

Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis:

A faith-filled investment in the future of our children

By Annette "Mickey" Lentz

As we begin another calendar year and a new decade, it causes us to think about our many blessings and gifts, and even the challenges which lie before us.



At the start of a new year, I always reflect on where I have been and what still needs my attention. I call this my personal portfolio, just as

one also has a stock portfolio. I am called to take stock of my life. What are my dividends? How have I profited from my investments?

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life." When I first saw this theme, my mind went to the stock portfolio. Then the

light bulb went off in my mind and I realized all the dividends that Catholic schools have paid over many years. It's a totally different type of profit, one I am still blessed by each day.

There are four major qualities of Catholic education: faith, knowledge, discipline and morals. They are qualities I have valued since entering the first grade at St. Patrick School and graduating many years later from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute. These gifts or dividends become a part of who we are and what we do—a personal portfolio.

Let me reflect on each of those qualities as they pertain to my life.

Faith is my personal relationship with God, and certainly with others, too. My religion classes, as did all my other subjects and service opportunities, allowed me to express my faith and belief in God, my classmates and later my colleagues.

Knowledge means acquiring

information and then transferring its importance. For me, knowledge also means the academic excellence which exists in our schools—not only in test scores, but also in teaching the whole student in body, mind and spirit.

Ninety-eight percent of our students graduate from high school, and an amazing 97 percent continue to higher education. What a dividend for our business world. It doesn't get much better than that.

We all know the importance of discipline. For me, it says that I needed to pay attention to my school lessons and be able to apply those skills for a happy and fruitful life. Discipline helped me achieve my dreams and goals—another great payoff!

Morals are a MUST. Finding a way to be happy and balanced is not easy. Knowing right from wrong is one thing, and doing it is another. Morals lead to integrity, be it in business, education or

whatever field one chooses.

At the end of 2009, most publications listed the top 10 stories of the year and even the decade. In every case, these lists caused us to pause and reflect on the hallmarks mentioned. We have our own stories to remember and consider. What we do reflects who we are and helps to write our story for the future. I ask you to think about the dividends of Catholic schools and commit yourself to the continued support of Catholic school education.

And so it is that Catholic schools produce dividends for life. The whole world benefits when we share these dividends with others. I am grateful to have had that experience. God bless.

(Annette "Mickey" Lentz is the chancellor of the archdiocese and the executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation.) †



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A special connection

Faith guides students' efforts to make a difference



Alexandra Young and her seventh-grade classmates at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus stuff Christmas stockings for American soldiers in Afghanistan.



As part of a school-wide community service day on Oct. 28 for Bishop Chatard High School students, teachers and staff members in Indianapolis, freshman Patrick Gordon helps a guest go through the Food Link food pantry in Indianapolis.



Students and teachers from Bishop Chatard High School pose outside a vacant home in Indianapolis that they helped to renovate during a school-wide community service day on Oct. 28.



Bishop Chatard freshman Katie Armstrong, left, and sophomore Shari Bailey paint the interior of a home being restored by "Rebuilding the Wall," an organization that restores vacant homes for low-income families.

By John Shaughnessy

The images range from fun to heartwarming.

They also offer connections that spread from the heroics of Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning to the horror of earthquake-devastated Haiti.

In all the images, there is this constant—the way that Catholic school students across the archdiocese strive to make a difference in their communities and the world.

Here is a look at five special efforts that show that service is a way of life and an expression of faith for Catholic school students.

'Hula Hoops for Haiti'

The students at Sacred Heart School in Jeffersonville had already made a commitment to Haiti before the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated that country and killed about 200,000 people.

"Our school theme this year is 'Sacred Heart School Makes a World of Difference,' and we have concentrated our efforts on ways that we can help our sister parish, St. Raphael, in Haiti," said Becky Spitznagel, the school's principal. "A missionary team from Sacred Heart, including our pastor, Father Tom Clegg, traveled to Haiti this past October. After they came back, we talked about the needs of the people there."

At the time, the school community decided to raise \$2,600 to build a home for a family in Haiti. During Advent, students did jobs in their neighborhoods, earning about \$1,000 for the home. They planned to raise the additional money during Catholic Schools Week—a time when the school traditionally does a fun event to help a serious cause.

"We decided we would hold a 'Hula Hoops for Haiti' event," Spitznagel said. "The students will take part in hula hoop activities in the gym and collect donations for their efforts. At the end of the hula hoop activities, Father Tom has agreed to be a human ring-toss. For every five dollars in donations that a student collects, he or she will get a chance to toss a hula hoop over Father Tom. The top three students to get the most hula hoops around him will get to go out to eat lunch with Father Tom."

While the event is fun, the focus is serious following the earthquake.

"The recent tragic events in Haiti have altered our focus," Spitznagel said. "We plan to send the money already collected to aid in the earthquake relief efforts."

A common thread of dedication

There was one common thread that weaved its way through the terrific effort by the sixth- and seventh-grade students at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus.

The students wanted to let a unit of American soldiers serving in Afghanistan know how much their dedication meant to them.

"One of our students has an uncle serving in Afghanistan," said Kathy Schubel, the school's principal. "So the students decided to send them stockings for Christmas. The students sewed the stockings themselves. They brought in sewing machines and did some appliques on the stockings—stars and hearts. Most of them had never done sewing or hand-stitching before. They also did different things to raise money so they could fill the stockings."

The project came to a peak in early December when the students mailed the stockings, which they had stuffed with small gifts that included writing materials and personal hygiene items.

"The uncle sent his nephew pictures of the soldiers receiving the stockings," Schubel said. "The students were so proud."

'The Wood Chop'

Father Aaron Jenkins imagines the unusual

service trip as a perfect way to teach high school students about the Catholic history of Indiana and to show them a different way to help the poor.

On the weekend of Feb. 12-14, the chaplain of Father Thomas Seccina Memorial High School in Indianapolis plans to lead about 30 students on a journey to southern Indiana and Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

"I'm taking a group of students down there for what they call 'The Wood Chop,'" Father Jenkins said. "Those counties down there are among the poorest in the state, and many of the people down there heat their homes with wood. Cutting and gathering wood is a way of providing heat for the poor in that area. It's a way for our students to get to see a different picture of the poor."

Father Jenkins also hopes that staying at the monastery for three days will also give the students an insight into a community built upon faith.

"It's a way to connect them with the Catholic history of Indiana and give them an experience of a faith-filled community of monks who have been living and praying there for more than 150 years."

A day to remember and savor

Tyler Mayer didn't know what to expect when he organized a service day that sent 680 students and 115 adults to help nearly 40 social service agencies and community organizations across Indianapolis.

As the director of campus ministry at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, Mayer hoped the day would be a "catalyst for students to realize, even though they are young, that they have the ability to cause great change in a world that needs it so desperately."

So on Oct. 28, students, teachers, staff members and parents from Bishop Chatard took assignments that led them to help at nursing homes, child care centers, food banks for the poor and other sites.

"Just hearing the students talk about their experiences was real neat," Mayer noted. "Some kids had to build a brick wall, others had to move dirt, but no one complained. They knew they were there to help. It gave them a better perspective of the need that is out there."

It also gave the places and people they helped a better understanding of teenagers today.

"The agencies were all thankful," Mayer said. "One of the biggest comments I got from them was their surprise [about] the quality of students we brought them. They weren't sure how teenagers would respond. It's cool the way they did respond. It was inspirational to see."

A special connection

The project bears the name of Peyton Manning.

Just like a pass from Manning to Indianapolis Colts' tight end Dallas Clark, the connection has been a good one between the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and Pope John XXIII School in Madison.

"The hospital has a program where they send us hospital bracelets with the names of the patients there and then we pray for them every day," said Jill Mires, the principal of Pope John XXIII School, which has about 260 students from preschool to sixth grade.

The program has been a perfect way for Mires to introduce the young students to the importance of being there for others in need.

"The school children have really connected with it," she said. "It's been neat for us both spiritually and from a service-oriented standpoint. It's special to hear the children telling their parents about the child and their illness, and that they're praying for them to heal." †



Bishop Chatard freshman Luke Williams never realized that community service could involve dancing. He dances with a guest at Joy's House, an adult day care facility in Indianapolis.



