

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

LEARNING TO LEAD

THROUGH PURSUIT
ACADEMY,
STUDENTS GAIN
ENTREPRENEURIAL
SKILLS AT FAITHFUL
SHEPHERD CATHOLIC
SCHOOL IN EAGAN

EPIC MASS

CATHOLIC TRADITION —
MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT —
BRINGS TOGETHER 12,000
TO CELEBRATE SOURCE AND
SUMMIT OF FAITH

OCTOBER 2016

FAITHFUL
FOUNDED

October 2016

CONTRIBUTORS

6

SEVENTH GRADER ELLA
DEMASTER, 2015-16
PURSUIT ACADEMY
PARTICIPANT AT FAITHFUL
SHEPHERD CATHOLIC
SCHOOL IN EAGAN. PHOTO
BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



11

VOLUNTEERS DON AND
CAROLYN PUGH AT
ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC
SCHOOL IN CRYSTAL.
PHOTO BY ROBERT
CUNNINGHAM.



16

PARENTS, STUDENTS
AND SIBLINGS TEND THE
SCHOOL GARDEN AT
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN
BUFFALO. PHOTO BY
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



4 **WELCOME**
Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Cozzens:
Experiencing the new life of Christ. From
CSCOE President Gail Dorn: What families
mean to Catholic schools.

5 **ENHANCING
EDUCATION**
Students at St. Michael in Prior Lake test the
waters as kinesthetic learners in language arts
class.

6 **SCHOOL PROFILE**
Faithful Shepherd in Eagan puts focus on
mentoring and entrepreneurial skills to form
future leaders.

10 **GRANTS
DISTRIBUTED**
PreciouStatus app pushes information to
parents' phones, specifically about their child or
class, keeping them connected.

11 **MAKING AN IMPACT**
Longtime volunteers take recess from
St. Raphael in Crystal to serve in Haiti.

12 **BOARD MEMBER
AND PARTNER
PROFILES**
Karen Rauenhorst and the AIM Higher
Foundation.

13 **NATIONAL
SPOTLIGHT**
Virtual Catholic schools in Miami.

13 **COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT**
Each month during the school year, fourth
graders at Divine Mercy Catholic School in
Faribault volunteer at the local St. Vincent de
Paul Society food pantry.

14 **SPECIAL FEATURE:
MASS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**
More than 12,000 gather at CHS Stadium in
St. Paul for all-school Mass.

16 **HIGHLIGHTING
HEALTH**
School garden provides lessons and lunch for
St. Francis Xavier students.

18 **FAITH FOCUS**
Interview with Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

20 **MASS OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT SPONSORS**
Thank you for your generosity!

COVER PHOTO, RYAN BRANDEL,
SEVENTH GRADE, FAITHFUL
SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL
IN EAGAN. PHOTO BY ROBERT
CUNNINGHAM.

Copyright © 2016 Catholic Schools Center of Excellence.

WELCOME

AUXILIARY BISHOP



ANDREW COZZENS

A Christian is always beginning anew. This is what we celebrate at the center of our Catholic faith with the cross and resurrection of Jesus. God offers us new life in the midst of our struggles and difficulties. This is what the new school year has offered us as well — a chance to begin anew in our continual journey of drawing closer to God and sharing the gift of our faith with our young people. Has the new school year offered you ways to begin anew in the practice of your faith? What are you learning about the faith from your children in Catholic school? New opportunities for life and learning abound in our Catholic schools.

We had a beautiful opportunity to thank God together for the new school year and the new life we share in Christ. In September, we celebrated our first Mass of the Holy Spirit with 12,000 students and 60 priests filling the Saints' baseball stadium, CHS Field. It was wonderful to gather as a whole archdiocese, under the leadership of our new archbishop, Bernard Hebda, to give thanks to God for the many parents and teachers who sacrifice to pass on our life-giving faith.

These days, our schools are experiencing the new life of Christ. There is no better time to be a student in a Catholic school! Young parents are choosing Catholic education in greater numbers this year because our Catholic schools are places where children can integrate faith with learning, personal development and daily life — and even learn how to pray (as one first grader told me when I asked what he learned in one of our schools). Christ is alive in our Catholic schools — in our school leaders, our teachers, our staff and our students. We are excited that we have gained more young families in our schools and parishes, and we continue to be grateful for the many ways they enhance our Catholic community.

As we celebrate the final two months of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us take advantage of all the ways our Catholic faith offers us new life through learning, prayer and the life of Jesus, which comes to us through the sacraments. †

CSCOE PRESIDENT



GAIL DORN

As we begin a new school year, we're thankful not only for our 20,000-plus energetic pre-K through eighth-grade students, but also for the parents and families of these children. Catholic schools are unique in many ways, but the extent to which we include families in the educational process cannot be rivaled. Catholic schools collaborate with parents to foster positive mental, physical and spiritual development of our youngest generation. We welcome families into our school buildings and honor the wisdom, faith, energy, time and talent they share.

Ask any new Catholic school parents why they chose their Catholic school. They may tell you it was the right choice for their child, but more often, they'll explain it was the right choice for their family. "We found a supportive community," they'll say. "We found a new home."

Catholic schools recognize that family involvement is an essential component of an excellent education, and we cherish parents' dedication to their children and our school communities. An integrated educational approach that encourages, expects and applauds familial involvement generates huge benefits both for our children and for everyone involved in their lives. Our families are diverse. Our families are beautiful. Our families make our Catholic schools shine. †



ENHANCING EDUCATION

By Kathy Schneeman

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TEACHER KIRSTEN MORGAN'S LANGUAGE ARTS KINESTHETIC LEARNING CLASSROOM AT ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN PRIOR LAKE. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.

