

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SUPPLEMENT



## Catholic schools are our shared inheritance and opportunity

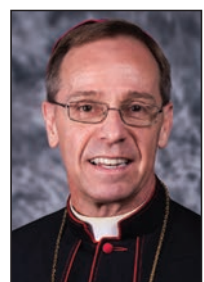
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is a great blessing to celebrate the apostolate of Catholic schools with you!

Our Catholic schools throughout central and southern Indiana are an integral part of the incredible foundation that, by the grace of God and the witness of many generations of the faithful, is our shared inheritance, responsibility and opportunity.

During the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Father, in union with the bishops of the world, proclaimed that Catholic schools are of the "utmost importance." Indeed, it is "abundantly clear in an unbroken list of statements" from both the Holy See's Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education and from the bishops of the United States that Catholic schools are "the most efficacious means available to the Church for the education of children and young people."

Our Catholic schools are the "fullest and best" opportunity to "promote the integration of religious truth and values with the rest of life."



With Christ, the Master Teacher, as their cornerstone, these ministries of hope make the Gospels and the sacraments a way of life. They continue Christ's own ministry as priest, prophet and king through their worship, faithful teaching and witness to the world.

Please join me this week in thanking and praying for all who have made, and who continue to make, the mission of our Catholic schools possible.

Please join me in praying for the future of this essential apostolate. The Church "earnestly entreats pastors and all the faithful to spare no sacrifice in helping Catholic schools fulfill their function in a continually more perfect way."

May our ministry in this generation be a "prophetic choice," ensuring excellent and accessible Catholic schools both for today and for the many tomorrows to come.

Yours in Christ, Our Teacher,

*+ Charles C. Thompson*

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson





# Catholic schools prepare ‘problem solvers’ bound by faith

*(Editor’s note: Science, technology, engineering and math. These four areas comprise what has come to be known as STEM fields—areas of projected job growth by as much as 28 percent by 2024. Catholic schools around central and southern Indiana are finding creative ways to introduce these areas to their students—and even to parents. On this page, The Criterion takes a look at three schools that are embracing the future—and faith—by using innovative ways to ramp up their students’ excitement and knowledge around the areas of STEM.)*

By Natalie Hoefler

Megan Schaller and Ryan Scharr have become both coaching staff and cheerleaders when it comes to the STEM approach at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis.

The two recently completed the Trustey Family STEM Teaching Fellows program through the Center for STEM Education at the University of Notre Dame. The program focuses on increasing student interest and learning in STEM disciplines through the support and growth of high-quality STEM teachers.

Since starting the program in 2015, they have worked with other teachers at St. Barnabas to incorporate STEM projects and concepts into their curricula, even in religion and language arts classes.

“A STEM lesson is when you take any two letters or more [from the acronym], and both are being used and graded in a project,” explains Schaller, the school’s

STEM coordinator and fifth- and sixth-grade science teacher. “Teachers plan a full STEM project, and each teacher sees how they can fill in,” such as using a religion class to brainstorm how STEM components could be used to address social justice issues like poverty, then writing about the topic in an English class.

But class time is limited. So in the fall of 2015, the school implemented STEM Days. One Friday each month is set aside to focus entirely on completing a project.

“The students enjoy that they get to do a whole project from beginning to end,” says Scharr, the school’s assistant principal. “They’re given a problem with real-world effects, and use what they learn to work with other people. They have to collaborate, engage socially, take leadership roles.”

The momentum didn’t stop there. “Parents hear from kids [that] they love STEM,” says Schaller. “We wanted parents to see kids engaging in STEM challenges, and also themselves to do a [project] or problem-solve or test. ... There are a lot of emotions involved in taking on real world challenges. [We wanted them] to see what it’s like to be frustrated or be exhilarated at success.”

So in the fall of 2016, the school hosted its first Family STEM Night. More than 300 parents and students took part in the two-hour event working on projects together. The second annual event last fall drew nearly 600 parents and children.

“There’s this void in the world today of problem solvers,” says Scharr. “We’re



Maddox Novotney launches his improvised “car” while Matt Maddox marks its speed with a timer during the second annual Family STEM Night on Nov. 16, 2017, at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis. (Submitted photo)

doing our best at St. Barnabas [to see] that all of our students, regardless of gender or socio-economic status or cultural

background, can work together to solve problems, to take real world struggles and brainstorm solutions.” †

## STEM plants roots of ‘cool’ learning in New Albany Deanery

By Natalie Hoefler

Laura Swessel, a high school science teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, knows the importance of STEM fields first hand—she used to own an engineering consulting firm.

“Just working in a manufacturing environment now, you have to have some familiarity with computers, either on the user or the programming side,” she notes. “Regardless of what field you go into, the critical thinking you gain from STEM helps you with any field you end up in.”

To provide students with more hands-on STEM experiences, Swessel started STEM summer camps in 2016 for youths throughout the New Albany Deanery in first grade through ninth grade.

During the camps, which are broken down by grade ranges, participants take part in projects ranging from basic computer coding and making a volcano to creating a

storm-proof house—which she tests against a leaf blower she calibrated to simulate category one through four hurricanes.

To accommodate those on the summer camp waiting list, Swessel created a STEM club to meet five times during the school year. More than 110 students participated last spring.

Both the STEM club and the camp include visits by professionals in those fields. Among those who spoke to the youths were a dentist, an aerospace engineer, an electrical engineer, an emergency room director and a statistician.

In addition to getting students excited about STEM fields, Swessel uses the camp and club as an opportunity for high school students to serve as helpers. Not only do the older teens get experience mentoring, but it helps kids to see “it’s cool” to like STEM fields, she says.

Fourth-grader Lydia Cospers says she likes to learn about “my interests such as chain reactions, engineering, and

freestyle math,” while fifth-grader Matt Wetzel says he “love[s] being able to experiment with creating my own video games.” Both are members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg and attend the parish school.

And being deanery-wide and open to non-Catholics, the camp and club allow students to meet youths from other schools.

“I like meeting new people from throughout the deanery,” says Ginger Atzinger, a member of Holy Family Parish in New Albany who attends sixth grade at



In this photo from June 28, 2016, Laura Swessel, a science teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, works with fourth-through sixth-graders participating in the school’s summer STEM Camp, which is open to all students in the New Albany Deanery. (Submitted photo)

the parish school. “I love learning about the importance of STEM and how it affects how we live, and I like having something to look forward to after school.” †

## Students ‘dig’ discovering new ways to see the world

By Natalie Hoefler

The Thanksgiving feast at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus last year was particularly special: among the fare enjoyed by students and staff members was lettuce grown by the fifth-grade class at the school’s new outdoor learning lab, an area containing a permanent greenhouse nearly 25 feet by 17 feet in size built next to raised garden beds.

“We asked every grade level to plan a unit to use the outdoor learning lab to cover the science standards for their grade,” says principal Helen Heckman. “We brought together our science, math and technology teachers so they can better collaborate and look at STEM initiatives.”

St. Bartholomew middle school science teacher Bridget Steele gushes about the opportunities provided by the outdoor learning lab.

“All middle school students will complete the Junior Master Gardeners Program over the next two years and become certified,” she says. “[A] rocks and minerals dig site allows students to

study the rock cycle while identifying rocks that they dig out themselves.”

The area also offers a worm farm “where [students] learn about the importance of soil,” adds Steele.

Middle school students will collect temperature readings and collect data on decomposition rates to engineer the best composting system, and fourth graders will learn about the importance of native species and the interdependence of pollinators and flowering plants in the lab’s butterfly garden and monarch watch station.

Steele notes the importance of math in “evaluating data on growth measurements and other activities related to the greenhouse, but also on weather-related readings, data collection and graphing at our weather station.”

And the current integration of the new space into class curricula “is just the tip of the iceberg,” she says, noting that the outdoor learning lab is still in its first phase.

Steele is not the only one excited about the outdoor learning lab.

“We worked the dirt, then we planted the seeds row by row,” says fifth-grader

Amelia Fay of her class’ lettuce project. “It was really cool and fun. It was very delicious when we cooked it.”

Third-grader Ella Campbell, who joined her classmates in testing how plants grow in various soils, thought it was “cool because we could see how [the plants] grew each day.”

The students’ enthusiasm proves a point for Steele: “Kids learn best from doing authentic and relevant projects.

“The motivation and depth of learning are just two wonderful outcomes of project-based STEM-related content. The Outdoor Learning Lab naturally connects our students to our community partners



Raised garden beds near the new outdoor learning lab at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus offer students an opportunity to study the growth of plants. (Submitted photo)

and real-world problems.