Bishop Chatard senior Ari Pappas, left, freshman Robyn Van Vliet and sophomore Molly Marsh hand out food and household items at the Food Link food pantry.



Bishop Chatard High School students take a break during a day of painting walls, raking leaves, cleaning rooms and playing with children at Christamore House, a multiservice community agency in Indianapolis.



Students at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus show the Christmas stockings they made and filled with gifts for American soldiers serving in Afghanistan.



Catherine Aubrey, left, and Hadley Anderson, juniors at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, carry boxes of toys on Dec. 11, 2009, that were donated to the Marine Foundation Toys for Tots to the school's lobby. The toy drive at Providence was organized by the school's House of Justice and House of Faith. Students from all four grade levels in the senior high school are arranged in eight houses in a new student leadership model launched last fall at Providence.

A house united

New approach to student leadership creates deeper faith, tighter bonds

By Sean Gallagher

CLARKSVILLE—A main goal of any high school is to prepare its students to become mature, well-rounded adults who can be strong leaders in their communities.

Catholic high schools also seek to form their students to be faith-filled leaders.

At the start of this academic year, Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville launched a major overhaul of its student leadership structure to better achieve that goal.

Instead of having a student council and class officers like most high schools do, Providence now has what is called the "house system." There are eight houses that include groups from all four of its classes in the senior high school.

The junior high school at Providence has one house.

Each house is named for one of the values that are hallmarks of Providence. They also have a color and a patron saint.

There are 10 elected leaders in each house and 80 in the senior high school as a whole, which contrasts with 20 under the previous model.

This large group of leaders has been

charged, with the rest of the members of their house, to organize at least four school-wide activities each year.

"[The house system] is developing our students into stronger and better leaders," said Providence senior Matt Duncan. "I have a feeling that it's going, in the long run, to develop our leadership skills and really help us one day, when we're out in the workforce, to be able to take charge and to make decisions."

Matt is a member of the House of Integrity, whose color is metallic silver and has St. Jerome as its patron saint.

The house system also creates a stronger bond among students. Upper class students interact more with freshmen and sophomores and so become real role models for them.

"It's really been nice," said Providence senior Travis Cunningham. "I've gotten to know a lot of underclassmen that I wouldn't have gotten to know otherwise. I'm finding a new way to bond with people."

Travis is a member of the House of Truth, whose color is green and has St. Gertrude for its patron saint.

The house system's requirement of having each class organize a spiritual activity also reinforces Providence's

Catholic identity, according to Providence senior Kameron Johnson.

"Even at a Catholic school, it's not really cool to show your faith a lot of times," said Kameron. "And I think just seeing upperclassmen being very genuine with their faith in an environment could really affect freshmen or sophomores. It might make them more willing to keep the cycle going when they're upperclassmen and show their faith to people."

Kameron is a member of the House of Faith, which has teal for its color and St. Gregory the Great as its patron saint.

The house system also presents new ways for students and teachers to get to know each other.

Each teacher at Providence is assigned to a house. One serves as the house director, although the students in the house still end up making house decisions.

"At least in my house, the teachers are on subcommittees, but aren't leading [them]," said Providence senior Jacob Kraft. "They're in there throwing out ideas and giving us their knowledge of what Providence may have used to be like. They've been able to interact with us on our own level, I guess, instead of just as a teacher."

Jacob is a member of the House of Justice, whose color is red and whose patron saint is St. Ambrose.

A main reason for implementing the house system was to renew the spirit that filled Providence in previous years, according to Leslie Mills, the director of leadership and service at Providence.

Many of Providence's teachers and administrators are graduates of the New Albany Deanery school. Mills is a member of the Class of 1993.

"Something had been lost since I had left," Mills said. "I think things got stale. I think that we had the same student leaders every year. It was such a small crop to pick from because a lot of people didn't feel like they could jump into those leadership positions."

Mills now sees a renewed spirit in the school because of the house system.

"I feel a lot of energy in the building right now," she said.

Providence senior Lauren Jerdonek agreed.

"Although we're all great friends and everyone in the classes is unified, we lacked something as classes and in the school itself," Lauren said. "Now we're making changes to kind of bring the school together."

Lauren is a member of the House of Spirit, whose color is blue and whose patron saint is St. Theodora Guérin.

Providence principal Mindy Ernstberger, a member of the school's Class of 1974, agreed that the school atmosphere had changed in recent years, and that the house system has started to bring new life to the school.

"New faculty and staff leadership is emerging," Ernstberger said. "It has re-energized some faculty and staff, but has also been a calling for others to become a more vital part of the school community. Relationships with students are strengthening, and a new sense of commitment to and ownership of Christian leadership is being felt by [the] faculty and staff, too."

The house system even includes Providence graduates. Each graduating class, dating back to 1955, has been assigned to one of the eight houses in the school. Providence president Joan Hurley believes the house system will foster strong, ongoing relationships with graduates.

"Our hope is that these alumni will catch up with the students now in the houses, perhaps attend one or two of their meetings and support the projects each house conducts," Hurley said. "I believe that by tying the alumni to our existing student body, and allowing interaction through our Web site and other means, the house system grows and brings alumni closer to the school and its present student body."

Even after just a few months, senior Jacob Kraft can see how the house system is making a difference to the school.

"I think the house system can catapult Providence to be so much better," Jacob said. "It's already good. But I think the house system has so much to offer. It will create a bigger sense of community."

(To learn more about the house system at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, log on to www.providencehigh.net/node/506.) †



Jacob Kraft, second from left, a senior at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, speaks on Jan. 6 at his school about its new student leadership model where groups of students from all four grade levels are organized into eight "houses." Listening to Jacob are, from left, Providence seniors Lauren Jerdonek and Travis Cunningham.

Tough question, good answers

Teacher asks, 'If Jesus came to Earth, what would he find?'

By John Shaughnessy

Lynn Henning's question about Jesus and how we live our faith would challenge anyone.

So just imagine what it must have been like for the third-grade students in Henning's religion class when she asked them to write an answer to this question:

"If Jesus came down to Earth today and walked into our room, what would he find that is good and bad in our world?"

The answers that Henning received from her third-grade class at St. Monica School in Indianapolis impressed her.

Here is a selection of those answers:

Hilton Sanchez—"One day, Jesus came to Earth and this is what he saw. Jesus was very happy because he saw families going to church. He was also sad because he saw friends fighting. Jesus could see that people were respecting nature and protecting endangered animals.

"As he walked along the Earth, he saw countries at war and divorced families. So Jesus continued walking and he saw all the pollution. Sometimes, he saw people performing good services and also people taking part in the sacraments. Jesus said, 'With prayer, the world can be a better place.'"

Anna George—"If Jesus came to Earth, he would find lots of good things. He would like that people are giving and sharing. He would like that we are still going to church and praying on Sunday. He would find lots of bad things, too. He would not like that people are smoking or that people are littering. He would not like to see people robbing houses and banks."

Taylor Wentland—"I think that Jesus would like our Earth because of our art. Using our talents such as music and sports

would please him, too. Jesus is happy when we take care of nature. Loving others is one of the best ways to make him happy."

Parker Gianoli—"I think that Jesus would not be pleased with the wars, immigration issues and the endangered animals. He would be disappointed in the broken commandments. He would be sad at seeing children in pain. He would like that the Bible is still being used today."

Cecilia Seufert—"Jesus would find that people care about the environment.

Recycling is one of the ways that people are doing their part. Planting trees is a tradition many communities have adopted. These are just a few of the ways that Jesus would see that we are taking care of the Earth."

For Henning, the answers the students gave reflected her hope for the class.

"My hope for the third-grade students this year is for them to connect what we learn from our books to their everyday lives," she said. "We talk quite a bit about how God wants us to live and what that means to them. They learn about the

sacraments, Scripture and prayer. But more importantly, I want them to know how those things can help make a difference. How can they be the change in our world?"

She believes her students are headed in the right direction.

"I wasn't at all sure what to expect since this was our first try at a journal question that required them to write this much," Henning said. "I was hoping for some simple writings. I was very impressed by the depth of their thinking. They were able to take their faith and apply it to other areas that they are studying, like social studies, science and language. They really are understanding how their faith connects to the world." †

'We talk quite a bit about how God wants us to live and what that means to them. They learn about the sacraments, Scripture and prayer. But more importantly, I want them to know how those things can help make a difference. How can they be the change in our world?'

