lives, he strives to help them do the same for people in their larger community. Heavily involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s efforts in Wayne, Fayette and Union counties, Reichley invites his students to help in its furniture ministry, picking up donated furniture and then delivering it to people in need.

“I’ve had a lot of students help out with lifting furniture at sometimes inconvenient places and times. Sometimes on Saturday mornings or right after school,” he says. “There’s a lot of people in need of furniture. They’ve just moved into an apartment or a rental house,

and they have just enough to meet the payments, but they need furniture. I’ve had a lot of students who have graduated who continue to help with the furniture ministry.”

Reichley also leads Seton students in organizing and conducting an electronics recycling program for everyone in the Richmond area twice a year.

“We’ve diverted a lot of electronic waste from our landfill into an Indianapolis company that recycles it. We hold the event on our parking lot. We have one in the fall and one in the spring. The Catholic community and the wider community are very appreciative of it.”

Reichley is grateful that he has shared his journey as a teacher with his wife Tina and their four grown children.

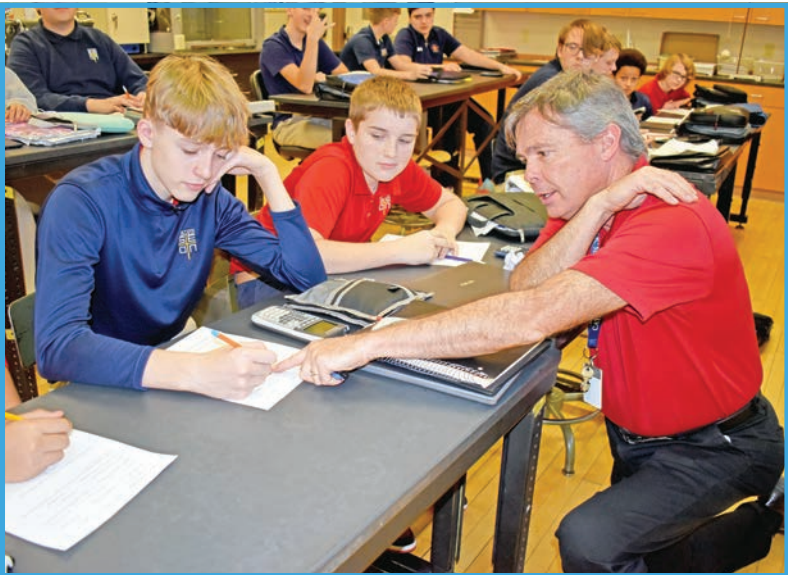
“It’s been a blessing being a teacher, especially when I think back on having my four kids in this school building with me,” says Reichley, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. “With four kids going through Seton, we’ve always been active. We’re always looking at how to use our resources, our time, our talents and our treasures. So, there’s always a tape measure of should we do this or should we not.”

There are two pieces of advice that he always encourages his students to follow.

“I tell them, ‘Be present, and be pleasant.’ You really want them to be engaged with the people in front of them. And then be pleasant. I tell them they can bring so much joy to their family members, to their siblings, their parents and their grandparents, if they’re just present and pleasant.”

Reichley also advises his students to rely on God in their lives.

“If we cooperate with God, God provides all we need,”



Dan Reichley is quick to help his students in his role as a math and science teacher at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond. (Submitted photo)

he says. “I’m not a gifted teacher by any stretch of the imagination. I see gifted teachers. I work with really good and gifted teachers. I’m OK. But I’m effective, I think, because I cooperate with what God wants me to do.”

For Reichley, cooperating with God always leads him back to building community.

“A lot of students and a lot of people need some accompaniment. It’s a really good word to have in the back of your mind as you work with people, as you walk with people, as you communicate with people in the community.

“Accompanying people, whether it be students, family members, the families of our students or the people in our community who are struggling economically or socially, to accompany them is to be in community with them.” †

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Her mom’s wedding day advice and a program on virtue guide a teacher

By John Shaughnessy

While 31 years have passed, Estelle Britner still remembers the advice her mother gave her on her wedding day.

“It was when I was getting dressed at home,” Britner recalls about that special moment in 1993. “My mom was in there, helping me like moms always do on girls’ wedding days. It was just the two of us. She told me, ‘Always be on the side of your husband, but God always comes first, no matter what.’ She said that she and my dad were always on the same side because God came first.”

That advice dovetailed with the example that her parents, Bob and Anne Armbruster, consistently showed to their nine children.

“Our parents molded my siblings and me to be workers for others,” says Britner, the youngest child. “My thoughts, words and actions were never exclusive to me. I had a responsibility to use them to help make others better.”

For the past 32 years, Britner has lived those two goals—placing God first and helping others become better—as a Catholic school teacher in the archdiocese. And she has taken that emphasis to an even higher level in her 11 years as a social studies teacher at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis.

“When I joined the St. Joan of Arc faculty, it felt as if I had made it home. With the monikers ‘leadership, integrity and service,’ the stage was set for me to fully live what I had been taught,” says Britner, a finalist for last year’s Saint Theodore Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor the archdiocese gives an educator. “I was immediately encouraged to share my faith by highlighting faith leaders within the social studies curriculum.

“It just feels so natural that as I’m talking about historical events to also focus on the role that our faith has played in those historical events. And because it feels so natural to me, it comes across that way to the kids. It helps them see that faith is an everyday part of everything you do in your life.”

She shares the example of St. Junipero Serra and how his creation of mission churches on the west coast of the United States ties in with the development of that part of the country, bringing together the Spanish influences of Catholic faith and culture.