“Our students discover a love of learning, [and see that] digging in the dirt, sorting seeds, handling bees and worms—this stuff isn’t gross, boring or scary, but real and amazing.” †



# 'Team Jesus' approach proves to be a big hit for school

By John Shaughnessy

The "aha" moment came for Lisa Vogel as the Catholic school principal dealt with two students who were constantly arguing on the playground a year ago.

Trying to find a way to change their attitudes, Vogel suddenly heard herself telling them, "We're all on the same team. We're all on Team Jesus!"

Just as soon as she said those last two words, Vogel knew she had the theme that she hoped would guide the students, the teachers, the staff and herself at St. Mary School in North Vernon during this current school year.

So on the first day of school in August, she gathered everyone in a big huddle—"because that's what teams do," she says—and shared the theme of "Team Jesus."

Trying to add a concrete symbol to that theme, Vogel showed everyone that day a huge sports bag normally used for storing and carrying baseball bats. Then she asked the students what they should put into the bag to represent Team Jesus. Soon, a Bible was placed into the bag. So was a crucifix. Then a rosary.

Vogel also told everyone that one of the things that teammates often do is give "high fives" to each other, so she encouraged everyone to adopt that practice too.

"I told them that each of the five fingers represents one of the words I wanted them to say to each other—'I am here for you,'" Vogel recalls. "So when they see someone struggling on the playground or in the classroom, they should just offer them a high-five and they'll know you are there for them."

That practice has caught on at the school. Teachers high-five students. Students high-five students. And teachers high-five teachers.

"I love seeing our team having each other's backs," Vogel says.



The smiles of Kaelen Hauersperger, left, Adylin Cox, Kaylen Cox, Brooklyn Woods, Eliza Kreutzjans and Drew Spurlock reflect their support for "Team Jesus," the approach that guides students and staff members during this school year at St. Mary School in North Vernon. (Submitted photo)

That caring for each other has extended to a concern for others—a concern that's reflected in the school's monthly service projects that are led by a different class each month.

The eighth-grade class organized a collection of new and used shoes for the people of Haiti. The seventh-grade students went to the three Catholic cemeteries in Jennings County, grooming some of the gravesites and placing the silk flower arrangements that they had made on some of the graves.

When each service project has been completed, each class has put a symbol of their efforts into the Team Jesus baseball bat bag. So the eighth graders added a pair of flip-flops in there. And the seventh graders placed one of their flower arrangements in the bag.

The efforts for Team Jesus have left their mark on the students.

Fifth-grader Charlie Taylor confesses that he really didn't think much about the concept of Team Jesus when Vogel initially shared it, but he saw the difference the approach made when his father, Brian, went into a hospital to receive a heart transplant. His classmates rallied around him and another fifth-grader whose mother is battling cancer. The class focused its monthly service project on raising money to help school families reeling from such concerns.

"I like that it helps people who need it," Charlie says.

Third-grader Aubree Crane shares how her class built a "rosary walk" on the lawn of the school during October—the month of the rosary—creating and coloring pictures that showed the beads and the mysteries of the rosary. Then each class in the school used the rosary walk daily to

pray at least a decade for others.

"I thought it was a really good idea—and a good opportunity to pray for people who need it," Aubree says. "I think it's a good way to get closer to God, and do better things."

That's exactly what Vogel wants for everyone on Team Jesus. And sometimes the blessings of that approach come in ways that surprise even her.

"Before Christmas, I was a little distracted walking down the hall, and this second-grader was coming toward me," she recalls. "As she approached me, she had her hand in the air, and she said, 'I am here for you, Mrs. Vogel.' And she gave me a high-five."

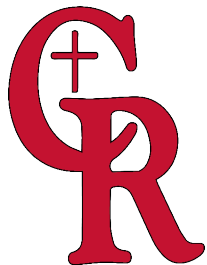
"I said to myself, 'I think we're getting this.'"

"I want my students to have empathy for everyone. Jesus loved everyone. I want my students to not just love their best friends, but to love everyone." †

# The WEST DEANERY Celebrates CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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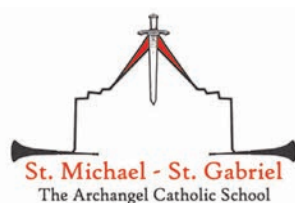


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# High schools build up relationships with nearby parish schools

By Sean Gallagher

Indiana's state government has launched a series of initiatives over the last decade or more that recognize parents' freedom to choose the best education for their children.

They include allowing children to enroll in public school systems beyond the one in which they live, creating charter schools, establishing tax credits for contributions to organizations that provide scholarships to private schools and, most notably, the state's voucher program, which is arguably the most robust in the nation.

This empowerment of parents to use their freedom to ensure the best education for their children has created an educational marketplace in which schools must, in a sense, market themselves to parents and students, showing them how the educational experience they offer would be best for them.

Leaders in Catholic high schools across central and southern Indiana recognize this challenge and are responding to it.

"It is absolutely vital that we can get information on Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School out to the public," said Kyle Powers, Cardinal Ritter's director of admissions. "Our students do so many great things academically, athletically and in the community, and we want the city of Indianapolis to see how well prepared our students are for post-high school life."

An important way that Cardinal Ritter lets the broader community know about the education it offers is by building up relationships with parish grade schools in the Indianapolis West Deanery.

This happens in a variety of initiatives, such as academic competitions among parish schools sponsored by Cardinal Ritter and having grade school students come to Cardinal Ritter on Halloween to go trick-or-treating from classroom to classroom.

Other Catholic high schools in the archdiocese work in similar ways with nearby Catholic schools.

"Building community is at the heart of a great Franciscan Catholic school," said Diane Laake, president of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg. "Our commitment to evangelizing, empowering and educating our youth is best achieved in a K-12 educational experience. We build on the foundation of faith established in our nearby schools, and provide the essential tools as our young adults make those critical decisions about the next phase of their life journey."

Among the partnerships that the Oldenburg Academy has established is a program where academy students tutor students of St. Louis School in Batesville.

Samantha Sheets, a junior at Oldenburg Academy, was tutored in math by an academy student when she was a student at St. Louis.

"It was extremely beneficial and helped me score higher on my tests," Samantha said, adding that having been helped in that way makes being a student now at Oldenburg Academy "more special because I now have the opportunity to return the help that was given to me while I was a student at St. Louis."

Laake said that having relationships with nearby schools through tutoring



Students from parish schools in the Indianapolis West Deanery pose with Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School students in Indianapolis on Oct. 31, 2017, when the grade school students came to Cardinal Ritter to trick-or-treat in its classrooms. Cardinal Ritter and other Catholic high schools across central and southern Indiana foster relationships with nearby parish schools to help younger students learn more, and to enhance the educational experience in their own schools. (Submitted photos)

and sponsoring academic competitions enhances the education it can offer.

"When students serve as an Oldenburg Academy ambassador in any of these programs with our nearby schools, they serve as role models," she said. "This responsibility inspires them to always be and do their best. Often, it also helps to reveal a skill or talent they may possess, such as public speaking, teaching, organizational skills or writing. It helps to ensure that they experience being part of a larger community of faith, too."

Nancy Buening, principal of St. Mary School in Greensburg, appreciates the relationship St. Mary has with Oldenburg Academy, especially in the academic competitions in which St. Mary students participate, and thinks it is a way to help her students see ways to continue their Catholic education.

"Any time you can get students working with others or performing in front of an audience, you are building on skills that they will use for a lifetime," Buening said. "We support Catholic education and want students to know that there are other alternatives. I feel like it is a way we can extend our mission even when they are no longer in our building."

Building up community is part of a Catholic school's identity. So fostering relationships with nearby Catholic grade schools isn't just a marketing ploy for Tyler Mayer, vice president for institutional advancement at Bishop Chatard High School in the Indianapolis North Deanery.

"It is our responsibility as a member of the North Deanery to share our resources," he said. "If we have the ability to share resources that will enhance the educational experience of students across the North Deanery, then we need to do everything we can to collaborate with the parish schools ..."

Bishop Chatard does this by allowing deanery schools to use their facilities free of charge for extracurricular activities, helping schools in setting and implementing technology plans, offering

a wide variety of summer camps and workshops, and welcoming parish youth ministers to visit with students from their parishes in the school's cafeteria on schools days.

While Chatard maintains such programs to assist deanery schools, Mayer said they also enhance the educational experience it can provide to its high school students.

"Our unique relationships with the parishes and schools of the North Deanery allows a level of support that can be found nowhere else," he said. "Bishop Chatard, in large part due to the unique relationship with the North Deanery parishes and schools, offers the strongest college preparatory academic program and faith formation experience for most students and families."

At the same time, Mayer and other leaders at Bishop Chatard recognize that, with many other high quality private and public high schools close by, they can't presume that families and students will choose their school.