—Lynn Henning



Above, in her religion class at St. Monica School in Indianapolis, third-grade student Taylor Wentland wrote that Jesus is happy when we use our talents, take care of nature and love one another.



Left, third-grade student Hilton Sanchez imagines Jesus coming to Earth and saying, "With prayer, the world can be a better place."

Guardian Angel Guild raises funds to help students with learning disabilities

By Mary Ann Wyand

Guardian angels are a continual source of help for God's people.

"The whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of



During the Guardian Angel Guild's 50th anniversary luncheon on Sept. 24 in Indianapolis, guild president Ginny Maher thanks guild members for their dedication and tireless efforts to raise funds to help the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's resource programs serve students with learning disabilities.

angels," the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains. "... From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession" (#334-#336).

For half a century, Catholic education in the archdiocese has benefited from the charitable work of a dedicated group of guardian angels who tirelessly raise funds for resource programs and resource teachers at schools and St. Mary's Child Center in Indianapolis.

Since 1959, members of the Guardian Angel Guild in Indianapolis have helped God's children with developmental disabilities to reach their educational potential at Catholic schools and look forward to a better future.

Guardian Angel Guild members and guests celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary on Sept. 24 during a luncheon in Indianapolis. The theme was "Celebrating Yesteryear, Envisioning Tomorrow."

Guild president Ginny Maher, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis, said the volunteer organization began "when a group of mothers put their concerns and vision into action" to ensure that students with learning disabilities receive the resources they need at Catholic schools.

Maier said five decades of guild fundraisers have benefited hundreds, if not thousands, of students with special needs.

During 2009, she said, the guild distributed more than \$32,000 to

archdiocesan schools to support resource programs, students and instructors.

Looking to the future, Maher said the guild hopes to serve more students, financially support more resource programs in schools and establish an endowment for future needs.

"We continue our mission to help children with developmental disabilities to reach their potential," she said, "through testing and support to succeed in every aspect of their educational endeavors."

During his keynote speech, Evansville Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger—a former archdiocesan vicar general, chancellor and superintendent of schools—thanked the guild members for helping Catholic school students with learning disabilities.

"The Guardian Angel Guild had a key role, and still does have a key role, of providing that kind of assistance to our Catholic schools," Bishop Gettelfinger said. "There is no way to even describe what kind of an effect you have had on these young people for a lifetime."

He praised the guild members for "the effort that all of you make on an annual basis to raise funds then generously contribute to help young people" with special needs to be able to receive a Catholic education.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the Guardian Angel Guild's financial support dating back five decades enabled Catholic schools and St. Mary's Child Center to serve students with learning disabilities, he said, even before federal

and state disability laws required public schools to provide special education coursework.

During the early years, Guardian Angel Guild members also helped tutor students that needed help with mathematics and reading skills at some of the Catholic high schools and grade schools in Indianapolis. Now there is a resource room or special education teacher at each Catholic school in the Indianapolis area.

Guild members said it has been a pleasure to help the archdiocese serve parents who want a Catholic education for their children with learning disabilities.

Maier said the guild continues to help pay for diagnostic evaluations, special equipment, technology, educational materials and extra training for teachers to better serve students.

"We also help with the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's SPRED program [Special Religious Development for children and adults with special needs]," she said, as well as "instructional materials for students with language challenges, autism, Asperger's syndrome and dyslexia to pinpoint what they need and then provide the equipment that would best assist them.

"It's such a good feeling to think that we are maybe making a difference in a child's life," Maier said, "by offering something that they need." †

After 50 years in classroom, teacher still inspires students

By John Shaughnessy

When Marilyn Dever-Miles retires as a teacher someday, she will head to her hallway closet where she has stored boxes filled with notes and cards from her students of the past 50 years.

Notes thanking her for preparing them for college.

Letters of appreciation for how the demands she made of them now help them in their jobs.

Birthday cards telling her how much of a difference she has made to their lives.

“Someday when I retire, I’ll get the boxes out, I’ll go through them and I’ll cry,” says Dever-Miles, who teaches English at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. “The students used to send me notes. Now, they send me e-mails. Those mean so much. One of them doesn’t just make your day, it makes your month.”

At 71, Dever-Miles has been “making the days” of students for five decades—making those days more challenging and inspiring.

“At 50 years, to still be viewed by your peers and your students as the most energetic and passion-filled teacher, I just find that startling,” says

Chuck Weisenbach, Roncalli’s principal. “After 50 years, she’s still at the top of her game. Kids swear by her, even more so when they get to college. My wife and I have two kids who have had her as a teacher. They just adore her, and they have such respect for how much they have benefited from her. She can just flat out teach.”

Spend time with Dever-Miles and her passion for teaching teenagers fills her words and her facial expressions.

“The kids keep me going,” she says with a smile that glows. “They are so full of energy, and they are so full of hope. Maybe it’s also the challenge of staying ahead of them. Sometimes they win, and sometimes I win.”

As she shares that last thought, her eyes get bright, and even flash a touch of mischief. Her look becomes a mixture of warmth and intensity when she talks about her approach to teaching.

“Hold a tight rein and you’re OK. Let up and you’re dead,” she says. “One of my goals is to be a good example. I want them to see a good example of a good Catholic woman—someone who keeps her promises, someone who is fair, firm

and friendly. And someone who is fun. Never discount fun—I think we do sometimes. It’s good for them to see me go to church, too. Kids hate a phony, and they look for it in adults. You better not be a phony if you want their respect.”

While she seeks respect, she also demands punctuality and organization from her students.

“I want to teach them things they’ll need later in life,” says Dever-Miles, a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. “Organization and punctuality are the two biggies for me. I don’t allow tardies, and I don’t take late assignments.”

She teaches English—and stresses writing, grammar and vocabulary—because she believes it’s the foundation of so much of what people do in their careers. She teaches at a Catholic school because she sees the difference that an emphasis on faith can have on students.

“I went to a Catholic grade school, a Catholic high school and a Catholic college,” says the 1960 graduate of now Marian University in Indianapolis.

“We get the basics of our religion, and we can practice it every day. The kids can go to Mass every day. We can pray in every class. And we really push service. Your religion is more accessible here.”

So is she.

Consider this note from a former Roncalli student: “I really see Jesus in you. Your great faith and trust in God is obvious through your Mass attendance and your kind words. I have truly been blessed to know you as my teacher and role model.”

There’s also this note from a former Roncalli student who is studying in college to become a teacher: “You are still the best teacher I have ever had. After high school, I have had six semesters of college



At 71, Roncalli High School teacher Marilyn Dever-Miles has spent 50 years leaving her mark on the education and the lives of her English students.

professors and you still knock them all out of the park. ... I learned how to always write my best, and always take the time to correct my mistakes. I am very conscious of bringing materials to class, and being on time. You truly made a difference, Mrs. Miles.”

While notes from her students through five decades have filled boxes in her hallway closet, she has showered her students with written praise, too.

“She writes congratulatory notes and good-job notes to students who are in the play, to athletes who have made the all-county team, to kids who have done well on the Spelling Bowl team,”

Weisenbach says. “She calls parents with good news about their children. She’s unbelievable.”

More than anything, she believes. She believes in her students. She believes in her ability to make a difference in their lives.

“My kids are my legacy,” she says, tapping her fingers with emphasis on a table. “It’s any thing and every thing I’ve done to help a kid—whether it was to help them through some drama in their life, or help them with their faith, or help them do well in college. That’s my legacy. These are my kids. Don’t you ever think otherwise. Whether they want to be or not, they are my kids.” †

Zany experiment with snails adds fun and creativity to class

Criterion staff report

The unusual oath was one of the special touches that Katie Aebersold used in her zany experiment to add fun and real-life communication skills to the French classes she teaches at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

With her left hand on a French translation of the Bible and her right hand raised, junior Catherine Aubrey became the first student to take the oath—to adopt a snail:

“I, Catherine, swear to take full responsibility for the escargot named Raoul, to provide him with safe housing, adequate clothing and educational opportunities. ... I also swear to never spill salt or eat shrimp, lobster or crab in the presence of my escargot. So help me God.”

