



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: Celebrating 175 years of giving hope and faith to the world

By Annette "Mickey" Lentz

This is an exciting time for us in the archdiocese. We are in the midst of celebrating our 175th anniversary!



We have so much to be thankful for over these past years, and certainly one of our greatest blessings has been our Catholic schools.

Perhaps the best way to appreciate the power of these schools is to imagine the Church in central and southern Indiana without them.

What would our archdiocese look like without Catholic schools? Would it be as robust and vital? How would it produce generous leaders? How would it serve immigrants? How would it provide avenues of educational opportunity to the poor, especially in our cities? Who would Christ use to build up his kingdom?

As we recognize the importance of Catholic education in our society, we also celebrate one of its foundations as we mark Catholic Schools Week.

Service is a long-standing tradition in Catholic education, and a principle of the Church's social teaching. Thus, this year's theme for Catholic Schools Week, "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service," is particularly fitting.

Why? Because when we commit to educating the whole child in an environment of faith and academic excellence then our schools instill a lifelong commitment to serving others.

It is our hope that, in providing a strong Catholic culture for our students, they will grow up to become good citizens, productive employees and exemplary leaders. As you read this Catholic Schools Week Supplement, you will find many examples of how our children turn that hope into a generous reality.

Our students collect food for the poor, host blood drives, build homes in other countries as well as here in the United States, and send relief to war-torn countries and to those affected by natural disasters. The list goes on as does their commitment.

Jesus asks us to serve others. Our schools still focus on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy—feed the hungry, clothe the naked, instruct the



ignorant, forgive all injuries—to name a few. In living out these works of mercy, the student is called to give witness to the love of God among us.

Our schools have developed a proud heritage of service for our Church and the community it serves. Clearly, our Catholic schools have made a tremendous difference.

There are many great biblical scholars and important leaders who express the words of what it really means to serve. Two especially make my point about Catholic education and its focus on service.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that "everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

We feel there are no exceptions to this statement. All students can serve God and,

by doing so, serve others.

And Aristotle reminds us that "the greatest virtues are those which are most useful to other persons."

What a powerful statement! It says to us that we must all be messengers of social justice.

What is positive in the world must be shared with others.

Injustices, on the other hand, must be overcome.

Catholic schools provide this daily experience. They demonstrate over and over again the Gospel message of love and forgiveness.

Our Catholic schools are gifts to the communities they serve. When the story of Catholic schools is written, historians will look back on our age, our archdiocese and marvel that against great odds, we not only persevered but



strengthened our schools. We truly did celebrate our heritage of 175 years, and made a difference while serving others.

Let us remember the work of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta by doing simple things for others and by doing them with extraordinary love.

Let us together celebrate and pray for all Catholic schools and students that God's rich blessings will be with them as once again they make their mark when called to "Celebrate Service" in 2009.

Let us together feel a sense of pride for the accomplishments of our Catholic schools for these past 175 years and for decades to come.

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





Snapshots of service

Students' community efforts touch lives, including their own

By John Shaughnessy

Call them "snapshots of service"—pictures of the remarkable variety of ways that Catholic school students across the archdiocese make a difference in their communities and the world.

Take a look at this photo of some of the 240 students from Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis dancing for seven straight hours while raising more than \$36,400 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

And check this snapshot of Zach Hellinger—a freshman at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville—whose volunteer efforts help to make life easier for people with disabilities.

You also have to see this photo of Terry Majors interacting with Indiana lawmakers. The sophomore at Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis is a member of the Indiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

And here's a picture of the students at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, which was one of six Indiana high schools honored in 2008 for their commitment to community service.

The award from Indiana State University in Terre Haute commended Roncalli for efforts that included collecting 100,000 cans of food, raising \$9,000 for homeless people and donating 2,500 toys for children in need.

Service is a way of life—and an expression of faith—for Catholic school students. Just look at these snapshots.

Unleashing the possibilities

Nicole Zapp admits she never felt a real commitment to community service until she drove by the Madison-Jefferson County Animal Shelter with her friend, Katherine Bear, and thought it would be a great place to volunteer.

"Katherine and I stopped in there at the beginning of the summer," recalls Nicole who, along with Katherine, is a junior at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison. "We started off walking dogs and playing with them. It was so rewarding. They're cooped up there every day, and they don't get out a lot. They were so full of energy."

Nicole became especially fond of a dog named Chloe, a mix of a Collie and a Labrador retriever.

"I was walking her one day and when I brought her back, a family started looking at her and adopted her. It was so great that she got adopted by a really nice family. Working at the animal shelter made me learn that doing service can be fun. You just have to find what you're interested in."

Providing a comfort zone

Before her idea grew into a grand plan that even the Indianapolis Colts embraced, Claire Helmen was just looking for a good way to help small children when they are scared.

"My mom works [in the fight] against domestic violence," says Claire, 13, a seventh-grade student at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis. "We were talking after dinner one night about how we could help kids in traumatic situations. And we came up with blankets. Blankets are a great way to give comfort."

That conversation has led to "Claire's Comfort for Kids," a community service project to put blankets in the hands of

Streets—Stop the Violence."

So on Nov. 1, 2008, the school once again reached out to its neighboring community with a fall festival of service—an outreach effort that was so successful that school officials have decided to make it a continuing commitment.

"We want to get our students out in the community cleaning vacant lots, painting houses, cutting grass for shut-ins and doing errands for them," says Paul Lockard, the school's president. "We want our parents to get involved, too."

"We've always wanted to be a center of peace and justice through understanding. Being one of the most diverse schools in the area, we can send our kids out and

Kathy Wright often marvels at the way that simple school lessons can lead to special efforts that change lives.

"Our second-grade classes sold apples to the student body after they did an economics lesson on the apples," Wright notes. "They secured a \$200 loan from Regions Bank, went to the orchard, picked the apples, and sold them for 25 cents to the students during the lunch times. They collected more than \$300 after paying their loan back. They decided they wanted to help 27 families [in need] with multiple children."

"In order to have more money, they had a penny [fundraiser] for one week before our Thanksgiving break. They collected more than \$1,100, which gave them \$1,400 to shop at Wal-Mart for gifts. They were each given \$20 and a list of what the child wanted. Then they came back to school and wrapped all the gifts. I think this was an experience that will live with these children for many years."

Making the extra effort

Eric Nixon keeps a busy schedule as a senior at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. The 17-year-old youth takes several advanced placement classes, serves as the Student Council treasurer and a school ambassador, and works 20 to 30 hours a week at a grocery store. Still, he made time to lead the canned food drive in November at his school for a simple reason.

"There are so many people in need, it's incredible," he says. "The more you can do and give, the better it will be."

Eric approached the manager at the grocery store where he works about purchasing canned foods at cost. Then he enlisted the help of his fellow students in raising money to pay for the canned foods.

"We improved double-fold our total from last year," Eric says. "This year, we collected 15,607 cans. I was really excited to see all the people we were able to help." †



Dancing for seven straight hours, 240 students from Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis participated in a dance marathon in October of 2008. The school's annual fundraiser earned more than \$36,400 to benefit Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

patrol officers for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department—who then give the blankets to children in frightening situations that include fires, automobile accidents and separation from their parents.

Claire received help from the Colts organization, which allowed her to raise funds for her project from fans entering Lucas Oil Stadium for the Nov. 2 game.

"They played the Patriots that day and we got to stand outside, holding up blankets and asking for donations," Claire says. "We raised about \$1,700. All together, we've raised about \$2,500."

Distribution of the blankets, which cost about \$2 each to make, has already begun to the patrol officers.

"It started out small and it grew into something big," Claire says. "It shows you're never too young to get involved and start something."

Promoting peace and justice

The community of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis wanted to take an active part in supporting a City of Indianapolis initiative called "Peace in the

actually be an advocate for diversity. We want to demonstrate that even though there are differences in race and creed, we are all inherently good."

Planting the seed

As the principal of St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis,



Nicole Zapp comforts a dog at the Madison-Jefferson County Animal Shelter. A junior at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, Nicole volunteers at the shelter because of her love for animals.

In the name of the father

Five Louies share an amazing story of faith and family

By John Shaughnessy

When you hear the story of the five people named Louie Annee, you realize it's a story about commitment—to a dream, a family and a way of life.

You also realize that the story of the five Louies might make a good commercial for the continuing value of a Catholic education.

Start with the story of the oldest Louie Annee, whose parents immigrated to the United States and Indianapolis in the early 1900s.

Coming from an area along the border of France and Germany, his parents wanted a new life for themselves and a Catholic education for Louie and his brother. So Louie attended the former Sacred Heart School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis, before he had to leave school to help support his family.

Catholic education was also the choice that the oldest Louie Annee, now 98, and his wife, Mildred, made for their seven children, including their oldest child who they also named Louie.

"We all went to Catholic grade schools and Catholic high schools," says the second-generation Louie, 70, who graduated from the former Sacred Heart High School in Indianapolis. "It was very important to my parents to send us to Catholic schools. And I always felt it was important for my children, too. We had eight kids. We thought that if they were raised in the right way, they would raise their family in the right way. A Catholic education helps people do that. We had seen the example of what it had done for our family."

Sacrifices had to be made to make it

possible, he says.

"There were a lot of times when we didn't know where the money was coming from to pay for it. But it always came from somewhere. You just had to give other things up."

Louie Annee, the third generation, remembers those days and the sacrifices that his father and his mother, Nancy, made.

"With eight kids, financially it was something my parents had to work hard to get done," says the third-generation Louie, who is 48, a 1979 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and the owner of The Atrium and The Columns, two banquet facilities. "Catholic education definitely had a big impact on me. The respect and the discipline are so much different than public schools. The kids' attitudes are so much different."

So he and his wife, Rhea, who met at Roncalli, were adamant about sending their four children to Catholic schools. They also named their oldest child Louie.

"I was proud to name my son Louie because he was named after my father and grandfather," says Louie, the third generation. "I think it's neat to be part of that tradition. It's just special because I know there are years upon years that there's been a Louie Annee on the southside. Even if you don't know me, you know me because of the other Louie Annees. It's almost like a legacy."

A legacy of family, faith and doing what it takes to provide a Catholic education for your children—a legacy that the fourth-generation Louie Annee, 29, embraced and hopes to extend to his 18-month-old son, the fifth-generation Louie Annee.