Start of a movement

SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT ST. MICHAEL IN PRIOR LAKE TEST THE WATERS AS KINESTHETIC LEARNERS

Students juggle about in Kirsten Morgan's language arts class. They can sit while learning or spend stored energy by jouncing on jellyfish chairs, teetering on boards, flexing with bands and bouncing on yoga balls — whichever verb promotes quality work.

Movement is encouraged because last year, 46 percent of Morgan's seventh-grade students at St. Michael Catholic School in Prior Lake were kinesthetic learners, meaning they learned best by moving. Usually, she'd offer these kids Silly Putty, but Morgan desired to do more because research showed students benefit from being active while learning.

She received a \$1,500 grant from the Laker Educational Foundation to purchase equipment such as BOSU Trainers, balance boards and Bouncy Bands. Next, she landed a \$10,507 Prior Lake-Savage Optimist Club grant for 25 standing desks with swinging footrests, 25 adjustable stools, a storage cubby and a teacher's standing work station.

Seventy-one percent of Morgan's students believed their focus improved with the learning tools. Those earning Cs and Ds

brought up their assessment grades by 10.9 percent. If scores continue to rise, Morgan hopes to expand the program.

Student Jackson Stephany thinks Morgan transformed her classroom into an exciting area.

"Sometimes, boys don't care for language arts as much as girls, or find it more challenging," Morgan said. "However, when they're excited about learning tools, it levels the playing field."

Overall, males improved their assessment scores by 2.3 percent, two significantly — one by 19.9 percent and another by 26.3 percent.

Michael McEachran studied while rocking his leg on the footrest.

"I have way too much energy," he said. "The swinging bar helps me concentrate."

Kinesthetic learner Joseph Peterson tossed a Koosh Ball.

"I throw it around so my hands keep busy and I can stay on task."

After 10 minutes of wiggling while working, it was time for the etymology quiz. Students reading "The Giver" while walking in the hallway returned to their desks. A hush settled, and everyone stayed focused.

"I've been in education 20 years, and things ebb and flow," Morgan said. "Kinesthetic tools are the next big thing." †



*Where Youth Learn to
Become Entrepreneurs of
Their Own Lives*

*A Unique Curriculum of
Proven Leadership Skills*

*Empowering New Leaders
for New Times*

PURSUIT ACADEMY POP-UP BANNER
AT FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC
SCHOOL IN EAGAN. PHOTO BY
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.

SCHOOL PROFILE

By Maria Post

Learning to lead

IN FORMING STUDENTS, FAITHFUL SHEPHERD PUTS FOCUS ON MENTORING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School in Eagan, an innovative institution founded in 2000, has been successful in its efforts to work alongside educators and parents to form children in mind, body and spirit.

Over the years, parents have continued this grassroots involvement by advocating for programs and even a preschool within the pre-K through eighth-grade Catholic school. And it was a parent of Faithful Shepherd students, John Amann, who began a new program called Pursuit Academy.

The yearlong curriculum is tailored for sixth-grade students, helping them become entrepreneurial leaders. Amann approached the school with the idea because of his own experience in the business world and the apparent lack of leadership formation he witnessed. Amann attended Catholic school his whole life and found that formal education up to the collegiate level failed to provide the skills necessary for practical entrepreneurship and leadership. He noticed the societal shift from allowing children freedom and space for unstructured play in the neighborhood to parents setting up play dates, shuttling kids from eight hours of school to extracurricular commitments and allowing regular use of electronic devices.

Of his own childhood he said, “We had to go out with each other, no parental supervision, just us. We had to create and imagine our own fun, plan our own activities, resolve our own conflicts. [We] learned this stuff intuitively because of that experience.”

Amann acknowledges that other schools, Catholic or otherwise, focus on character development. Still, many students lack the tools they need to serve as leaders, helping other kids to resist pressures and define their own lives.

Pursuit Academy zeroes in on six main skills: being an architect of the future, building parallel interests, being ready to both learn and teach, communicating, opposing peer pressure and being ethical to a fault. It forms students by helping them build their own voices as they move from elementary to middle school.

“Pursuit Academy provides leadership training and skills to our sixth-grade students at a time when they are transitioning from our primary grades into our middle school,” said Mike Randall, executive director at Faithful Shepherd. “By gaining this skill set, they are developing a strong foundation that allows them to have a successful transition and experience for the next three years.”

Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year was 413 students, with similar enrollment projected for this year. Randall believes the school is successful because of the way it began, with parents taking the initiative to advocate to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for a Catholic school in the southeast metro.

“We have an amazingly supportive parent community and an exceptional faculty that work together to achieve a level of excellence that allows our students to find success now and in the future,” Randall said.

Supported by the tri-parish communities of St. John Neumann and St. Thomas Becket in Eagan, and St. Peter in Mendota Heights, Faithful Shepherd operates under a model where teachers work cooperatively in grade level teams. Teachers develop “I Can” statements, setting objectives based on national and state standards to determine goals for each grade level. Teachers teach to these “I Can” statements and, without a set curriculum, are flexible with

AT FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN EAGAN, PURSUIT ACADEMY STUDENT GEORGE WEINBERGER DISCUSSES A PRESENTATION WITH JON KEIMIG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS' SCHULZE SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MINNEAPOLIS. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



the needs of each student. Other enrichment programs, learning specialists and Pursuit Academy support this flexible curriculum.

