



Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis:

A drive for excellence and values guides the spirit of Catholic schools

By Harry Plummer

This year's inspirational Catholic Schools Week theme—"A+ for America"—instantly reminded me of two things I would like to share with you.



The first is a little rhyme that I often hear my children recite in my own household: "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good gets better and your better gets best."

They learned it at this year's first all-school Mass at Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood.

Deacon David Henn took this wonderful axiom that St. Jerome penned about 1,700 years ago and made it come alive for the students, to such great effect that I'm told that the school's cheerleaders even developed it into a cheer.

To me, it epitomizes the relentless drive for excellence that Catholic schools have collectively come to represent in our local community, our state, our country and our world.

The second is a story I related in my "Celebrating Catholic School Values" address last fall. I heard it when I was a teacher at an inner-city Catholic high school in Detroit.

It had to do with how a small family a generation or so ago raised money to support the building of a new Catholic school in their neighborhood. The mother of this family placed a large glass jar on a counter in the kitchen, and whenever she knew someone in the family had some "spare change"—into the jar it went.

But this wasn't the only source of revenue for the Catholic School Jar. Much to the displeasure of her two sons, the mother also made them put a dime in the jar—and sometimes even a quarter—every time they fought with one another. And they fought often.

A few years later, the parish had raised the money for

a new school. At the dedication ceremony, one of the boys looked up at the new building and said to his brother, "So this is what we've been fighting for all these years!"

I think everyone who supports Catholic schools can relate to both of these stories because they touch on the spirit of Catholic school education. Our schools are never satisfied with being merely "good," and they're definitely worth the fight to keep them operating.

But this is not only due to their stellar academic achievements. You see, many other types of schools pursue the same academic success we have been achieving. What makes our schools distinctive is the way they relate all learning to the Gospel so that students are formed in a manner consistent with their vocation to become saints.

This religious dimension has been, is now and ever shall be at the very heart of the Catholic school playbook. We must never forget this because, as Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller, the former Secretary of the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, reminds us, "If we fail to keep in mind this high supernatural vision, all our talk about Catholic schools will be no more than 'a gong booming or a cymbal clashing'" (1 Cor 13:1).

I hope this little reflection on Catholic schools serves to heighten our appreciation for this tremendous educational apostolate. They are certainly worth our support—and our gratitude. Someone once said that feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

So let's take this year's Catholic Schools Week celebration as an opportunity to really express our gratitude, and renew our commitment to give generously of our time, talent and treasure so Catholic schools can continue to lead this country in earning an A+ for America!

(Harry Plummer is the executive director of the archdiocese's Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation.) †



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A calling from God

Educators share the blessings of teaching in Catholic schools

By John Shaughnessy

Jacquelyn Singleton knows the special feeling of being named one of the top ten teachers of 2011 by the Indiana Department of Education.

A first-grade teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville, Singleton also enjoys the special feeling of being a teacher in a Catholic school.

“For those of us who teach in Catholic schools, our job is not just a career but a vocation—a calling from God,” Singleton says. “We don’t see what we do for our students as ‘extra effort,’ but rather simply providing the love, respect and education that all children deserve.”

“For me, the best part of teaching in a Catholic school is the opportunity to share our Catholic heritage with students. I have the freedom to teach as Jesus taught by sharing morals and values within the academic curriculum.”

Singleton was among several educators in Catholic schools across the archdiocese who responded to *The Criterion’s* request to share their thoughts and stories about teaching and administering in Catholic schools. †



A first-grade teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville, Jacquelyn Singleton describes teaching in a Catholic school as a calling from God. Here, she works with first-grade student Piper Prince.

Here are some other responses...

Living the faith

Pat Tucker often tries to share her faith with her students at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.



Pat Tucker

In return, the English teacher has benefited from the faith that the students have showed her in difficult times.

“Several years ago, one of our students—a very gregarious, well-liked young man—died suddenly,” she recalls. “Throughout the days that followed, I was so touched by the way our student body drew close, especially through prayer, in order to cope with the

tragedy. When we celebrated the Mass together, I think I realized, more so than ever before, what being a part of the Body of Christ meant.

“The second incident occurred last year. I had received a phone call that my elderly mother, who lives in another state, had fallen and was hospitalized. I was extremely worried, and shared my feelings with my students. After one class, I found a note on my desk. It said, ‘I just said a Hail Mary for your mom, and when we’re at Mass today, I’ll pray for her, too.’”

“I never found out who wrote the note, but just realizing that a student acknowledged the importance of prayer and cared enough to let me know that he or she was concerned touched me so deeply.” †

A sense of community

“The best part of teaching in a Catholic school for me is the sense of community,”



Ruth Roell

says Ruth Roell, a math teacher at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. “Growing up in a small town—Batesville—I had that community experience, and it has been

reinforced here at BCHS. Not only have I come to know students over the years, but I have grown close to families and my colleagues. I count many of my colleagues as my best

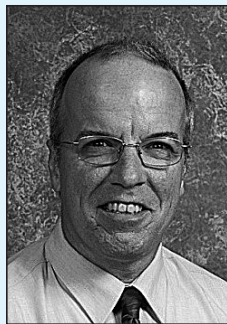
friends. And I truly value my friendly relationships with parents.

“The joyous moments are too many to mention. I remember a pre-calculus class where we got so close that every kid and I hugged on the last day of school. I remember one where a student read inspiring stories as part of our prayer before class. I remember celebrating when a student finally grasped a mathematical concept, and sharing laughter with students over the clever humor they brought to class.

“Probably, my most favorite experience with students has to be the senior retreat. Getting to know the leaders and the seniors on a more personal level creates a lasting bond. There is a perfect blend of spiritual growth, life lessons and fun times.” †

A special road trip

One of the favorite events of the school year for Rick Ruhl is when he makes a special road trip with the seniors of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond.



Rick Ruhl

“Each December, I am afforded the distinct privilege of taking the senior class to a very special Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis,” said Ruhl, the principal of Seton Catholic. “Our seniors join Archbishop Daniel Buechlein

and hundreds of seniors from all the other Catholic high schools in our archdiocese for a celebration of the Eucharist. This Mass is a wonderful celebration of Catholic schools throughout our archdiocese.”

That Mass is also a reflection of the approach of Catholic education, Ruhl says.

“In addition to the ‘3 Rs,’ we delve into issues such as morality, justice, fairness and faith each and every day. In working with and for our young people, our teachers do not simply experience the Holy Spirit, they live in it. Providing educational excellence for our students, with teachings centered in the mission of Jesus Christ, is our continual goal.” †

Three great blessings

As the principal of St. Mary School in North Vernon, Franciscan Sister Joanita Koors talks about Catholic education in terms of blessings—given and received.

“First is the great blessing of being able to share our Catholic faith, pray as a community of believers and teach children of the great love God has for them,” says Sister Joanita, who has been nominated by the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education for this year’s Distinguished Principal Award from the National Catholic Educational Association.

“Secondly, teaching and administering in a Catholic school enables us to educate the whole child—spiritually, academically, morally and emotionally in an environment of mutual respect, love and care.



Franciscan Sister Joanita Koors checks the school work of fourth-grade students, from left, Miranda Reitman, Samson Miller and Sydney Campbell. Sister Joanita is the principal of St. Mary School in North Vernon.

“A third great blessing of being part of the Catholic schools is the deep appreciation for all the people. We are a school family, called to provide excellence in education, rooted in faith and bound together in love.” †

A family of faith

Students' stories show the heart and hope that mark Catholic education

By John Shaughnessy

When she was asked to share one of her favorite moments at her Catholic school, the child recalled her first day there—a day that began with the overwhelming dread and fear of being a new student.

“I stumbled out of the car, and my stomach is flipping and flopping like a fish out of water. It’s my first day of school here at St. Patrick School, and that’s exactly how I feel—a fish out of water.