"When we found out we were having a



Ranging in age from 1 to 98, the five people who share the name Louie Annie are also connected by a commitment to Catholic education.

boy, there was no doubt what we were going to name him," says Louie, the fourth generation.

There is also no doubt that this Louie and his wife, Elizabeth, both Roncalli graduates, want to provide a Catholic education for their son, Louie.

"My parents sacrificed a lot to make sure we had that," says Louie, the fourth generation. "It will be important for me for Louie to go to Catholic school. You look around and you want to make sure they're raised right. To me, a Catholic education is much more than the education they get. It's also the other parents and children in Catholic schools. It's their involvement in their children's lives. I want my child

around other children who have that background in their lives."

That dedication to Catholic education has been a foundation for nearly a century for the Annee family—and for countless other families in the 175-year-history of the archdiocese.

"All five generations and before have always been Catholic," says Louie Annee, the third generation. "To me, there's no other way to believe. It's the backbone of our family. In good times and bad times, we lean on our religion. It's the foundation of our family and everything. If my opinion counts, there's no doubt I want my grandchildren to have a Catholic education." †

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Katrina Kroics →
B.A. in biology with a minor in chemistry
Marian College Class of 2008

Whether people see it or not, teachers have a big impact on the community through its children. As a biology teacher at Shelbyville Middle School, my job is to help students grasp concepts and apply them. What matters is that I also show my students that I honestly do care about them.



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'A powerful difference'

Lay educators share what makes Catholic education special

By John Shaughnessy

Consider the transformation that marked Sandi Patel's life—from her days as a girl growing up in the Catholic faith to her first years as a teacher in a Catholic school.

"When I was a little girl, I would dutifully file into the front pew on the right side of the church with my family," Patel recalls. "In my teenage years, I challenged my parents about the importance of going to church. My mom would simply reply, 'Some day, you will be grateful for your Catholic faith.'

"That 'some day' came 17 years ago when, as a newlywed, I moved to Indianapolis. I started teaching music at St. Philip Neri, and I saw the power of a Catholic education. My passion was ignited and, after four years of teaching in a public school, I never looked back.

"With all my heart, I believe that the children in our classrooms will make a powerful difference in the world. They will see the world through their hearts filled with Christ, and they will be motivated to become his hands and feet. It is my privilege to be part of that wonderful reality—a wonderful reality with a foundation set in a Catholic school."

Now the principal of SS. Francis and Clare School in Greenwood, Patel is one of the more than 1,900 staff members who serve and teach some 23,000 students in the 71 Catholic schools in the archdiocese. By far, most of those educators are lay people—a group that for decades has been the backbone of Catholic education in central and southern Indiana.

The Criterion asked some of those educators to share their thoughts on the importance of a Catholic education, and

their commitment to providing it.

Colleen Burdette, sixth-grade teacher at Pope John XXIII School in Madison

"I have a former student who is now in the Navy. His captain called him into the office one day and asked if he went to a Catholic school. When he responded with a yes, the captain told him he could tell because he was always prepared, on time and ready to work.

"A good friend of mine was teaching at the college level in Ohio. She did not attend a Catholic high school, but she could pick those in her classes who had. She could pick those students for the same reasons the Navy captain did.

"The atmosphere in a Catholic school is different in my experience. Although I have spent so much time in the Catholic system, I have also spent plenty of time in the public system. When God can enter a classroom, there is an entirely different feel. So often, my telling the students what is right or wrong isn't enough, but when I can show the students how God wants them to live, the point is much more easily made. It is especially effective when students receive similar messages at home."

Kymerli Payonk, pre-school teacher at St. Patrick School in Terre Haute

"I teach 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds, and it is a treat to introduce them to our faith. They are so open and loving and in awe when we learn about Jesus or stories from the Bible.

"We just ended the Christmas season. We learn the story of Jesus' humble birth, and I'm so proud of my students when they talk about Bethlehem instead of the North Pole. None of this takes away from their love of Santa, of course, but it certainly helps them



Colleen Burdette, left, shares a fun teaching moment with Megan Whitham, a student at Pope John XXIII School in Madison. Burdette is a sixth-grade teacher at the school.

focus on the true story of Christmas.

"I have been a faithful Catholic all of my life, but I attended public school up through eighth grade. When I moved on to a Catholic high school and later a Catholic college, I couldn't help but notice that the kids who came from the Catholic grade school had a foundation in faith that I didn't have. I had always attended CCD, but I couldn't learn in one hour a week what the Catholic school kids received daily at school."



Kymerli Payonk

Michael Joseph, former teacher and now campus director at Holy Angels School in Indianapolis

"I sense that parents who choose

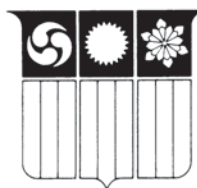
Catholic education desire something greater for their children. Education is not just about learning to read and write, but also about learning everything there is to know about life—morality, a sense of self-worth, a sense of pride in who you are, and a sense that you belong to a group. I think that parents choose Catholic education for those reasons in addition to a great and high-level academic experience.



Michael Joseph

"Faith is shared and practiced even if one is not of the Catholic faith. Academics are designed to obtain success. And extremely high expectations are demanded of students and parents. Parents recognize that it is

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A journey of faith

Teacher travels to France to seek essence of St. Theodora

By John Shaughnessy

Even while everything possible seemed to go wrong, Madonna Paskash still believed she would eventually make it to the home of the woman who inspires her life.

Never mind that the Catholic school teacher from Bloomington hadn't ever traveled outside the United States.

Never mind that she had just arrived in France, a country where she didn't know the language.

Never mind that she kept getting lost as she drove to the small French town that was her destination—a journey that was supposed to take six hours and ended up taking 12—all day long.

Whenever she became frustrated during the trip, Paskash thought of the hardships that were faced by the woman who inspired her and this once-in-a-lifetime adventure—St. Theodora Guérin, the Sister of Providence who endured a three-month journey from France in 1840 and arrived in the Indiana wilderness with a dream of providing a Catholic education for children of all backgrounds.

“When she came to Indiana, she got plunked in the mud in the middle of the forest,” says Paskash, an assistant principal and a third-grade teacher at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington. “Yet she was so loving of everyone she met, and she had such a great faith in Providence. Making the trip to France was a real challenge for me. I thought it would give me a small sense of what she encountered because I didn't know the language or the culture. It made me a stronger person.”

Paskash made the trip to France in the summer of 2008, thanks to an

\$8,000 Teacher Creativity Fellowship that she received from Lilly Endowment Inc. in Indianapolis. In applying for the grant, Paskash wanted to learn about the life of St. Theodora so she could give school performances as the Hoosier educational pioneer.

“I've always had a really close connection to the Sisters of Providence in a lot of ways,” Paskash says. “I graduated in 1974 from Ladywood-St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis. The Sisters of Providence owned and ran that school. I felt they made a real difference in my life. They taught me how to think, not what to think. They taught me leadership and to have the courage of my convictions. I like to believe we pass those things along to our children at St. Charles.”

Since religious sisters haven't taught at St. Charles for a long time, Paskash wanted to give the school's students a sense of the historical significance of the Sisters of Providence, especially St. Theodora.

“I wrote my fellowship so I would spend six weeks of the summer studying her life,” she says. “I read several books about her. I visited and worked with sisters at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. I did storytelling workshops to get my skills better. I practiced and learned some basic French and worked on a French accent so I would sound like her.”

The Sisters of Providence were so thrilled by her interest that one of them, Sister Mary Loyola Bender, volunteered to create and sew a reproduction of a religious habit from 1840 for Paskash.

“She was 90 at the time,” Paskash says about Sister Mary. “She's just a doll.”

The journey to France with her husband and their two children was the key part of

her education about St. Theodora.

“I wanted to visit her birthplace, Etables, France,” Paskash says. “They still have the home where she was born. It's been renovated so you can visit it. You can't really take a bus or a train to Etables. I had to rent a vehicle in Paris. That was very challenging for me. I knew a few basic French phrases, but not many people there speak English and there weren't many signs. I got lost a lot.”

Surviving those struggles added to her appreciation of finally visiting the home where St. Theodora spent her early years.

“I was amazed it was still there,” she recalls. “It gave me a real sense of what she was like as a person, what her life was like. They showed me where her garden was. They took me to the beautiful church where she would have gone to Mass. It was fun.”

The fun continued when she gave her first performance as St. Theodora at St. Charles Borromeo School on Oct. 2, the birthday of the saint.

“I dressed up in her habit and told her story to the children with her accent,” she says. “I felt it was an important thing to do for the children. Instead of reading them a book or telling them about her life, I wanted to give them a chance to see her. The children were very sweet. The little ones were in awe of me. The older ones had a lot of questions.”

The extra effort reflects the approach that Paskash has given during her 30 years as a teacher. Her time spent learning more about St. Theodora reflects the inspiration that the saint has had on her life.



Madonna Paskash used an \$8,000 Teacher Creativity Fellowship to study the life of St. Theodora Guérin so she could play the role for students at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington, where she teaches third-grade students.

“It has reinforced my faith,” Paskash says. “I try to stress to my students that faith isn't waiting for God to make miracles in your life, it's doing everything you possibly can and *then* giving it over to God to make things happen.”

“St. Mother Theodore is such a great example of that. She was tireless in her efforts and never gave up. She believed in her heart that God would care for them. That fits my life as well. I try to live that every day. You need to pray every day. But I also try to do everything I can to live my faith every day.” †

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Ryan Bernhardt
B.S. in chemistry
Marian College Class of 2008

I participated in priceless undergraduate research, played collegiate golf and tennis, and studied under excellent professors. Now, I work as a high throughput robotics chemist at Coskata, Inc. What matters is that I'm helping create economical fuels from renewable resources.

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A tradition of excellence

Bishops embrace education and faith formation

By Mary Ann Wyand

Two commitments have always guided Catholic education in the archdiocese: creating a foundation of faith and shaping a vision of the future for children.

Today, that twin focus has led to a 97 percent high school graduation rate in the archdiocese, with 94 percent of those graduates entering college.

The approach has also earned national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence recognition from the U.S. Department of Education for 25 Catholic schools in the archdiocese—more than any other diocese in the country.