"We have two goals for each student that comes to Bishop Chatard: college and heaven," Mayer said. "There are



Sports camps are among the ways that Catholic high schools in the archdiocese try to make a continuing connection with students from nearby parish schools. Here, Josh Coons, a student-athlete of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, shares a tip during a football camp for third- to eighth-graders at the school in the summer of 2017.

many great choices in regard to high school. However, they are not the same. Each school has a different approach and focus and, therefore, a different culture. Bishop Chatard offers a genuine Catholic education.

"It is our responsibility to reach out to as many families as we can and provide them with a genuine understanding of who we are, and what we are all about." †

## 'We were being what Jesus wants us to be,' Seton High School senior says

By John Shaughnessy

As one of 24 seniors at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, Sarah Gray offers an extensive list of the ways that a Catholic education has enhanced her life.

"It's let me get a well-rounded education while helping me stay on track with my faith. Being in a small Catholic school, we're really close to



Sarah Gray

our teachers. They really focus on you as a person and on your learning.

"Plus we have theology class, we go to Mass at least once a week, and we pray in every class. That has helped me draw closer to God and my

faith every single day."

The student-athlete in volleyball and basketball says she also appreciates the opportunities her school has given her to live her faith, including a weeklong mission trip in the summer of 2017 when she helped in a homeless shelter in Virginia.

"It was cool seeing how we were being what Jesus wants us to be—being servants to people."

She also savors the friendships with her classmates, many of whom have been together since they began pre-school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School 14 years ago.

"That's made us really close. Plus we go on retreats every year in high school, and that's made us even closer. I've definitely grown in my faith because of the community we have here." †



# ‘A dream come true’ connects school community

By John Shaughnessy

Luz Caldera had the dream for a long time.

The dream connected her childhood home in Mexico, the Indianapolis Catholic school that has become part of her family, and the faith that has guided her life.

Caldera’s dream became a reality recently during a special celebration at Central Catholic School in Indianapolis on Dec. 12, 2017.

On that day, the school unveiled a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe during an emotional ceremony that struck to the hearts of the 243 students—and their families—who represent 86 percent of the school’s enrollment.

“I was close to tears,” recalls Caldera, the school’s administrative assistant who played a critical role in obtaining the statue that was made in Guadalupe, Mexico. “I felt a comfort, a peace, to have Our Lady of Guadalupe so close. Every time a parent walks into the school now, they look at the statue and their eyes shine. I believe it’s brought a new pride and joy to our school.”

Caldera knows well the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the special significance it holds to natives of Mexico—how the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico, and how on Dec. 12 of that year, she filled his cloak with roses, a cloak that bore her image when he removed the roses.

“It’s the only big miracle we’ve known,” she says. “When people ask for something, she’s the one we ask for help. Of course, we have to do our part always.”

That’s exactly what the community of Central Catholic School did to give the statue a home.

When principal Ruth Hurrelle arrived at the school for her first year during the summer of 2017, she talked to Caldera about the school’s traditions—and the traditions they should add.

“Luz told me how important the Guadalupe tradition and story is to the Hispanic community, specifically the Mexican community,” Hurrelle says. “She talked about how much it would mean to have a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I said, ‘Let’s get one!’”

“Luz’s mother was already planning a trip to Mexico to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. So we thought it would be amazing to get a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Guadalupe, Mexico.”



Central Catholic School students Ingrid Reyes, left, Yasmin Salazar, Lesly Reyes, Stephanie Jasso and Natalia Jasso dress festively for the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, 2017, at their Indianapolis school. (Submitted photo)

So did the school community, which began a series of grassroots efforts to raise more than \$2,000 for the statue.

Parents who worked at local businesses put up boxes by cash registers, asking for donations for the statue. The school sold suckers for a quarter and cups of *horchata*, asking a dollar for the popular Mexican drink.

“The largest donation we got was \$20,” Hurrelle says. “We did a basket raffle for each class that ended up raising several hundred dollars. That put us over the top.”

The large statue was unveiled at the school on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a ceremony in which students in traditional Mexican attire paraded toward the statue. There, they placed roses at its base.

The statue was then blessed and dedicated during a Mass for the students and their families at the school, which is one of the five Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education Academies in the archdiocese.

“Our families are very faith-filled people,” Hurrelle says. “They want their children to attend a Catholic school, and they’re grateful for a Catholic education. It gives me so much hope for the future of

the Catholic Church.”

The statue also symbolizes hope for the present, Caldera insists.

“The students see her as part of our life now,” Caldera says. “It’s hard to believe that we did it, that we have something like that at our school now. It’s like a dream come true.” †

Luz Caldera cherishes having a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe inside the main entrance of Central Catholic School in Indianapolis because it represents the Hispanic culture of many of the school’s families. The school community used grassroots efforts to raise more than \$2,000 for the statue which was made in Guadalupe, the community in Mexico where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)



## ‘My class is just like a family’

By John Shaughnessy

Leigh Anne Gaminde was 8 when she faced the kind of difficult transition that would have challenged someone much older.

She moved from the Philippines to the southern Indiana community of Madison to live with her mother—a transition that also included starting at a new school when her command of the English language was rudimentary.



Leigh Anne Gaminde

Ten years later, Leigh Anne looks back on that time at Pope John XXIII School and still marvels at the reception she received from her classmates as a new third-grader.

“It was very scary for me because I wasn’t familiar with anything in America. I was expecting them to be mean because I was different from everyone else. But it wasn’t like that. I’ve never felt any discrimination, and no one bullied me because I wasn’t from here. I’ve just been

welcomed since the time I came here. It just really eased my nerves, and gave me another look at people.”

That feeling has intensified during the past nine years, says Leigh Anne, now one of 28 seniors at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison.

“My class is just like a family. We’ve helped each other grow.”

So has the Catholic education she’s received at the two Catholic schools in Madison.

“It’s helped me get closer to God and my faith. And it’s helped me discover myself more. At Shawe, we do things that challenge us and push us out of our comfort zone. It’s made me realize I’m capable of so much more than I thought. It’s made me more courageous and outgoing with people, too.

“Being with the same teachers, I’m much more comfortable talking to them. I’m not afraid to ask them for help. And being with the same people, I’ve made long-term friends. I know they’re going to be there for me even after we’re out of school. I’m really thankful for everyone. Being a senior, I’ve learned to appreciate everyone even more.” †

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# Bond of faith draws two schools together during disaster

By John Shaughnessy

As Father James Wilmoth shares the story, it soon becomes clear that it captures the heart of everything that's good about Catholic education.

After all, it's the story of the students of one Catholic school reaching out to help the students of another Catholic school that was severely damaged by a natural disaster—the story of two schools that once weren't even aware of each other coming together through a common bond of faith.

Then there's an angle to the story that Father Wilmoth would be the first to downplay—the story of how this 78-year-old pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis once again showed his 53-year commitment to Catholic education by putting the needs of a devastated Catholic school community before the needs of his parish's own school.

The story started in August of 2017 when Father Wilmoth watched televised news reports showing Hurricane Harvey roaring through Rockport, Texas—a hurricane that is believed to be the strongest to make landfall in Texas.

"You saw the devastation and how it displaced people and destroyed homes," he recalls. "I thought, 'Dag-gone-it, we're going to do something.'"

So he had a meeting with the staff of St. Roch School, told them he wanted to donate the school's upcoming walk-a-thon funds to a Catholic school hit by the hurricane, and asked St. Roch's principal Amy Wilson to call the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, to find a school that needed help.

She found one in Sacred Heart School in Rockport.

"Their windows were blown out. Their computers and rooms were ruined," says

Father Wilmoth, who soon shared his plan with the children of St. Roch School.

"I told the kids I'd like for you to raise \$20,000, and we won't keep any of it. All the money will go to Sacred Heart School," he recalls. "Then I talked it up at church one Sunday. The kids caught onto it, and it took off. We got to \$20,000 and met our goal. So I said, 'Let's do a goal plus. Maybe we can get to \$25,000.' People really responded. We ended up sending them close to \$26,500."

The people of St. Roch School and Parish also ended up receiving a wealth of thanks from the community of Sacred Heart School, a school that re-opened on Jan. 4.

"I am so amazed at your awesome total donation to our school," wrote Sacred Heart principal Kathy Barnes in a thank-you note to St. Roch. "You and your school, St. Roch, really ROCK!! I just can't imagine how you raised so much money in having your Walk-a-Thon, but I am impressed!"

"Please, please relay to your students, families and staff our gratitude and appreciation for not only your check, but for your prayers. Those heartfelt prayers are helping us, I'm sure. May God bless you all abundantly."

God has, Father Wilmoth says. That's why the school and the parish wanted to share their blessings.