“It became more understandable to the kids when you talk about all the names of different cities in not only California but Texas and all the Southwest that were all colonized by the Spanish—including San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara, San Antonio, Los Angeles,” she says.

In teaching her sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students, Britner uses a textbook that highlights the role of the Church throughout history. She also embraces a program called Education in Virtue, which allows her to apply Catholic virtues into the social studies classes.

“A regular question on homework, quizzes and tests is to identify how historical people were also virtuous people,” she says. “Having the students recognize the virtuous people encourages them to be virtuous as well.

“History classes are often filled with less than virtuous people, but using this program has helped me encourage students to find the lack of virtue and then apply how historical figures could have been more virtuous to better history.”

That approach has led to interesting and even difficult discussions, including about George Washington.

“Historically, he is viewed as the father of the country and setting us on the course of this great democracy that we have. But our kids still recognize that he was a slave owner,” Britner says. “They have a hard time with that. They question, ‘How can we look at him as a father figure and still see him as virtuous?’

“We talk about how we are people—and how we have the capacity to do great things and how we have the capacity to do things that are not great. And we have to learn to recognize the best things we can take from other people. As we went along, we looked at his actions and evaluated that you can do good things and still have bad and wrong things that are part of your life, but you can still have value.”

Britner finds a major source of her value in “working



As a teacher at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis, Estelle Britner has followed her mom’s advice to place God first and help others become better. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

to build the Catholic faith in the young people of our school.”

“Watching the students of our middle school pray, do and learn our faith while getting to be the social studies teacher is my biggest privilege,” says the mother of three grown children with her husband Mark. “Every day, we learn about history, but more importantly we learn how our faith has made a difference in the world. It is the best work to help the students today learn the good, so that they can be the good of the future.

“It is the best way to serve God, work for the good of others and live a life that my family will be proud of.” †

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A question and a challenge are shared as archbishop connects with seniors at Mass

By John Shaughnessy

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson began with a question—and a hint of a challenge—as he shared his homily with 1,200 Catholic high school students from across the archdiocese.

The question concerned two points: how their senior year is going, and whether the younger students at their schools are listening to them and following their direction.

“The reason I ask that question is I’ve been a high school chaplain in three different high schools, and I was the pastor of large parishes that had grade schools,” the archbishop said during his Mass with the seniors at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg on Dec. 4. “And I’m convinced that the school year goes according to the upper class.

“If it’s grade school, it’s the eighth-grade class. If it’s high school, it’s the senior class. That class sets the tone of the year—not the principal, not the president, not the teachers, not the priest, not the chaplain, not the coaches. The senior class always sets the tone for that year. So, if you’re having a good year, it’s a good sign of your leadership. And if it’s not such a good year, you might ask yourself, ‘What could I do better to be a part of that?’”

Archbishop Thompson then tied the students’ experience in their senior year to the Gospel for that day, the miracle of the loaves and fishes on a mountain setting (Mt 15:29-37).

“Great things happen on mountains. Your senior year is kind of a mountain top. Soon you will have prom and graduation,” he told the seniors. “You seniors set the tone in your mountain moments. What graces and gifts are given by you? It’s not what we get, but what we give. Jesus made that very clear to the Apostles.”

Before the miracle of the loaves and fishes happened, the Apostles saw the problem of trying to feed all the people, but Jesus saw that moment as an opportunity, the archbishop noted.

“He sees an opportunity to show even more fully how God breaks into the human condition, into our lives. Not only does Jesus see an opportunity for the people, he sees an opportunity for the disciples. Jesus doesn’t perform this miracle on his own. He has the disciples participate. Have them be seated. Pass out the food. It’s a very eucharistic theme here. He took the

bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them.

“To give of ourselves, in his name, in service to others. Jesus wants us to participate in the moment, in the event.”

To follow that call of Jesus, the archbishop told the seniors they have to come down from the mountaintop moments of life and bring the everyday blessings of life to the people that God puts in their lives.

“You can’t sit on the sidelines,” he said. “In your schools, in your communities, in your families, in your churches and parishes—how do we participate in the miracles that continue to happen in our midst today? How do we continue to recognize and see not how the world sees but how God sees?”

“Not to see problems but opportunities. Not to see someone to despise, fear or reject, but how to see an opportunity for dialogue, for listening? If it doesn’t come from you, where does your school get that leadership, that opportunity to show others how to live and be in a Christ-like way?”

Noting that Pope Francis has designated 2025 as

a jubilee year with the theme of encouraging people to be “pilgrims of hope,” Archbishop Thompson encouraged the seniors to embrace that call in their lives.

“As pilgrims of hope, let us help others be led to that mountain top experience of encounter with the sacred, with the divine,” he said. “[Let’s] open ourselves to being his disciples, his pilgrims, being leaders not just when we’re seniors, not just when we’re on

the top, but day in and day out—by simply being true to our values, to our character, to our virtues, to what it means to be Christ-centered people, people of God.”

The archbishop ended his homily with this request to the seniors, “Never take for granted the miracles that God can work in your lives.”



A choir composed of seniors from Catholic high schools across the archdiocese sings during a Mass with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg on Dec. 4. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

The homily resonated with seniors. So did the opportunity to share the Mass with the archbishop and their fellow seniors from across the archdiocese.

“We’re sharing the same experience together,” said Dionte Greathouse, a senior at Father Thomas Sccecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. “And it’s amazing to have the archbishop here. He’s pretty high up. Having someone like that being able to come and show us grace, I feel that’s very loving and important.”