That dual commitment has been shared by Catholic families, lay teachers, priests, and religious sisters and brothers. It also has been a priority for the 11 bishops and archbishops who have served Catholics in central and southern Indiana since May 6, 1834, in the Diocese of Vincennes and then in the Diocese of Indianapolis when it was established on Nov. 28, 1843.

Here's a historic look at how each of those 11 spiritual leaders have shaped Catholic education in the archdiocese in the past 175 years.

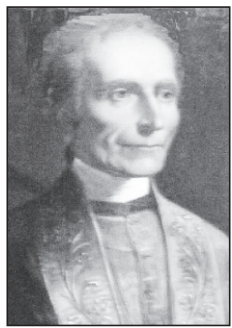
Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté

A physician, priest and former Catholic college president, Bishop Bruté graduated from medical school at the University of Paris with the highest honors before deciding to study for the priesthood as a member of the Society of St. Sulpice and come to America as a missionary.

Upon his arrival in southern Indiana in late 1834, the first Bishop of Vincennes dedicated his ministry to educating people

in the faith and preparing men for the priesthood.

He invited the Sisters of Charity from Kentucky to help him with the ministry of Catholic education in the new diocese, and archival records report that "before very long about 50 day pupils and four boarders were in attendance" at the school in Vincennes.



Bishop Simon Bruté

"In a comparatively short period of time, an educational system had been set up in Vincennes," the archival records explain, "which included complete elementary, secondary and higher education for both sexes and which was intended as a model for the entire diocese."

Bishop Bruté worked hard to recruit 20 priests and seminarians as well as establish churches and schools in the German Catholic settlements in southern Indiana.

Within five years, 130 students attended elementary schools, and both a college for men and an academy for women had been established in the diocese.

"In addition to that of being head of the diocese," the archival records note, "the first bishop's duties embraced those of pastor of the congregation, seminary professor and school teacher."

Bishop Bruté was recognized as "one of the most learned and distinguished men as well as an outstanding Catholic educator in the United States."

He died on June 26, 1839, in Vincennes.

Bishop Célestin de la Hailandière

A lawyer and priest, Bishop de la Hailandière was installed as bishop of Vincennes in Paris on Aug. 18, 1839.

Before returning to Indiana, he appealed to the French Sisters of Providence for help in educating Catholics in his diocese.

Responding to his invitation, Mother Theodore Guérin—now St. Theodora Guérin—came to the diocese with five sisters to found what would become Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, recruit new sisters and later teach at parish schools.

During his eight years as bishop, he carried on Bishop Bruté's plans for an educational system in the diocese. He also arranged for the construction of a library to preserve his predecessor's large collection of scholarly books.

He died on May 1, 1882, in France.

Bishop John Stephen Bazin

A priest and former college president, Bishop Bazin was interested in the religious instruction of children.

He was installed as bishop on Oct. 24, 1847, but died in Vincennes a few months later on April 23, 1848.

Bishop Jacques de St. Palais

A former nobleman, Bishop St. Palais was installed on Jan. 14, 1849, in Vincennes. He is remembered for his commitment to caring for orphans and the education of young men for the priesthood.

Also in 1849, he approved the establishment of an academy and free school by the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

During his 28 years as bishop, a "young ladies academy" was established in Madison

and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart opened a boys' school in 1906 in Indianapolis and later founded a high school in Vincennes.

Bishop St. Palais died on June 28, 1877, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, a day after he attended a commencement ceremony there.

Bishop Francis Silas Chatard

The former rector of the American College in Rome, Bishop Chatard studied medicine before answering God's call to the priesthood. He was installed as bishop on May 12, 1878.

During his 40 years as bishop, the Diocese of Vincennes was renamed the Diocese of Indianapolis.

The interparochial high school in the Indianapolis North Deanery is named for this bishop, who wrote a pastoral letter on Catholic education.

By 1922, there were Catholic schools for boys and girls in "22 localities" and "upwards of 14,564 children were receiving a Catholic education under the care of sisters."

He died on Sept. 7, 1918, in Indianapolis.

Bishop Joseph Chartrand

As coadjutor bishop with the right to succession, Bishop Chartrand assumed the spiritual leadership of the archdiocese following Bishop Chatard's death.

He is remembered for his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and as a "compassionate and wise confessor."

Bishop Chartrand taught religion classes at Cathedral High School across the street from the Cathedral rectory and was known for participating with [grade school] pupils in recess games on the playground of SS. Peter and Paul School.

continued on next page

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During his 15 years as bishop, 112 parishes operated schools, the archival records explain, and more than 16,000 children were receiving a Catholic education.

Bishop Chartrand also established a diocesan school board.

The archival records note that "educational progress in the Diocese of Indianapolis during the past quarter of a century is best shown in a roughly sketched account of the erection and dedication of a large number of the schools, which took place during this period, some of which were newly founded and a great number of others which were rebuilt."

Bishop Chartrand died unexpectedly on Dec. 8, 1933, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter

A native of New Albany, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph E. Ritter was named bishop on March 24, 1934, and was installed as the first archbishop of Indianapolis on Dec. 19, 1944, 10 months after Pope Pius XII signed the apostolic decree establishing the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Archbishop Ritter is remembered for his courageous commitment to civil rights and for integrating the Catholic schools in the archdiocese two decades before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down racial segregation in public schools.

In 1946, he was appointed to lead the Archdiocese of St. Louis, where he also supervised the integration of Catholic schools.

Archbishop Ritter was named a cardinal by Pope John XXIII on Jan. 16, 1961. He died on June 10, 1967, in St. Louis.

Archbishop Paul C. Schulte

Remembered as a visionary spiritual leader, Archbishop Schulte was installed on Oct. 10, 1946.

Many parishes and schools in suburban areas of Marion County exist because Archbishop Schulte foresaw the population

growth and demographic changes then bought land in a number of outlying areas.

Archbishop Schulte also supervised the construction and development of the four interparochial high schools in the Indianapolis deaneries: Bishop Chatard, Cardinal Ritter, Roncalli and Father Thomas Seccina Memorial.

As a Father of the Second Vatican Council during the 1960s, Archbishop Schulte helped make many of the liturgical decisions that have shaped the Catholic Church in modern times.

He died on Feb. 17, 1984, in Indianapolis.

Archbishop George J. Biskup

As coadjutor bishop with the right of succession, Bishop Biskup also served as pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis before he was installed as archbishop on Jan. 14, 1970.

Archbishop Biskup is remembered for supporting the concept of Total Catholic Education and the establishment of lay boards of education to govern the parish elementary schools and interparochial high schools.

Archival records report that "it was during his administration that the archdiocese became known nationally for its holistic approach to Catholic education under the leadership of Father Gerald A. Gettelfinger, then superintendent of Catholic education" and now bishop of the Diocese of Evansville.

Archbishop Biskup died on Oct. 17, 1979, in Indianapolis.

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara

The former director of the U.S. branch of the Church's Society for the Propagation of the Faith was installed as archbishop on Jan. 10, 1980, and enjoyed visiting Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana during his 12 years of ministry.

The 1970s and 1980s ushered in an era that saw a dramatic increase in the involvement of lay people in teaching and running Catholic schools.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein breaks ground for the new Holy Angels School and Parish Center in Indianapolis with help from Father Clarence Waldon, then-Mayor Steve Goldsmith, students and others involved in the project. The new school opened on Aug. 30, 1999. It was the first new inner-city school built in the United States in 40 years and was made possible by the archdiocesan Making a Difference campaign.

As a result, the archdiocese received national recognition as a leader in lay governance of schools.

Archbishop O'Meara died in Indianapolis 12 years to the day after his installation as archbishop.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Known as the "education bishop," the former president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology and Saint Meinrad College has focused on the educational needs of Catholics since his installation on Sept. 9, 1992.

For nearly 17 years, Archbishop Buechlein has built relationships with parents, parishes and corporate donors to raise funds to ensure that Catholic schools in the archdiocese will remain affordable for all children.

In 1996, he established the Celebrating Catholic School Values Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards program, which has raised more than \$4 million to benefit Catholic education.

Archbishop Buechlein also initiated the Building Communities of Hope and

Legacy of Hope capital campaigns to raise tens of millions of dollars, in part, to rebuild Catholic schools.

These successful campaigns enabled the archdiocese to build the new Holy Angels School and extensively renovate Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis, which resulted in national news coverage as the first new inner-city Catholic schools constructed in the United States since the 1960s.

Each year, the six center-city parish schools in Indianapolis that are now Mother Theodore Catholic Academies help hundreds of students from low-income families rise above the cycle of poverty, achieve success in the classroom, and look to the future with hope and confidence.

Since 1985, 25 Catholic schools in the archdiocese have earned 31 national Blue Ribbons from the U.S. Department of Education recognizing their excellence. A total of 22 Blue Ribbon Awards have been earned by archdiocesan schools in just the past five years—more than any other diocese in the country. †

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Roxana Moghaddam

Unsung heroes

Religious sisters continue to leave their mark on students

By John Shaughnessy

In looking back on the 175-year history of the archdiocese, any list of the heroes of Catholic education would have to include parents, priests, religious brothers and lay teachers.

Still, if you were searching for the “unsung heroes” of Catholic education in the archdiocese’s history, that distinction belongs to one special group of people:

Religious sisters.

Indeed, ever since St. Theodora Guérin left France and arrived in the Indiana wilderness in 1840 with the goal of offering a faith-based education to children of all backgrounds, the history of Catholic education in the archdiocese has clearly been marked by the efforts of the Sisters of Providence, Sisters of St. Benedict, Sisters of St. Francis and the Sisters of St. Joseph—to name the most prominent orders.

“The sisters have been overwhelming to the Church at large,” says Richard Powell, a 2009 recipient of a Celebrating Catholic School Values Award, who taught at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis for 42 years before retiring in 2008. “They gave the example of their lives to teach us how to live. They were always willing to help other people, no matter what. And they taught us to do the same, beyond what they did for us with the three Rs. They formed many a life.”

Even in an age now dominated by Catholic lay teachers, the remarkable legacy of religious sisters continues. And while this story will focus on the life of just one of those sisters, consider this story as a tribute to every religious sister who has devoted her life to teaching and advising Catholic children.