"It didn't surprise me that people in St. Roch would respond that way," he says. "But the amount of money we got did surprise me. I was so proud of how they responded to other people. Those people needed to understand we are their brothers and sisters even though they didn't know us."

St. Roch's efforts reflected one of his favorite Scripture passages, he noted: "Whatever you do for the least of my



As pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, Father James Wilmoth has always had a close connection with the students at the parish school—a connection that led to the students raising more than \$26,000 earlier this year to help a Catholic school in Texas devastated by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017. (Submitted photo)

brothers and sisters, you're doing for me" (Mt 25:40).

He believes that passage is the essence of the Catholic faith and Catholic education.

"I've loved Catholic education during my 53 years as a priest," Father Wilmoth says. "I look back on my life and see what it's done for me. And

Catholic education has been a terrific contributor to all of society, not just our Church. Thousands and thousands of people have benefitted from Catholic education.

"That's what Catholic education is all about—the fact that Jesus is the focus of our schools. That's what makes it so successful." †



We're **A** rated by the Indiana Department of Education!

- Indianapolis Urban League 2017 School Excellence Award
- State recognition for pass rates on Advanced Placement exams
- Biomedical Science program (Project Lead the Way curriculum)
- Dual-credit courses
- Catholic Theology all four years
- Weekly all-school Masses
- All IHSAA sports



Students from St. Roch School in Indianapolis show their joy during their walk-a-thon day when they helped to raise more than \$26,000 to assist a Catholic school in Texas that was devastated by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017. (Submitted photo)

## 'Catholic education has become fundamental to my life,' student says

By John Shaughnessy

After two years at a public high school, Nick Ford is happy to be returning to his Catholic education roots by attending Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.



Nick Ford

"There's such a big difference in the two," says Nick, a junior at the archdiocesan high school for the Indianapolis North Deanery. "One thing that I've noticed is that all my teachers

and classmates are kind and caring and want the best for you.

"Catholic education has become fundamental to my life. I love having Mass every week and starting every class with prayer. I know I'm happier when I'm in the presence of so many Christians and Catholics like myself. I feel it benefits me

and builds me physically, emotionally and spiritually."

He also believes it's leading him to one of the most important goals of his life—a better relationship with God.

"It's what I'm striving for. It's what we're all striving for," says Nick, a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis who graduated from St. Joan of Arc School in 2015. "My relationship with God personally is very unique. Whenever I go to receive the body and blood of Christ, I always feel that presence of God in a physical sense. And I try to listen as best as I can to what he tells me every day."

His experiences at Bishop Chatard have helped him in that effort, he says.

"Every day, I've noticed that I'm just chipping away at any imperfections. I know I won't be perfect, but I have to try. Being in this Catholic environment helps me not just as an academic scholar, but as an all-around person." †

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# Research reveals the lasting influence of Catholic education

By Gina Kuntz Fleming  
Archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools

Did you know that graduates of Catholic schools are more likely to vote, earn higher wages, be civically engaged, be more committed to service as adults, and even demonstrate more tolerance of diverse views than their peers?



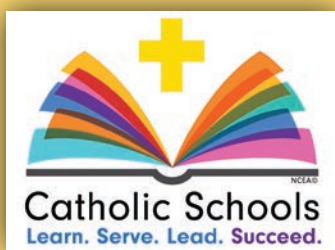
Research over the past two decades continues to illustrate the favorable results produced through Catholic education and formation.

Catholic schools build communities that live and act the fundamental conviction stated so beautifully by Pope Francis: “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free.”

This is our first and most important task in Catholic education in central and southern Indiana: evangelization. That is, proclaiming the love, mercy and grace of God.

Pope Francis teaches us what this means: “Proclaiming Christ means

showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties. There is an inseparable bond, our Holy Father teaches, between truth, goodness and beauty” (“The Joy of the Gospel,” #167).



This is why we need Catholic schools.

We need *schools of the Gospel*, schools of truth, goodness and beauty.

With exceptional Catholic school leaders and teachers, dedicated staff and volunteers,

committed families and supportive pastors and religious, our Catholic schools continue to thrive *and* have room to grow further across the more than 13,000 square miles of our archdiocese!

Many thanks go to Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and all of you who support our Catholic schools as an essential ministry of our Church.

Through your prayer, leadership, volunteerism and financial support, our young people are grounded in the very principles of our faith that will aid them in proclaiming their love for God, and all that is good, right and just.

May God bless each of you and all those who serve in Catholic education today and in the future. †

# Educator sets high expectations for students—and herself

By John Shaughnessy

As an educator in a Catholic school, Christine Exline sets the standard high for herself and her students.

“Quality Catholic education models the life of Christ,” notes Exline, who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. “As teachers, we must be the body of Christ. We will hold our students to high expectations, but we will guide them along the path to meet these expectations.”

That combination of challenge and Christ-like concern marks Exline’s approach as she serves as the director of support services at St. Monica School in Indianapolis. Working with students in different grades who need extra help, Exline sees the difference she can make to these children—and the difference they make to her.

She shares the story of one of her most rewarding experiences in her 18 years of

teaching in Catholic schools. It involves a former eighth-grade student and a conference she scheduled for him—a conference to develop an educational plan for him.

“As an eighth grader, students are welcome to be part of the conversation about their education,” Exline says. “He did not want to attend the conference. He was nervous, and did not want to hear what was said about him. I encouraged him to be part of his story; that while it may be hard to listen to strengths and weaknesses, I wanted him to really take part in the conversation.

“Reassuring him that it was completely his decision, I attended the conference without him. Five minutes into the conference, he knocked on the door, having left recess to join me. He was nervous and uncomfortable, but he showed up. He knew I was showing up for him, and he wanted to show up for me.”



As the director of support services at St. Monica School in Indianapolis, Christine Exline leads a session with Elena Rosario, Jordan Mink and Teddy Isakson. (Submitted photo)

A few weeks later, the youth began a conversation with Exline, telling her he wanted to be like her when he grew up.

“He wasn’t sure he would be a teacher, but no matter what, he wanted to help people,” she recalls. “Tearing up in front

of a small group of eighth-grade boys was a first for me, but I didn’t mind. That day, I knew how much I meant to them. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt I was where I needed to be, doing what I needed to be doing.” †

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



Our Lady of Lourdes  
30 South Downey  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317.357.3316 • ollindy.org

OPEN HOUSE  
Sunday, January 28  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Little Flower Catholic School  
1401 North Bosart, Indianapolis, IN 46201  
317.353.2282 • littleflowerparishschool.org

OPEN HOUSE  
Sunday, January 28 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Scecina Memorial High School  
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EAST DEANERY BAND FEST  
Thursday, February 1  
6:00 p.m.



Holy Spirit Catholic School  
7241 East 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317.352.1243 • holyspirit-indy.org

INFORMATION SUNDAY  
Sunday, January 28 • 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \*PreK and K Round Up at 10:30 a.m.





ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

# Catholic Schools

Open Doors



Open Arms



Open Hearts

## What Makes a Catholic School Special

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE ...

- Centered in the person of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church
- Distinguished by excellence
- Committed to educate the whole child
- Steeped in a Catholic world view
- Sustained by Gospel witness
- Shaped by communion and community
- Accessible to all students
- Established by the expressed authority of the bishop

*("Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools"; National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools)*

### RESEARCH SAYS ...

- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement and student achievement (Marks, 2009).
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are more likely to earn higher wages (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).
- When a Catholic school closes, neighborhood disorder increases (Brinig & Garnett, 2009).

*(University of Notre Dame. For more information, log onto [ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools](http://ace.nd.edu/resources/catholic-school-research/researched-case-for-catholic-schools))*



## LEARN MORE

### Open Doors + Open Arms + Open Hearts

The students in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic schools are doing great things! Please take a moment to review the 2017-2018 Special Publication from the Office of Catholic Schools at [www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2017-2018/](http://www.archindy.org/OCS-Special-Publication-2017-2018/) highlighting our schools' many accomplishments!



## How can we AFFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

Understanding Tax Credit Scholarships and Indiana School Vouchers

My child is enrolled at a Catholic school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- My family is between 100% and 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

	100% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	150% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility	200% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility
Persons in Household	Annual household income limit for a "90%" Choice Scholarship*	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship**	Annual household income limit for a "50%" Choice Scholarship***
1	\$22,311	\$33,467	\$44,622
2	\$30,044	\$45,066	\$60,088
3	\$37,777	\$56,666	\$75,554
4	\$45,510	\$68,265	\$91,020
5	\$53,243	\$79,865	\$106,486
6	\$60,976	\$91,464	\$121,952
7	\$68,709	\$103,064	\$137,418
8	\$76,442	\$114,663	\$152,884

Note: Income levels are determined in accordance with the *Income Verification Rules* Document available at [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

\* Add \$7,733 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "90%" scholarship.  
 \*\* Add \$11,600 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.  
 \*\*\* Add \$15,466 to the annual limit for each additional member for a "50%" scholarship.