“I nervously creep through the building and enter our classroom hallway. I’m expecting to see a million people bullying, fighting or picking on each other, just like I’ve known at a public school. But as I enter the hallway, it’s buzzing with hugs and hellos. Someone comes up and asks me if I’m new here. When I nod, we slap a high-five and my stomach unknots.

“That was the first time I had experienced a Catholic school. I’ve been here for three years now. What makes it amazing is that we are a small, fun group, and we act in a Catholic way. We believe that God is always with us, and that fact is clearly established throughout the school. In addition to this, I can focus on my curriculum easily with the small class sizes. Overall, Catholic schools are a great place to be.”

That experience was related by Priya Kirtley, an eighth-grade student at St. Patrick School in Terre Haute. She was among a wealth of students—and even some parents—who responded to *The Criterion’s* request to share their thoughts and stories about the benefits of an education in a Catholic school.

Here are some other responses.

The right choice

Rick Strack had his own concerns and fears when his son, Adam, became a student at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis in August of 2009. He worried about how Adam, who has Asperger’s Syndrome, would adapt to high school and how he would be treated by the students.

“I will just tell you one quick story,” Rick Strack noted. “Before classes started last year, Coach Ty Hunt called a football team meeting. In that meeting, he described a young man, Adam, that would be starting as a freshman and explained that he had some challenges that were going to make it difficult for him at first.

“Coach Hunt challenged every member of the football team to make it a personal commitment to watch out for him, help him and to make sure he was taken care of at all times while at school. I had heard that this took place but saw it firsthand on the second day of school when I saw an upperclassman football player and Adam walking down the hall going to Adam’s next class.

“The halls were empty except for those two. The upperclassman dropped Adam off at his classroom door and then hustled back toward me and Paul Lockard [then the president of Cardinal Ritter]. As he approached us, he hesitated because he thought he was in trouble for being in the hallway without a pass. Paul told him he was OK to be where he was and introduced me to the young man as Adam’s father. I shook his hand and thanked him for what he just did for my son.

“I breathed a great sigh of relief, and it was clear to me, at that moment, that we had made the right choice for Adam. He has done very well in his first 1 ½ years of his high school career.”

The Giving Tree

“One of my favorite memories was on Friday, December 10,” recalls Lauren Carr, a seventh-grade student at Christ the King School in Indianapolis. “We had a prayer service to gather our food donations for the Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is a service program that we have at Christ the King where students and parishioners bring in food and gifts for the less fortunate. I felt



St. Susanna pre-kindergarten students Own Gessner, left, of Plainfield and Taryn Dempsey of Camby put a puzzle together on Aug. 18 at the Catholic school in Plainfield.



Above, students from Holy Angels Catholic School and St. Monica Catholic School walk together on Jan. 14 during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March.

Left, members of the senior class of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis participate in a Living Rosary on Oct. 7 at the Indianapolis North Deanery archdiocesan high school.

great to be helping people. During the service, we sang religious songs as a school and divided our food into grocery bags to feed 90 families. This is just one reason I love going to a Catholic school.”

Building a family of faith

“I like going to a Catholic school because I feel a family connection with my classmates,” writes Mary Beth Mattingly, a senior at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. “In a Catholic school, I feel as if anyone at anytime can be your neighbor in talking about your faith.

“I have seen a group of high school students at a football game say the Our Father. I have seen a cafeteria of faculty and students alike saying the Hail Mary for a classmate who was in the hospital. And I have seen banners proudly announcing that we believe in God at events outside of school. It is times like these that I see why Catholic education is so great.

“It brings people together, building a community, or a family, that will last a lifetime.”

Supported by the belief of others

Patrick Diehr learned a lesson in faith, friendship and courage when his eighth-grade class at St. Luke School in Indianapolis made a two-day retreat at Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, the camp run by the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization.

“I stood in awe as I spied the high-wire

challenge that was in the woods,” Patrick recalls. “I had never liked climbing, especially if there were risks or heights involved. As I eyed the overhead cables while our group was learning safety features, I had second ideas about climbing.

“I watched as the first person in our group climbed to the top of the pole to get to the wire. I stayed at the end of the line to go last, possibly to hide my fear. We cheered for all the people tiptoeing across the high wire, to give them encouragement. Eventually everyone in the line had gone, and I was left fearing that I might die. However, I walked up to the ladder, and with cheers from my group, I shakily started the climb.

“About halfway up, I didn’t think I was going to make it another foot. However, my friends encouraged me, and I realized that they knew I could do it. I made it to the top of the pole and across the whole high wire! I was immensely proud that I succeeded, but I realized that without my fellow classmates, I would have never made it. I will always remember that remarkable day when my St. Luke peer group stood there and pushed me on and believed in me.”

A great way to bond

“One of my favorite things that we do during cross country camp are the team meditations we have at the very end of the day,” says Jenna Beckley, a junior at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, a private school in Indianapolis. “First, we light a candle to remind us of God’s

presence. Then we say a prayer. We next reflect and share our fears, hopes, goals and support. And lastly, we end with another prayer. It is a great way to bond with our teammates, both emotionally and spiritually.”

The touch of Christ

“Today, I’m going to talk about how I feel about receiving Christ during communion,” writes Lauren Lamberson, a third-grade student at St. Luke School in Indianapolis. “First, I’m singing to God. Then I watch everyone go by to receive Christ. Next, I walk up to receive Christ, feel the breeze beside me, fold my hands, and bow down to Christ. Christ touches my mouth. I slowly swallow the cardboard tasting piece of bread. I hear the choir singing a wonderful song. I sit down in the pew. Then I just think about how lucky I am that I can receive Christ. I can’t wait until I get that feeling again.”

Finding the comfort

One of the best parts of being in a Catholic school for Hannah Singurse is the comfort she feels in moments of sadness.

“We are allowed to say, ‘It’s OK. God is with you,’” notes Hannah, a sixth-grade student at St. Patrick School in Terre Haute. “When I was in first grade, my cousin, Will, died. I was so sad. It was OK, though. Any time I was sad at school, my teacher told me that my cousin was in heaven. This is why I love going to a Catholic school. We can actually talk about our faith.” †



Father Rodolphe Balthazar, the pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Mole, Haiti, tells Our Lady of the Greenwood students and parishioners about life in the impoverished island nation during his homily on Oct. 22 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. He said Haitians walk several miles looking for food and water each day. "When you put your hands together for Haiti, you give hope," Father Rodolphe said. "You pray for us. You work for us. Thank you for that."



Our Lady of the Greenwood second-grader Colin Prior of Greenwood shows Father Jean Gregory Jeudy, left, and Father Rodolphe Balthazar from Haiti how to count U.S. coins on Oct. 22 at Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood.

Our Lady of the Greenwood students help children in Haiti

By Mary Ann Wyand

GREENWOOD—Wearing "Hearts for Haiti" T-shirts, Our Lady of the Greenwood School students, faculty and staff as well as parishioners eagerly looked forward to the Mass and celebration on Oct. 22 for two priests from their sister parish in Haiti.

As a surprise for the Haitian priests, the students memorized several songs and prayers in Creole to sing or recite during the liturgy.

The students also traced their hands on red, blue and white construction paper then cut the drawings to create a collage of the Haitian flag, which was displayed in a school hallway.

And they studied the Haitian culture with help from photographs taken at St. Georges Parish in Bassin-Bleu in the southeast region of this impoverished island nation, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Our Lady of the Greenwood parishioners and students began their friendship with Haitians from St. Georges Parish in 2005 when Father Rick Nagel, a former associate pastor, arranged the mission effort with help from

Father Rodolphe Balthazar, now the pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Mole, Haiti, and Father Jean Gregory Jeudy, St. Georges' pastor, who also ministers to Catholics at five remote parishes in the mountains near Port-au-Paix.

The parish partnership is based on sharing God's love, Father Nagel said, and has evolved into a strong faith connection during the past five years.

Church, school and community support as well as other generous benefactors enable Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish to provide meals for Haitian students, pay teachers' salaries and build classrooms at St. Georges High School.