At 74, Benedictine Sister Louise Hoeing is in her 56th year as an educator in the archdiocese—a former teacher and principal who has long served as the director of guidance at Bishop Chatard High School.

Her life shows how Catholic education has changed in many ways through the years and yet still retains its roots.

She grew up in Indianapolis, one of seven children in her family. Her parents were married in 1931 during the Great Depression, an era when economic hard times devastated many families. And yet their commitment to the Church never wavered.

“Catholic education was very important to my parents,” she recalls as she sits in her office at Bishop Chatard. “All their children got a Catholic education.”

She remembers her childhood days at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis when Providence Sister Catherine Siena played marbles with the boys and taught all her students to stand up for their beliefs.

She recalls transferring to the newly-opened Christ the King School in Indianapolis in seventh grade, where she met Benedictine Sister Assunta Highbaugh, a woman who always demanded the best of her students.

She also remembers her freshman year of high school at the former St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis, and the pain that she and her classmates felt when one of their favorite teachers, Sister Marie Rose, died that year of cancer.

“The way she handled herself, she was a steady influence for us,” she recalls.

The influence of those sisters stayed with her when she joined the Benedictine Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese in 1950, when she was 16.

“It was an inner longing for something more than what I was experiencing,” Sister Louise says. “I felt there was something more for me than the proms and running around.”

At 19, she began teaching at St. Ambrose School in Seymour. She started as a fifth-grade teacher before taking over the first grade.

“I had 54 students in one class,” she recalls. “I took them to the fire station two blocks away one day. Did I have another adult with me? No. They obeyed. I taught them Latin, too. They thought they were the cat’s meow.”

During that time in the 1950s, she experienced a rare moment in Catholic education in the archdiocese.

“In my first years of teaching, all the teachers were sisters,” she says. “Someone got sick and a woman by the name of Mrs. Nichter replaced her. She would have been one of the first lay teachers in the archdiocese.”

The changes came in her life, too. As a principal and teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville in the early 1960s, Sister Louise relished the opportunity to lead a school. She also thrived during the 10 years she served as principal of the former Our Lady of Grace Academy in Beech Grove.

“I had never been in a high school since I was in high school,” she says with a laugh. “That Class of ’66 helped me through. We still get together.”



In her 56th year as an educator in the archdiocese, Benedictine Sister Louise Hoeing shares a moment with Holly Ackermann, left, and Amanda Sands, students at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis. Sister Louise is the school’s director of guidance.

Since 1975, she has been at Bishop Chatard, working mostly in the guidance department. She is the guidance counselor for half of each freshman class. As director of guidance, she also is a terrific source of knowledge for seniors who need help seeking college scholarships or finding a college that matches their gifts and their career plans, says Bishop Chatard president William Sahn.

“She has a great sense of humor, and she is compassionate and sensitive,” Sahn says. “She keeps track of all the deaths in the Bishop Chatard community—grandparents, aunts, uncles. She attends every wake and many funerals. And she has a mind for detail. She keeps track of her former students—how many kids they have, grandchildren, who they are married to, what’s going on in their lives.”


Sister Louise is part of a Benedictine tradition that has been in place at Bishop Chatard since it opened in 1961. Two other Benedictine sisters, Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom and Sister Kathleen Yeadon, also teach at the school.

“We’re so different,” Sister Louise says. “I see that as a plus. Students have the opportunity to see we’re not all in the same mold.”

Still, they are connected by a bond of faithfulness to helping Catholic students grow in their faith and their education. It’s a bond with the past, a bond that hasn’t weakened even as the number of religious sisters in Catholic schools has declined dramatically in Sister Louise’s lifetime.

“They have dedicated themselves to the needs of the Church, whatever it may be,” Sister Louise says about religious sisters through the generations. “In education, they have carried the torch of continuing the faith for children.”

She pauses and says, “I hope we’ve added something.” There’s no doubt, say admirers of religious sisters. “Their dedication to their students has been remarkable,” Sahn says. “Just think of the amount of heart and soul they put toward their students. Equally important, they’re living symbols of commitment to Christ and their faith.” †



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Catholic schools prepare students for the future

Then ...

Archive photo



Oldenburg Franciscan Sister Clarissa Dillhoff helps kindergarten students with a coloring project in this Archive photo from August 1980 on the first day of classes at St. Paul School in New Alsace.

Archive photo



Father Albert Ajamie, pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis from 1964 until 1970, welcomes students to Holy Angels School in this undated Archive photo.

Archive photo



Holy Cross School students pose for a group picture in 1949 with Father Ambrose Sullivan, the pastor, in the Kelley Gymnasium to commemorate their first Communion. Father Sullivan was the pastor of Holy Cross Parish from 1941 until 1952.

Now ...

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



St. Lawrence School eighth-grader Joe Shirey of Indianapolis celebrates after answering a math question correctly on Aug. 18, 2008, using the Indianapolis North Deanery grade school's new SMART Board computer technology. Betty Popp, the principal, said this interactive learning tool helps teachers present high-impact lessons, connect with the students through technology and bring learning to life.

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



St. Simon School kindergartners and their teachers pose for a class picture on April 14, 2004, with Army Capt. Ed Lupomech of Indianapolis, who was their pen pal during his tour of duty in Iraq. He visited the classroom to thank the children for their prayers, letters and drawings, and showed the students his Bronze Star and Purple Heart earned for courageous service in wartime.

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



St. Monica School kindergartner Elizabeth Bauserman of Indianapolis practices using a walker during the Indianapolis West Deanery grade school's annual Disability Awareness Day on Nov. 19, 2003. Students learn about the challenges that people with disabilities face in daily life.

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



St. Rose of Lima sixth-grader William Roush of Franklin works with science teacher Amber Hayes on a chemistry experiment with new laboratory equipment on Jan. 18, 2007.

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



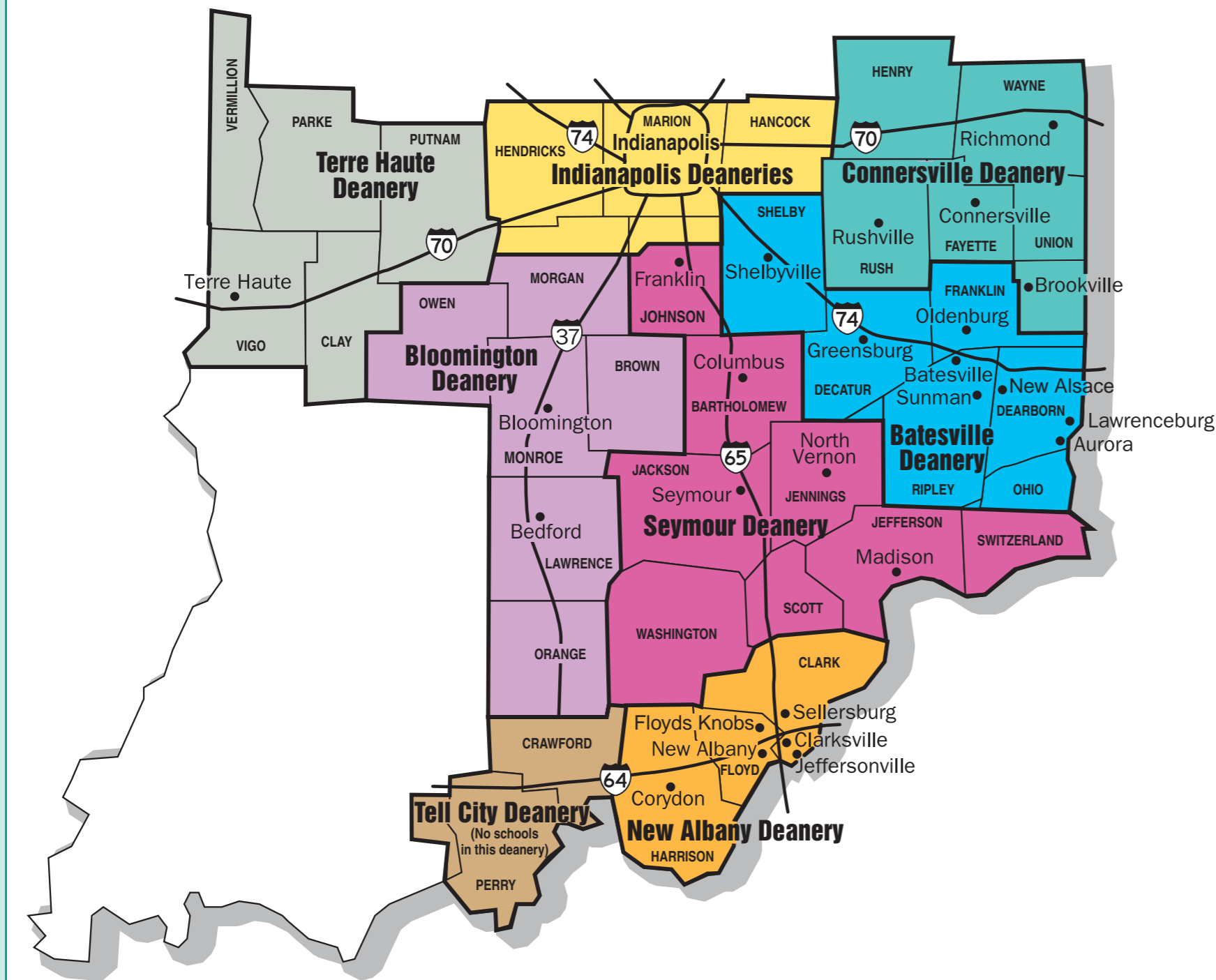
St. Luke School eighth-grade students carry John Sontag, portraying Jesus, to the tomb during a Passion play on Good Friday, April 6, 2007, at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Eighth-grader Allison Paras, at right, who portrayed Mary, cries below the cross.