### What are Tax Credit Scholarships?

The Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to families who want to enroll their children in the Catholic school of their choice. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive a minimum of a \$500 Tax Credit Scholarship.

### Who qualifies for a Tax Credit Scholarship?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A student who is enrolled in an eligible Catholic school.

### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Current Catholic school students CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

### How do I apply?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.i4qed.org/sgo](http://www.i4qed.org/sgo).

Additional local scholarships may also be available. Contact your local Catholic school.

I'm moving my child in grades K-12 to a Catholic school from a public school.

I meet these eligibility requirements:

- Indiana resident
- Apply before September 1, 2018
- My child attended public school the previous year (two semesters) OR received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher the previous school year.

AND one of the following:

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level (see chart).

My family is at or below 200% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Income Level and my child qualifies for an IEP.

## K-12 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

### What is an Indiana School Voucher?

A Voucher is a state-funded scholarship that helps cover the cost of tuition at a private school. Qualifying students in grades K-12 can receive up to 90% of the local per-student state funding amount.

### Who qualifies for a Voucher?

- A student whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (see chart), AND
- A student in grades K-12 who is coming to a Catholic school after attending at least one year (two semesters) in an Indiana public school, AND/OR
- A sibling received a Tax Credit Scholarship or Voucher, AND/OR
- A sibling living in an "F" school area, AND/OR
- A current Catholic school student in grades K-12 who has received a Tax Credit Scholarship in a prior year, AND/OR
- A student with learning exceptionalities qualified through an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### Why should I apply now?

If your family qualifies for assistance, but you do not apply when your child first enters school, you may lose the opportunity for a Voucher or Tax Credit Scholarship for the next 12-13 years. Students enrolled in a Catholic school CAN receive a Tax Credit Scholarship, making them eligible for a Voucher the following year.

### How do I apply for a Voucher?

1. To see how much tuition assistance you are eligible for, first register at your Catholic school of choice.
2. To apply for funding, visit [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

Pre-K vouchers are available in Marion, Jackson, Bartholomew, Monroe, Madison, Harrison and Vigo counties. For more information, log onto [www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm](http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4932.htm).





# Catholic Schools

Open Doors

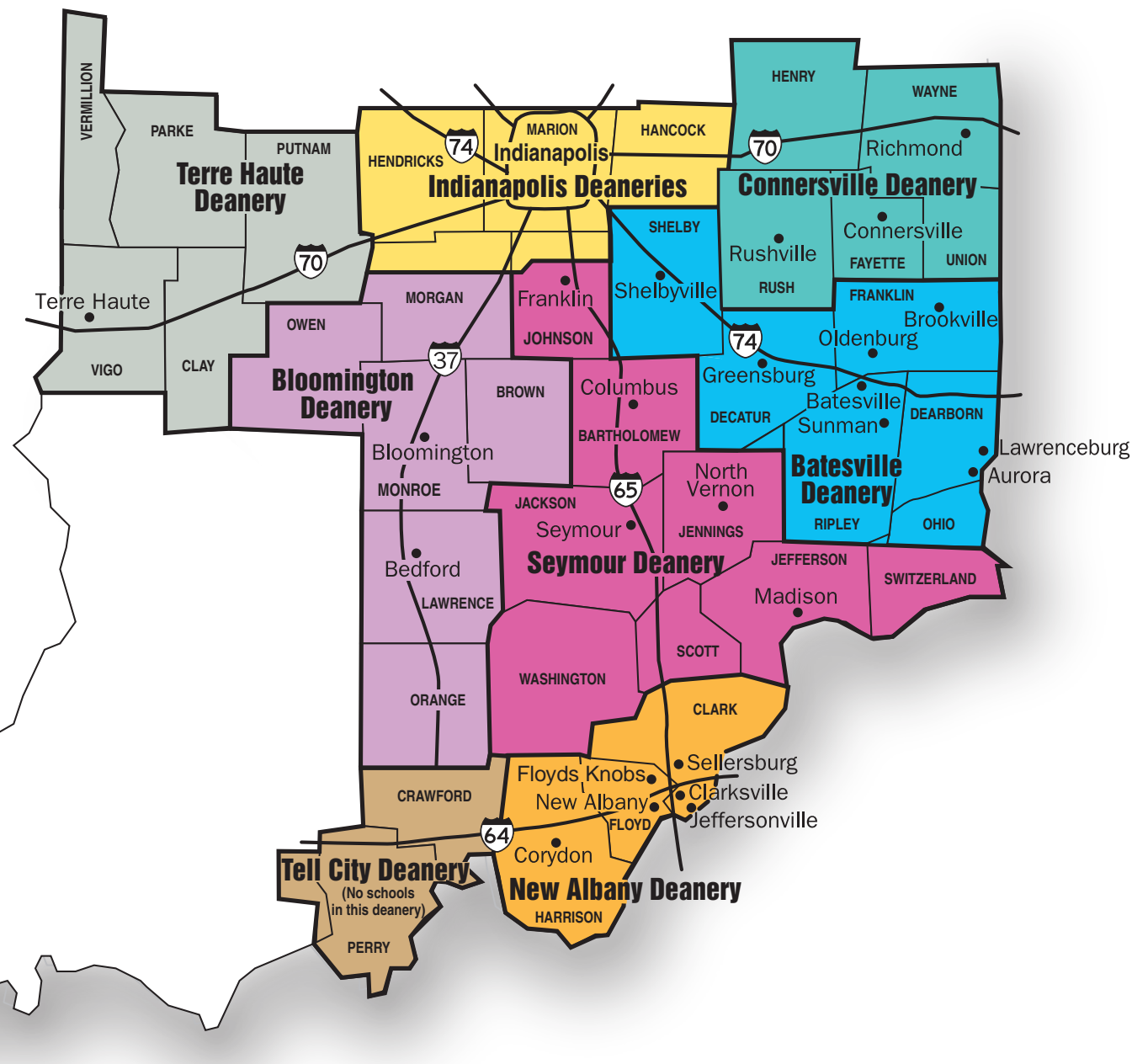


Open Arms



Open Hearts

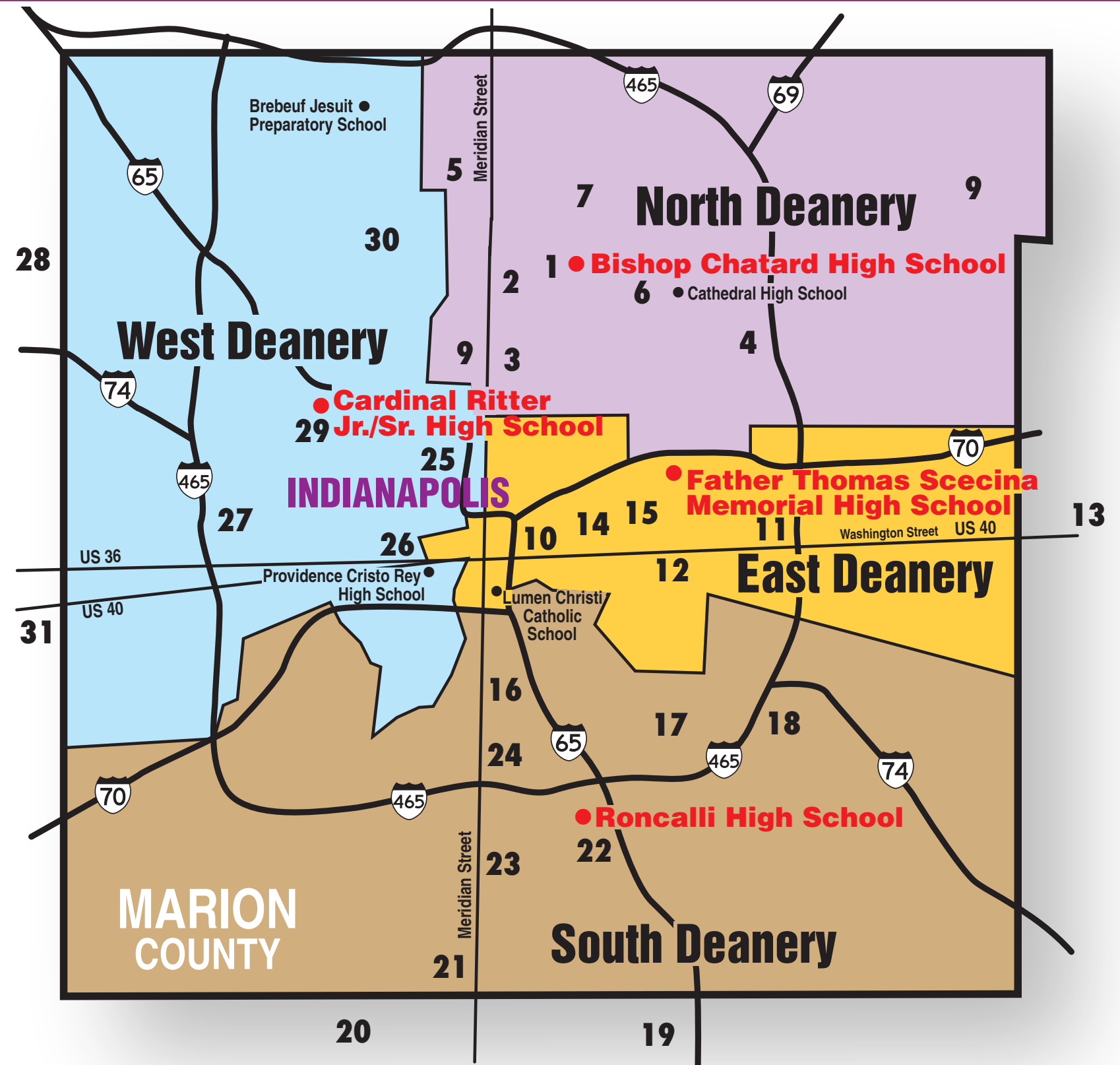
## ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