Before the ceremony ended on Nov. 30, 11 French students became proud adoptive parents of their very own snail. Since then, the snails have helped the students communicate better in French.

“I was looking for something that would help them communicate real-life situations in the French language,” Aebersold said.

As adoptive parents, the students had to introduce their snails to teachers and staff members around the school in French. They have also used the French language to write about experiences they have created for the snails.

“Before this, they wrote about themselves and that’s hard,” Aebersold said. “This has made them more creative with the language and more comfortable with it. They’re making houses for the snails, and they’ll have to take them on spring break with them. They’ll have to

send me a postcard from wherever they are.”

A first-year teacher at Providence, the 24-year-old Aebersold discovered the snails at www.adoptanesnail.com while searching online for teaching resources.

She introduced the concept to students during National French Week when she gave them a baby keepsake box. Students had to guess what was inside the boxes before they opened them. Looking inside, the students found a snail shell that came with a personality profile. Students were matched with a snail profile that had some of their same interests and even fears.

“Laughter filled my room,” Aebersold recalled. “The students had to pick a name for their snail and then introduce their snail to the class.”

Students have enjoyed the project.

“It was nothing like I had ever done before,” Kristin Simms said. “I will always remember this experience.”

Classmate Candace Popp noted, “It’s an interesting experience. It helps me to learn how to use the French



Clark Superior Court Judge Jerome Jacobi swears in Candace Popp, a sophomore at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, during a ceremony for students to adopt a snail in teacher Katie Aebersold’s French class. Holding the Bible is Providence science teacher Ginger Shirley.

language in everyday life.”

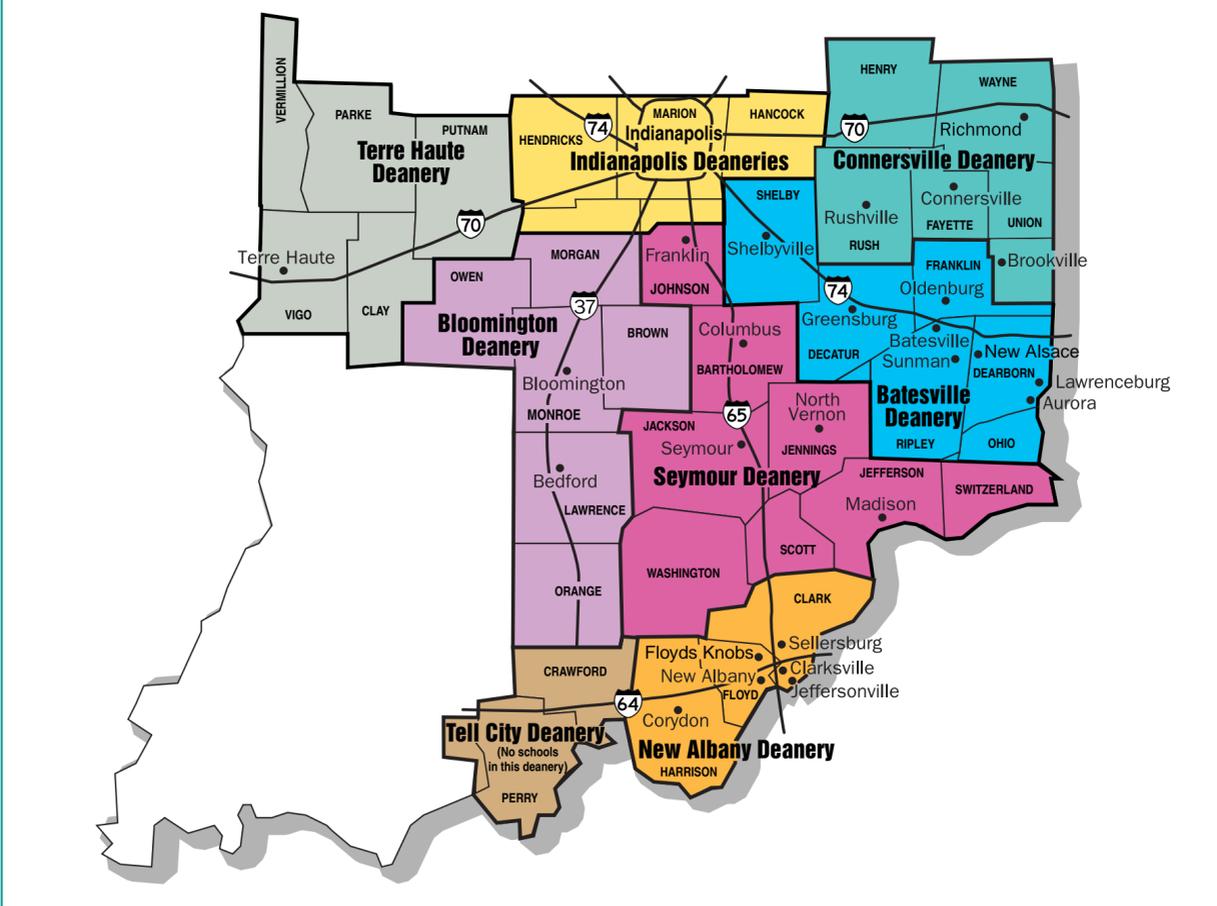
For Aebersold, the unusual project is just one more memorable moment as a teacher.

“It’s been terrific,” she said about her first year of teaching at Providence. “It’s a testimony to the wonderful atmosphere at Providence. It’s a dream job at a dream school.” †

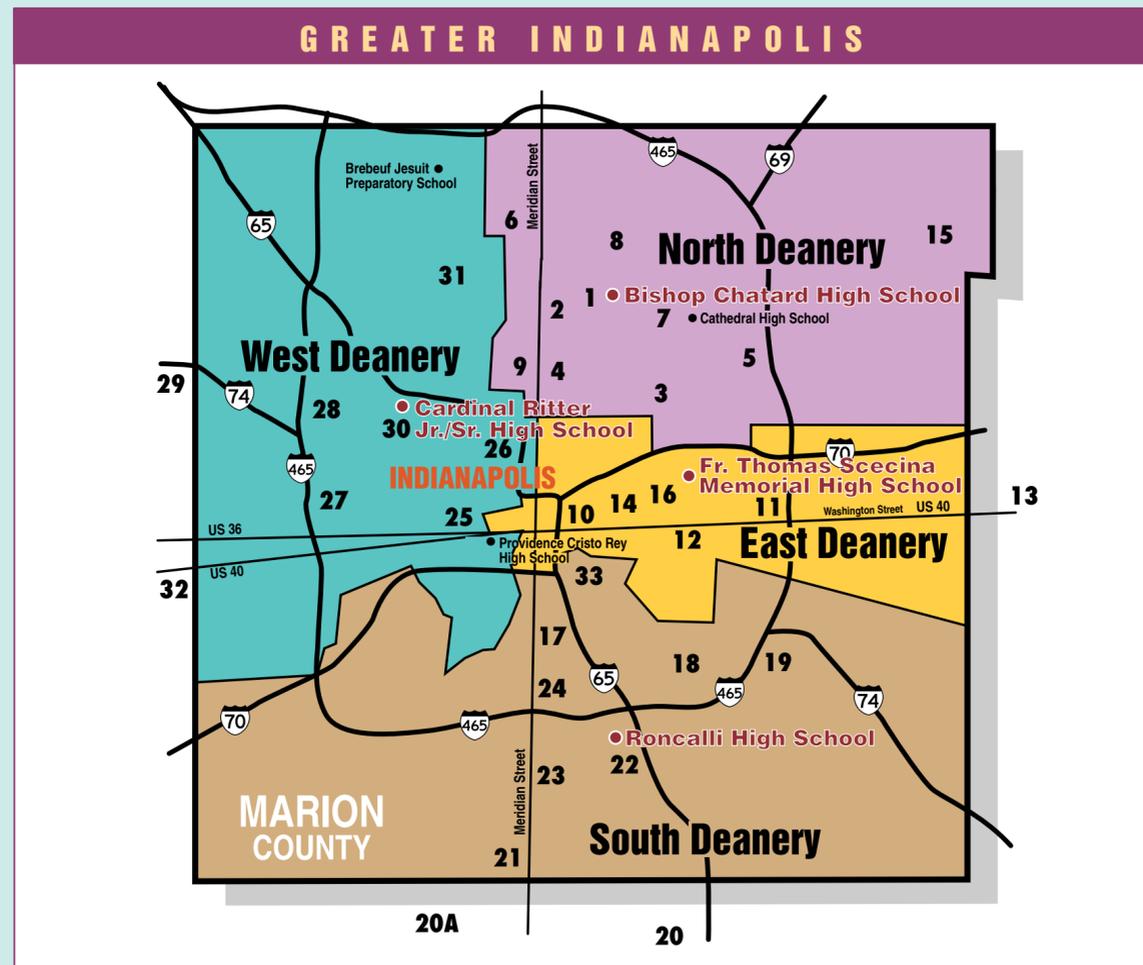


Catholic Schools

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



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

Corydon
St. Joseph School (P-6)
512 Mulberry
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 School (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 Shaver 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)
P.O. Box 200
Oldenburg, IN 47036
812-934-4440