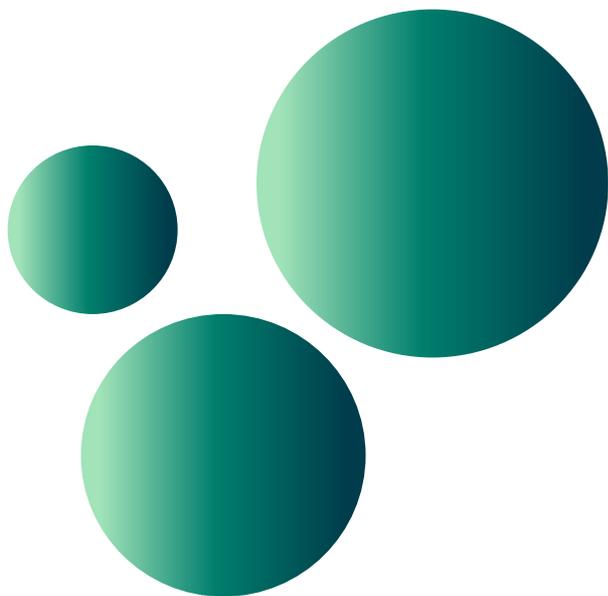
Nick Ryan, a sixth grader in Pursuit Academy, shared how the program helped his middle school transition, giving him confidence to exercise his leadership skills with older peers at school.

Fourth-grade teacher Jenny Swartout was the primary educator in expanding Pursuit Academy into a sixth-grade yearlong requirement. She introduces the vocabulary terms to students, illustrating them with activities and experiences that use age-appropriate, real-life circumstances. Through those experiences, students enhance their own definitions of the concepts they're learning.

Swartout has a list of local and national entrepreneurs and entertainers that students choose from. They research and study how these people lead and then present their findings to the class. Swartout also incorporates virtues and faith into the curriculum, studying biblical stories that show how Jesus and other figures led. She then encourages the students to take what they learn in the classroom and live it — by mentoring younger students within the school, on basketball teams with teammates and coaches, on the student council and even at middle school dances.

Swartout noticed a difference in the sixth graders at a dance earlier in the school year. She said there are always separate groups of students, but this time, the sixth graders stood out.

“[You see] the eighth-graders, and they're split, and then you see the seventh graders, and they're split in their little groups, and then you see the sixth graders, and they're just in one big blob,” Swartout recalled. “It didn't matter if they had been friends for 10 years or 10 minutes. They were all just hanging out, having fun.”



Amann commented on their growth as well.

“These sixth graders, after having been through this class ... they’re like little adults the way they articulate this stuff.”

John Mark Reimann, a father of a sixth grader in Pursuit Academy, noted how the students “become stronger ambassadors for serving the school and community.”

“There’s a confidence that comes out of this ... to be able to stand up in that class and talk about the book they read and the lessons they learned and how it applies [is] probably not something I could’ve done when I was in sixth grade,” he said.

Amann’s vision for the students as a whole is big-picture, long-term, for their future and society as a whole. When asked what his goal is for kids in the Academy, he said, “I want them to have the audacity and confidence ... to follow their own personal passions and to do the right thing. There’s nothing more fulfilling than that. Sixty-six percent of the American workforce hates their job. ... I want these kids to pursue their own dreams and not end up dissatisfied. I know a lot of people my age who have gotten everything they’ve ever wanted — the job title, the income, the house, the spouse, the kids, and they’re miserable ... I don’t want that for kids.”



“I WANT THEM TO HAVE THE AUDACITY AND CONFIDENCE ... TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN PERSONAL PASSIONS AND TO DO THE RIGHT THING.”



As a sixth grader, Nick Ryan predicts that the skills learned in Pursuit Academy will aid in his future career.

“I want to be an architect, so I see that it’s helping me work with other people,” he said. “And I think it’s also showing us how to do fun projects, keeping them interesting, but also getting it done.”

The school is looking to host a Pursuit Academy Boot Camp during the summer as a way to introduce the program to more students who could benefit from the leadership focus. Swartout believes the program will also help reduce bullying within the school because of the focus on communication and cooperation.

Amann explained that the program was named Pursuit Academy to respond to societal pressures to focus on the end goal instead of the journey to the goal. Parents who were at first skeptical of the program are now inquiring about expansion. As a father, Reimann wants it to propagate throughout Faithful Shepherd and into other schools. Amann hopes to reignite the importance of leadership and entrepreneurial training in Catholic schools especially.

“I would love that when anybody hears ‘Catholic K-8 education,’ they automatically think, ‘That’s where kids learn leadership,’” he said. †



AT FAITHFUL SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN EAGAN, STUDENT ROHAN NAITHANI RECEIVES HOLY COMMUNION FROM FATHER TIM WOZNIAK, PASTOR OF ST. THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EAGAN. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.

GRANTS *DISTRIBUTED*

By Maddie Lupori

PARENTS CONNECTING WITH KIDS: THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

So often, parents try to pry any information out of their children after a given school day. How was it? What did you do? What'd you learn? Who did you sit with at lunch?

Despite the question, the most common of answers is "good." Plain and simple.

The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) is working to broaden this conversation by making sure that parents and guardians are continuously in the loop, even over the course of the school day.

CSCOE recently gave grants to schools to implement an app called PreciouStatus. Employed in 41 schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, this innovative technology works to connect each school with the households, and teachers with parents.

Tim Bouchard, director of sales and marketing for PreciouStatus, described the benefits of the app being "push technology," rather than the less effective "pull technology." While a newsletter requires hunting for information, PreciouStatus pushes information to a parent's phone, specifically about their child or class.

"It's personal, engaging and they know all of the relevant information about their child," Bouchard said.

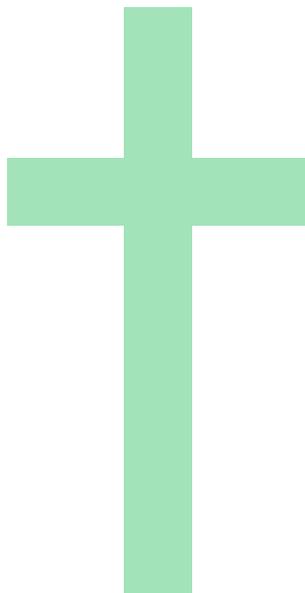
Eric LaMott, CSCOE's chief enrollment officer, said, in general, "Our goal is to support the launch and or test of an initiative that we believe will be an asset to the school's enrollment growth and school excellence."