## DEANERY SCHOOLS

<p><b>Batesville Deanery</b> Aurora St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8) 211 Fourth St. Aurora, IN 47001 812-926-1558</p> <p><b>Batesville</b> St. Louis School (PK-8) 17 St. Louis Place Batesville, IN 47006 812-934-3310</p> <p><b>Brookville</b> St. Michael School (PK-8) 275 High St. Brookville, IN 47012 765-647-4961</p> <p><b>Greensburg</b> St. Mary School (PK-8) 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way Greensburg, IN 47240 812-663-2804</p> <p><b>Lawrenceburg</b> St. Lawrence School (K-8) 524 Walnut St. Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 812-537-3690</p> <p><b>Shelbyville</b> St. Joseph School (PK-5) 127 E. Broadway Shelbyville, IN 46176 317-398-4202</p> <p><b>Sunman</b> St. Nicholas School (K-8) 6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive Sunman, IN 47041 812-623-2348</p>	<p><b>Bloomington Deanery</b> Bedford St. Vincent de Paul School (PK-8) 923 18th St. Bedford, IN 47421 812-279-2540</p> <p><b>Bloomington</b> St. Charles Borromeo School (PK-8) 2224 E. Third St. Bloomington, IN 47401 812-336-5853</p> <p><b>Connersville Deanery</b> Connersville St. Gabriel School (PK-6) 224 W. Ninth St. Connersville, IN 47331 765-965-6956</p> <p><b>Richmond</b> Seton Catholic High School (7-12) 233 S. 5th St. Richmond, IN 47374 765-962-4877</p> <p><b>Rushville</b> St. Mary School (PK-6) 226 E. Fifth St. Rushville, IN 46173 765-932-3639</p>	<p><b>New Albany Deanery</b> Clarksville Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School (8-12) 707 Providence Way Clarksville, IN 47129 812-945-2538</p> <p><b>Corydon</b> St. Joseph School (PK-6) 512 N. Mulberry St. Corydon, IN 47112 812-738-4549</p> <p><b>Floyds Knobs</b> St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (PK-7) 3033 Martin Road Floyds Knobs, IN 47119 812-923-1630</p> <p><b>Jeffersonville</b> Most Sacred Heart of Jesus School (PK-8) 1842 E. Eighth St. Jeffersonville, IN 47130 812-283-3123</p> <p><b>New Albany</b> Holy Family School (PK-8) 217 W. Daisy Lane New Albany, IN 47150 812-944-6090</p> <p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (PK-8)</b> 1752 Scheller Lane New Albany, IN 47150 812-944-7676</p>	<p><b>Sellersburg</b> St. John Paul II School (PK-7) 105 St. Paul St. Sellersburg, IN 47172 812-246-3266</p> <p><b>Seymour Deanery</b> Columbus St. Bartholomew School (K-8) 1306 27th St. Columbus, IN 47201 812-372-6830</p> <p><b>Franklin</b> St. Rose of Lima School (PK-8) 114 Lancelot Drive Franklin, IN 46131 317-738-3451</p> <p><b>Madison</b> Father Michael Shaw Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12) 201 W. State St. Madison, IN 47250 812-273-2150</p> <p><b>Pope John XXIII School (PK-6)</b> 221 W. State St. Madison, IN 47250 812-273-3957</p> <p><b>North Vernon</b> St. Mary School (PK-8) 209 Washington St. North Vernon, IN 47265 812-346-3445</p> <p><b>Seymour</b> St. Ambrose School (PK-8) 301 S. Chestnut St. Seymour, IN 47274 812-522-3522</p>	<p><b>Terre Haute Deanery</b> Terre Haute St. Patrick School (PK-8) 449 S. 19th St. Terre Haute, IN 47803 812-232-2157</p> <p><b>Private High School</b> Oldenburg Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12) 1 Twister Circle P.O. Box 200 Oldenburg, IN 47036 812-934-4440</p>
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## GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



## GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

<p><b>Indianapolis North Deanery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)</b> 5885 N. Crittenden Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-1451</li> <li><b>Christ the King School (K-8)</b> 5858 N. Crittenden Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-257-9366</li> <li><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)</b> 317 E. 57th St. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-255-5468</li> <li><b>St. Joan of Arc School (PK-8)</b> 500 E. 42nd St. Indianapolis, IN 46205 317-283-1518</li> <li><b>St. Lawrence School (PK-8)</b> 6950 E. 46th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226 317-543-4923</li> <li><b>St. Luke the Evangelist School (K-8)</b> 7650 N. Illinois St. Indianapolis, IN 46260 317-255-3912</li> <li><b>St. Matthew the Apostle School (PK-8)</b> 4100 E. 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-3997</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>St. Pius X School (K-8)</b> 7200 Sarto Drive Indianapolis, IN 46240 317-466-3361</li> <li><b>St. Simon the Apostle School (PK-8)</b> 8155 Oaklandon Road Indianapolis, IN 46236 317-826-6000</li> <li><b>St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)</b> 4600 N. Illinois St. Indianapolis, IN 46208 317-255-6244</li> <li><b>Indianapolis East Deanery</b></li> <li><b>Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)</b> 5000 Nowland Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-356-6377</li> <li><b>Holy Cross Central School (PK-8)*</b> 125 N. Oriental St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317-638-9068</li> <li><b>Holy Spirit School (PK-8)</b> 7241 E. 10th St. Indianapolis, IN 46219 317-352-1243</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Our Lady of Lourdes School (PK-8)</b> 30 S. Downey St. Indianapolis, IN 46219 317-357-3316</li> <li><b>St. Michael School (PK-8)</b> 515 Jefferson Blvd. Greenfield, IN 46140 317-462-6380</li> <li><b>St. Philip Neri School (PK-8)*</b> 545 N. Eastern Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-636-0134</li> <li><b>St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School (PK-8)</b> 1401 N. Bosart Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46201 317-353-2282</li> <li><b>Indianapolis South Deanery</b></li> <li><b>Roncalli High School (9-12)</b> 3300 Prague Road Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-787-8277</li> <li><b>Central Catholic School (PK-8)*</b> 1155 E. Cameron St. Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-783-7759</li> <li><b>Holy Name of Jesus School (PK-8)</b> 21 N. 17th Ave. Beech Grove, IN 46107 317-784-9078</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (PK-8)</b> 3310 S. Meadow Drive Indianapolis, IN 46239 317-357-1459</li> <li><b>Our Lady of the Greenwood School (PK-8)</b> 399 S. Meridian St. Greenwood, IN 46143 317-881-1300</li> <li><b>SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School (PK-8)</b> 5901 Olive Branch Road Greenwood, IN 46143 317-215-2826</li> <li><b>St. Barnabas School (PK-8)</b> 8300 Rahke Road Indianapolis, IN 46217 317-881-7422</li> <li><b>St. Christopher School (K-8)</b> 5375 McFarland Road Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-784-6828</li> <li><b>St. Mark the Evangelist School (PK-8)</b> 541 E. Edgewood Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-786-4013</li> <li><b>St. Roch School (PK-8)</b> 3603 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46227 317-784-9144</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indianapolis West Deanery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)</b> 3360 W. 30th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-924-4333</li> <li><b>Holy Angels School (PK-6)*</b> 2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. Indianapolis, IN 46208 317-926-5211</li> <li><b>St. Anthony School (PK-8)*</b> 349 N. Warman Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-636-3739</li> <li><b>St. Christopher School (PK-6)</b> 5335 W. 16th St. Indianapolis, IN 46224 317-241-6314</li> <li><b>St. Malachy School (PK-8)</b> 330 N. Green St. Brownsburg, IN 46112 317-852-2242</li> <li><b>St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels School (PK-8)</b> 3352 W. 30th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-926-0516</li> <li><b>St. Monica School (PK-8)</b> 6131 N. Michigan Road Indianapolis, IN 46228 317-255-7153</li> </ul>	<p><b>Private Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lumen Christi Catholic School (PK-12)</b> 580 E. Stevens St. Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-632-3174</li> <li><b>Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)</b> 2801 W. 86th St. Indianapolis, IN 46268 317-524-7128</li> <li><b>Cathedral High School (9-12)</b> 5225 E. 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226 317-542-1481</li> <li><b>Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)</b> 75 N. Bellevue Place Indianapolis, IN 46222 317-860-1000</li> </ul>
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\* Notre Dame ACE Academies