Last July, Father Nagel and several representatives from the parish traveled to Bassin-Bleu on their second mission trip to Haiti to check on the progress of construction work at the school and deliver sandals for the children.

In October, the Greenwood parish and school welcomed the Haitian priests.

Eighth-grade student Halle Harris of Greenwood was an altar server for the multicultural liturgy on Oct. 22 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church.

"The Creole songs sound pretty,"

Halle said after the Mass. "... It really makes me happy that they could come and celebrate Mass with us."

Spanish teacher and choir director Kristi Marino traveled to Haiti on the Greenwood parish's first mission trip two years ago, and was excited to see Father Rodolphe and Father Gregory again.

"We've been working so hard to help St. Georges," Marino said, "and now the students have a personal connection with the [Haitian] priests and parish like some of the teachers who went there. Witness is the best word to use. The priests give witness to God, and they see God in the faces of the children just as much as we see the face of Christ in their faces."

Kindergarten teacher Lynda Fratzke said the faculty, staff and students prepared for the priests' visit for three years and did special projects in October.

"The children worked all week learning about Haitian families, their lifestyle and culture," Fratzke said. "This has been a wonderful experience for my class. It was so exciting to see the children praying and singing songs in Creole at Mass."

Principal Kent Clady said the students were excited about welcoming the priests

and wanted to make their visit special.

"Haiti has been our school Lenten focus for the last two years and will be again this year," he said. "We've had staff members go on missionary trips so we're able to share firsthand experiences with the kids."

Thanks to this parish partnership, the principal said, "They have been able to add a grade each year [at the high school]. They were not able to do that before. We also help pay for the teachers' salaries. We have a commitment of \$2,500 a month, which pays for the teachers' salaries at the elementary school and high school.

"Father Gregory also serves the people at five mountain parishes and schools," Clady explained. "We send shipments of nonperishable, packaged food for the students. ... He is able to take the food on donkeys up to the mountain schools. For many of the students, that is the only meal that they get each day."

St. Georges Parish buildings sustained minor damage from the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010, Clady said, and the school now has 80 more students due to displacement of families from Port-au-Prince.

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Student organizes relief effort to help Haitians after earthquake

By Mary Ann Wyand

After a massive earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12, 2010, St. Thomas Aquinas School second-grader Ella Gebke of Indianapolis knew that she had to do something to help suffering people in Haiti.



Ella Gebke

Haitian people living in overcrowded tent cities after the disaster.

Donating money for emergency medical care, food and water would certainly help injured and displaced people, she decided, as would collecting aspirin, Tylenol, Band-Aids and other first-aid supplies for them.

So Ella, who is now a third-grader, organized a school campaign and invited all the students to bring donations for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Haiti Committee members to send to people in desperate need of help in the poorest

country in the Western Hemisphere.

"At first, when the earthquake had just happened," Ella recalled, "I came to school with some money to give to them because I thought there was a project already going on. But since there wasn't yet, my teacher [Sarah Jose] asked me if I wanted to start one."

With help from her classmates, Ella prepared announcements about the relief effort, which were read over the school intercom each day.

Then, for several weeks, she came to school early every morning to sit by the door with a cardboard box for donations.

Every student who contributed money or first-aid supplies received a raffle ticket and was eligible for a prize drawing for one of 15 gift certificates given by area merchants.

"It was fun," Ella said, to see the students' donations fill her large box.

"It was nice to be able to sit out there every morning and wait for donations to come in," she said. "I just felt really good that I had the opportunity to help the people of Haiti. I pray for them every night."

The Indianapolis North Deanery school's earthquake relief project raised \$85 as well as a large bag of medicines and first-aid supplies.

"I thought [second-grader] Matthew Welch did a very good job," Ella said, "because he donated some Tylenol every single day of the drive."

St. Thomas Aquinas School principal Jerry Flynn said Ella's project brought the students, parents and other

parishioners together in a united effort to help the Haitian people.

"Ella was very concerned about the earthquake, and thought she could do a little more so this second-grader organized the campaign," Flynn recalled. "She came to my office and asked for permission, and I said, 'Absolutely.' It was very well-planned, and our students responded enthusiastically. It's wonderful for the kids to help others. They realize that not everybody has it as good as they do."

St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Joseph Zelenka, who helped organize the parish Haiti Committee in 1988, often visits the school to talk with the students about the mission project with Haitians at St. Jean Marie Parish in Belle Riviere.

"When Joe has visitors from the Haiti mission," Flynn said, "he brings them to school to visit the classes so the kids can learn about the Haitians, how they live, and how appreciative they are for our friendship and help. It's been a very good partnership. He also makes slide shows so the kids can see photos from his trips there."

Ella's school campaign empowered the students, he said, and taught them valuable life lessons.

"Everybody wants to help Haiti," Flynn explained. "Our students pray for the people all the time. In the mornings, we say prayers [over the intercom] and I can't remember a day when there wasn't a prayer intention for Haiti. It's been good for the parish and school to come together on a common cause like Haiti." †

Catholic schools learn marketing, development skills in program

By Sean Gallagher

Sheila Noon has worked at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville for nearly 40 years—35 as a teacher and the last four as its principal.

For much of that time, the school looked primarily to families in the parish for its students. But in the last two years, Noon says, the school has thrown out a wider net to attract students from beyond Clarksville.

“In the past, it was the kids from the parish that came to the school,” Noon said. “Now ... we’re involving many more people. We’re trying to make our school more visible. We’re getting our name out there a lot more.”

The St. Anthony School community has made these changes through its participation in the Strategic Management and Development Program (SMDP).

This four-year program, which is sponsored by the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education (OCE), brings in consultants from Catholic School Management Inc., a firm that has helped Catholic schools across the country for more than 30 years to improve all areas of their school life and operations, including development and finance.

Staff members from OCE and the archdiocese’s Office of Stewardship and Development have also assisted the schools in the program, which is funded in a partnership between the schools and the archdiocese.

Currently, 15 schools across the archdiocese are in the middle of the second year of the program.

In it, they review or create foundational documents, such as mission and vision statements and a graduate profile, and develop strategies to increase enrollment and improve fundraising through annual funds, relations with alumni and planned giving.

These are strategies that Catholic high schools in the archdiocese have followed for a decade or more, but which are new to many grade schools.

“These are things that we thought about but [had concluded] that we couldn’t do it,” Noon said. “But our consultant said that we’ve got to let go and say, ‘We’re going to do this.’”

And do it they have. St. Anthony School is now being promoted through a regular newsletter. A DVD showing the school’s successes is also being developed. Noon also said that more members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish are volunteering in the school since it started SMDP.

“I’m hoping not only that it helps to increase our enrollment, but that it makes us stronger as a faith-filled family,” Noon said. “I think those things will happen if we continue to do our strategic management.”

Harry Plummer, the executive director of the archdiocese’s Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation, said that strategic planning is critical for Catholic schools to remain strong in future years.

“This is a very challenging time for Catholic schools, not only in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis but across the United States,” he said. “[Strategic planning] will become even more important if the educational reforms around ‘parent choice’ being proposed by Gov. Mitch Daniels are passed.

“The bottom line is that all Catholic schools should have strategic plans which include interventions and strategies as to how to sustain economic viability.”

Other grade schools in the archdiocese have already sought new strategies to increase enrollment and the visibility of the school in the broader community, but are participating in SMDP to take their efforts to the next level.



Phoebe Grote, left Bailey Lare, Aimee Corbin and Eric Frede, students at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, have fun on the school’s playground in this file photo from September 2009.

Philip Kahn began his work as the president of Pope John XXIII School and Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, which together make up Prince of Peace Schools, when that community began its participation in SMDP.

Kahn came to work at Prince of Peace Schools after working in marketing at the Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company. He was impressed by the promotional strategies that the Catholic School Management consultant recommended.

“Some of the marketing ideas that CSM has come up with for a school environment have really, really helped us,” Kahn said. “It’s gotten the word out better in our community. People are more aware of what’s going on at our schools whether they send their kids here or not—whether it’s our graduation rate or academics or test scores.”