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. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy (P-8) *
4050 E. 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46218
317-549-6305

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

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

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

7. St. Matthew School (K-8)
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

8. St. Pius X School (K-8)
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3361

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

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

Indianapolis East Deanery
• **Father Thomas Seccina 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

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

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.
Indianapolis, IN 46140
317-462-6380

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

16. 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
317-784-6828

17. Central Catholic School (K-8) *
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013

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

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

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

20A. S.S. Francis and Clare School (P-3)
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826

21. St. Barnabas School (K-8)
8300 Rahke 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

8. North Deanery
1. Bishop Chatard High School
7. Cathedral High School

31. West Deanery
30. Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School
26. Fr. Thomas Seccina Memorial High School

12. East Deanery
11. Providence Cristo Rey High School
22. Roncalli High School

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. St. Anthony School (P-6) *
349 N. Warman Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739

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

15. North Deanery
1. Bishop Chatard High School
7. Cathedral High School

31. West Deanery
30. Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School
26. Fr. Thomas Seccina Memorial High School

12. East Deanery
11. Providence Cristo Rey High School
22. Roncalli High School

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. St. Anthony School (P-6) *
349 N. Warman Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739

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

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

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

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

Private Schools
33. Lumen Christi Catholic School
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

* Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (Consortium)

Submitted photos



Members of the CYO high school basketball team from Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis pose with the team from Damar Services Inc. after their game on Jan. 4. The Good Shepherd team served as mentors this season for the Damar team, which played in the CYO high school league for the first time this year.

A meaningful victory

CYO group uses basketball to help youths with disabilities

By John Shaughnessy

During 36 years of working for the Catholic Youth Organization, Bernadette Price has always appreciated those moments of sportsmanship when young players show they know there is something more important than the numbers on a scoreboard.

Another one of those splendid moments came into focus for Price as she snapped picture after picture during a CYO high school boys' basketball game on Jan. 4 between a team from Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis and a squad from Damar Services Inc., a program that strives to enable people with developmental disabilities to lead successful lives.

The Damar team was playing in its first year in the CYO league, at the invitation of the CYO's executive director, Edward Tinder.

As a teenager from the Damar team stood at the foul line waiting to take a free throw, a player from the Good Shepherd team walked up to him, patted him on the back and offered sincere words of encouragement, telling the Damar player, "Hey, you can do this. Just take your time."

It was a moment to savor for Price, who also serves as a moderator of the youth group at Good Shepherd Parish.

"The encouragement they gave during that game was amazing," Price recalls. "I honestly couldn't tell you what the score was. No one really paid attention to the score."

A lasting connection

That small moment reflects the great connection that has existed between the youth group at Good Shepherd Parish and the young people at Damar Services Inc. since the mid-1970s. For nearly 35 years, youths from Good Shepherd Parish have coordinated dances, hayrides, bingo nights, drama classes, Christmas parties and other activities for the Damar youths.

"The Good Shepherd-CYO group has been the longest group to volunteer here," says Donna Stutler, the volunteer resources director for Damar Services. "When I tell our kids that the CYO group is coming, they always view it as a positive. To them, it means, 'Kids are coming and we're

going to do a fun activity.'

"It's good for them to have that interaction with the CYO kids. Research shows that for children in treatment, their length of stay is shortened when they're around positive social peers."

So when Tinder extended the offer to have a boys' basketball team from Damar play in the CYO league, the Damar staff viewed it as another winning situation for the youths who are developmentally disabled and behaviorally challenged.

Their involvement was enhanced when the Good Shepherd teams offered to serve as mentors for the Damar team.

"One of the biggest impacts for our kids has been being around positive social peers," says Jim Porter, the recreation director for Damar. "The other thing for our kids is that they are competitive, and they wanted to play against other talented teams. This really gives them a lot of confidence and makes them feel good about what they are doing."

That confidence developed from the first time the Damar players stepped onto the court.

"For a lot of the first half of our first game, our guys were ahead," Porter notes. "That set the tone to make our guys feel they belonged. They had some anxiety about this because they viewed this as a *real* basketball league. For them to feel they belonged was just great."

Meaningful victories

The Damar team eventually lost that first game. They didn't get a win during the rest of the season either, at least not on the scoreboard, but Porter said more meaningful victories were gained.

"We definitely saw improvement on the sportsmanship side for our guys," Porter says. "They see good sportsmanship being modeled on the other teams and they model it themselves. For us to go up at the end of the game, shake hands with the other team and say, 'Good game,' that's a good thing for our kids. They feel like they've competed. They feel like they've given a good effort, and they feel good about themselves."

The youths at Good Shepherd Parish feel the same way. Alex Schoettle has helped at



For nearly 35 years, the youth group from Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis has sponsored a Christmas party for youths from Damar Services Inc. Members of both groups pose with Santa Claus during the 2009 Christmas party on Dec. 16.

Damar for more than four years. He plays on a high school basketball team at Good Shepherd Parish, and he and his teammates have served as mentors to the youths on the Damar team.

"Their games were either before or after ours," says Schoettle, a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. "We'd come early or stay late to watch them. We cheered them on and talked to them after the game."

They continued that approach even during the Jan. 4 game when the two teams played each other.

"They were competitive," Schoettle says. "They were in the game with us. Afterwards, we talked to them and took a couple pictures with them. We talked about basketball and how school is going—the normal things any high school kids talk about. It's been rewarding watching them play."

The connection continues off the basketball court, too.

"Damar has shaped who I've become

through high school," says Brooke Propes, a member of Good Shepherd Parish and a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. "We go there a lot, and we get to know the kids. They have so many challenges, and yet they're usually smiling. The children there make me realize how lucky I am. It's changed my relationship with God and others. It's made me think about what I might want to do later in my life—maybe work with people who have disabilities. I love Damar."

It's all part of the difference that volunteering can make in the lives of young people, Price says.

It also shows just how special teenagers are today, she adds.

"I am amazed at how busy kids are today and how competitive things in our world can be," Price says. "Here are two groups of kids who are from different worlds, but it doesn't matter. They care about each other. They all mix and mingle together. It shows the youth of today are definitely headed in the right direction." †

Prayers for God and Mary

Holy Name School students promote the rosary

By Mary Ann Wyand

BEECH GROVE—"I pray the rosary."

Holy Name School eighth-grade students in Beech Grove are proudly wearing T-shirts they decorated with this message.

They made the T-shirts after watching a "YouTube" video during religion class about a teenager who promoted his Catholic faith as well as his devotion to Jesus and Mary in this way.

Benedictine Sister Mary Nicolette Etienne, a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove and the religion teacher at Holy Name School, said she enjoys teaching students to pray the rosary as part of their vocation to know, love and serve God.

She makes handmade rosaries, a skill that she learned last March from her mother, St. Paul parishioner Kay Etienne of Tell City, who taught her the Marian prayer during her childhood.

Sister Nicolette gives one handmade rosary to a Holy Name student every week to promote this devotion.

Father Stanley Pondo, the pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, blesses the students' rosaries after school Masses.

Sister Nicolette displays dozens of rosaries and 10 Marian images on a bulletin board with information about some of the Mother of God's many titles throughout the world.