Stella Huber was among the seniors from Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville who made the two-hour bus trip both ways to participate in the Mass.

“We’re so blessed to be with all the other seniors in the archdiocese and unite for the Mass, which is our greatest form of prayer,” said Stella, a member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County. “I think it makes it even more special that the archbishop is here.

“For me, he confirmed all of us. And he’s our leader. So for us, as we’re going from high school to college, we’re so blessed to be in communion with each other and have this send-off for us.” †



Dionte Greathouse



Stella Huber

Four archdiocesan schools receive Blue Ribbon honor for academic excellence

(Editor’s note: This story is a shortened version of the original one that appeared in the Sept. 27, 2024, issue of The Criterion.)

By Sean Gallagher and Natalie Hoefer

Four Catholic schools in the archdiocese were named a national Blue Ribbon School during this academic year, adding to a 42-year tradition of excellence.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed the Blue Ribbon School recognition on Roncalli High School and St. Pius X School, both in Indianapolis, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood and St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School in Floyd County.

Catholic schools in the archdiocese have now received 43 Blue Ribbon School designations since the program was started in 1982.

Brian Disney, archdiocesan school superintendent, said he was “extremely excited” by the honor for the four schools.

“These schools are led by outstanding leaders who integrate the Catholic faith into all aspects of the school experience,” Disney said. “The partnerships between their outstanding teachers and engaged parents support the spiritual, academic and character growth of all students.”

Disney praised the four schools as continuing “a long trend of archdiocesan schools being recognized for excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.”

This year, 16 schools in Indiana received the Blue Ribbon honor. Seven are Catholic.

Chuck Weisenbach was on Roncalli’s staff the last three times it was named a Blue Ribbon School, in 1993, 1998 and 2003. A 1979 graduate of the school, he later served as a coach, teacher and principal at Roncalli before becoming its president.

“Things have changed since the last time we won, so I think it represents our great work,” Weisenbach said.

One change he noted is the student population’s increased diversity in ethnicity, socio-economic status and its range of learners, “from kids with special needs, to kids working toward a four-year college degree, to internships for kids who want to pursue a more hands-on career.”

What hasn’t changed at Roncalli, principal Kevin Banich noted, is the centrality of its Catholic identity, which he insisted has “everything—period, exclamation point”—to do with its academic excellence.

Banich noted that the 10 Catholic grade schools of the parishes in the Indianapolis South Deanery that send students on to Roncalli “deserve a large portion of the credit” for their role in making the honor possible. “We stand on the shoulders of the foundations they laid.”

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood is one of those South Deanery schools. Its 430 students reveled in their own Blue Ribbon honor—the first time the Greenwood

school, founded in 2006, has been so recognized.

“To be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School has been a goal of ours for years,” said Rebecca Stone, the school’s principal. “We’ve known that we’re this great. Now the whole nation will know about the great things that are happening at SS. Francis and Clare.”

Stone says the academic excellence at SS. Francis and Clare is rooted in its dedication to “center all of our decisions around our faith.”

When that happens, she said, “then that bleeds into everything we do throughout the school day. Then it ends up being the way that the kids make decisions and interact with one another.”

Another first-time archdiocesan recipient of the Blue Ribbon award is St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School in Floyd County in the New Albany Deanery.

While principal Tracy Jansen said the school community feels “very honored,” the designation is something she had faith the school would one day achieve.

The school is one of only five rural, non-public schools to receive the honor this year.

She credits the recognition in part to “our exceptional Catholic faith community that we have at our school, and our excellent teachers and staff. I can’t say enough about our community. You walk in our school and it’s palpable, the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

Another aspect Jansen is “really proud of” is the school’s “focus on our environment and culture and the way we engage learners through our school

mission: That, guided by Christ, all students will be nurtured spiritually, academically and individually. Our teachers do all they can do to carry out our mission.”

Keely Beaudette has known for more than 30 years that St. Pius X School was special. She first arrived as a third-grade student in the late 1980s and has been on staff there for 12 years, the last six years serving as principal. So, she wasn’t surprised when St. Pius was named a Blue Ribbon School this year.

“I knew we had received it in the past,” Beaudette noted, referring to St. Pius being named a Blue Ribbon School in 2007. “It was important for me in my leadership role to get our teachers and students back to that. This is who we are.”

When the announcement was made on Sept. 23, Beaudette was especially happy for the teachers at St. Pius.

“It’s a true testament to them and everything that they’ve done, and their dedication to the students, the parents and the community,” she said.

Beaudette also expressed her pride in the school’s students.

“They kept working. They kept going. They helped us get this honor, which is wonderful.”

One of the factors Beaudette said that helps St. Pius excel academically is its Catholic identity.

“We want to develop the whole child, not only to be academically strong, but spiritually strong, and socially and emotionally strong,” she said. “The Catholic identity piece helps us to move our kids closer to that every single day.” †



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Programs prepare students for game-changing paths

By Natalie Hoefer

When it comes to Catholic high schools, “We can’t be one-size-fits-all,” says Jo Hoy, president of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis. “We want all of our students to have opportunities for their future based on their interests and gifts.”

For some, that might mean earning a college degree. For others, it could mean earning a technical certification, learning a trade, joining the military or becoming a firefighter or law enforcement officer.

This article features how two Catholic high schools within the archdiocese are offering programs for students to explore potential postsecondary paths.