Kahn also appreciates the work that the consultants have done to learn about the specific challenges and opportunities of Catholic education in central and southern Indiana.

“You can tell that they’ve done some pre-work ... to kind of understand the schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis,” he said. “So it’s been nice because it’s been tailored just for our area. If we were to fly to New York or Arizona or wherever and go to a seminar,

it’s going to be pretty much a cookie-cutter approach.”

Rita Parsons is interested in how to promote Catholic education in a very particular region—the east side of Indianapolis where she serves as the principal of Holy Spirit School.

About seven years ago, Holy Spirit began appealing for financial support for the school in its annual fund. Parsons sees SMDP as a way to increase those efforts.

“It’s taking us to the next level,” Parsons said. “We know that we have to start creating a database with our alumni. We have to bring them back and show them the wonderful school that still is on the east side of Indianapolis.”

Learning how to broaden her school’s community is challenging for Parsons because that wasn’t part of her training as an educator. SMDP is helping her and other people in the Holy Spirit community to share their good news more broadly and to increase it by allowing more families to enroll their children there.

“It’s very exciting because we know that you can’t continue to increase tuition by 6, 7, 8 or 10 percent every year,” Parsons said. “If we can build our annual fund and our development programs and seek more resources financially, we’ll be able to offer more tuition assistance.

“That’s the big key. We want to be able to offer Catholic education to all of our Catholic families.” †



Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Above, Father Rodolphe Balthazar, left, and Father Jean Gregory Jeudy pose for a photograph on Oct. 22 at Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood. The students surprised the Haitian priests with this replica of the Haiti flag made from their handprints on construction paper.

Left, Our Lady of the Greenwood eighth-grader Halle Harris, left, and seventh-grader Andrianna Pappas of Greenwood assist as altar servers during the Oct. 22 bilingual school Mass at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church.

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“They felt the earthquake enough that many of the people are still frightened,” he said. “It was a scary experience for them.”

To educate the students about life in Haiti before the priests’ visit, Clady said, teachers did not use electricity or technology for a day, taught classes outdoors on benches with only a few books and pencils on a warm day, and encouraged the children to walk without shoes or wear ill-fitting shoes another day.

“These real world experiences helped our students connect with the children in Haiti,” he explained. “St. Georges Parish motto is ‘Always forward, never back.’ God’s love and grace are able to make this beautiful relationship happen. It’s hard to think about how drastically different their world is from ours, but I tell the kids that we see the same sun and the same stars. We have our faith in common, and that’s one of the greatest things. It doesn’t matter what language we are speaking.”

In his homily during the school Mass, Father Rodolphe said, “My friends, it’s so wonderful for me and for Father Gregory to come and visit you. I was thinking how wonderful is our God, ... and how God can do great things. ... He knows how to make connections between people. You give hope to the kids in Haiti.” †

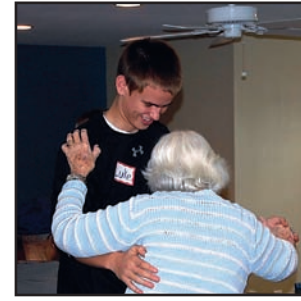


Catholic Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

An answer to a parent's prayer



DEANERY SCHOOLS

Batesville Deanery

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

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

Greensburg
St. Mary School (P-6)
210 S. East St.
Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-2804

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

New Alsace
St. Paul School (P-6)
9788 N. Dearborn Road
Guilford, IN 47022
812-623-2631

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

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

Bloomington Deanery

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

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

Connersville Deanery
Brookville
St. Michael School (K-8)
P. O. Box J, 275 High St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961

Connersville
St. Gabriel School (P-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 (P-6)
801 W. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-4877

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

New Albany Deanery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Mary's Catholic Academy (P-8)
420 E. Eighth St.
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-0888

Sellersburg
St. Paul School (P-6)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-3266

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Private High School Oldenburg
Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)
1 Twister Circle
P.O. Box 200
Oldenburg, IN 47036
812-934-4440

Tell City Deanery
(No schools in this deanery)

GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

Indianapolis North Deanery

Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451

1. Christ the King School (K-8)
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366

2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468

3. St. Joan of Arc School (P-8)
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518

4. St. Lawrence School (P-8)
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923

5. St. Luke School (K-8)
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912

6. St. Matthew School (K-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. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-255-6244

9. St. Simon the Apostle School (P-8)
8155 Oaklandon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000

Indianapolis East Deanery
Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377

10. Holy Cross Central School (P-8) *
125 N. Oriental St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-9068

11. Holy Spirit School (P-8)
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

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

13. St. Michael School (P-8)
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380

14. St. Philip Neri School (P-8) *
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134

15. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus/Little Flower School (P-8)
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-353-2282

Indianapolis South Deanery
Roncalli High School (9-12)
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277

16. Central Catholic School (K-8) *
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759

17. Holy Name School (P-8)
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078

18. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (P-8)
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459

19. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (P-8)
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300

20. SS. Francis and Clare School (P-8)
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826

21. St. Barnabas School (K-8)
8300 Rakhe Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422

22. St. Jude School (K-8)
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828

23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (K-8)
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013

24. St. Roch School (P-8)
3603 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-9144

Indianapolis West Deanery
Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333

25. Holy Angels School (P-6) *
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211

26. St. Christopher School (P-6)
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314

27. St. Malachy School (K-8)
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242

28. St. Michael the Archangel School (K-8)
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516

29. St. Monica School (K-8)
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153

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

Private Schools

31. Lumen Christi Catholic School (K-12)
580 E. Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-524-7128

Cathedral High School (9-12)
5225 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-542-1481

Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

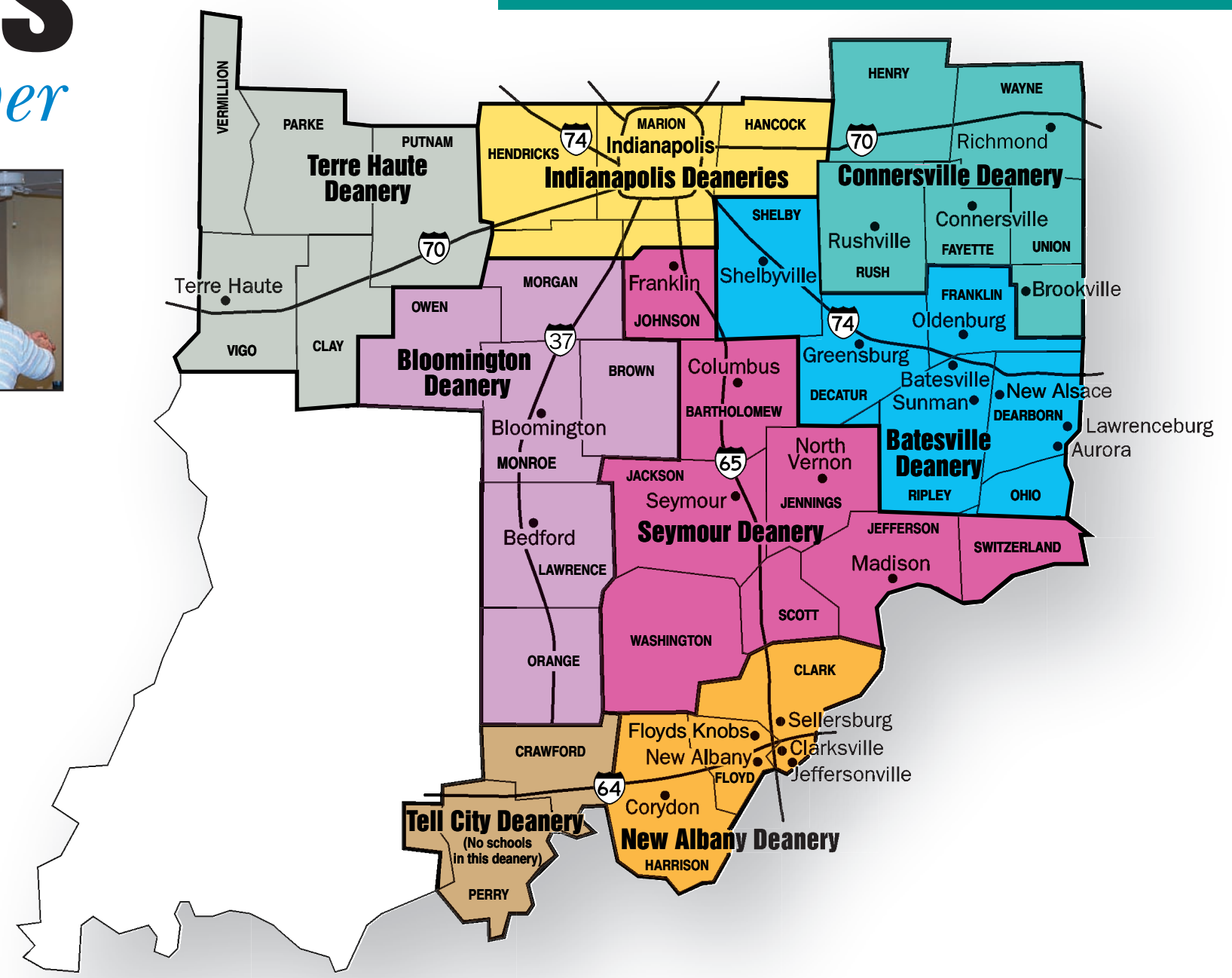
Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