During religion class on Jan. 13, Holy Name eighth-grade students said their teacher inspires them to pray because she has a strong faith and deep love for Jesus.

Ashley Kedra said she drew large, colorful letters on her T-shirt with bright markers because she wants to make a bold statement about her Catholic faith.

"Praying the rosary is important to me because it's a way to talk to God and Mary," Ashley said, "and whoever you're praying for or whatever you're praying for, I think it helps."

Ben Coons drew a cross on his T-shirt next to the words.

"I'm Catholic," Ben said, "and I want other people to know about God and the rosary. It really calms me to pray the rosary because I know that God is listening. I've been praying to God for so long that I know he's there."

Jamaica Hayden said she learned how to pray the rosary in the second grade when each student made a rosary while preparing for first Communion.

"Ever since then, we have prayed the rosary," Jamaica said. "It helps me get closer to God and makes me feel closer to his mother, Mary. We pray the rosary a lot. On Thursdays, we go to [eucharistic] adoration and pray the rosary. It helps us understand our faith a little better."

Taylor Burger said her friends who are not Catholic don't understand why she prays the rosary.

"I play soccer and some of the kids wonder why I even care about it," Taylor said. "I tell them that it's how I grew up and how I trust God. ... I think it's a form of prayer so God can call you, and Mary can help you through your troubles."

Josh Cannaday said he recently prayed the rosary for a cousin who was very sick with cancer.

"I think the guy in the video was

more interested in the rosary than most people are," Josh said. "He wanted everyone else to know about the rosary, and that when you pray the rosary you become closer to God. If more people do pray, then God is with us more of the time."

Tristan Morphew said he likes to pray.

"I think when you're praying you feel more comfortable," he said, "and you feel like something is coming around and embracing you. Like with the rosary, you feel like it might be a part of you somehow. Especially when it's blessed, you feel like you're doing something that's important, and you're doing something that doesn't only just help you. It helps others. It's not only that I want to get other people to pray the rosary. I want other people to know that I pray the rosary, too."

Tristan said his teacher inspires him to be faithful because, as a religious sister, she promises to live a life of prayer.

"It inspires me that nice women like her take so much time out of their lives to pray and pray," he said. "It just shows that she wants to go to heaven like all of us."

During the lunch break, Sister Nicolette said she has been a Sister of St. Benedict for 24 years and a teacher for 25 years. A few years ago, she felt called to learn more about Marian devotions.

"I feel like I know and love God so much more now than I ever have in my entire

life," Sister Nicolette said. "I love that I am continuing to grow in my faith. I think the rosary has helped me to get more in touch with my relationships with Mary, our Blessed Mother, and her son, Jesus."

She asked her sisters to donate their extra rosaries for a classroom display.

"Every rosary is so unique and so beautiful," Sister Nicolette said. "I've given several away because sometimes the students become attached to a certain rosary. At the end of the school year, I allow them to take one if they want it."

"I just fell in love with the devotional part of the Church, and I don't want my students to miss out on that," she said. "It seems like the older I get, the more devotional I have become. I love adoration, and I love that my students are learning about the practice of praising God in adoration and by praying the rosary."

Sister Nicolette said she is pleased that her students are willing to pray the rosary.

"They love it," she said. "They love to come in and pick a rosary off the [bulletin] board and pray. I teach grades four through eight, and all my students enjoy doing that. I have students who tell me all the time that it's so calming to be able to walk in the classroom and pray even a decade of the rosary."

During spring break last year, she spent three days with her mother in Tell City learning how to make rosaries.

"Ever since then, I've been making rosaries every day," Sister Nicolette said. "I love that it's a gift that my mother gave me. I think that's wonderful because the Blessed Mother is so important in my life, and it's important to me that my mother taught me how to do this."

"When my mom and I sit down and make rosaries, a whole new level of peace and calm comes into both our hearts," she said. "And what do we have in the end? We have a beautiful gift that we can give to people to encourage them to pray." †



Benedictine Sister Mary Nicolette Etienne uses special pliers to connect rosary beads during her lunch break on Jan. 13 at Holy Name School in Beech Grove. Her mother, St. Paul parishioner Kay Etienne of Tell City, taught her how to make rosaries.



Holy Name School eighth-grade students Ben Coons, right, and Jake Farnworth, left, of Beech Grove pray a decade of the rosary on Jan. 13 during religion class. Ben, Jake and other classmates recently decorated T-shirts with the message "I pray the rosary" to promote their Catholic faith as well as their devotion to Jesus and Mary.



Benedictine Sister Mary Nicolette Etienne, left, shows a rosary to Marian University senior and student teacher Liz Nelis, right, of Atlanta, Ga., during the lunch break on Jan. 13 at Holy Name School in Beech Grove. Sister Nicolette's brother, Bishop Paul D. Etienne, is a former diocesan priest and was recently installed as the bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo.



Eighth-grade students at Holy Name School in Beech Grove wear T-shirts they decorated with the words "I pray the rosary" as they pose for a class picture on Jan. 13 with their teacher, Benedictine Sister Mary Nicolette Etienne, who is seated in the middle of the first row. "Teaching is like oxygen to me," Sister Nicolette said during the lunch break. "It gives me life, and I know I give the students that I teach life as well."

Back home again

Former student returns to lead two Catholic schools

By John Shaughnessy

The phone call that changed Philip Kahn's life and led him to return home after 22 years came from a friend he has known since the first grade.

The caller wanted to know if Kahn (pronounced Kane) would be interested in returning home to help ensure the future of the Catholic schools that had shaped his life and the lives of so many other people.

As Kahn listened to the caller, the then-40-year-old executive for Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis became increasingly intrigued about applying to become the president of the two Prince of Peace Schools in Madison—Pope John XXIII School and Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School.

"She knew I loved the schools," Kahn recalls. "The more I went through the interview process, the more I got excited about the opportunity. I always felt they were my schools even though I was gone for a number of years. Coming back to help try to make them bigger and better was a motivating factor for me."

Kahn got the job, and since August he's been enjoying the responsibility of taking the two schools to an even higher level.

"It's really been pretty neat," says Kahn, a 1987 graduate of Shawe. "My wife and I are back home, and I'm helping the schools I grew up in. It's neat knowing that every day at work can lead to something new and exciting for the community. It's a close-knit community down here. There are 400 students pre-K through seniors. It's a family atmosphere. We are the Catholic schools here. A lot of dedicated people have helped Pope John and Shawe be the great places they are."

Kahn's main focus is to increase the

enrollment and the fundraising success of the schools.

"My goal is to ensure the legacy and future of these schools in this community for a long time to come," Kahn says. "In traveling around a lot, I truly believe we have a diamond in the rough down here. As great as our product has been, we've just scratched the surface. If we can raise more money and improve the product, it would be better for everybody. I'm excited."

Part of that excitement comes from returning home to Madison with his wife of 12 years, Tania, and their two sons, Philip, 4, and Connor, 1. After graduating from Shawe in 1987, Kahn attended a college in Alabama and later served as an assistant basketball coach at colleges in Georgia and South Carolina before taking a job with Lilly in 2003.

Six years later came the life-changing phone call from a friend he has known since the first grade—Jill Mires, the principal of Pope John XXIII School.

"He's always had leadership skills since high school," Mires says. "I thought of him and how he had been in the education field and the business field. I thought that mixture would be a good combination for us. He's very friendly, very outgoing, a people person. And he has a true love for the



As the president of the two Prince of Peace Schools in Madison, Philip Kahn has tried to be a visible presence to students at Pope John XXIII School and Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School. Near Thanksgiving, he joined staff members and teachers at the high school to serve a traditional feast to students.

schools. They're very dear to him."

Kahn's difference-making ability has already been noticed by Jerry Bomholt, the longtime principal of Shawe High School.

"He's worked extremely hard," Bomholt says. "We see a lot of positive things headed in the right direction. He's made himself available to every family and every person on staff. He's the right fit for what we needed. It appears he has all the qualities to get the job done."

Coming home is Kahn's way of paying some debts from his past.

"I've always felt like whatever successes I've had, and the person I've become religiously, were molded by the education and the environment I've experienced at these two schools," he says. "My mom sent us here as a single mom. It meant a lot to me when I was here, but it meant even more when I was away from the situation. This is my opportunity to give back." †

ISTEP scores for archdiocesan students well above state averages

Criterion staff report

In the spring of 2009, 10,082 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+).