PreciouStatus is doing just that. Beyond the parent/teacher engagement, the app promotes positive school branding. LaMott explained that when videos, pictures and other updates are posted, the individual school's branding appears prominently in the corner of the screen.

According to a survey from November 2015, 92 percent of parents said that the PreciouStatus updates regarding their child were "excellent/good."

"I love having relevant conversation topics for the car ride home after school," parents have said. "I can ask [my daughter] about something specific and meaningful, which has been far more productive and enlightening than me asking her to volunteer information."

The benefits of PreciouStatus change from pre-K through eighth grade. But across the board, the app has proven to keep students engaged both in and out of the classroom. Teachers have said that the students who see their parents actively engaged tend to do better in school because they know it's important. †



making an IMPACT

By Maureen Lodoen



STUDENTS AND STAFF PRAY OVER VOLUNTEERS DON AND CAROLYN PUGH DURING A GOODBYE CELEBRATION AT ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN CRYSTAL. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.

LONGTIME VOLUNTEERS TAKE RECESS FROM ST. RAPHAEL TO SERVE IN HAITI

This year, the playground at St. Raphael Catholic School in Crystal will be a little less upbeat — and a little less sweet — without two people who brighten up even the cloudiest days. Don and Carolyn Pugh, two of St. Raphael’s most dedicated school volunteers, are not done volunteering. They’re just taking their generous, joyful hearts and childlike energy to a new community: Haiti.

“[The Pughs] really are good people. We all want to be good people, and we all meet nice people. But then you meet people where their heart just leads every decision. Christ is truly in the center of what they do,” Principal Ann Coone said.

Even before they started volunteering at the school, the Pugh family was no stranger to St. Raphael. Don remembers attending grade school there, along with his six siblings, and his father helped lay the bricks of the school building in 1951. Before they married, Don and Carolyn independently attended St. Raphael parish. After they married, they continued to attend and also send four children to the school. Their son, Seth Pugh, now teaches third grade in the same building his grandfather helped construct. Don and Carolyn regularly see their son when they volunteer as recess supervisors. Rain or shine, snow or sleet, the Pughs never miss a recess day.

“[Don] pulled his knee out, he’s done his back in, he’s done different injuries and he shows up limping,” Coone said. [The Pughs] continue to come back here two to three times a week. Through the winter, they’re bundled up and playing.”

The Pughs will be the first to say they enjoy every minute out on the playground regardless of the weather conditions.

“What better thing to do than hang around with a bunch of kids having fun,” Don said. “You kick a ball back, and they go, ‘Wow, you can kick?’ and they look at you like, ‘How can you kick? You’re old.’”

On their last day of recess duty, the Pughs brought ice cream treats for every student at St. Raphael. But despite all they give, they seek little in return. To the Pughs, making a positive impact in the lives of kids is reward enough.

“I always say, if we just showed them a little volunteering and the impact that you have on other people, and one gets it, I’m happy,” Carolyn said.

The Pughs will spend the next two years volunteering with Healing Haiti, a nonprofit that gives people the opportunity to be “the hands and feet of Christ” through Christ-centered mission trips to Haiti. The nonprofit works with orphans, children and seniors to provide clean water, food, medical and dental care, job opportunities, churches and education. The Pughs have been on nine mission trips to Haiti, but this one will be different from their typical seven-day visits. This one will be a long-term commitment of two years.

“I’m looking forward to the expansion of Healing Haiti and the things we do there. We’re opening a bakery there shortly, the school will open in the fall, and we have a new church down there also,” Don said.

The Pughs will serve new kids in a new location, but their priorities remain the same.

“I think that working with these kids in Cite Soleil or anywhere in Haiti ... it’s building those relationships because that’s what’s important in life. It’s not the materials you have or what you’re doing in your house. Nobody cares. It’s really the relationships outside your home. It’s really building those relationships and being consistent,” Carolyn said.

Sad to be leaving St. Raphael and the relationships they’ve built there, the Pughs know it won’t be forever.

“We’re not saying goodbye, it’s just a ‘see ya later.’ Like I told Father [Michael Rudolph, pastor], we’ll be back for Christmas Mass,” Don said.

While fifth-grader Rebecca (Reba) Ranning said the school will miss the Pughs and all they’ve done for St. Raphael, she added, “When they come back, they’ll get a big warm welcome back.”

And she’s happy that the kids in Haiti will get to know two people she’s come to admire so much.

“It’s kind of sad, but [the Pughs] are doing the right thing. And they’re such joyous people, and they’ll put so many smiles on the kids’ faces in Haiti,” Ranning said. “Those kids in Haiti are very, very lucky that they can have them come.” †

PROFILES

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



KAREN RAUENHORST

Karen Rauenhorst serves as board chair of the Aim Higher Foundation, which provides tuition assistance for families seeking a Catholic education. She is also past chair of St. Catherine University's governing board, chair of the Better Way Foundation board, a board member of the Catholic Relief Services Foundation, past board chair of Benilde-St. Margaret's in St. Louis Park, past vice-chair of the Catholic Community Foundation and a community volunteer. Rauenhorst earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota and a nursing degree from Creighton University.