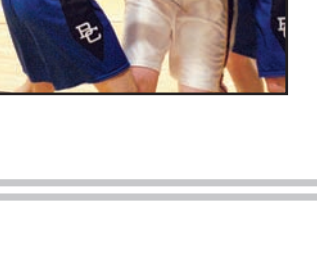
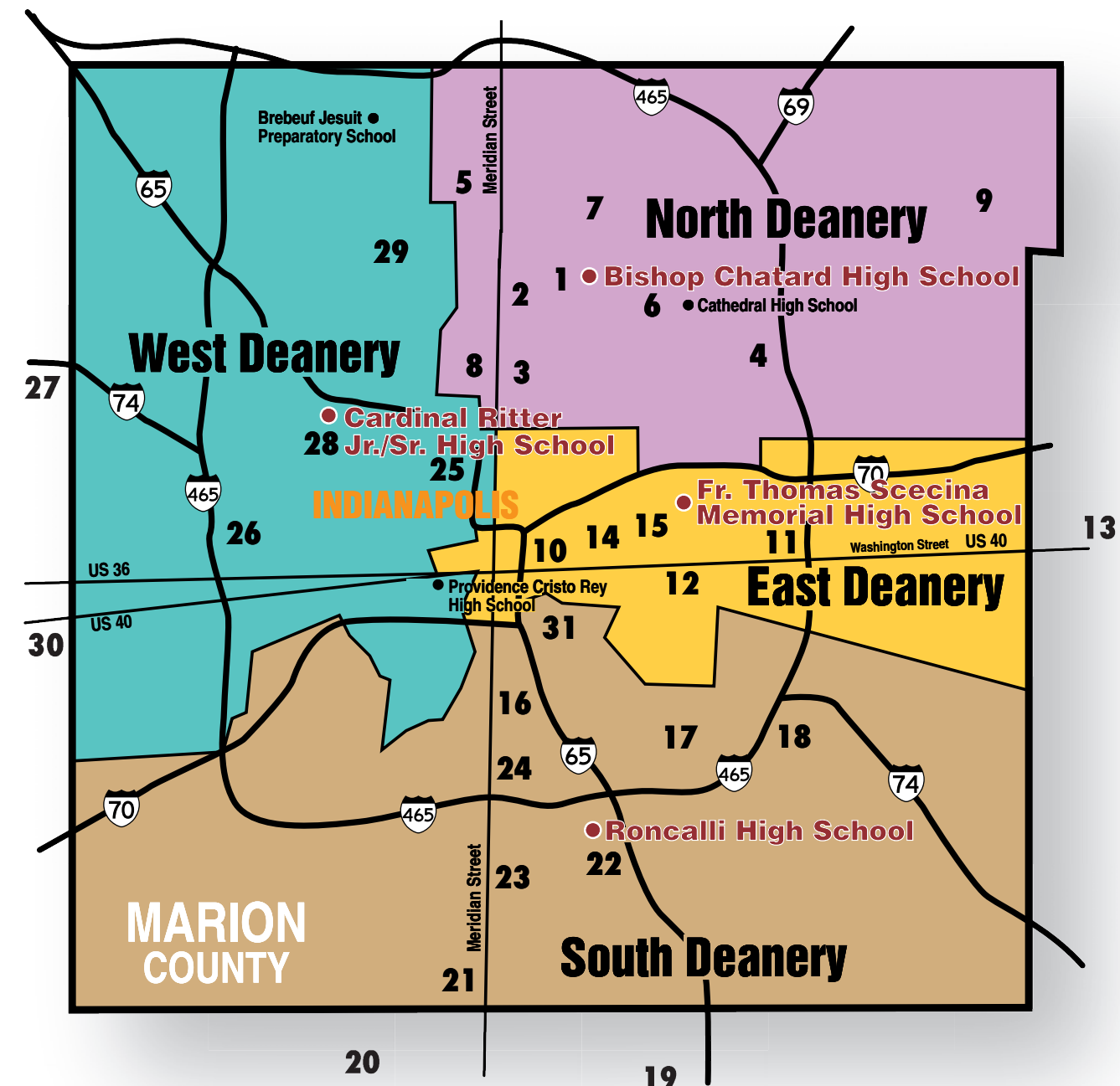
Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000

* Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (Consortium)

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



A touch of Providence

Switch to a Catholic school transforms the lives of married teachers

By John Shaughnessy

Catholic schools have thrived for generations because of the belief that a faith-based education makes a difference in the life of a child. Now, Brad and Donna Burden have learned that a Catholic school can also transform the lives of adults.

Just consider the reality of the married teachers' lives before Brad interviewed in 2008 for the position as the girls' varsity basketball coach at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

"I know that I was extremely professionally frustrated, struggling with where I wanted to be, and if I even still wanted to teach," recalls Donna, who was teaching in a public school at the time. "Coupled with not going to church, our professional lives were taking a toll on our marriage. Neither one of us was happy. I cried a lot of nights with frustration and finally started to pray for guidance. That was when things started to change."

First, Brad accepted the coaching position. Next, Donna was hired at Providence as an art teacher. Then Brad joined the Providence faculty as a Spanish teacher.

The most dramatic change was still to come for the husband and wife—who were both non-Catholic at the time.

"With Providence High School, we got way more than we thought," Brad says. "The way that everyone lives and works as one big family inspired us to examine our faith and research the Catholic faith deeper."

They began attending Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany. Feeling at home in the parish, they began the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in the fall of 2009 to become members of the Catholic Church. Their first child, Eva, was born on March 9, 2010. Less than a month later—on April 3—Eva and Donna were baptized, and Brad and Donna entered the Church.

"We started RCIA class at the same time I learned I was pregnant," says Donna, who is 31. "We went on a journey together. That whole evening—when Brad and I joined the Church together, when Eva and I were baptized—was so moving. And to do it in front of our families and so many people from the Providence community was an incredible experience."

It's a day their family will never forget, Brad says.

"We can always point to that day as the day our family established and proclaimed our faith," says Brad, who is 32. "It's how we're going to lead our lives and raise our daughter."

Being at Providence and putting faith in God has made all the difference, the couple says.

"Ever since coming to Providence, our marriage and our professional lives have flourished," Brad says. "When we put ourselves in the hands of God, it opened up the avenues, both personally and professionally, of where we want to be in our lives."

As a coach, he prays with his team before and after each game. The team also attends Mass together several times throughout the season.

"I feel comfortable sharing my faith with my players," Brad says.