As it happens, both schools’ established programs satisfy a new high school graduation option recently announced by the Indiana Department of Education (DOE).

‘A great way to explore future options’

That option is for students to earn an “honors” or honors-plus” seal for their diploma proving “postsecondary readiness” for higher education, employment or a military/public servant path.

Talk of such an option is not new, particularly in terms of students seeking employment after graduating.

“We knew there was a movement a couple of years ago about how [Indiana business and industry] leaders were looking for employability skills from students graduating from high school,” says Hoy.

In researching the future job market, she and her team discovered a growing demand in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, more than 80% of jobs will require STEM skills in the next decade.

“We took that information and looked at what fields had shortages,” Hoy explains. “A few years ago, we were able to start putting plans in place.”

The result is the school’s Career Technical Education Programs (CTEP). It enlists professionals to prepare interested students for certification exams—currently as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), pharmacy tech or in cybersecurity—and to learn from technical experts for a career in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Based on the DOE’s recently released document, these established programs can now qualify students for an honors and honors-plus employment seal years before the DOE’s deadline of 2029.

CTEP “gives our kids a beautiful advantage,” says Hoy. “Very often for many students, they don’t know what they don’t know. Our hope is to show them, ‘There is more, and you can do it. You have that opportunity, and you’re better set up for the future.’

“It’s an additional opportunity for them to further educate themselves and make a decision on what they want to do in the future.”

That opportunity has proven impactful for Ritter junior Ashley Escamilla.

“I originally wanted to go into the psychology field to become a social worker,” says Ashley. “But then I

decided to see if maybe nursing had an interest.”

She enrolled in Cardinal Ritter’s CNA program last fall. Students take a special class and participate in clinicals.

“At first, it was very nerve-racking,” Ashley admits of her first clinical experience in a nursing home. “But everyone there was very welcoming, and they showed me a lot. I got to practice bed showers, helping [residents] change, feeding them.”

The course and hands-on experience have changed Ashley’s thoughts about her future.

“As of right now, nursing seems to be the way to go, not psychology anymore,” she says. “So, if it continues working out, then I would go to college, get a nursing degree and go into the nursing field.”

Meanwhile, if she passes the CNA certification exam later this spring, she can confirm her choice and gain more experience—and get paid—by working as a CNA.

Ashley says she would “definitely recommend” Cardinal Ritter’s certification and technical path programs.

“If you’re still deciding what you want to do, it’s a great way to see if maybe [nursing, pharmacy, cybersecurity or HVAC] is what you want to do,” she says. “Because maybe you think it’s what you want to do, and then when you actually study it in college and don’t like it, you’ve wasted a whole year.

“It’s a great way to explore your future options.”

‘The most transformative experience in my life’

For students of Providence Cristo Rey High School (PCR) in Indianapolis, work is woven into their education experience.

“As part of the Cristo Rey Network, we’re required to have every student work one day a week [during the school year] freshman through senior year” through the network’s Corporate Work Study program, says Tyler Mayer, PCR’s president and CEO. “It could be in health care, engineering, finance, banking, insurance, non-profits, construction—we’re open to almost any industry.

“The program is a real game-changer.”

New students attend a two-week general job training—learning how to dress, how to use basic equipment, even taking a personality test to help identify possible fields of interest.

The training concludes with a job fair. Students interview with companies of their choice, then input from both the student and company is considered and a match is made.

“About half of our students end up staying at a company for four years,” says Mayer. “Some decide later they want to try a different industry.”

With each student working about 250 hours per year, the Corporate Work Study program “has the hours built into our school schedule that are required” to earn an honors or honors-plus employment seal.

Through the work study, students “develop soft skills, hard skills, the ability to understand what kind of jobs are out there, and they get a career mentor,” Mayer says.

For a school catering to families in economic need,



Javion Newell, a senior at Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis, poses with one of the many animals he helped care for at the Indianapolis Zoo through the school’s Corporate Work Study program. (Submitted photo)

“The biggest thing is that [the program] provides students opportunities or opens doors for them they couldn’t have otherwise,” Mayer adds. “Developing good relationships and building networks are important to finding a job. [The work study program] maximizes the possibility of breaking out of that cycle of poverty.”

Ultimately, he says, the goal is “to maximize [students’] potential and have them become the best version of themselves.”

Javion Newell is succeeding in that goal.

Having a lifelong love for animals, the PCR senior has worked for the Indianapolis Zoo for his work study experience since his freshman year.

“For the first couple of years I worked with elephants, orangutans, penguins, doing husbandry, enrichment creating and diet preparation,” says Javion.

“They also offered a chance for him to work there in the summer as an animal caregiver,” Mayer adds. “Usually, only college students get to do that.”

As part of his work study, Javion also attended zoo staff meetings. What he learned during the meetings’ “Conservation Minute” talks intrigued him.

“The zoo let me switch to their global department,” says Javion. “Now I’ve shifted my focus toward the conservation side of animal care. It’s really expanded my vision of what I want to do.”

He plans to attend college and earn a biology degree, noting that there are “different paths to get into conservation, and science is the path for me.”

Javion says he has learned “so much more” than how to care for animals through his work study experience.

“Being in a professional workspace, you learn how to make conversation and keep conversation going,” he says. “You’re networking, learning from people, being trainable. Most important is learning to be able to adapt to different environments.

“This has been the most transformative experience in my life.” †

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INQUIRY FORM



School choice advocates seek to get voucher program ‘across the finish line’

By Sean Gallagher

Rep. Julie McGuire (R-Indianapolis) was an advocate of school choice in her first term in the state House of Representatives starting in 2022.