"I am very committed to the success and growth of our Catholic schools because I have personally experienced the strong character and faith formation of our four children and many others who attended Catholic schools in our community. I truly believe our Catholic schools are helping form the future of our Church with strong, faith-filled young adults," Rauenhorst said. †

PARTNER PROFILE

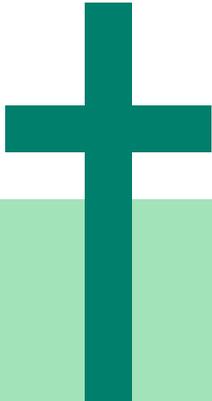


AIM HIGHER FOUNDATION

Founded in late 2011, the Aim Higher Foundation is an independently operated 501c3 governed by a board of directors composed of corporate, civic and education leaders in the Twin Cities. The Aim Higher Foundation believes education is the key to the strength of our economy and the health of our community. Because of this and the excellence of Catholic schools, the Aim Higher Foundation provides student-based tuition assistance, so all families have access to the life-changing experience of a Catholic school education. Since its formation four years ago, the Aim Higher Foundation has committed more than \$2.3 million to support scholarships for students in grades K-8 in 76 elementary schools. Annually, the foundation has supported more than 700 Aim Higher scholars. Of these students, more than 50 percent are students of color. For more information about the Aim Higher Foundation, visit www.aimhigherfoundation.org. †

CSCOE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS, ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS
GAIL DORN, PRESIDENT, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
STEVE HOEPPNER, VICE PRESIDENT, RICHARD M. SCHULZE FAMILY FOUNDATION
ANNE CULLEN MILLER, PRESIDENT, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
KAREN M. RAUENHORST, CHAIR, AIM HIGHER FOUNDATION
MARK H. RAUENHORST, DIRECTOR, GHR FOUNDATION



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

By Victoria Rabuse

Rounding off its third academic year this past June, Virtual Miami Catholic Schools (VMCS) is picking up steam with no signs of slowing down. Marketed as the “only accredited and archdiocesan-supported virtual Catholic school in the nation,” VMCS started as a program to provide Catholic schools with enrichment and credit recovery courses.

With more than 200 students enrolled, Florida-based VMCS now accepts applications for students in grades 6-12, with an average of 15 full-time students each semester. The school boasts 12 faculty members, four staff members and one principal, who all meet the students and teach through Skype.

Homeschooled students benefit by taking courses not typically offered at home, such as advanced Catholic theology classes. Also, VMCS matches the Florida public school system and offers all of the same advanced placement courses. All homework and due dates are posted at the beginning of the semester, which lets students complete assignments weeks in advance. Additionally, homework is due every Sunday night, rather than daily, which increases the students’ flexibility.

Long term, the school hopes to partner with more schools without Catholic access, such as academic institutions in rural areas. Once VMCS has established a good presence in the United States, it hopes to expand to an international level; Argentina and Venezuela are already on board. Although different from the starched shirts and plaid skirts of traditional Catholic schools, Virtual Miami Catholic Schools provides its students with not only a strong education, but also a sense of Catholic identity. †



FROM LEFT, STUDENTS JACK QUIGG, LONDON CARON AND JOSHUA ARROYO FROM DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN FARIBAULT STACK FOOD SHELVES AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY IN FARIBAULT. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By Erika Zabinski

Every month during the school year, fourth graders at Divine Mercy Catholic School in Faribault serve people in need in their community by volunteering at the local St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry. Here, three students share about their experiences.

Jack Quigg, age 11

Q. What do you do at St. Vincent de Paul?

A. We stack food, and it’s really fun. We have different sections; some people do the rice, some people do the cans. It’s really nice to help out.

Q. What have you learned?

A. That I should do that more often. It’s nice. And fun.

Q. How does it make you feel?

A. It feels good!

London Caron, age 10

Q. What do you like best about going to St. Vincent de Paul?

A. It’s fun to stack everything up. It’s very exercising, and it’s for a very good cause, because this food goes to people who need food and other items.

Q. How does it make you feel?

A. Really good — like I’m being a generous person, and I’m following God’s way. And it’s really fun. I encourage other kids to go out and do this, too.

Q. What have you learned?

A. Being generous is one of the main things in life.

Joshua Arroyo, age 10

Q. What’s your favorite thing about going to St. Vincent de Paul?

A. Stacking stuff. I like the walnuts best.

Q. How does it make you feel?

A. It feels pretty much great.

Q. What have you learned?

A. They have a lot of crackers! †



**MASS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT 2016**
Excite. Ignite. Unite.

12,000 CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS & STAFF

60 PRIESTS

1 ARCHBISHOP

1 BISHOP

1 MASS

1 COMMUNITY OF FAITH

COME HOLY SPIRIT

By Jessica Trygstad

MORE THAN 12,000 GATHER FOR FIRST ALL-SCHOOL MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A field for saints served as the venue for more than 12,000 Catholic school students, teachers, staff and volunteers gathering Sept. 22 at CHS Field in St. Paul for the first all-school Mass of the Holy Spirit in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Sponsored by the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Andrew Cozzens and more than 60 priests celebrated the Mass for fourth- through eighth-grade students from the archdiocese's 79 Catholic grade schools. The event featured the local band Sonar, which played music before, during and after Mass. A "Mass Cam" and Catholic trivia questions on the stadium's big screen also entertained students.

Bishop Cozzens, CSCOE board member and the archdiocese's vicar of education, said the Mass brought Catholic school students together to ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit at the start of the school year.

"We knew it's just a great opportunity to get our young people together, so they can see they're part of something that's so much bigger," he said. "It allows us to recognize what an incredible gift it is that so many young people are receiving this treasure of a Catholic education."

Thankful the weather was cooperative, Bishop Cozzens said his favorite part was seeing students' joy and love for Jesus as they came forward to receive Communion.

"It's such a great thing to be able to celebrate the gift that we have in our faith and in our Catholic schools as we try to pass that on to the next generation," he said.

In his homily, Archbishop Hebda told the crowd filling the stadium seats and spread across the field — home of the St. Paul Saints baseball team — that the Holy Spirit is what makes Catholic schools great. In turn, students must ask the Holy Spirit to help them reach greatness.

"I am so happy that we have that opportunity at the beginning of this school year to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit," Archbishop Hebda said. "Certainly, on all of you — our wonderful students, certainly on our teachers, certainly on those students

who weren't able to be here this morning, certainly on all those wonderful parishioners who support our Catholic schools."