"Our whole mission of teaching has changed, too," Donna says. "You couldn't speak about God in the public schools. Here, you get to talk to the kids about your faith. You're not just teaching art. You're not just teaching Spanish. You're teaching your faith."

Joy fills her voice as she adds, "I honestly feel we were called to be here. It's really important to us to raise Eva in the Church and the Providence community. Joining the Church has really strengthened our marriage. It's really a big part of our lives now."

"We both struggled before we found this community—or maybe I should say that this community found us. It's been awesome. I've never felt like that before in my life. I really feel we're living our faith. It just feels right." †



Father Eric Augenstein, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, baptizes Eva Marie Burden on April 3, 2010, in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Sharing in the sacred moment are, from left, Eva's godfather, Dave Hooper, her godmother, Sally Ising, and Eva's parents, Donna and Brad Burden.



Middle left, art teacher Donna Burden, second from right, discusses elements of design with students, from left, Katelyn Koopman, Melina Cochran and Nathan Wimsatt during a class at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

Middle right, the varsity girls' basketball coach at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, Brad Burden listens as Alex Steiner asks about a basketball drill.

Left, Coach Brad Burden explains a point to Mackenzie Wilson during a practice of the girls' varsity basketball team at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

New chapels help nurture Catholic faith at two high schools

By Mary Ann Wyand

Sacred space, a special place to pray, at school is a priority for Catholic educators.

Crucifixes are prominently displayed in Catholic high school and grade school classrooms, and gymnasiums are used for all-school Masses.

A sign that reads, in part, "Christ is the reason for this school" is visible in the lobby or office at Catholic schools.

Chapel space created from a former office or classroom at some Catholic high schools enable smaller groups of students to pray together and receive the Eucharist at Mass during the school day.

This year, students, faculty and staff members at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School and Roncalli High School, two of the four interparochial schools in Indianapolis, are worshipping in new chapels built through the generosity of alumni and other donors who support the Church's mission of Catholic education.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein blessed Cardinal Ritter's *Mater Dolorosa* Chapel, which is Latin for "Sorrowful Mother," during a dedication Mass on Sept. 15, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

On Dec. 7, Archbishop Buechlein blessed Roncalli's Chapel of the Sacred Heart.

The new chapels are an answer to prayers for the priests who serve as school chaplains at the Indianapolis West Deanery and Indianapolis South Deanery high schools.

"We used to have a classroom that had been turned into a chapel," explained Father John Hollowell, Cardinal Ritter's chaplain. "The new chapel is almost twice as tall as the other buildings on our campus. It is located right by one of our entryways as well, and I think it just sets the tone for what we're about when people walk into the school. The fact that we would put that kind of priority into making a suitable home for our Lord, I think, says a lot about what the people in the Ritter community value."

Cardinal Ritter's contemporary chapel features a high, arched ceiling, Father Hollowell said. "What I like—and the archbishop commented on it too when he came and blessed the chapel—is that it's a very open space with a lot of windows and draws your attention upward, which is what a lot of cathedrals of old did, drawing your attention to heaven."

Father James Wilmoth, the pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis and Roncalli's chaplain, helped Joseph Hollowell, the school president and Father Hollowell's father, raise funds to build and decorate the Chapel of the Sacred Heart.

"The chapel is near and dear to my heart," Father Wilmoth said. "Prior to that, we were saying Mass in a little room on the top floor of the school that only had about 20 seats. Now we have plenty of room. The pews hold about 140 people, and we have good crowds for Mass. It is open during school hours so students can pray there. The kids really enjoy it."

Father Wilmoth also is thrilled that the chapel, bell tower and outdoor Marian shrine dominate the school



Roncalli High School freshman Danielle Babb, a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, assists Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein as an altar server during the dedication Mass for the new Chapel of the Sacred Heart on Dec. 7 at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.



Roncalli High School's new Chapel of the Sacred Heart and Marian shrine are focal points on the Indianapolis South Deanery high school's campus. School president Joseph Hollowell said the students, faculty and staff members "are blessed to have such a sacred place to worship."



Cardinal Ritter High School senior Rachel Legge, who is a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, adapted a photograph of the new *Mater Dolorosa* Chapel in her design for the Indianapolis West Deanery junior/senior high school's Christmas card in December 2010.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the principal celebrant for the dedication Mass of the new *Mater Dolorosa* Chapel on Sept. 15 at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis. School president Gregory Perkins said the chapel is used for daily Mass, class liturgies, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and as a quiet place for spiritual reflection.

campus, and proclaim that Jesus is present there in the Eucharist.

Architect Michael Eagan of Entheos Architects in Indianapolis, a Roncalli High School graduate, enjoyed designing both school chapels.

Eagan's "mentor in life," James Ratliff, still teaches the architectural drafting class as part of Roncalli's industrial arts curriculum.

"He took a real interest in my career direction," Eagan recalled. "I knew that I

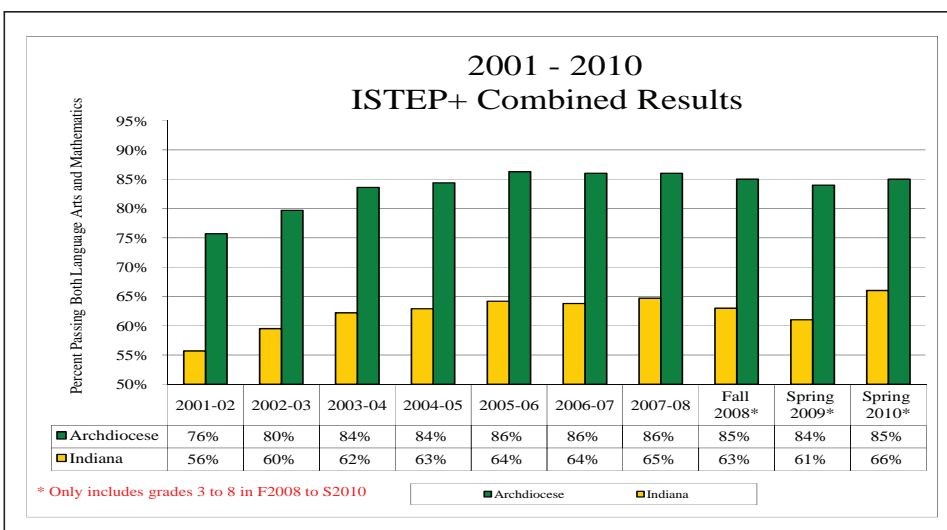
wanted to be an architect, and he guided me on what courses I should take to best prepare me for college."

Crosses, gables and natural light dominate the interior and exterior of Ritter's chapel, he said, which is designed to "lift eyes and souls heavenward."

The lofty ceiling and bell tower in Roncalli's chapel also draw people's hearts and minds upward in prayer, Eagan said, and reflect the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel.

St. Barnabas parishioner David Buegler of Indianapolis, a Roncalli sophomore, said it's important for students to have a special place to spend time with God at school.

"It's a real blessing to have this chapel," David said. "We know this gift is special, and that it was probably hard for people to donate money because of these difficult economic times. We want to thank those wonderful people for giving us this beautiful chapel." †



ISTEP scores for archdiocesan students are well above average

In spring 2010, 9,861 third through eighth-grade students from more than 60 Catholic schools within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis took the Indiana Statewide Test of Educational Progress (ISTEP+) compared to 10,082 students that took the test in spring 2009. This year, Indiana schools moved from a fall to spring test. In moving to a spring test, students across Indiana have shown a slight decline in percentage of students

meeting the new proficiency standards. The average of archdiocesan students at each grade level passing both the language arts/English and mathematics is above both the Indiana state averages. The archdiocesan percentages range from 89 percent at fourth grade to 92 percent at sixth grade. The trend continues. Simply stated, the longer a student remains in archdiocesan schools, the greater the growth in student proficiency. †

Hispanic students receive help to adapt to their new world

By Mary Ann Wyand

New country. New culture. New language. New school. Three St. Philip Neri School students from Mexico are tackling these cultural and communications challenges with expert help from bilingual teachers and staff members as well as English as a New Language (ENL) tutoring at the Indianapolis East Deanery grade school.