While she wanted parents in her district on the south side of Indianapolis and others across the Hoosier State to be able to choose the best educational setting for their children, McGuire came to this cause from personal experience.

Through the years, her youngest son Viktor has been enrolled at a public, a charter and a private school.

In 2017, McGuire and her husband Mark, members of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, adopted Viktor, who was born and raised in Ukraine and was 11 at the time.

When the McGuires brought Viktor home, they knew he needed intensive help with learning English, something that St. Roch School could not offer him. So, they enrolled him in a public school.

Later, he experienced challenges there.

“It was a very difficult year for him,” McGuire said. “He couldn’t deal with all of the distractions in the classroom. There were a lot of behavior issues, substitute teachers all the time. He would come home stressed out.”

So, she and her husband moved him to a charter school for his middle school years.

“It was very strict and fit his needs better,” McGuire noted.

Viktor is now a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

“I believe in school choice because I think it’s the right thing for families,” McGuire said. “And I believe in it personally because I’ve been able to experience the flexibility that it’s given my family.”

Crossing the finish line

After being re-elected last November, McGuire returned to the Statehouse for the 2025 session of the Indiana General Assembly where she joined other advocates for school choice.

Two years ago, the legislature approved a major expansion of the state’s voucher program, giving some 97% of Hoosier families access to vouchers.

Legislators are now considering removing all income requirements from the voucher program and making school choice universal in Indiana.

John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Educational Association (INPEA), is working



John Elcesser

with legislators to move universal school choice in the state, in his words, “across the finish line.”

“We’re so close to having all families be able to take advantage of this without significant financial sacrifice,” Elcesser said. “We just need to take this last step.”

“There are 10 other states right now that have universal choice or have passed universal choice legislation. Indiana once was a leader in school choice. Now, we’re trying to play catch up.”

Elcesser was an educator before coming to the INPEA in 2008 and knows from that experience in the classroom the difference school choice can make.

“I saw kids over the years that continued to struggle,” he recalled. “But then they get to the right teacher or the right school and, boom, the light goes on and they take off.”

“We want all kids to be in the place where that light goes on and they can be successful, because they’re with the right teacher, in the right environment, the right social setting and the right values-based setting for them to be successful.”

Sue Prewitt is thankful that vouchers made it possible to enroll her twin granddaughters Cameron and Adrienne Prewitt at St. Roch School.

When she became their guardian about two years ago



Rep. Julie McGuire poses with her son Viktor, a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Viktor, adopted by McGuire in 2017, was born and raised in Ukraine. An advocate for school choice in Indiana, McGuire has experienced personally in the life of her son in the U.S. how vouchers help parents meet the educational needs of children. (Submitted photo)

when their mother, her daughter, died, the twins were behind in their education.

Now in the eighth grade at St. Roch, Cameron and Adrienne have caught up with their classmates.

“Had I not had any vouchers for the twins, I wouldn’t have been able to afford it,” Prewitt said. “I’m 71. I still work part time, and I have Social Security. There would have been no way I could have afforded St. Roch without the vouchers.”

For Prewitt, sending her granddaughters to St. Roch wasn’t just about the educational help they have received there.

“It’s a community,” she said. “It’s more than just education. It’s faith and the community. I don’t feel like you get that in a public school.”

‘The money follows the child’

As good an educational experience as Cameron and Adrienne have had at St. Roch, it could be made even better if universal school choice is approved by the legislature.

As Chris Brunson, INPEA’s associate executive director, explained, many private schools that receive vouchers up to now have had to hire administrative staff members simply to manage the voucher application process.

“Schools that are not going to see one more dollar or enroll one more child because of the move to universal choice are going to free up a whole lot of administrative time to reinvest to direct services to students and improve quality of outcomes,” Brunson said.

He added that providing financial information to qualify for vouchers is “invasive to families.”

“They have to divulge all kinds of things, not just their tax records,” Brunson said. “In some cases, it’s a lot more than that. And it’s a burden to schools.”

The principles of school choice in Indiana go back much further than when the voucher program was created in 2011. Before then, moves were made to allow parents

to enroll their children in any traditional public school district of their choice or in charter schools, which also pre-date the voucher program.

McGuire emphasized that all of these changes have been based in the simple policy that “the money follows the child.”

“We’re a state that believes in choice for parents to make the best decision about what setting is going to fit the education needs of their child,” she said.

Brunson added the most common school choice decision made by parents in Indiana is to send them from one traditional public school district to another one, not to a charter school or to a private school.

“It’s bigger than vouchers,” he said.

Elcesser noted that bringing the voucher program “across the finish line” and giving the last 3% of Hoosier families ineligible for a voucher access to one is a matter of fairness, because all families pay taxes that fund the program.

“We’re all contributing to that public funding. We’re all taxpayers,” he said. “We’re excluding a subset of folks from being able to participate in this program who are taxpayers and potentially significant taxpayers.”

“Why would we exclude 3% of Indiana’s population from participating in this program and being able to exercise their responsibility as parents without significant financial sacrifice?”

And, in the end, Elcesser noted that it’s important for Hoosiers to know that the voucher program only takes up 2% of the state budget, less than 5% of the state education budget, and that only 6% of students in the state receive vouchers.

He added, “We believe that all families that are paying taxes should be able to use that small percentage of their state tax dollars to support private school choice.” †



Chris Brunson

Ways to show support for universal school choice in Indiana

Criterion staff report

The Indiana General Assembly is considering removing all income restrictions from the state school voucher program and making educational choice universal in the state.