Eighth-grader Chip Knap of Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School in St. Paul said the archbishop's message was especially meaningful to him since he'll be confirmed this year.

"It was the best Mass I've ever been at," he said.

Students from Catholic schools around the archdiocese as well as seminarians assisted with the Mass.



**"IT ALLOWS US TO
RECOGNIZE WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE GIFT IT IS
THAT SO MANY YOUNG
PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING THIS
TREASURE OF A CATHOLIC
EDUCATION. "**



Requiring nine months of planning, 220 buses, and a lot of security, food preparation and communication with the schools, CSCOE President Gail Dorn described the event as "holy" and "healing."

"We're just so happy that we're able to have this community of faith and be able to celebrate with one another," said Dorn, adding that CSCOE would like to host the Mass of the Holy Spirit annually. "It went so well this year, we would hope that we would have interest from the community to be able to support an event like this every year. We think it would be a terrific tradition for our archdiocese."

For Kathy McRae, a seventh-grade religion and English teacher at Nativity of Our Lord, the all-school Mass was a visible sign that they're part of something bigger. McRae has taught for 29 years and said joining the archdiocese's Catholic schools for Mass was "an incredible experience." †



MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPT. 22
AT CHS STADIUM IN ST. PAUL. PHOTO
BY CHARLES EIDE.



STUDENTS RECEIVE HOLY
COMMUNION FROM ARCHBISHOP
BERNARD A. HEBDA. PHOTO BY
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



STUDENTS DANCE TO MUSIC
BY SONAR. PHOTO BY ROBERT
CUNNINGHAM.

‘SEEDS OF FAITH’

SCHOOL GARDEN PROVIDES LESSONS AND LUNCH FOR ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STUDENTS

If Popeye hasn't successfully convinced your kids to eat their spinach, take them on a field trip to St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Buffalo.

School lunches at St. Francis include a daily dose of vegetables, and Culinary Specialist Denise Ryan, who leads the school's lunch program, said the kids often tell her, "You're the best cook. We have the best food here. We just love it here."

In the cafeteria, kids line up eager to see which vegetables they'll find in their lunches. They're excited to eat their veggies because they use their own hands to grow them in the school's expansive outdoor garden.

The idea to start a school garden came from Melissa Kuzma, a school parent who teaches wellness classes and enjoys organic gardening. Ryan explored the possibility through a "School Gardening 101" class offered by the University of Minnesota through the Wright County Extension Office.

"I came back and brought [a school garden proposal] to our Wellness Committee and to the Garden Committee, and we decided we would take it on. We would try to do it. And the idea was for it to be organic, sustainable," Ryan said.

As part of her class, Ryan designed the St. Francis garden — eight raised beds, a pergola and an area for pumpkins. She also received a \$500 stipend to build the garden, but this was not enough to make her vision a reality. Several donations later — including \$1,000 raised at the school's annual gala and multiple in-kind donations — St. Francis was ready to start building. A school-wide student vote determined the new garden's name: "Seeds of Faith."

Three years after Kuzma brought her idea to the school, gardening has become an integral component of the curriculum at St. Francis. During the 2015-16 school year, each grade tended one garden bed centered on a theme students devised.

"When we started, each class or each grade level decided what they were going to plant, and what we found after the first two years was that it works better if there's a theme to it. So [last] year, we started with a theme," third-grade teacher Barb Vieau said.

Following research to determine the best tomatoes, onions and jalapenos for salsa, third graders planted a salsa garden. After using garden ingredients to create their own salsa recipes, they made salsa recipe books and sold them to raise money for the local food shelf.

Combining Catholic faith with gardening, the second graders planted a memorial garden filled with a variety of flowers.

"When [the second graders] come to the garden, they say a Hail Mary for someone in their family that has either passed away or is

STUDENTS AND THEIR SIBLINGS TEND THE SCHOOL GARDEN AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN BUFFALO. PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM.



By Maureen Lodoen

in need," Vieau said.

Other class themes include a butterfly garden, a pumpkin patch, a root vegetable bed and a lettuce garden. Garden upkeep requires hard work and dedication from teachers, students and parent volunteers, but the rewards are bountiful.

"There's good educational research out there about getting children connected to nature and including nature as part of their education," St. Francis Principal Alisa Louwagie said. "If you can involve nature as part of [students'] education in those early years — and especially for boys — they stay more connected and more interested in continuing to learn all the way through."

Nicole Dietman, a school parent, offered to plant grape vines in the garden and serves as a garden volunteer during the summer months. Her favorite part of gardening is watching the ownership kids take and the pride they have in their work.

"They know — especially with the grapes — which vine they planted, and they know which flower they planted in the flower garden. They're very proud of what they've accomplished," Dietman said.



IGHTING

Students' pride in their work translates directly into their willingness to try new foods in their school lunches.

"Mrs. Ryan is pretty amazing with her menus," Dietman said, "and the kids try new things that they would never touch at home."

Third grader Ella Danielson admits, "I tried onions, and they were pretty good."

Ryan makes sure her meals are never boring and always healthy. Kids eat shredded beets and radishes in salads, root vegetable stew in the fall and garbanzo bean hummus. Recently, they've even tried jicama, a native Mexican turnip similar to a potato. Food allergies are common at St. Francis, but Ryan ensures all students are able to eat a healthy, allergen-free meal comparable to what the other students eat.

"They like to come through the lunch line, and I don't want them to feel odd or anything," Ryan said.