Catholic Schools

An answer to a parent's prayer

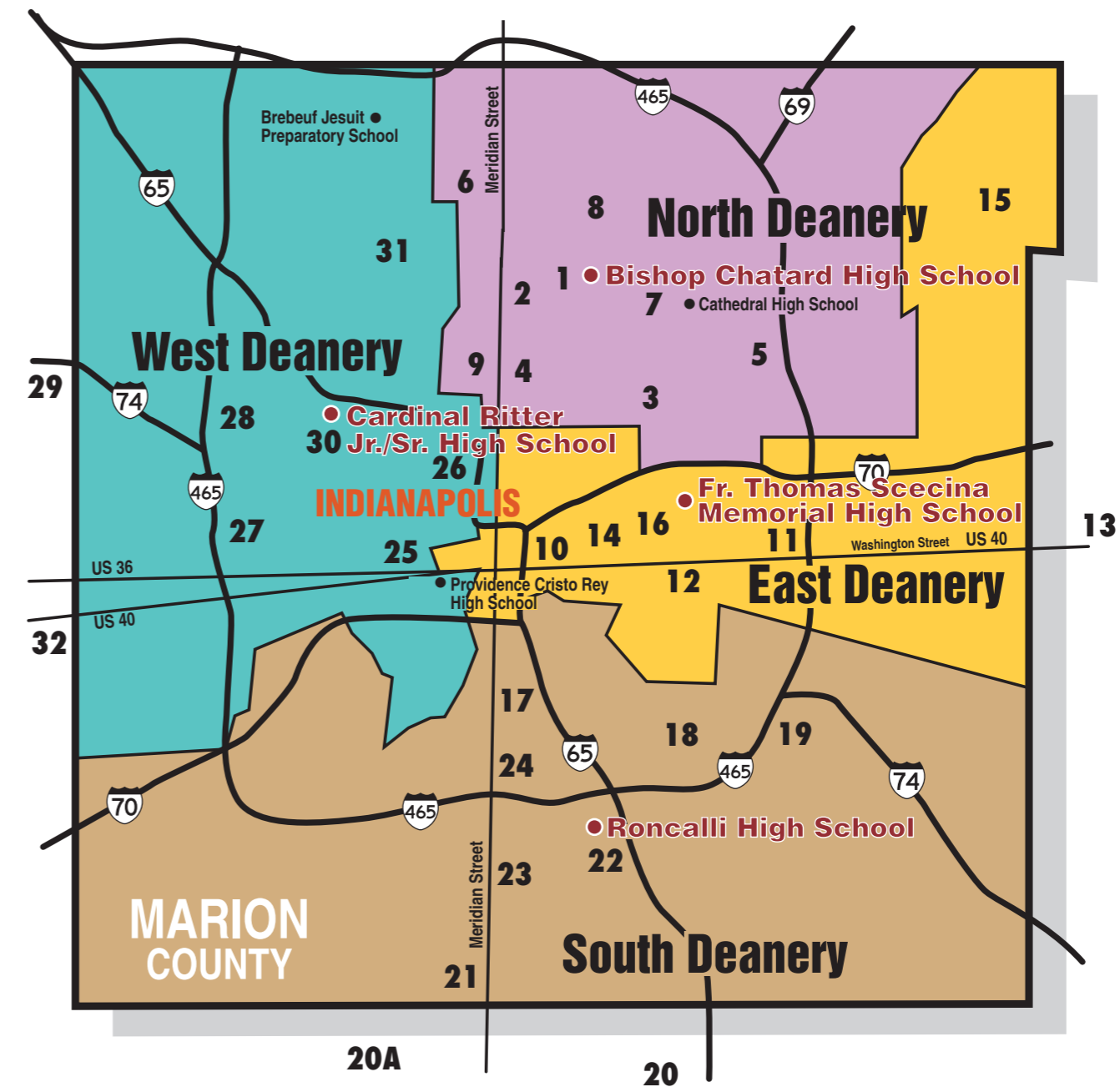
ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



DEANERY SCHOOLS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Batesville Deanery
Aurora
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8)
211 Fourth St.
Aurora, IN 47001
812-926-1558</p> <p>Batesville
St. Louis School (K-8)
17 St. Louis Place
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-3310</p> <p>Greensburg
St. Mary School (P-6)
210 S. East St.
Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-2804</p> <p>Lawrenceburg
St. Lawrence School (K-8)
524 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-537-3690</p> <p>New Alsace
St. Paul School (P-6)
9788 N. Dearborn Road
Guilford, IN 47022
812-623-2631</p> <p>Shelbyville
St. Joseph School (P-5)
127 E. Broadway
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-398-4202</p> <p>Sunman
St. Nicholas School (P-8)
6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
Sunman, IN 47041
812-623-2348</p> | <p>Bloomington Deanery
Bedford
St. Vincent de Paul School (P-8)
923 18th St.
Bedford, IN 47421
812-279-2540</p> <p>Bloomington
St. Charles Borromeo School (P-8)
2224 E. Third St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-336-5853</p> <p>Connersville Deanery
Brookville
St. Michael School (K-8)
P. O. Box J, 275 High St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961</p> <p>Connersville
St. Gabriel School (P-6)
224 W. Ninth St.
Connersville, IN 47331
765-825-7951</p> <p>Richmond
Seton Catholic High School (7-12)
233 S. 5th St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-965-6956</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (P-6)
801 W. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-4877</p> <p>Rushville
St. Mary School (P-6)
226 E. Fifth St.
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3639</p> | <p>New Albany Deanery
Clarksville
Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
707 Providence Way
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-945-2538</p> <p>Clarksville
St. Anthony School (P-8)
320 N. Sherwood Ave.
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-282-2144</p> <p>Corydon
St. Joseph School (P-6)
512 Mulberry
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4549</p> <p>Floyds Knobs
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (P-6)
3033 Martin Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
812-923-1630</p> <p>Jeffersonville
Sacred Heart School (P-8)
1842 E. Eighth St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-283-3123</p> <p>New Albany
Holy Family School (P-8)
217 W. Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-6090</p> <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (P-8)
1752 Scheller Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-7676</p> | <p>New Albany, cont'd
St. Mary School (P-8)
420 E. Eighth St.
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-0888</p> <p>Sellersburg
St. Paul School (P-6)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-944-3266</p> <p>Seymour Deanery
Columbus
St. Bartholomew School (P-8)
1306 27th St.
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-6830</p> <p>Franklin
St. Rose of Lima School (P-8)
114 Lancelot Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-3451</p> <p>Madison
Father Michael Shave Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
201 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-2150</p> <p>Pope John XXIII School (P-6)
221 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-3957</p> <p>North Vernon
St. Mary School (K-8)
209 Washington St.
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-3445</p> | <p>Seymour
St. Ambrose School (P-8)
301 S. Chestnut St.
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-3522</p> <p>Terre Haute Deanery
Terre Haute
St. Patrick School (P-8)
449 S. 19th St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-232-2157</p> <p>Private High School
Oldenburg
Immaculate Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)
P.O. Box 200
Oldenburg, IN 47036
812-934-4440</p> |
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GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Indianapolis North Deanery
• Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451</p> <p>1. Christ the King School (K-8)
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366</p> <p>2. Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468</p> <p>3. St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy (P-8)*
4050 E. 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46218
317-549-6305</p> <p>4. St. Joan of Arc School (P-8)
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518</p> <p>5. St. Lawrence School (P-8)
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923</p> <p>6. St. Luke School (K-8)
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912</p> | <p>7. St. Matthew School (K-8)
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997</p> <p>8. St. Pius X School (K-8)
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3361</p> <p>9. St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-826-6244</p> <p>Indianapolis East Deanery
• Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School (9-12)
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-356-6377</p> <p>10. Holy Cross Central School (P-8)*
125 N. Oriental St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-638-9068</p> <p>11. Holy Spirit School (P-8)
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243</p> | <p>12. Our Lady of Lourdes School (P-8)
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316</p> <p>13. St. Michael School (P-8)
515 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380</p> <p>14. St. Philip Neri School (P-8)*
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134</p> <p>15. St. Simon the Apostle School (P-8)
8155 Oaklondon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000</p> <p>Indianapolis South Deanery
• Roncalli High School (9-12)
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277</p> <p>17. Central Catholic School (K-8)*
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759</p> | <p>18. Holy Name School (P-8)
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078</p> <p>19. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (P-8)
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459</p> <p>20. Our Lady of the Greenwood School (P-8)
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300</p> <p>20A. SS Francis and Clare School (P-3)
5901 Olive Branch Road
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-215-2826</p> <p>21. St. Barnabas School (K-8)
8300 Rakke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422</p> <p>22. St. Jude School (K-8)
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828</p> <p>23. St. Mark the Evangelist School (K-8)
541 E. Edgewood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-786-4013</p> | <p>24. St. Roch School (P-8)
3603 S. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-9144</p> <p>Indianapolis West Deanery
• Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333</p> <p>25. St. Anthony School (P-6)*
349 N. Warman Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739</p> <p>26. Holy Angels School (P-6)*
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211</p> <p>27. St. Christopher School (P-6)
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314</p> <p>28. St. Gabriel School (P-8)
6000 W. 34th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-297-1414</p> <p>29. St. Malachy School (K-8)
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242</p> | <p>30. St. Michael the Archangel School (K-8)
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516</p> <p>31. St. Monica School (K-8)
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153</p> <p>32. St. Susanna School (P-8)
1212 E. Main St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-839-3713</p> <p>Private Schools
• Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-542-1481</p> <p>• Lumen Christi Catholic School
580 Stevens St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-632-3174</p> <p>• Providence Cristo Rey High School (9-12)
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-860-1000</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|

* Mother Theodore Catholic Academies (Consortium)

Catholic education staff provides many support services

By Mary Ann Wyand

Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education staff members are dedicated to providing a variety of educational support services for parish elementary schools and the archdiocesan interparochial high schools.

Here is a look at some of their educational responsibilities.

School safety

Understandably, parents are concerned about the safety of their children at Catholic schools and parish programs.

G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education, has participated in the Indiana School Safety Specialists Academy since its inception by the Indiana Department of Education in 1999.

"The Office of Catholic Education has held five training sessions for school teams on building state-of-the-art emergency operation plans for schools," Peters said. "We have scheduled three additional workshops for school safety training. The next workshop is June 10."

He said the goal is for every Catholic school in the archdiocese to have a state-of-the-art emergency operation plan in place by Dec. 31, 2009.

"All of our schools do have an emergency preparedness plan as required by law," Peters said, "but this training will enhance the uniformity and the quality ... based on an expert Tactical Site Survey in order to provide exemplary school safety preparedness and prevention."