The Indiana Non-Public Educational Association (INPEA) recommends the following actions for people to let legislators know of their support

for this legislation that will bring the voucher program “across the finish line,” according to the INPEA’s executive director, John Elcesser:

—Follow the Indiana Non-Public Education Association on Facebook and X and sign up to receive INPEA’s newsletters with updates throughout the legislative session.

—Send an e-mail, note or letter in support of universal choice to your

legislators. Handwritten notes are especially effective. Visit INPEA’s Legislative Action Center at bit.ly/INPEALegislativeActionCenter for contact information.

—Record a video telling legislators how school choice has impacted your family and how universal choice would be beneficial. You can share this video on social media or send it via e-mail to your legislators.

—Be willing to testify at the Statehouse in support of universal choice. For more information, reach out to Andrea Anderson, INPEA’s communications and member relations director, at aanderson@inpea.org.

—Respond to INPEA’s legislative action alerts throughout the legislative session. This information will be shared via e-mail and on social media. †



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Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a limit to how much I can give and still receive the tax credit?
No, provided the donation does not exceed the available credits under the cap. (The state has allocated \$18.5 million for fiscal year 2025 and resets annually on July 1).

Who receives the scholarships, and can I designate a school or a student to receive my gift? Indiana K-12 students who meet income eligibility guidelines and attend a participating school. You may designate your gift to a specific school, but not to a specific student.

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- 1) Use the form on this brochure & mail it with a check made out to Institute for Quality Education.
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Tax Credit Examples

This chart illustrates the potential tax savings for a donation to the Institute for Quality Education Scholarship Granting Organization.

Contribution of \$5,000	Federal Tax Brackets			
	25%	28%	33%	35%
Indiana Tax Savings (50%)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Federal Tax Savings (1)	\$625	\$700	\$825	\$875
Total State & Federal Tax Savings	\$3,125	\$3,200	\$3,325	\$3,375
True Cost of Donation	\$1,875	\$1,800	\$1,675	\$1,625

(1) The federal tax savings is generally equal to the net federal deduction multiplied by the donor's federal tax rate. The net federal deduction is equal to the donation amount less the state tax credit as state income taxes are deductible as itemized deductions for federal income tax purposes. Actual federal tax savings will vary based on your individual income tax status. Please consult your tax advisor.



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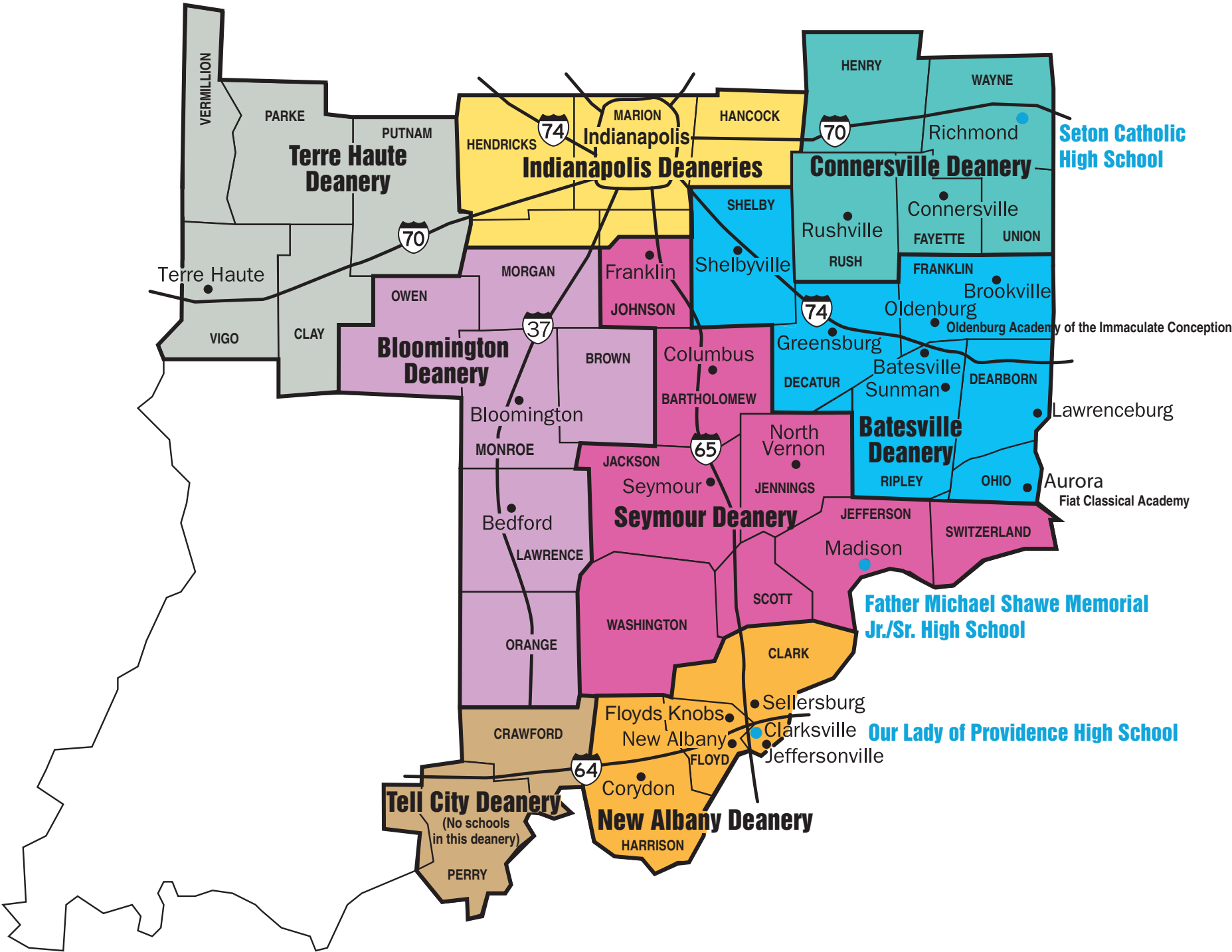
The Institute for Quality Education (IQE) is the largest of six state-approved scholarship granting organizations (SGO) in Indiana. Since the beginning of this program, SGOs have awarded more than \$45 million in scholarships to nearly 35,000 Hoosier students, in partnership with nearly 300 private schools statewide. IQE donors are responsible for almost half of these donations.