Their families moved to Indianapolis last November, and the students are working hard to gain proficiency in English and other courses.

But even though the Hispanic students just moved to the United States three months ago, they still are required to complete the Indiana Statewide Testing in Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) exams in March.

That's a lot of academic pressure for children who are new to a country and culture, but Sergio Sevilla, Kevin Chaparro and Saul Sanchez said they are enjoying school and eager to learn English.

Speaking in short sentences in both Spanish and English with help from a teacher, they smile easily, are a little shy and answer questions politely.

Sergio, a seventh-grader, said he likes soccer and basketball, and enjoys learning English and math. He has made new friends, is excited about coming to his new school—which is “way better” than his old school in Mexico—and feels “good” about his classes.

Kevin, a sixth-grader, said he likes to read books in English and Spanish, and enjoys studying English and social studies. He was “a little scared, a little nervous,” about coming to school at first because he didn't know the language and doesn't like the cold weather, but now he is “happy” and has fun with his school friends.

Saul, a third-grader, said he likes to study English, loves music and enjoys spending time with his new friends.

“We just enrolled these new students—all from different areas in Mexico—in November,” explained Mary McCoy, St. Philip Neri's principal. “They did not speak any English. I truly feel that this is the best place for them because we have the resources to help them and wonderful teachers who work with them every day. They are beginning to speak some English.”

Learning a new language is a daunting challenge for the boys, McCoy said. “They will have to take the social studies, science and math tests in English, and we will be accountable for their scores.”

St. Philip Neri's faculty and staff members always have the best interests of the students at heart, she said, especially when Hispanic students require intensive preparation to meet the state's standards for educational progress.

“They will get there,” McCoy said, “but it will take three to five years before they become proficient in the English language. I have no doubt that they will get there.”

Sergio, Kevin and Saul are enrolled in their appropriate grade levels with other students their own ages, she said, and are happy at school even though they have much work to do to become acclimated in their new environment and integrated into the curriculum.

“Their needs are great, but they have much potential,” McCoy said. “We want them to feel welcome here, and not intimidated or embarrassed as they try to use English. They are very excited to be here, and are beginning to understand their new language.”

“The state [Department of Education] does allow us to do some adaptation,” she explained. “A teacher can read the ISTEP+ test to them, but it's all in English. We can give them a longer amount of time to complete their tests. They can use a Spanish to English word dictionary, but they will be tested in a language that they have only experienced for four months.”

This year, 190 students are enrolled at St. Philip Neri School, the principal said. Ninety-eight percent of the students are Hispanic, and 99.5 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced price lunches.

Language, poverty and technology gaps are big hurdles for the students, McCoy said, but they are eager to learn at school.

Students are taught computer skills, she said, but most of the children do not have access to technology at home.

“To be able to speak both languages is wonderful,” McCoy said. “How intelligent they are to be able to come to school and speak English all day then go home and speak Spanish with their families.”

Providence Sister Therese Whitsett teaches English as a New Language to primary school students there.

Instructional goals for students who are new to the culture and language—and often separated from some of their family members—start with helping them build upon their educational background from their previous school in Mexico, Sister Therese said. Then they can progress in a comfortable learning environment even though their daily life experiences are completely different.



St. Philip Neri School teacher Tara DeRossett of Indianapolis helps sixth-grader Kevin Chaparro, center, and seventh-grader Sergio Sevilla read a book on Jan. 19 at the Indianapolis East Deanery grade school. The boys are from Mexico, and began classes at St. Philip Neri School in November.

“Regardless of their language skills, they still have to learn the coursework as quickly as they can and become acclimated to the culture here,” Sister Therese said. “It's a challenge to help them realize that they are intelligent and they can learn, but that it's going to take some time. ... We try to keep the students feeling hopeful, to keep them animated, to keep them learning, to keep them going from day to day because in our culture we have so much that is expected of the students academically. They have to learn a lot in another language.”

Hispanic students are very social, she said. “They get along, help each other and are very good to one another.”

Tara DeRossett, who is fluent in Spanish, teaches mathematics and ENL classes for middle school students at St. Phillip Neri School. She has lived in Spain and visited Mexico 16 times, both valuable enculturation experiences that enhance her teaching skills with bilingual students.

“The kids are comfortable here,” DeRossett said. “They know that we love them. They know it's a safe place, and that their best interests are taken into consideration at all times here. They are special students, and they are working extremely hard at school. They want to learn the English language, and they want to do well on tests. They take pride in their schoolwork, and want to do well for themselves, their teachers and their parents.” †

A+ for the Eastside . . .



St. Therese
**LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

1401 North Bosart
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-353-2282

www.littleflowerparish.org/school



**OUR LADY OF
LOURDES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

30 South Downey
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316

www.ollindy.org



**HOLYSPIRIT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

7241 East 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

www.holyspirit-indy.org



**SCECINA
MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

5000 Nowland Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377

www.scecina.org

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 30, 2011
11:30 - 2:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 30, 2011
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 30, 2011
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

EAST DEANERY BAND FESTIVAL
Monday, January 31, 2011
Public Concert, Scecina Gymnasium
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

EASTSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ON THE EASTSIDE OF INDIANAPOLIS

Video captures legacy of Catholic schools in archdiocese

By John Shaughnessy

It's an amazing story of commitment, hope and faith that has been in the making for more than 175 years.

It's the story of Catholic education in the archdiocese, and it's been concisely captured in a 21-minute video called *Our Catholic Schools: A Legacy of Faith and Leadership*.

All Catholic schools in the archdiocese have received a DVD copy of the video, which was produced by the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Education and narrated by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general of the archdiocese.

The video can also be viewed through the home page of the archdiocese's website, www.archindy.org, by scrolling down to the "Other Feature" area and clicking on the "2010 video" within the "Celebrating Catholic School Values" section.

Here is a selection of 11 highlights—in chronological order—from the video that show how Catholic education in the archdiocese has grown, thrived and continued as a faith-filled influence in the lives of children.

11. After Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté established education as one of his priorities in the 1830s, the path for spreading Catholic education in Indiana was greatly extended by Mother Theodore Guérin in 1840 when she came from France to found the Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the Woods.

10. At the Third Plenary Council in 1884, Catholic bishops in the United States decreed that all parishes would establish Catholic schools in their parishes within two years. Catholic parents were required to send their children to Catholic schools. During the leadership of Bishop Francis Silas Chatard, 40 new Catholic schools were built.

9. Catholic education continued to expand under the leadership of Bishop Joseph Chartrand from 1918 to 1933. Despite World War I, the influence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s and the stock market crash in 1929, 126 of 147 parishes had elementary schools when Bishop Chartrand died in 1933.

8. "When Joseph Elmer Ritter became bishop in 1934, Catholic education wasn't open to everyone," Msgr. Schaedel says in the video. "Four years later, he would start to change that—instructing the Catholic schools to integrate and open their doors to all."

7. "In 1946, the Greatest Generation was busy creating the Baby Boom Generation and the Catholic population doubled," Msgr. Schaedel notes. "Archbishop Paul Schulte responded rapidly by opening new parishes and schools, especially in the booming suburbs around Indianapolis and Louisville."

6. In the 1950s and '60s, religious sisters were teaching classes of 60 to 80 students in primary grade classrooms. An increase in religious vocations helped staff the schools during this time. In the mid-sixties, more than 46,000 students were attending 109 Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

5. In 1972, Archbishop George Biskup was "confronted with the most profound changes to affect Catholic education since the 1880s," Msgr. Schaedel says, when the U.S. Bishops removed the requirement for Catholic parents to educate their children in a Catholic school.

4. More than half of the Catholic schools in the United States were closed by 1980, and those that remained had to learn how to market Catholic schools to parents. "The Archdiocese of Indianapolis became one of the first dioceses in the country to aggressively market Catholic schools," Msgr. Schaedel states. "The campaign worked and [by 1990] helped reverse a 25-year decline in Catholic school enrollment."