Education and values

"We're the third largest school district in the state," Ron Costello, superintendent of Catholic schools, explained. "We have a very high percentage of students returning each year, about 85 to 90 percent in all of our schools."

Archdiocesan schools are accredited by the state, and Office of Catholic Education staff members ensure that those requirements are met by school staffs.

"We help the schools with improvement efforts on those

things that they identify as their priorities," Costello said. "In the school improvement plans required by the Office of Catholic Education and the state, most of our school staffs have identified improvements in writing and problem-solving skills as academic priorities. We work with our schools to improve their Catholic identity, and challenges with student enrollment, finances and development.

The fact that we [nurture values] is a real testament to what is taking place in our schools," he said. "Service to the community is also an integral part of the mission of all our schools."

Teacher Mentor Program

The Office of Catholic Education is approved by the state to train experienced teachers to be mentor teachers for new educators, who must complete Indiana Department of Education requirements to convert their temporary, two-year license to permanent credentials.

"We do our own mentor training because we're unique as Catholic schools," said Rob Rash, associate director of schools, administrative personnel and professional development. "We have more than 150 mentor teachers and over 200 first- and second-year teachers."

Mentor teachers are required to have a master's degree and five years of experience, Rash explained. "Those mentor teachers work through their schools to train the new educators.

"During the second year, the new teacher submits a portfolio, is videotaped and also has to show some student work," he said. "That is all submitted with the help of the mentor teacher to the state Department of Education to convert their temporary license."

The mentor program increases retention of new teachers, he said, by creating a climate of dialogue between the newer and experienced faculty members that enhances teamwork among the school staff.

Special education and legislative efforts

The number of students with disabilities who are



Nationally known chastity speaker Jason Everett promotes the A Promise to Keep program to archdiocesan students.

enrolled in Catholic schools has grown in the last six years.

Students with disabilities comprised 19 percent of the Catholic school enrollment in the archdiocese last year, explained Kathy Mears, associate director of schools and learning resources.

"There are 13 legal categories of disabilities," Mears said, "and we serve children with disabilities in all 13 categories in our schools. We have worked to assist teachers and principals in learning new instructional strategies and ways that we can accommodate additional numbers of students with disabilities in our schools."

Catholic school students include children who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing, and mild or moderately mentally handicapped, she said, as well as students diagnosed with learning disabilities, communication disorders and autism.

Mears also serves the archdiocese by helping with legislative efforts for special education. She is a member of the state advisory council for special education.

"On Dec. 2, we held the only training that is going to be offered by the state for non-public schools here at the Catholic Center," she said. "We had over 200 people attend the training session on the new Article 7, which is Indiana's special education law."

The archdiocese and the Indiana Catholic Conference, the lobbying arm of the Church in the state are concerned about public funding for special education students in non-public schools, Mears said. "We want to make sure that our students are able to access the funds that they are generating through the state's special education law."

A Promise to Keep: God's Gift of Human Sexuality

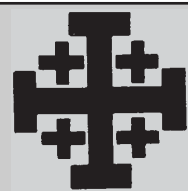
Now in its 14th year, the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's peer mentor chastity program continues to achieve excellent results with its faith-based, abstinence education curriculum for middle school students taught by trained high school student volunteers.

Margaret Hendricks, coordinator of adolescent growth programs for the archdiocese, said research by Purdue University's Department of Sociology found that the program has "substantially increased reported responsibility in decision-making regarding being chaste or abstinent."

She said a survey of 250 peer mentors in five Catholic high schools indicated that the curriculum also effectively reinforced the teenagers' commitment to postponing sexual activity until marriage.

During its 14-year history, she said, 7,000 teenage mentors have brought the A Promise to Keep abstinence education curriculum to 65,000 middle school students.

Hendricks, other Office of Catholic Education staff members and a committee of educators recently rewrote the archdiocesan guidelines for sexuality education, which reinforce Church teachings. †



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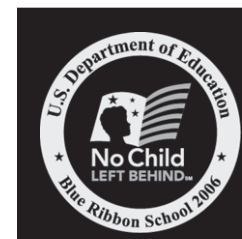
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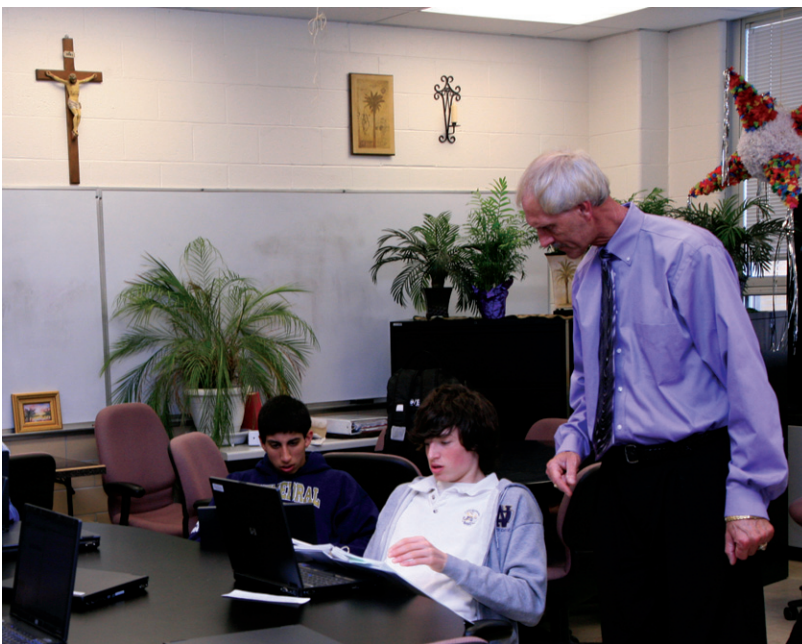
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Fast Facts

1,280

Enrollment in Grades 9-12 for the 2008-09 school year.

131

Schools represented in the Cathedral student body.

100

Percent of seniors who are accepted to colleges and universities.

80+

Different co-curricular clubs, groups or organizations

34

AP and IB classes

27

IHSAA or club sports

18

Average students per class.

18

College scholarship dollars, in millions, earned by the Class of 2008.

16

Percentage of the multicultural population at Cathedral.

13:1

Student to teacher ratio.

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Everything old is new again

Parishes, families band together to support new high school

By Sean Gallagher

RICHMOND—As one of the newest schools in the archdiocese with a history of only six years, the parents, 155 students and staff of Seton Catholic High School in Richmond have little opportunity to reflect upon their past.

Instead, they are focused on building their school as a family in the present so that it can have a bright future.

It is easy to see how the eastern Indiana Catholic high school is a family. Just walk into its cafeteria around lunch time, and you'll see two parents of students serving food to the student body.

"The school needs volunteers to help it run," said David Marsee while working on the lunch line. "But I enjoy it, too. I think it's fun to get to know the kids that are in my kid's classes."

Some high school students might balk at seeing their parents in their school's cafeteria. But not Seton freshman Daniel Marsee.

"We need parent involvement more than ever in a small school [like this one]," Daniel said. "People support the school because they want to see it grow. As it enlarges, it could offer so much more than what it does currently."

Daniel and his family are members of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond.

"Our parents and our students are cheerleading for our success," said Seton principal Rick Ruhl. "And the students are so excited because so oftentimes things



Volunteer David Marsee, left, serves lunch on Jan. 7 at Seton Catholic High School to seventh-grader Rhet Butler, left, a member of St. Mary Parish in Richmond, and Drew Barrett, a member of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond. Marsee, a parent of a student at Seton Catholic High School, is assisted by volunteer Evelyn Miller, also a parent of a student at the school.

that we do are brand new."

One of the new things at the high school is a gymnasium that was opened last November.

Ruhl recalled how its 400 seats were filled and others stood to participate in the dedication ceremony. For him, it was an example of how all of the members of the three parishes that make up the Richmond Catholic Community—Holy Family, St. Andrew and St. Mary—are behind the school.

"I looked up in the stands and I saw not only our own Seton parents, but grandparents [and] folks from the Richmond Catholic Community that didn't even have any children connected with our school," he said. "They were there because of their support for our school."

Father Todd Riebe, the pastor of the

three parishes that make up the Richmond Catholic Community, said that Catholic schools not only benefit from the broad support of their sponsoring faith communities, but also end up being a blessing to all.

"Catholic schools bring so many people together, uniting them in a common purpose and mission," he said. "Parish, family and staff all work together to reinforce the Gospel values."

"A Catholic school benefits not only the students and families that are a part of the school. A Catholic school benefits the entire parish. This has certainly been our experience in Richmond."

(To learn more about Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, log on to www.setoncatholichighschool.org.) †

Historic school receives support from many generations

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic schools have been a part of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis since it was founded 175 years ago as the Diocese of Vincennes.

The members of St. Paul Parish in New Alsace know that for a fact. Their parish school was founded the same year—1834—and has never been closed. It is the oldest continually operating school in the archdiocese.

For many members of the southeastern Indiana parish, it is more than just a historical fact. Many of the families who call St. Paul their spiritual home have been living in the rolling hills around New Alsace for several generations.

Marcella McCann, 71, went to the school during the 1940s. Her mother studied there when she was a child. Each of McCann's eight children was educated at St. Paul School and, thus far, 18 of her 22 grandchildren have been students there. Six grandchildren are currently enrolled.

But with only 64 students currently attending the pre-school through grade 6 school, it can be hard to keep it open.

McCann, though, is up to the challenge. She thinks her parish, as a

See NEW ALSACE page 15B

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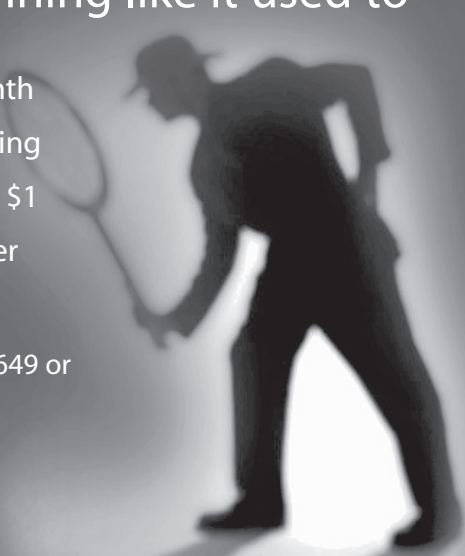
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NEW ALSACE

continued from page 14B

whole, is, too.
 "We all strive to keep the school alive. That's for sure," she said. "We participate in probably everything we can do to bring money in to help keep the school going. It means a lot to me."

