

FOCUS ~ ON ENDOWMENT NEWS

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High Expectations

My name is Alicia Halter and I am a 2005 graduate of St. Patrick High School. I have been a student in the North Platte Catholic Schools system for the past thirteen years. This fall I will be attending Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, majoring in biology.

Out of my class of 34, I graduated with sixteen students who have been my classmates since kindergarten. Few students in large schools have the opportunity to become as close to all of their classmates as I have with mine. Not only have I had the chance to develop friendships with the members of my class, I have also formed lasting relationships with students in other grades. Throughout my grade school years, I attended McDaid Elementary. Highlights of my grade school years include the annual Christmas pageants at the Neville Center, a fourth



grade fishing trip, and visits and performances for the residents at the Pawnee Hotel. The memories I have from McDaid are cherished and will never be forgotten. Entering high school was a major transition in my life,

but it took place surrounded by all my friends. My high school years were filled with homework, sports, music programs, community service and other school activities, all of which were preparing me for college. The high expectations of the teachers at St. Pat's encouraged me to strive to

do my best and produce quality work. I value the lessons I have learned in high school. I feel blessed to have been able to attend a Catholic school where I could develop my faith as well as my academics. St. Pat's offered me many opportunities to learn more about my Catholic religion and has helped me to strengthen my faith. My years at McDaid and St. Pat's, I feel, have shaped me into a young woman with a strong set of morals and values, capable of making good decisions. I will miss the close-knit community of the St. Pat's school system, but I treasure the solid foundation it has given me on which I will build the rest of my life.

Special points of interest:

- 34 Seniors graduated from St. Pat's on May 15, 2005
- The graduating class garnered over \$620,000 in scholarships
- ACT scores higher than national and state average
- **GREEN**, November 5, 2005

2005 Graduates

Meghan Allison
Alex Arthur
John Corio
Stefan Depenbrock
Ty Dodson
Cody Fletcher
Katie Garth
Erick Gutschenritter
Alicia Halter
Danielle Haman
Kirsten Haman
Katie Harris
Tony Holys
Ellie Jorgensen
Robert Kay
Molly Keenan
Josh Kramer
Levi Lawson
Allie Lee
Mareesa Lee
Sarah Lewandowski
Dominik Maschauer
Ashley McKee
Gregg Mooney
Eddie O'Brien
Matthew Plunk
Alicia Small
Kathryn Stewart
Joe Thomsen
Philip Thrailkill
Matt Thuman
Nick Westling
Nathan Wieseler
Eric Wood

ATTENTION REUNION ALUMNI

Register to win the "I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG" patriotic angel figure, #117044 by Jim Shore. You can register either at the Endowment Open House on Saturday, July 2 or at the "all classes" reunion banquet and dance at the Quality Inn in North Platte. (must be present to win)

2004/2005 - ACT SCORES

ST. PATRICK'S 23.1
STATE AVERAGE 21.7
NAT'L AVERAGE 20.9

Thank you, Eakes Office Plus
in North Platte
For donating the paper for the
Endowment's FOCUS newsletter.

“IRISH HIT ANOTHER HOMERUN”

JoAnn Windholz, Executive Director

I love baseball. In recent years it has been a love hate relationship with the Colorado Rockies (I'm from Denver) – kinda like the Royals. I realize I'm not talking football – I could but it is summertime and I like baseball.

The analogy to baseball is that we are in the game and we already have made some great hits: McDaid Elementary is paid for; 96% of our graduating students are going on to college; the Annual Fund Testimonial Dinner was a memorable evening; and now we are up to bat.

It is only the second inning for the IRISH and the pitcher sets – eyes the catcher – sends the pitch – and it's a infield hit and we are on first base.

If we are going to win this game, it is up to the rest of the team to get the first baseman home!

What is the game plan?

That team includes all alumni, parents, grandparents, school board, school staff and teachers, Endowment Board and staff, parish counsels, pastors all working together to win the game.

Read how and what the Wichita Diocese team did (May 22 National Catholic Register). The Wichita, Kansas diocese offers free Catholic education to all its 38 schools. Bob Voboril, the diocese's superintendent of schools explains that stewardship has become a way of life for many parishioners and their parishes. “Stewardship is about faith,” he said. “It's not about money. Money is the result of people living their faith. Some people say if I had more money I can have better programs. But the reverse is the real truth. If you have programs that meet the real faith needs of people, then the money will come.”

The seeds for this program started in 1968 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita and was so successful that in 1985, Wichita Bishop Eugene Gerber decided to incorporate the stewardship way of life throughout the entire diocese.