Moving forward, Ryan said she would like to add apple trees, raspberries and a greenhouse to the garden. Top on her wish list is composting, but the potential of decaying plants to attract wild

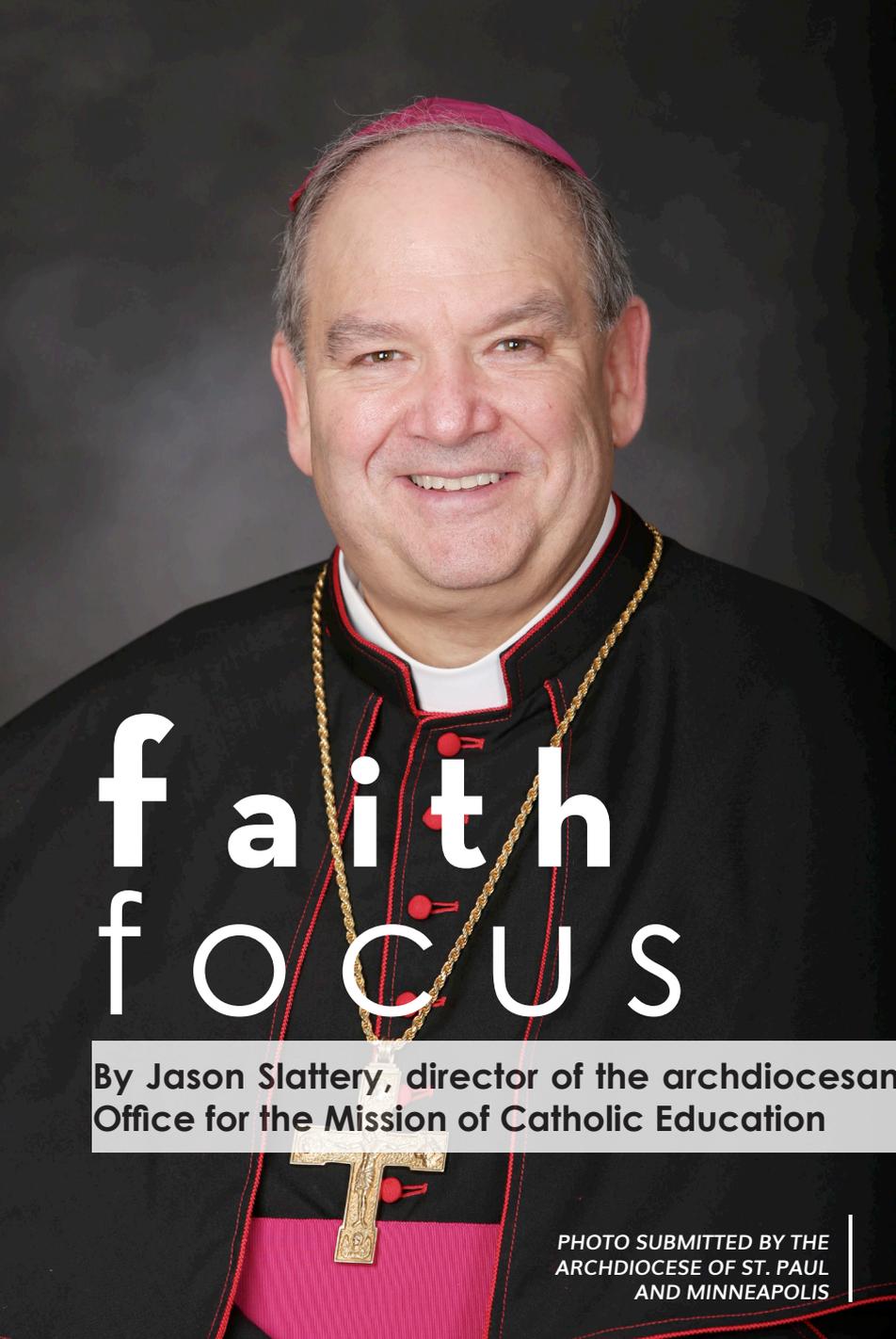
animals has put this dream on hold for now. In the meantime, students will continue to reap the benefits of exploring God's creation outside of a typical classroom environment.

"We're caring for the world — things that God created — and we're teaching [children] to eat healthy, and that's care for their bodies," Louwagie said.

While some students may be looking forward to harvesting grapes and others can't wait to plant pumpkins, Vieau is most excited to continue making happy memories with her students.

"They will never remember a worksheet you handed them, but to come out here and even just to pull weeds, you would think you would have given them the key to a city or something. They are just ecstatic to get out here, and they're good workers, too," Vieau said. "For me, taking a group of kids out here and just seeing the excitement ... they can hardly contain themselves to wait until they can do something ... it's just — it's invaluable."

To learn how to start your own school garden, visit the CSCOE blog at <http://bit.ly/2bTgy9E>. †



faith focus

By Jason Slattery, director of the archdiocesan Office for the Mission of Catholic Education

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

INTERVIEW WITH ARCHBISHOP BERNARD HEBDA

Although Archbishop Bernard Hebda is new to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, he knows well the importance and value of a Catholic education. Raised in Pittsburgh, he attended Catholic grade school and high school. In the following interview, Archbishop Hebda shares his thoughts about Catholic education, how he's acclimating to Minnesota, and a few of his favorite things.

Q. What was your initial reaction when you found out you were named Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis?

A. Knowing that the Holy Father was well aware of the challenges that face the archdiocese, I was humbled by this expression of his confidence. I felt honored, moreover, to have been placed at the helm of a Church that has been served by some extraordinary bishops over the past 170 years.

Q. Why were you given the first and middle names that you have?

A. I was named "Bernard" after my father and "Anthony" after St. Anthony of Padua (my parents had been unsuccessfully trying to have children for seven years and succeeded only after completing a St. Anthony novena).

Q. What is the role of Catholic education in our society?

A. Catholic schools serve a number of roles. They certainly serve as a proven way for passing on the faith to our Catholic children. It is in the Catholic school that our children have the opportunity to learn the faith with the same rigor that they learn mathematics or reading and have an extended opportunity to see how our faith has to be part of every facet of human life and learning. Our schools also play an important role in the development of the human person. If we accept what St. Irenaeus proclaimed that "the glory of God is man fully alive," anything that we do to form our children and help them develop their gifts, whatever they might be, we give glory to God. I am convinced, moreover, that the by-product of this effort is one that redounds to the common good, giving us the tools to build great communities and nations.