# Generations build on each other's work to make saints and scholars

By Julie Stockman and John Shaughnessy

RIPLEY COUNTY—At exactly noon, the bells from St. Nicholas Church ring through the countryside near Sunman and echo through the parish school, leading the students to stand, face the nearest crucifix and pray the *Angelus*.

“The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...”

That daily prayer by the kindergarteners through eighth-graders is just one of the traditional Catholic rituals that mark their days at their school in the Batesville Deanery in southeastern Indiana.

Throughout the year, morning offering prayer begins each school day, and an act of contrition concludes it. Students say grace before and after lunch. And every Friday during Lent, they visit the Stations of the Cross in the church.

St. Nicholas’ 130 students also wear red shirts on the feast days that celebrate martyred saints. And they participate in the celebration of the Mass three mornings during the week, including Fridays when the pastor, Father Shaun Whittington, hosts a question-and-answer session after the Mass, letting students of all ages ask questions about the Catholic faith.

Father Whittington also makes the sacrament of reconciliation available to each grade a couple of times during the school year. And when a student wants to receive that sacrament individually, a teacher will send a text to the pastor to make that arrangement.

“It’s truly amazing,” says principal Daniel Swygart about all the ways that the Catholic faith is a part of life for St. Nicholas students. “When I first came here three years ago, there were two things I was astounded by.

“There’s a stewardship model where they don’t charge tuition. And the second thing is they have access to a 24-hour

eucharistic adoration chapel. It’s amazing how you feel when you’re here late at night and the eucharistic chapel is lit, and people are in there. It makes you feel you’re never alone.”

He also marvels at the efforts of parents, grandparents and friends of the school who volunteer in numerous ways to help the students. It’s an approach that beckons back to the people who came together to build the current parish church in 1856, he says.

“They created the bricks from the sand and the clay of the creek bed,” Swygart says with awe in his voice. “Those bricks are still strong. We have the bricks and stones that show that commitment, and we have the ‘living stones’ that are still living out their faith today.

“You surround these kids with people who have this dedication to their faith and it rubs off. It takes over.”

That commitment continues in the parish’s capital campaign called the Heritage Project. Since the archdiocese approved the campaign in the summer of 2017, the parish has raised more than \$3.3 million, with 173 families making gifts.

That’s already enough for the campaign’s first phase which will create a new education center that will house the school and religious education programs, and create an endowment for ongoing maintenance of parish facilities. And the campaign’s success so far has provided a head start on the funds needed for the second phase—creating a new fellowship center that will include a gym, stage and cafeteria.

The success of the campaign reflects the essence of the parish, says Father Whittington, who offers a defining story about that commitment.

“A couple of months ago, I officiated at a wedding, and I was talking to the bride and groom,” he says. “The bride



Students at St. Nicholas School in Ripley County pause from eating lunch to pray the *Angelus* at noon every day, one of the ways the Batesville Deanery school community lives its faith. (Submitted photos)

told me she was the fifth generation to be married at St. Nicholas. The long-term, multi-generational commitment to the parish is amazing. It’s a way of life.”

A way of life that is also evident in the school’s stewardship model, he insists.

“It creates a robust partnership between the school and the school’s families. There’s a lot of volunteering, and a lot of sacrificial giving.”

There’s also a deep commitment among the parish’s families to participating in the celebration of the Mass each weekend.

That combination “has given us the successes that God’s grace has allowed us to have” in the areas of religious formation, academics and financial stability, he maintains.

That combination also leads to the main hope that the parish and the school have for its latest generation of students.

“The motto of the school is, ‘Building saints and scholars,’” Father Whittington says. “All the different things we do are in support of that goal.”

(Julie Stockman is a member of St. Nicholas Parish.) †



St. Nicholas School principal Dan Swygart does a “Handstand for Jesus” whenever he asks kindergarten, first and second graders a faith-related question and they answer correctly.

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# Latino Outreach Initiative helps schools invite, support Latino families

By Natalie Hoefler

Phillip Gonzalez believes in the benefits of Catholic education for Latinos, and he has the numbers to back up his belief.

“A number of studies have shown [that] Latino students who attend



Phillip Gonzalez

Catholic school are 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school, and 2.5 times more likely to graduate from college,” he says.

But he also has numbers showing that few Hispanics are reaping those benefits.

“Within a time frame of 2000-2010, the Indiana Hispanic population grew by 82 percent,” Gonzalez notes, quoting a statistic from an article produced by the Indiana Business Research Center in July 2013. Yet according to a University of Notre Dame study, only 3 percent of Catholic Latinos nationally are sending their children to a Catholic school.

To help that situation in central and southern Indiana, the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools started a new Latino Outreach Initiative in 2017. Gonzalez serves as the initiative’s coordinator.

The goal of the program is “to support the evangelization of Latino students through the ministry of Catholic schools,” he says. “We accomplish that purpose by inviting Latino students and families into our schools and showing them they’re welcome and included, and by ensuring our schools have the academic and developmental means to meet their needs.”

The program started with a pilot group of five schools selected from among a group of applicants: Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville; St. Bartholomew School in Columbus; and Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, Roncalli High

School and St. Lawrence School, all in Indianapolis. Gonzalez hopes to expand the Latino Outreach Initiative to other schools over time.

Helen Heckman, principal of St. Bartholomew School, says her goal in participating in the program is to better serve the needs of the school’s Latino population of 28 percent.

“The reason I wanted to take part in the initiative is to feel like we were doing everything possible so [Hispanic] families at our school feel welcome and [feel] that we want them to be part of our school and [that] we respect their heritage.”

Projects that St. Bartholomew has undertaken through the initiative include hiring more bilingual employees; starting a soccer team; updating signs to include Spanish; and offering professional development in cultural awareness to all staff. Even though the initiative is just getting underway, Heckman says she’s already noticed a difference.

“Now that [Latinos] have seen the effort we’ve put in to better serving them, the benefit is that they want to give back more,” she says. “We’ve seen more volunteers and more effort to help wherever they can.”

At Scecina, president Joseph Therber hopes the Latino Outreach Initiative will help the school to better serve “an increasing number of Latino students, including a number of Latino families in the [Indianapolis] East Deanery parishes.”

The initiative has already led to three plans at Scecina: having an existing bilingual staff member translate documents and conversations; adding displays reflecting Latino culture to the existing displays in the school’s main hall; and identifying a *madrina*—Spanish for “godmother.”

The latter plan reflects the *Madrinas Model*, which promotes schools engaging a trusted woman from the Latino community to develop and strengthen the connection between the school and Latino families.

Member schools participating in the

Latino Outreach Initiative have learned about the *Madrinas Model* through a program the initiative requires them to take—the Latino Enrollment Institute through the University of Notre Dame.

“At that institute, during three days, principals of each school sit down with a mentor, usually an administrator at a Catholic school in the country, who helps them write out an action plan,”

Gonzalez explains. After the institute, mentors continue to meet monthly by teleconference with small groups of principals from around the nation.

Roncalli already has a *madrina*, says principal Charles Weisenbach. She provides “unbelievable help” with translating, setting up visits with Latino families, and helping answer questions when Weisenbach gives presentations at churches.

Plus, he says, since “two-to-three generations [of Latinos], if not living in the same house, are at least in constant communication, word of mouth will spread quickly.” He says that’s key to increasing Latino enrollment and meeting the needs of Latino students and families.