It means so much that she does far more than simply help raise money for the school. She has also volunteered to clean its bathrooms on weekends, and to sew costumes for plays that the students perform. Her husband has volunteered to work on the school's plumbing system.

St. Paul School principal Michael Monnig knows how important the volunteers are that come from throughout the parish, not just from parents who have children in the school.

"It's definitely a necessity in order to keep things functioning, and to keep up with the demands of the modern world in regard to technology and modern facilities," he said.

One of McCann's daughters, Leah Schmidl, has inherited her mother's dedication to the school. She taught there for six years during the mid-1990s, and has seen two of her children complete their elementary education there. Two more are

currently students.

Schmidl sees the parish's longstanding commitment to its school based in its faith.

"Religion is not just a tradition on the side where you go to church on Sundays," she said. "For us, it's life. We breathe our faith. We live our faith. We want to feed our children the faith."

Father Brian Esarey, pastor of St. Paul Parish, appreciates how the laity of the parish is so committed to the school.

"They are very hopeful and trust-filled, faithful people," he said. "The faith and the hope and the trust gives them that stimulus to continue to work and to give and to contribute [to the school]."

The hope of the St. Paul parishioners has allowed Monnig to look to the future of the 175-year-old school that he leads.

"I hope to continue building our enrollment from the bottom up," Monnig said. "We were recently approved to go ahead and add seventh and eighth grades. I think that is a big draw for the younger parents to know that their kids can attend here K [kindergarten] through eighth [grade]."

"The past is important, but we really need to give these kids a strong future. So you have to think about the future."

(To learn more about St. Paul School in New Alsace, log on to www.stpauledu.com.) †



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein receives offertory gifts on Sept. 7, 2008, at St. Paul Church in New Alsace from Ryley Stonebreaker, a sixth-grader at the parish school, and (not seen) Gabby Meyer, a fifth-grader at the school, during a Mass that celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul Parish. Assisting Archbishop Buechlein are altar servers Matthew Horner, left, and Andy Galle, both former St. Paul School students. This year, St. Paul School is starting its 175th consecutive year in operation.

Parish's promotion of stewardship lifestyle aids school

By Sean Gallagher

To those who look at the world from the perspective of economics alone, it might be hard in the best of times to make a case for Catholic schools.

If that is true for Catholic schools that charge tuition, it is even more so for those that do not, relying instead on the stewardship of the members of the parish that sponsor it.

Add into the equation tough economic times like the United States is experiencing now, then such "stewardship schools" seem just flat out crazy.

Such is the so-called wisdom of the world.

But the people that make up St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis have embraced a different wisdom—the wisdom of faith.

For Lisa Taylor and many other members of St. Barnabas Parish, it isn't just about having faith that God will provide the financial resources to meet the school's bottom line.

It is about shaping one's life according to the principles of Catholic stewardship: recognizing that all that one has is a gift from God and being generous with one's time, talent and treasure in response to God's gifts.

"It's really about taking a leap of faith and realizing that this is the way that God wants us to live," said Taylor, a

mother of five children, four of whom are currently enrolled at St. Barnabas School.

Over the years, Taylor's family has coped with her husband's job loss and an income, once he found new employment, that didn't increase that much as they went from having one to five children.

But having embraced stewardship as a way of life, for them, there's no turning back. They are giving more financially to their parish and are also volunteering more in the parish school.

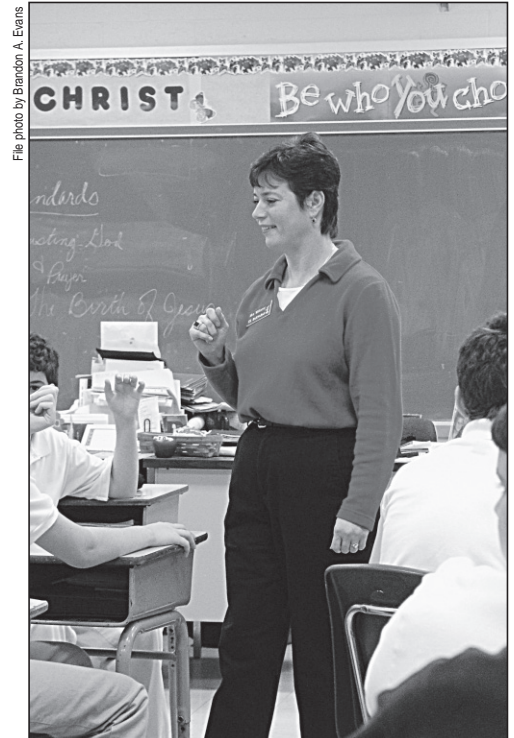
"Our economics didn't change," Taylor said. "It's because God has allowed us to be able to do it. It's not been easy. And it's not been perfect. But I just feel like we are where God wants us to be."

While stewardship as a way of life is the foundation for St. Barnabas Parish and its school of 630 students, there are definite guidelines that help parishioners who enroll children at the school to live that out. (Non-parishioners who enroll students at St. Barnabas pay tuition.)

They are expected to contribute financially to the parish. Five percent of a family's annual gross income is suggested, but not required.

Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass is required, and a system is currently being established to monitor attendance.

See ST. BARNABAS page 17B



In this file photo from 2003, Laura Williams, who continues to teach middle school religion at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, interacts with students. St. Barnabas Parish runs its school on the stewardship model, not charging tuition to parishioners who enroll their children there.



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2008-09 facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Archdiocesan Administration

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis includes the Office of Catholic Education (OCE), the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), St. Mary's Child Center and Mother Theodore Catholic Academies.

The Office of Catholic Education oversees and provides leadership, resources and policy guidance for Catholic schools, parish faith formation programs, evangelization ministries, youth ministry, and young adult and college campus ministry with the counsel of the Archdiocesan Education Commission.

Special programs operating under the auspices of OCE are the continuation and replication of Project EXCEED, a grant-funded school improvement initiative (2001-06); A Promise to Keep, a sexual abstinence program with St. Vincent Health; and SPRED, the Special Religious Development program serving developmentally disabled parishioners.

Office of Catholic Education

The Office of Catholic Education was formed in 1974 when the former school office and office of religious education were combined into one of the first offices of "Total Catholic Education" in the nation.

Under Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and in consultation with the Archdiocesan Education Commission, the OCE utilizes a team management approach in support of the teaching mission of the Church—"learning, teaching and sharing our faith."

In 2002, youth and young adult ministry were added to the OCE mission. In 2003, evangelization ministries were

added. Young adult and college campus ministry became separate from youth ministry programs within OCE in 2008.

Support for local site-based programs is provided through direct service, resources, consultation, training, community-building and collaboration with constituents in the parishes and schools in conjunction with other archdiocesan agencies.

Major constituencies include pastors, principals, parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, and members of school and faith formation commissions and high school boards.

Constituents are involved collaboratively in projects to design and develop curriculum, provide in-service training, produce manuals and guidelines, and to foster applied professional development.

Catholic schools, parish faith formation, evangelization, youth ministry and young adult ministry programs in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis serve 230,086 Catholics in 151 parishes and missions and 71 schools in 11 deaneries throughout a 39-county area of central and southern Indiana comprising some 13,757 square miles with a population of more than 2.4 million people.

Contact information for Office of Catholic Education

Location: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410

Local phone: 317-236-1430
Toll Free: 800-382-9836, ext. 1430
Fax: 317-261-3364

E-mail: indyoce@archindy.org

Web site: www.archindy.org/oce/

Catholic schools:	71
Elementary schools:	60 (28 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: **1,901 (full-time and part-time)**

Enrollment 2008-09 (Unofficial Oct. 1, 2008, enrollment):

Total pre-school-12:	23,077
Preschool:	1,842
Elementary (K-8):	15,532
High school (9-12):	5,703

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: **97%** (using IN four-year cohort method)
Percent of graduates entering college: **94%**

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

Average tuition rates, first child (estimated):	Catholic	Non-Catholic
Elementary schools:	\$3,313	\$4,773
Interparochial high schools:	\$6,354	\$8,283

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 2008:

Elementary schools cost-per-pupil:	\$4,611
Interparochial high schools cost-per-pupil:	\$7,991
Total operating cost of archdiocesan schools:	\$113.5 million

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

Annual savings to Indiana taxpayers (estimate): **\$209 million**

(Estimated at aggregate public school 2006 K-12 composite estimated cost-per-pupil of \$10,976 x 2006 Catholic school K-12 enrollment, excluding private high schools)

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Stewardship helps form students' character and faith

By Sean Gallagher

BROOKVILLE—Running a Catholic school on the stewardship model—where tuition is not charged and the school is supported solely by its sponsoring parish—isn't just about the financial bottom line.

It also serves as a means to form the character and faith of the school's students, according to Kenneth Saxon, the principal of St. Michael School in Brookville, which is a stewardship school.

In the first semester of the 2008-09 academic year alone, parents of the students logged in nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer service at the school.

"They're setting an example for the kids," Saxon said. "It's not just to provide the service in itself. It's also that example and to tell those kids, by action, that we believe in this school and what this school stands for and that we support it."

Leah McCool is one of the parents who sets such an example.

A member of St. Michael Parish and a mother of four children, three of whom are students at the parish school, McCool volunteers two and a half days a week as a teacher's aide at the parish school.

"If people aren't volunteering, things aren't getting done," she said. "If we don't have parents on the playground, the kids aren't being watched adequately. It's a definite supplement that needs to be [here] year-round."

In addition to aiding the school, McCool said that volunteering helps her to be more involved in her children's education.

"It's nice to get to know the kids that are in my children's class," she said. "I know their families. I know their parents."

"It [also] makes people more approachable. You know all the teachers on a first-name basis. If I have a question, if I have a problem, I can go to them. The communication is very open, back and forth."

Before coming to St. Michael School two and a half years ago, Saxon had served for 35 years in the Franklin County Community School Corporation, in the same county where St. Michael School is located.