For more information about scholarship giving, please visit
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DEANERY SCHOOLS

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Batesville, IN 47006
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- Brookville**
St. Michael School (PK-8)
275 High St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961
- 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
- Ripley County**
St. Nicholas School (PK-8)
6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
Sunman, IN 47041
812-623-2348
- Shelbyville**
St. Joseph School (PK-5)
127 E. Broadway
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-398-4202

Bloomington Deanery

- Bedford**
St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8)
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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**
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 High School (9-12)
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-8)
512 N. Mulberry St.
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4549
- Floyd County**
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (PK-8)
3033 Martin Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
812-923-1630
- Jeffersonville**
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus 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 School (PK-8)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-3266

Seymour Deanery

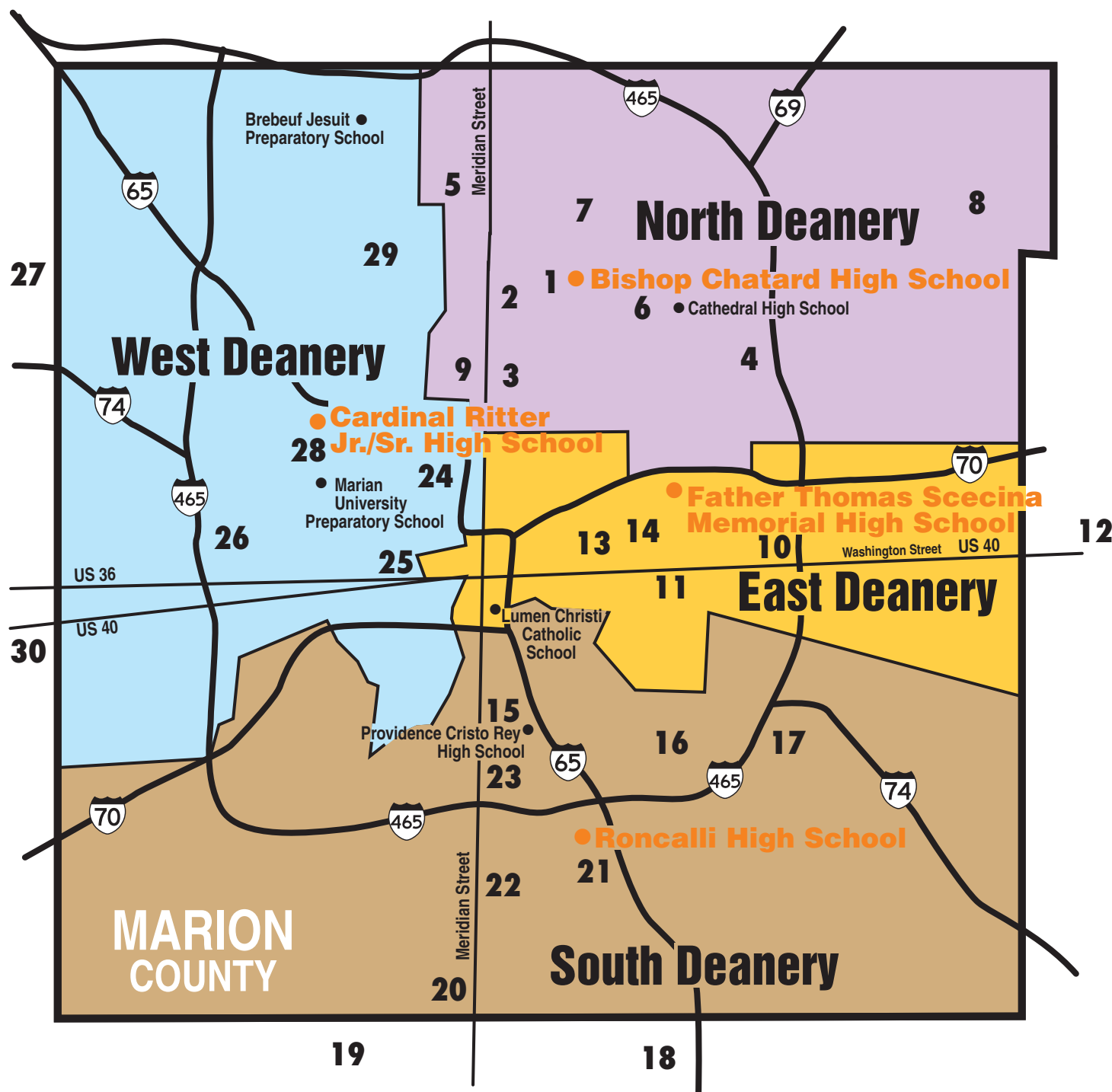
- Columbus**
St. Bartholomew School (K-8)
1306 27th St.
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-6830
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St. Rose of Lima School (PK-7)
114 Lancelot Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-3451
- Madison**
Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
201 W. State 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
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- 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
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- Private High Schools**
Aurora
Fiat Classical Academy
211 Fourth Street
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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
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- 3. **St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
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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 (PK-8)**
7575 Holliday Dr. East
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 Oaklandon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000
- 9. **St. Thomas Aquinas School (PK-8)**
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-255-6244