Previously, the test had been given to students in the fall. After moving to a spring test, students across Indiana have shown a slight decline in the

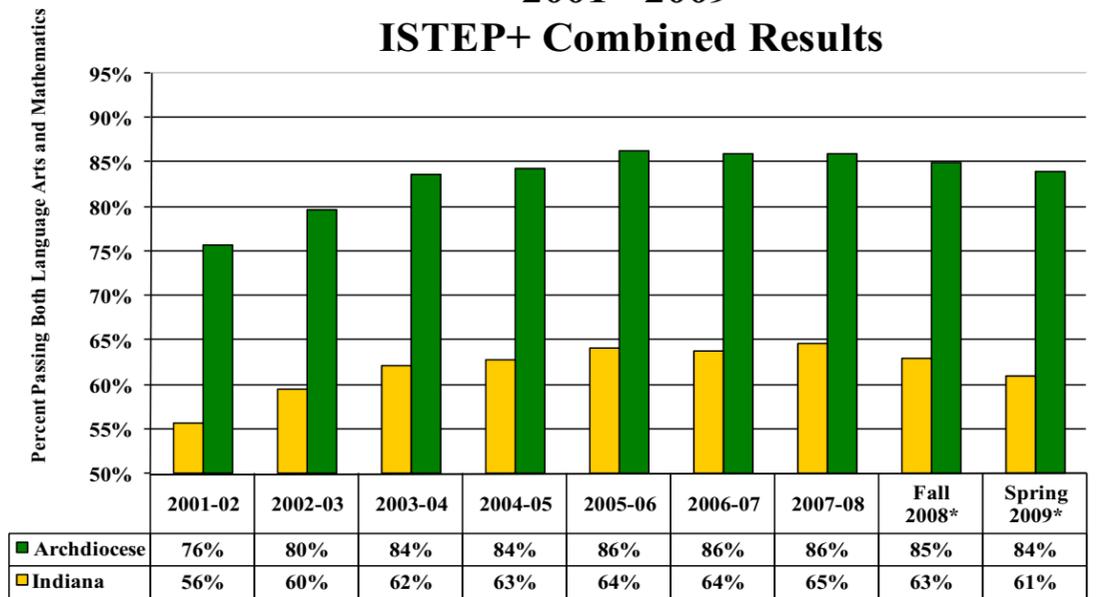
percentage of students meeting the new proficiency standards.

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 87 percent at third grade to 91 percent at sixth grade. The trend continues. Simply stated, the longer a student remains in archdiocesan schools, the greater the growth in student proficiency. †



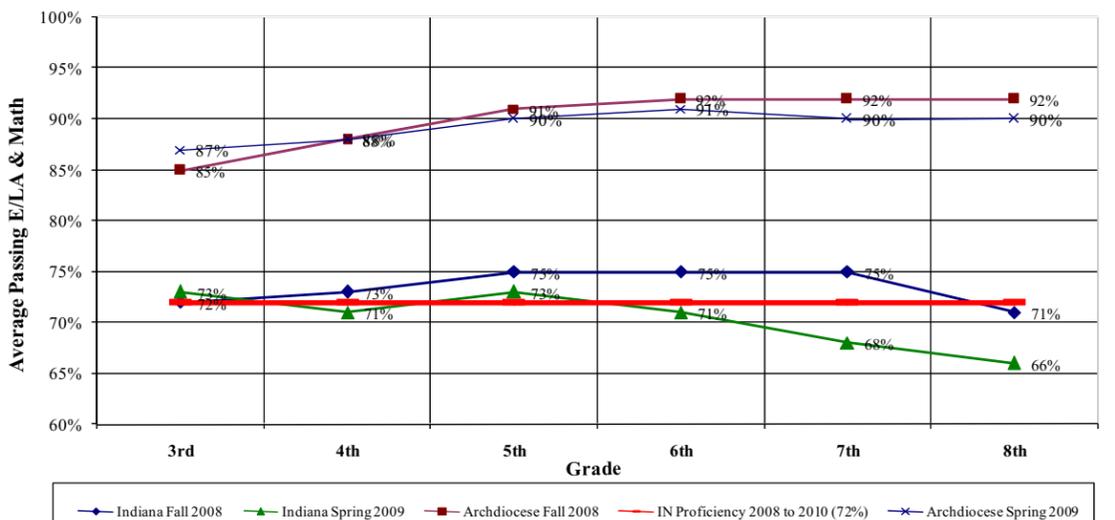
Students at St. Mark School in Indianapolis celebrate the glory of a beautiful autumn day in 2009.

2001 - 2009 ISTEP+ Combined Results



* Only includes grades 3 to 8 in F2008 & S2009

Fall 2008 - Spring 2009 ISTEP+ With Indiana Proficiency & Archdiocese Averages



Committee charged to find new Catholic education leader

By Sean Gallagher

William Kuntz knows what it means to find a winner.

He found winners when he coached Roncalli High School's first state championship football team in 1985.

And for nearly 25 years since then, Kuntz has worked in the business world, finding winning professionals to fill open positions for businesses across the country.

Still, when Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein asked Kuntz to be the chairperson of the committee charged to find the next executive director of the archdiocesan secretariat for Catholic education and faith formation, he was taken aback at the task put before him.

"My initial thought was, 'This is a no-win job. How are you going to replace Mickey Lentz?' What a challenge we have here," said Kuntz, a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

Annette "Mickey" Lentz, who has led the

archdiocese's Office of Catholic Education (OCE) for 13 years, announced last June that she would be stepping down from the position when she was named the new chancellor of the archdiocese.

During her time leading OCE, 24 schools in the archdiocese have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools, more than any other diocese in the country.

Lentz was principal of St. Mark School in Indianapolis in 1985 when it became the first school in the archdiocese to be so honored.

The current graduation rate at Catholic high schools in the archdiocese is 98 percent, with 97 percent of those graduates going on to college.

After considering this resumé of success, Kuntz took a different perspective on finding the next leader for OCE.

"What a great opportunity for someone because of Mickey Lentz," he said. "It really is an attractive job, I believe, in part because of what Mickey has built—the people that she's surrounded herself with at OCE, the processes that are in place."

For her own part, Lentz sees a lot of importance in this search for the future of Catholic education and faith formation in central and southern Indiana.

"Education, at this time, is at many, many turning points," she said. "There are just a lot of things that need to be considered in education, and in catechesis and faith formation. And it's very important that we find a leader who can take us to the next level in these two areas."

The timeline of the work of the search committee, according to Kuntz, will be to make recommendations of finalists to fill the position by mid-April.

It is hoped that the new executive



Annette "Mickey" Lentz, executive director of the archdiocesan secretariat for Catholic education and faith formation, sits among the approximately 1,000 students from Catholic schools from across the archdiocese during a Catholic Schools Week Mass celebrated on Jan. 31, 2007, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.



Annette "Mickey" Lentz, executive director of the archdiocesan secretariat for Catholic education and faith formation, talks with students at the annual A Promise to Keep: God's Gift of Human Sexuality awards luncheon on March 6, 2008, at the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

director could begin work soon thereafter or by the start of July at the latest.

"It's an exciting opportunity for those of us on the search committee," Kuntz said. "And certainly it's one that we're all taking very seriously. We want to do a great job for the archdiocese."

"The talent and the passion that [the members] bring to the search committee position us to do the job well. We're committed to do it to the very best of our ability."

Part of that will be to cast a wide net for candidates.

"I think it's very important that we find a person of vision and leadership who can

take us to the next level of education and catechesis," Lentz said. "I think it's very important that they do a very thorough search, and that it be a national search."

"I think there will be a large candidate pool because the job is very attractive," Kuntz said. "It's a very meaningful position. On the flip side, we're looking for a 10. And there are not a lot of 10s in this world."

As Kuntz reflected on finding a winning person to serve as executive director of OCE, his thoughts turned back to his experience as a football coach.