He said that one of the biggest differences between his two work environments is the amount of parental involvement and support at



Leah McCool, right, serves as a volunteer teacher's aide in the first-grade classroom at St. Michael School in Brookville. In the background, St. Michael School first-grade teacher Melanie Back asks her students a question on Jan. 7.

St. Michael School.

"That kind of support is priceless. You can't put a price on that," he said. "With the Franklin County schools, there wasn't necessarily that closeness with the

parents. There are probably a multitude of reasons for that.

"But here, there's a real closeness. They're vitally involved in the education of their kids." †

ST. BARNABAS

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And parents are expected to volunteer in the school.

When Debra Perkins began her ministry as St. Barnabas School's principal seven years ago, she was a bit skeptical that

running a school on the stewardship model was really possible.

"The idea that it really does have to be everybody working together to pay the bills, to make it work, was something that I had to see to believe," she said. "... It's sort of that we cross our fingers and say a prayer. But, seven years down the road, we have to say that it works."

For Father Randall Summers, St. Barnabas Parish's administrator, it is certainly about prayer. But it is also about changing the hearts of more and more parishioners.

"We're continually trying to convert hearts to that," he said. "It's not a buzzword. It really is important for everybody to give according to what has been given to them.

"If we were able to convert all of the hearts of the parishioners here at St. Barnabas, I think we would have more gifts and talents and money than we would ever need."

(To learn more about St. Barnabas Parish, including its school, log on to www.stbarnabasparish.org.) †



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A trip to the past

High school friends visit the brothers who shaped their lives

By John Shaughnessy

The idea for the road trip seemed crazy at first, the kind of idea that good friends think of when the stories and the laughter flow.

And yet the idea for the road trip seemed perfect, too. After all, the friends knew they couldn't wait any longer if they wanted to say "thank you" in person one more time.

So the 15 friends from high school boarded a charter bus in Indianapolis in early December to begin the 2½-hour trip to visit some of the religious brothers who had shaped their lives long ago.

As the bus headed north toward South Bend, Ind., the friends once again started sharing stories about the Holy Cross brothers who were their teachers and mentors at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

"The impact the brothers had on our lives was huge," says Fran Brezette, a 1960 Cathedral graduate. "Teaching young men was not just a job to the brothers, it was their vocation. They lived in community at the school, and we were part of their family. They were tough taskmasters, but their motivation was always to make us better

people and better prepared for life after high school."

The influence has lasted even though nearly 50 years have passed. Many of the Holy Cross brothers from that era at Cathedral have died, but some are retired and live at Holy Cross Village in South Bend, near the University of Notre Dame.

Those religious brothers are often the topic of conversation when members of Cathedral's Class of 1960 meet for lunch on the last Thursday of every month at the Golden Ace Inn in Indianapolis.

"The conversation is bound to turn to our high school days and what a unique experience Cathedral was in the late '50s and early '60s," Brezette says.

"Many factors led to that uniqueness. The downtown location of the all-male school attracted students from all areas of the community, and covered the entire ethnic, social and economic spectrum. But we all generally agree that the primary reason for that uniqueness was a dedicated group of men from the Brothers of Holy Cross order."

Arriving at Holy Cross Village on Dec. 4, the group of friends from Indianapolis stepped off the bus and into their past.



In December of 2008, 15 people who became friends at Cathedral High School made a bus trip for a reunion with the Holy Cross brothers who taught at the school. Here, former Cathedral coach Tom O'Brien poses between Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, left, and Holy Cross Brother Roland Driscoll. Brother Roy played for Coach O'Brien.

They attended Mass and enjoyed lunch with many of their former teachers: Holy Cross Brothers Roland Driscoll, Joseph Berg, Raymond Harrington, Bernard Donahoe, John Dobrogowski, Camillus Kirsch, James Kinsella and Ronald Christenson—all teachers at Cathedral in the late '50s and early '60s.

Memories were shared. Stories were told. Snapshots were taken. "Thank you's" were offered with hugs and handshakes. Smiles abounded as the years faded away, at least

for one day.

"It was an emotional reunion for both groups," Brezette says. "There were great stories, some no doubt embellished just a little, and fond memories of a simpler time when a dedicated group of brothers carried out their vocation of preparing young men for life. Based on the conversations we had in the bus on the return trip to Indianapolis, they did a very good job.

"It was incredible how good everyone felt about the trip." †

EDUCATORS

continued from page 4B

important that students must overcome and achieve no matter what the challenges. They are prepared in Catholic schools for everything that the world will throw at them. That is why I value Catholic schools and Catholic education."

Sandi Patel, principal of SS. Francis and Clare School in Greenwood

"God calls me to ministry every day, and every day I am

grateful. Yes, I could earn more money to buy a newer car or a bigger house, but it could not equal the treasure of openly sharing our common faith.

"Where else can you gather each morning for prayer with everyone, children and adults, to offer thanksgiving for the everyday blessings, or to ask for God's help in times of fear and sadness? Every day, I am surrounded by visible reminders—the faces of the precious children—that God is real and he loves us very much. It is so much a part of who I am that I would have difficulty returning to a secular classroom setting.

"As a mom, I know that a Catholic education is the only

option for my son. He can learn math and language arts or be academically challenged at any school. However, my wish for him is that he finds his God-given talents and then uses what he learns to make the world a better place. Under the guidance of an excellent faculty at his school—not the same school as mine—he is experiencing the value of doing just that, following the model of the Master Teacher." †



Sandi Patel

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Students maintain improvement on ISTEP scores

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able to maintain growth in their language arts/English and mathematics proficiency on the Indiana academic standards compared to the state of Indiana. The slight decline is due to no longer testing of the ninth-grade students, and phasing out of ISTEP at the 10th-grade level in favor of the end-of-course assessments.

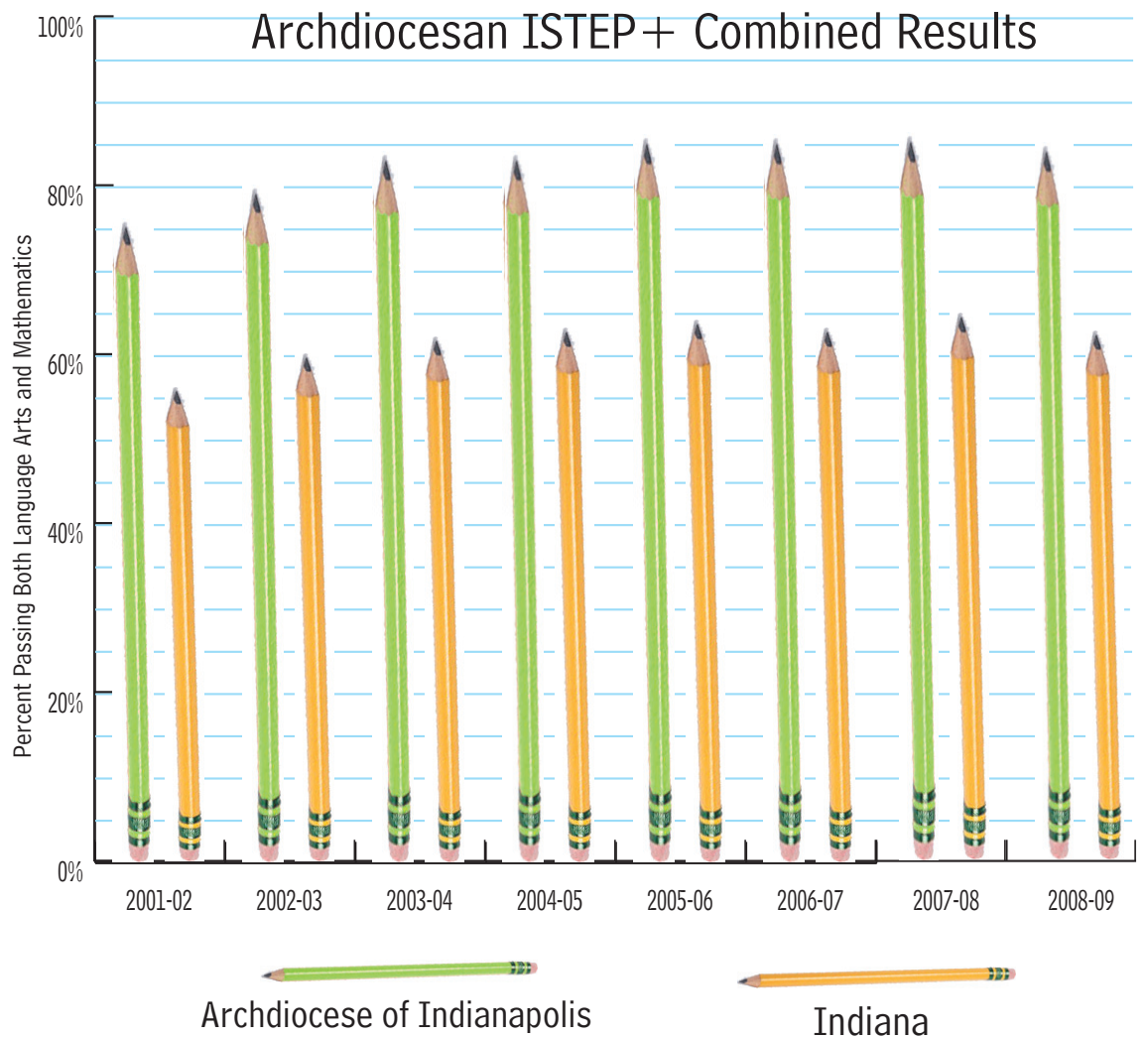
The average of archdiocesan students at each grade level

passing both the language arts/English and mathematics is above both the non-public and Indiana state averages. The archdiocesan percentages range from 86 percent at third grade to 92 percent at eighth grade. The trend this year continues past student performance. Simply stated, the longer a student remains in archdiocesan schools the greater the growth in student proficiency. †



All-school senior Mass

Catholic high school seniors fill SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Dec. 10 as Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein celebrates the annual Senior Mass. Seniors from private and interparochial Catholic high schools in the archdiocese gathered for worship with the archbishop and a number of diocesan priests. Some of the students assisted with the liturgy as altar servers, lectors, gift bearers and musicians.



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