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5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377
- 10. **Holy Spirit School (PK-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243
- 11. **Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)**
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316
- 12. **St. Michael School (PK-8)**
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380

- 13. **St. Philip Neri School (PK-8) ***
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134
- 14. **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
- 15. **Central Catholic School (PK-8) ***
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759
- 16. **Holy Name of Jesus School (PK-8)**
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078
- 17. **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)**
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Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459

- 18. **Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)**
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
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- 19. **SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)**
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826
- 20. **St. Barnabas School (PK-8)**
8300 Rahke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422
- 21. **St. Jude School (PK-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828
- 22. **St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)**
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013
- 23. **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

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

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

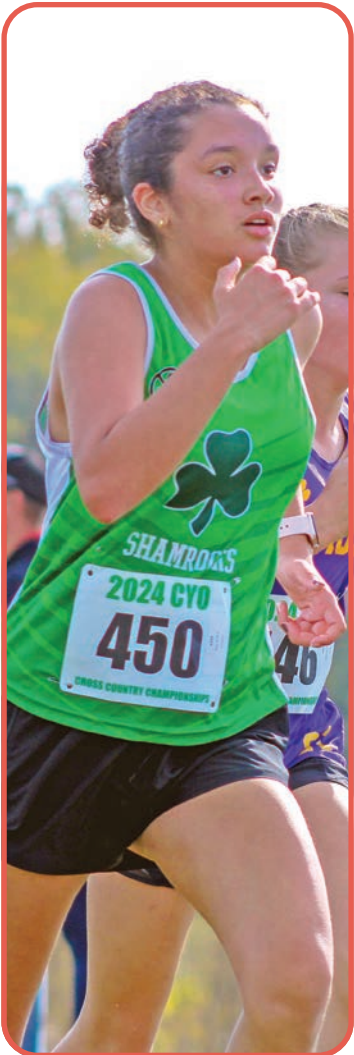
Private Schools

- **Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)**
580 E. Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174
- **Marian University Preparatory School (K-12)**
2916 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
855-777-0679
- **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)**
2717 S. East St.
Indianapolis, IN 46225
317-860-1000

* Mother Theodore Catholic Academies



A year of celebrating the fun and friendships of the Catholic Youth Organization



‘We’ll have those memories forever’: Catholic teams savor state championships

By John Shaughnessy

In any given year, sports teams and individuals of Catholic high schools in the archdiocese always compete in—and



Members of the football team of Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville raise Indiana’s Class 1A state championship trophy in joy after completing a perfect 14-0 season when they defeated the team from North Judson High School 35-20 on Nov. 30. (Submitted photo)

often win—state championships. That reality has once again been true during this school year. The boys’ tennis team of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis started the state championship success by defeating the team from Center Grove High School in the finals. With the teams tied at 2-2 after the first four matches, the state championship came down to the nail-biting fifth match. The final two points played out in volleys that lasted beyond 20 times before Brebeuf secured the state championship on Oct. 19. On Nov. 9, the girls’ volleyball team of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis won Indiana’s Class 3A state championship, completing its season with a perfect 35-0 record. In the team’s 3-0 victory over the team from Angola High School, the Royals added to their astonishing total of winning 97 sets and losing just five sets during their season-long march to being crowned state champs. The football team of Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville also completed a perfect season—14 wins without a loss—when it defeated

the team from North Judson High School 35-20 on Nov. 30 in Indiana’s Class 1A state championship game. The head coaches of each of these state champions exuded emotion as they reflected on their team’s memorable seasons. In talking about his Brebeuf Jesuit players, boys’ head tennis coach Brandon Gill said, “I told them that nothing was given to them, they earned everything this season, and they showed a resiliency and mental toughness to come through in the big moments.” Roncalli’s achievement in girls’ volleyball meant everything to head coach Chrsitina Erasmus, a 2001 graduate of the school who played on the school’s volleyball team during her four years there. “It was just special being able to go around and hug each of my players, just embracing them and thanking them for their commitment to our program,” Erasmus said. “Roncalli is just such a wonderful community. I love this community, and it means so much to me that I was able to guide the girls on this

team to a state championship.” As the head coach of Providence’s football team, Daniel McDonald had similar praise for his school community. He also shared a special salute to the eight seniors on the team. “They’re high-character individuals,” McDonald said. “They’re the kind of kids you know they’re going to be successful in life no matter what they do. They’re going to be great husbands. They’re going to be great fathers. And that’s really what I want our kids to take away from our program.” The girls’ soccer team of Our Lady of Providence also had a remarkable season, making it to Indiana’s Class 1A state championship game, finishing as runner-up. While talking about Brebeuf’s championship in boys’ tennis, Gill shared a thought that could connect with all the teams and athletes of Catholic high schools across the archdiocese. “As time goes on, it’s always going to be something that we can look back on, and we’ll have those memories forever.” †