"We're going to expect our new executive director to win Super Bowls in the world of education, just like Mickey has." †

2009-10 facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Summary

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis operate as an extension of the family to unite faith and educational excellence through Gospel values, high educational standards, prayer and sacraments to achieve the teaching mission of the Church—learning, teaching and sharing our faith. The schools accomplish their educational mission through their responsible use of resources generously shared by the parents, faculty, parishioners and the larger community. There are 72 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; 61 are elementary schools (29 in Marion County) and 11 are high schools (7 in Marion County). Seven of the high schools are interparochial (archdiocesan) and four are privately owned.

- More than 1,800 dedicated people staff the schools.

- 57 elementary schools have before-school and/or after-school extended care programs.

- 46 schools have preschool or daycare programs.

- 7 Indianapolis center-city schools serve 74 percent minority, 47 percent non-parishioners and approximately 78 percent qualified for the Federal Lunch Program.

- 6 center-city schools were formed into a consortium in 2004, now known as the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies, to serve urban families, monitor and control the finances for the schools, share resources and staff, and minimize the financial burden of the parishes for support of the schools.

- Catholic schools in the archdiocese cost more than \$100 million per year to operate and save Indiana taxpayers more than \$214 million each year (estimated).

- The graduation rate for the Catholic high schools is more than 98 percent (in four years or less), and more than 97 percent of graduates go on to higher education.

- 22 National Blue Ribbons have been earned by schools in the archdiocese since 2003 through the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School program.

- 25 schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have earned a total of 31 Blue Ribbons since 1985, the most by

any archdiocese in the country.

- Schools are using information technology in instruction, and see replacement and renewal and training for technology as a high priority.

- Sixteen elementary schools are currently involved in a four-year Strategic Management and Development Process to build their capacity for strategic planning, attract enrollment and raise funds toward their preferred future.

The Schools Team of the Office of Catholic Education works to provide guidance, support, training, and processes for curriculum development, assessment, school accreditation, school safety, administrative employment and leadership development for school administrators and teachers.

Project EXCEED Continuation and Replication

Project EXCEED (Excellence in Catholic Expectation for Education) represented a commitment to raise student academic achievement through a new set of Three R's in Catholic schools. The project was the result of a historic \$10 million challenge grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to private schools in Marion County for school improvement from 2002-06. The challenge to the archdiocese was met with nearly \$8 million in matching gifts from generous corporate, foundation, government and individual donors. The program has implemented innovative, measurable and sustainable best-practice strategies to:

- Recruit, retain, reward and develop the best school teachers and administrators.
- Teacher Advancement Program (TAP).
- Network for Catholic School Excellence (NCSE).
- Raise the level of students' performance and report their progress.

- Curriculum management and Assessment.

- Standards alignment.
- Monitoring performance (value added assessment).

Catholic schools:	72
Elementary schools:	61 (29 in Marion County)
High schools:	11 (seven in Marion County)
(includes four private high schools)	
Preschool programs:	46 (Pre-K programs for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds)
Extended care programs:	57 (Pre-K-8, before and after-school care or both)

Professional staff: 1,800 (full-time and part-time)

Enrollment 2009-10 (Unofficial Oct. 1, 2009, enrollment):

Total pre-school-12:	22,580
Preschool:	1,779
Elementary (K-8):	15,158
High school (9-12):	5,643

Religious composition:	Elementary	High school
Catholic:	85 %	90 %
Non-Catholic:	15 %	10 %

NOTE: Approximate demographic figures for seven Indianapolis center-city schools are: 74 % minority, 47 % non-parishioners and approximately 78 % qualified for Federal Lunch Program.

High school graduation rate (2009):	98.2 % (in four years or less)
Percent of graduates entering college (2009):	97.4 %

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

Average tuition rates, first child (estimated):	Catholic	Non-Catholic
Elementary schools:	\$3,458	\$4,616
Interparochial high schools:	\$7,000	\$9,000

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.

Estimated operating costs of Catholic schools in the archdiocese FYE 2009:	
Elementary schools cost-per-pupil:	\$4,683
Interparochial high schools cost-per-pupil:	\$8,156

Total operating cost of archdiocesan schools: \$100 million
(Estimated using 2008-09 K-12 enrollment (18,817) excluding capital costs and private high school costs)

Annual savings to Indiana taxpayers (estimate): \$214 million
(Estimated at aggregate Indiana public school 2008 K-12 composite estimated expenditure per pupil of \$11,366 x 2008-09 Catholic school K-12 enrollment (18,817 students) excluding private high schools)

- Reach out to children with special learning needs or advanced capabilities.
- Urban Schools Program.
- Latino outreach.
- Special needs.
- Technology program.

Through the recent Legacy for Our Mission capital campaign, the Office of Catholic Education plans to sustain the most effective EXCEED programs and replicate these throughout the archdiocese. †

The bond of belief

High school sports strive to teach values and deepen faith

By Bob Kelly
Special to *The Criterion*

The spirit and intensity often rise to a higher level when teams from Catholic high schools compete against each other in sports.

And yet there is a bond that connects the coaches and student-athletes of these schools—the bond of faith.

In fact, one of the emphases of Catholic high school sports programs is how coaches strive to deepen their players' faith during athletic seasons.

Ty Hunt, the head coach of the varsity football team at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, works hard to get his players involved in events where they have the opportunity to get in touch with their faith.

"One of the first things I did was to start going to Mass as a team on the Fridays before we play the game," Hunt says. "We have started to transfer this program over to our basketball teams, too."

"We take the kids to the chapel, not to pray for a good performance or a win, but to instill upon them it is to pray for their blessings of good health and to give thanks for the support we get from our community."

The girls' basketball program at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis also looks for opportunities to help the players build their faith in God and each other.

"We have a pre-game devotional, and we look at a passage of Scripture and find other motivational tools, such as poems to help them build life lessons," says Alicia Michaelson, an assistant girls' basketball coach at Bishop Chatard High School.

Michaelson recalled how the team reached out to others last season by raising money to support cancer research.

"I think the girls got a lot out of it because they were doing something special, and it just did not pertain to athletics," she says.

As the head coach of the girls' volleyball program at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Missy Marsh has her team end each practice with a prayer. She also tries to build team camaraderie and character through community service efforts.

"We are involved in a program called 'Lucious' Training Wheels,'" Marsh notes. "The girls teach special-needs kids how to ride a bike. It shows them how they can be a role model, and they find out that there is more to life than just playing the game of volleyball."

Besides trying to help build the players' faith in God, the girls' softball program at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School has another

'It is to help build faith in each other so they can count on each other, and become friends and not just teammates. There is more to it than competition.'

— Tom Moorman
Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School softball coach

goal—building the teammates' faith in each other.

Scecina softball coach Tom Moorman sets aside times during the season when he doesn't have a practice so the student-athletes can help each other with homework or assist each other with other concerns in their lives.

"It is to help build faith in each other so they can count on each other, and become friends and not just teammates," Moorman says. "There is more to it than competition."

Jean Kesterson says that faith is at the core of the girls' volleyball program that she coaches at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

"We talk about our mission statement with the players on how we want to promote our faith on and off the volleyball court," Kesterson says. "We are representatives of our faith, and when we play we want to set the example through our good sportsmanship."

(Bob Kelly is the editor of the Web site www.sportschronicle.net, which focuses on covering a variety of sports for four Indianapolis archdiocesan high schools: Bishop Chatard, Cardinal Ritter, Roncalli and Scecina Memorial. The Web site also covers sports for two private schools, Cathedral and Heritage Christian high schools in Indianapolis.) †



Father John Hollowell celebrates Mass on Sept. 25, 2009, for members of the varsity football team of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis. As a chaplain, teacher and assistant football coach at Cardinal Ritter, Father Hollowell celebrates Mass on the Friday afternoon before every football game—continuing the emphasis that head coach Ty Hunt has of making faith a crucial part of the teenagers' football experience.



Above, during a basketball game on Dec. 19, 2009, Bishop Chatard High School basketball player Nikki Kimack, left, is part of the Lady Trojans' swarm that surrounds Neely Marks, a player from Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School. Cathy Doyle, right, and Rachael Kimack add to the pressure.

Left, a Scecina softball player heads toward home plate in a game during the 2009 season. Scecina softball coach Tom Moorman strives to build his players' faith in each other and in their relationship with God.



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