The archdiocese’s Latino Outreach Initiative was timely for Roncalli. Weisenbach says the school’s current



Students of St. Bartholomew School in Columbus participate in a *Las Posadas* procession on Dec. 18, 2017. The procession is a traditional Mexican Advent celebration that re-enacts Mary’s and Joseph’s search for a room in Bethlehem, and commemorates the nine months during which Mary carried Jesus in her womb. The procession is just one way in which the school, a member of the archdiocese’s new Latino Outreach Initiative, is seeking to invite and support their Latino students and families. (Submitted photo)

7 percent Latino enrollment is double what it was the past two years. And with several feeder schools having a high Hispanic enrollment—including one at nearly 90 percent—the necessity for the school to meet the needs of Latino students and families will grow.

Roncalli has also hired a bilingual front office secretary, made their website available in Spanish with the click of a button, and offered a college and career planning night in Spanish.

While Weisenbach notes that implementing plans developed through the initiative is “going to be a process,” he says it will gain momentum.

“I think in the next one-to-three years we’ll see improvement in both enrollment and engagement with the Latino community. What we see is we’re planting a lot of seeds that will bear good fruit.” †

## Cherished note reveals the power of a teacher’s encouragement

By John Shaughnessy

The touching moment for Mary Alice Knott came unexpectedly during a high school football game.

As a teacher at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, Knott was watching the Pioneers play when a former student approached her.

“He opened his wallet,” recalls Knott, who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese. “He showed me the torn corner of his midterm which contained a note I had written to him as a freshman. For many years, he has kept the note in his wallet as a constant source of encouragement.”

Knott has taught math for 26 years at Providence, but it’s such notes of encouragement on exams and in retreat letters where she has left her most lasting

mark on students. Her greatest treasures from her teaching career are the countless e-mails, notes and cards she has received from students.

“I am very humbled,” she says. “Being a Catholic educator has allowed me to be personal and prayerful in my profession. I am strong from the relationships I have built as a Catholic educator.”

Her relationship with Providence extends through much of her life, dating back to even earlier than 1973, when she was a freshman at the school.

“I first entered Providence as the youngest sister of three former graduates,” she says. “For years at the supper table, I would listen to the high school stories of my siblings. Anticipating the experience of making my own stories, I was excited. High school could not begin soon enough.”

Now she sees that same excitement in the freshmen when they arrive at Providence.

“Each year, I am warmly reminded of my own family, of myself entering the same door, guided by my parents, my siblings. This place is and always will be family to me. And that is Catholic education to me. Sharing my family, my prayers, my lunch, my hard work, my guidance, the same community, the same faith, exalts me.

“I am the best I can be because I can share my religion and my life with others around me.” †



Mary Alice Knott of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville helps Bishop Edwards with a math problem in her class. (Submitted photo)

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# St. Lawrence pre-K program reaches out to peripheries near and far

By Sean Gallagher

A clarion call of Pope Francis since his 2013 election as bishop of Rome has been for the Church to share God's loving care and mercy with people on the peripheries of society.

St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis is responding to that call by reaching out to those in need close to home in the neighborhood that surrounds it on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

But it also follows the pope's call by reaching out halfway around the world by inspiring and offering professional development to a pre-kindergarten school in China.

Surrounded by apartment buildings and rental properties, nearly 80 percent of the students at St. Lawrence meet the low-income requirements to qualify for free or reduced lunches.



Sara Jean Watson

"We're a true mission school in this community," said Sarah Jean Watson, St. Lawrence's principal. "We were not always that. School choice has changed the demographic of the school quite a bit. We definitely minister to the parish and the parishioners' children. But we're also ministering to the whole community, the whole neighborhood."

To help the economically challenged children in the neighborhood achieve their potential, St. Lawrence has worked hard to improve its Kids Care pre-kindergarten program.

Last fall, it became the first Catholic pre-K program attached to a parish school in the state to meet the state of Indiana's requirements as a Level Four Paths to Quality school.

The Paths to Quality requirement calls for pre-K programs to meet standards for health and safety, environmental support for children's learning and planned curricula. To reach level four, a pre-K program must be accredited by a national accrediting agency.

In Indiana, if a pre-K program has reached level three, it can receive vouchers through the state's On My Way Pre-K program in counties that are eligible for it, which includes Marion County in which St. Lawrence is located.

"It's a nice way for parents to see what every child care and pre-school has to offer," said Kathryn Kutan, director of Kids Care of the Paths to Quality program. "They [expect] very high quality care, along with the curriculum and the materials that you have in the room."

St. Lawrence also reaches out to the parents of its pre-K students, offering evening parenting classes in order to help form the best environment for its young students to grow and thrive.

"We're a very family-oriented program," Watson said. "Our pre-school parents are in the door every day. At least one staff member interacts with a parent of the child every day. We're supporting them."

And parents are supporting the program. Melissa Bishop is a parent of a Kids Care student and also has children in kindergarten and third grade at St. Lawrence. An occupational therapist who is currently a stay-at-home mom, Bishop volunteers in Kids Care to help the students begin to learn handwriting.



Teacher Heather Keeney helps Ja'Niyla McFerson learn numbers on Jan. 10 in the Kids Care pre-kindergarten program at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Even though she had been a student at St. Lawrence as a child, Bishop investigated other pre-K programs in the area before enrolling her children in one. She found that St. Lawrence offered a quality early childhood program to its students.

"The programs and the tools that they use to serve the parish and the community are, from my profession, what excite me," Bishop said. "And my kids are excited to come, too."

Bishop also appreciates the cultural diversity found at St. Lawrence School, which attracts many students from the surrounding Hispanic and African-American communities.

"It's something to embrace," she said. "It has a different population than when I was in school here. But as an adult, I feel that it's something for me and my family to embrace and be a part of."

That diversity has increased as Kids Care at St. Lawrence has developed a cooperative relationship with the Go Link Academy, a pre-K school in Shenzhen, China, just north of Hong Kong.

It began when the biological mother of a Chinese child adopted by Watson visited St. Lawrence three years ago. She was so impressed by what she saw that she worked with a partner in China to start the Go Link Academy.

Teachers from the school have since visited St. Lawrence, and Watson and Kutan have traveled to China to help the staff there with professional development.

Chinese pre-K students and their families have also visited St. Lawrence.

"That goes back to the mission of our program," Watson said. "We're a family-oriented program. Last

year, we had a mom and a dad with us. We accept the whole family into the program. That benefits our families and their families."

Although Watson noted that language barriers can be a challenge for visiting Chinese pre-K students, she reflected that the children share another language that brings them together.

"Our students brought them right into the fold," Watson said. "Kids speak the language of love and acceptance more easily than adults. They took them by the hand, brought them over and incorporated them into whatever they were doing. It was really a beautiful thing to watch."

More visitors from China will come to St. Lawrence later this school year.

The Catholic faith is embedded in the Kids Care program at St. Lawrence in the way it reaches out to people in need both near and far.

And it would seem that this is having an effect on the program's staff.

"We're evangelizing every day," Kutan said. "Two of our pre-school teachers are converting this Easter and bringing their whole families in. We see it all the time. It's just amazing. It gives me chills."

"The things that happen in our program every day are magical," Watson said. "To me, it's a blessing to work in a parish and school that is willing to serve the community around them. It truly embraces who we are as Catholics. We're universal."

(For more information about St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, including its Kids Care pre-kindergarten program, visit [saintlawrence.net/school](http://saintlawrence.net/school).) †

## Helping children make a connection with God guides teacher

By John Shaughnessy

BATESVILLE—The three words have always left a lasting impression on Janice Narwold in her 20 years of teaching in a Catholic school.

For her, they're the three words from a child that let her know she is making a difference.

*You understand me.*

"It is such a simple statement, yet so impactful when expressed from a student to a teacher. In all my experience, this is the greatest compliment I have received," notes Narwold, a second-grade teacher at St. Louis School in Batesville who was a finalist for the 2017 Saint Theodora Excellence in Education Award, the highest honor for an educator in the archdiocese.

That compliment reflects one of Narwold's main goals as a teacher—"to meet the needs of each student, and to make a special connection with each."

She also strives to help her students make a special connection with God.

"God has created every child to be a unique learner with a tremendous amount to offer to the world," she says. "I want each child to be who God created them to be, and hope to push them to grow into that unique person that I know is within each of them."

"As a teacher, I plan lessons that educate the whole child. I teach children that they are gifts from God. I teach them that we need to take care of ourselves. I teach them that we each are special to God."

Her teaching reflects her view that "quality Catholic education is educating the mind, body and spirit of each child."



Janice Narwold, second-grade teacher at St. Louis School in Batesville, shares a smile with two of her students, Ray Walke and Madi Dierckman. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

"I integrate Catholic teaching and doctrine in my curriculum by asking the Holy Spirit to guide my lessons and my students. We take time to make sure we put God in our lesson and thank God for the opportunity to learn in such a great school."

"I also look for those 'teachable moments' where I can add God's message to make for a more impactful Catholic education, and to help each student take one more moment to think about God." †

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