Q. What do Catholic grade schools have to offer young parents and their children?

A. Our schools serve as reliable partners for our parents, who are the first educators of their children. They provide environments that faithfully reflect the parents' values and priorities, environments in which their children will flourish and come to know of a loving God who created them for a purpose. Our schools help our children recognize that they have value.

Q. What is the future of Catholic education? Where are we headed?

A. I am excited by what I see transpiring in our schools, as our parents, who have made the deliberate choice to provide their children with a Catholic education, become more informed about the choices before them and more engaged in creating an environment of learning that will enable their children to be challenged and to thrive. I am delighted to see the extent to which our schools are supported broadly by our Catholic community and appreciated for their distinctive Catholic identity.

Q. You attended Catholic grade school and high school in Pennsylvania. What is your favorite Catholic school memory?

A. My grade school had 1,600 students (God bless the Sisters of Charity!) and I always loved those occasions in which we all came together for the celebration of Mass or reconciliation, or for devotions (the May Crowning was always a highlight). Seeing our Church filled to the brim with my peers gathered around the altar, I always sensed that there was nothing that we could not accomplish if we were offering all that we had to the Lord for his purposes.

Q. Were you a model Catholic school student in grade school? Why or why not?

A. Academically, I was a good student — but I always had lots to learn about self-discipline, focus and leadership. I was grateful that my parents and teachers always pushed me to be more well-rounded.

Q. If you could go back to any age, what age would it be and why?

A. I loved my senior year in high school. I really enjoyed my fellow students, felt part of something much bigger than myself and began to see connections between the different areas of my studies, as well as the link between faith and service. My high school had an integrated humanities program that facilitated all sorts of wonderful connections. I had saved up all of my earnings from an after-school job and, with the help of my parents, participated in a European study program that really helped me to develop a love for the arts and a deeper appreciation of the Christian roots of our civilization.

Q. What is your favorite thing about Pope Francis?

A. I really love the way that he models “loving trust.” He seems to be fearless, and this really helps him in entering into very productive dialogue. I’m so grateful that he’s so genuine.

Q. What was the make, model and color of your first car?

A. I shared a silver ’77 Pontiac Sunbird with my brothers and sister.

Q. You’re new to the Twin Cities. Have you found any good places to eat yet?

A. I unfortunately haven’t found any places that I haven’t liked. I’m really impressed by the breadth of choices available to us in this area. In spite of my 13 years of working in Rome, I don’t have a very sophisticated palate. If you give me anything with tomato sauce or butter and onions, I’m happy.

Q. What do you miss most about New Jersey? (Archbishop Hebda was coadjutor archbishop of Newark before Pope Francis appointed him to St. Paul and Minneapolis in March.)

A. I made some wonderful friends there who were supportive of me in my work in the Archdiocese of Newark. I really enjoyed living in the dorm at Seton Hall University and know that such opportunities are few and far between.

Q. If you had to perform in a Catholic school talent show, what would your talent be?

A. I rode my unicycle in my eighth-grade talent competition, but would now have to have the paramedics on hand ...

Q. What is your favorite liturgical song?

A. When there’s a full church, there’s nothing better than “Now Thank We All Our God.” I’m a sucker, as well, for Polish Christmas carols.

Q. Do you prefer chocolate or vanilla?

A. I was allergic to chocolate as a child (discovered after I won — and ate — a yard-long box of chocolates at our parish festival), so I am partial to vanilla. As they could tell you at the Grand Ole Creamery or Izzy’s or Dar’s Double Scoop, I always get vanilla the first time I try a new ice cream shop — there’s no better way for getting a sense of the quality.

Q. What do you know now that you wish you’d have known when you were young?

A. How quickly time flies and how important it is that we take advantage of the opportunities that God gives to us to love and to serve. †

Credits

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

EDITOR

Maureen Lodoen,
Communications Manager

COPY EDITOR

Jessica Trygstad

PROJECT MANAGER

Jessica Trygstad

WRITERS

Bishop Andrew Cozzens
Gail Dorn
Maureen Lodoen
Jason Slattery
Madeline Lupori
Maria Post
Victoria Rabuse
Kathy Schneeman
Jessica Trygstad
Erika Zabinski

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Robert Cunningham
Charles Eide

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Maureen Lodoen
Molly May McMahan

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Jessica Trygstad

*Special thanks to the talented student writers from the University of St. Thomas who contributed to this issue of the CSCOE magazine.

Correction: The St. Odilia “School Profile” article on page 6 of the August 2016 issue of the CSCOE magazine misspelled the surname of a teacher. He is Chris Henrich, not Heinrich.

CONNECT - 70 - CSCOE



LEARN ABOUT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
on our website: cscoe-mn.org



READ THE LATEST AND GREATEST NEWS
on Facebook: facebook.com/CSCOE



SEND YOUR COMMENTS & STORY IDEAS
to Maureen Lodoen at maureenlodoen@cscoe-mn.org



SUPPORT CSCOE WITH A DONATION
at cscoe-mn.org/supporter/support

WITH GRATITUDE *to our* MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SPONSORS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR "FATHER'S FUNDING" LEVEL MASS SPONSORS!

Catholic Community Foundation
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS MASS SPONSORS!

Academy of Holy Angels
Ascension Press
Benilde-St. Margaret's

Chesterton Academy
Convent of the Visitation School
Deli Express
Donald's Uniform
Educational Outfitters
Eide Communications
Hill-Murray School
Holy Family Catholic High School
Old Dutch
Park Adams Transportation
propel Event Transportation Management
Providence Academy
Relevant Radio
Seedlings Gifts and Books
St. Agnes School
St. Thomas Academy
Tierney Brothers