3. In 1995, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein "launched the 'Making A Difference' campaign—the first involvement of the archdiocese with the Indianapolis corporate community as partners in supporting Catholic schools. The campaign not only raised \$1.4 million to keep the center city schools open, it helped create a lasting relationship with business and government," notes Msgr. Schaedel.

2. In the late 1990s, the "Legacy of Hope From



From left, Holy Angel Catholic School pre-kindergarten students Keirsyn Larsuel, Ashaunty Romain and De'Yana Johnson bundle up for the cold as they participate in the school's march and program remembering the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 14.

Generation to Generation" campaign resulted in the renovation of or additions to most Catholic school buildings in the archdiocese, a building boom not seen since the 1960s.

1. "Today, throughout the archdiocese, from center city Indianapolis to rural southern Indiana, the process of Catholic education continues," Msgr. Schaedel says.

(The Office of Catholic Education is seeking a sponsor to help expand the video into a longer educational version for use in Catholic schools. Anyone interested in a free DVD of the video should call 317-236-1430 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1430.) †

2010-11 facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Catholic schools:	69
Elementary schools:	58 (26 in Marion County)
High schools:	11 (seven in Marion County)
	(includes four private high schools)
Preschool programs:	43 (Pre-K programs for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds)
Extended care programs:	59 (Pre-K-8, before and after-school care or both)

Professional staff: **1,727 (full-time and part-time)**

Enrollment 2010-11 (Unofficial Oct. 1, 2010, enrollment):

Total pre-school-12:	22,019
Preschool:	1,862
Elementary (K-8):	16,451
High school (9-12):	5,568

Religious composition:	Elementary	High school
Catholic:	86 %	84 %
Non-Catholic:	14 %	16 %

High school graduation rate (2010): **97.2 %** (in four years or less)

Percent of graduates entering college (2010): **97.4 %**

NOTE: All figures above this line include private Catholic high schools.

Average tuition rates, first child (estimated):	Catholic	Non-Catholic
Elementary schools:	\$3,576	\$5,395
Interparochial high schools:	\$6,664	\$8,563

NOTE: Elementary tuitions are set at the parish level and vary greatly. Schools receive parish subsidies except for private Catholic high schools, which are not included in these figures.

2010 Senior Class Profile Archdiocese of Indianapolis

	Archdiocesan Results	2010 Indiana Results
• Number of freshman enrolled in August 2006:	.....1,348	
• Percentage of 2006 freshmen graduating in 2010:	..... 97.6%	84.1%
• Percentage of seniors receiving scholarships:	..... 64.0%	
• Total amount of dollars (\$) for scholarships received:	... \$76,010,513	
• Percentage of graduates going to a four year college:	..... 93.3%	
• Percentage of graduates pursuing post-secondary training:	.... 4.1%	
	(e.g. vocational schools, nursing programs, associate degree programs and/or armed forces)	
• Number of service hours contributed by seniors in 2009-2010:	.....63,346	
• Average number of service hours for each senior in 2009-10:	..... 47.0	
• Total service hours contributed by all students in 2009-2010 school year:	.....133,733	
• Number of 2009-2010 National Merit Corporation students recognized:	..... 65	
• Number of National Merit Semi-Finalists:	..... 12	
• Number of National Merit Finalists:	..... 14	
• Number of National Merit Commended students:	..... 40	
• Number of National Merit Special Scholarships:	..... 7	
• National Merit Achievement Scholarships:	..... 4	
• Percentage of Indiana Core 40 graduates:	..... 98.6%	76.7%
• Percentage of Indiana Academic Honors graduates:	..... 54.2%	33.2%
• Financial aid in 2009-2010 given to students in grades 9-12:	.....\$6,035,207	
• Assistance planned for all students in 2010-2011:	.....\$6,089,323	
• Number of students in grades 9-12 receiving financial aid in 2009-2010:	.....1,709	
• All students in grades 9-12 receiving financial aid in the 2010-2011:	.....1,736	
• Number of students who took the SAT:	.....1,260	
• SAT Reading mean score:	..... 541	496
• SAT Math mean score:	..... 552	507
• SAT Writing mean score:	..... 534	480
• SAT TOTAL mean score (Math + Reading):	.....1,093	1,003
• Total number of dual high school-college credit courses offered:	..... 28	
• Total number students taking dual high school-college credit courses:	..... 354	
• Total number of AP courses offered:	..... 113	
• Total number students taking AP courses:	..... 1,650	
• Percentage of students receiving a 3 or better on AP course tests: 59.2%	10.3%

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Total operating cost of archdiocesan schools (estimate): ...\$100 million

(Estimated using K-12 enrollment excluding capital costs and private high school costs)

Annual savings to Indiana taxpayers (estimate):\$214 million

(Estimated at aggregate Indiana public school K-12 composite estimated expenditure per pupil of \$11,366 x Archdiocese Catholic school K-12 enrollment (18,817 students) excluding private high schools)



A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A different kind of school day

Comedy and cooking showcase school's innovative program

By John Shaughnessy

It's not every day that a student in a Catholic grade school has a class that teaches him how to use a table saw to help make a trophy case.

It's also a different kind of school day when a second-grade student takes a "Cooking with Math" class—a class that inspires her to go home to make appetizers and set the table for her family's dinner.

And while some Catholic grade school students like to showcase their comedy skills spontaneously for their teacher and classmates, there's not usually time in a school day for a class in improvisational acting.

Yet each of those classes was offered to students at St. Mary's Catholic Academy in New Albany for the first time this school year—as part of an innovative program called "Intensive Days."

The "Intensive Days" program was offered to students for three days before the school's fall break. And the plan is to offer the program for another five days before spring break.

Presented in a more relaxed atmosphere at the school, the program is the result of a marketing effort to bring more children into the Catholic school.

"We're one of the smallest schools in the New Albany Deanery," said Jeff Purichia, the principal of the school which has



about 110 students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. "Every school is strategizing and trying to come up with more ways to get more kids in the door to become part of the Catholic school system.

"This was one tool to make us different. We felt this would be an opportunity to expose the kids to different things and get them to do things they normally don't get to do. No one else was doing this as

a school. We thought it would be an eye-catcher for anyone considering Catholic schools." The program—which included classes in music, acting, cooking and woodworking—was a hit with the students.

"The Improv Acting class was probably my favorite," said Lillie Weber, a seventh-grade student. "I had a really great time in the classes, and I hope we're able to do them again."

Devan Sprecher especially enjoyed the woodworking class that let him be part of a group that made a trophy case for the school. "It was fun using all the different tools," recalled Devan, a sixth-grade student. "I used a table saw, a hand saw and a sander. I think it's cool that I can walk into school now and see we have one more place to put the trophies for our school. And I helped with it. It was fun being with my

friends, too." Graduates of the school and relatives of the students helped with teaching the classes. Purichia views the program as part of the larger goal of a Catholic school. "As a Catholic school, our goal is not just to have good students. We want to make them better people," he said. "We want to take them to the next level academically, socially and spiritually." †



Above, Jeff Purichia, the principal of St. Mary's Catholic Academy in New Albany, demonstrates the use of a wood sander to Lizzie Scharre, a sixth-grade student at the school. As part of an innovative program, Scharre and other students helped to build a trophy case for the school.

Left, Clayton Phillip's smile shows how much fun the second-grade student at St. Mary's Catholic Academy in New Albany had during a Cooking with Math class, part of an innovative program at the school called Intensive Days.



Thank you!



Marie Claude Calixte and the transitional shelter that CRS built for her. Photo by Benjamin Depp for CRS

The overwhelming generosity of Catholics in the United States has helped Catholic Relief Services move earthquake survivors from destruction and despair to transitional shelter and new hope for a better life.

Follow the progress of our work in Haiti at crs.org/emergency/haiti/index.cfm