What a game. It took 17 quick years (plus St. Francis of Assisi) for all 38 elementary and high schools to gain financial stability to offer free Catholic education.

Catholic Education is the responsibility of every Catholic in every parish – not just individual families.

Will something like this work for us – perhaps. No matter what approach we take, it is a matter of setting our priorities. The short term is to get the first baseman home and the long term is to win the game.

How are we going to do it – it is



never to late to rework the game plan!

In the movie *Field of Dreams*, the voice kept saying “build it and they will come.” We have built McDaid and our enrollments are stable but we need to grow – we need a hit.

(Again from the article) Father John Siemianowski, pastor of St. Agnes, said following the Wichita model means making the parish relevant and an important part of parishioners' lives. He said he is less interested in stewardship in terms of money and more interested in getting more people into church and their realizing the importance of God in their lives. “Once you do that, other things will follow,” he said.

Stewardship isn't about money. It is about a way of life that recognizes

that all we have is from God. A good steward is someone who participates in the Kingdom with the Father and knows that all that we have and all that we are belongs not to us but to our Creator, who gave us these things in the first place. A good steward has the attitude of a servant and service.

So where are we in the game of life? Are we really in the game? Are we going to win this game?

Where in the grand scheme of things do we put Catholic Education?

Many folks stepped up to the plate at the Testimonial Dinner and hit the ball. But we need a really aggressive

team to make lots and lots of hits to get off of first base and win the game.

The form that appears on the back page is the batters box for you to hit the ball out of the park or get to first base.

Remember the line from the movie, “Are you sure this isn't heaven?”

We're sure it isn't heaven or even Iowa, but we know we need one another to win the game of life.

IRISH FEST UPDATE

The three raffle winners at IRISH Fest:

Lela Pyzer:

UNO Football Tickets

Dorothy Faulkner:

Sony CD/DVD Player

Joe Browsers:

La-Z-Boy Rocker/Recliner



RAILROADERS DO IT AGAIN!

A HUGE thank you to the parents, family members and friends who have returned the Union Pacific Matching Gift forms.

I'm pleased to report that Union Pacific Railroad has matched every gift 2:1 totaling \$28,514 with an additional \$8,490 coming.

Today we mailed sixteen forms to railroaders. This is worth another \$3,200 that we will be able to count.

When someone who works for Union Pacific says that their little bit doesn't mean much, be sure to remind them about the matching gift program. (\$25 minimum) You know otherwise!

McDaid Gym Renamed in Honor of the McGahan Family

Fr. Richard Piontkowski, pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in North Platte, to honor Bill McGahan and his family for their long time support and going above and beyond the call in contributing to keep our Catholic schools open and thriving, with the approval of the Most Reverend William Dendinger, Bishop of Grand Island Diocese, Father Art Faesser, Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, Fr. Vincent Parsons, Administrator of St. Patrick's Parish, and in consultation with many others, directed that the McDaid Activity Center be changed to the McGahan Activity Center or McGahan Gymnasium.

In a letter dated May 15th, Fr. Piontkowski thanked all supporters of Catholic Education and went on to say that "I thank you with all my heart and assure you that your gifts are not forgotten and will be honored in due course. I hope you know that your continued contributions reap a benefit to our young people that we may never fully see in this world, but only come to appreciate in the Kingdom of Heaven."



"We Are A Family"

Another school year has recently ended. It has been a banner year for our family. Our oldest son received the Sacrament of Confirmation and a diploma. Our 8th grader was asked to speak about our schools during National Catholic Schools Week, and our youngest son received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. We attended the State High School Football, Basketball, and Wrestling Tournaments. These were such wonderful opportunities to "feel the love" from past and present supporters of our schools. It seemed everyone who ever had ties to St. Pats was there. How heartwarming!

I just finished my 22nd year of teaching at McDaid. I am proud to say I am part of a very fine faculty. The teachers and administrators are "salt of the earth." They are such hard workers and caring colleagues. Niles has served on the Catholic Schools Endowment Board the past few years but just recently had to relinquish his position due to the time constraints of his job. It was a difficult decision. He will continue to give support in any way he can.

As graduates ('73 & '79) and now parents, we have reaped the benefits that our Catholic Schools provide. We would feel a terrible loss if we did not have a choice regarding the education of our three sons. You've heard it before: St. Pat's students are well-prepared for success in college and future endeavors. Just read the "Good News" section in any edition of The Shamrock.. St. Pat's High School students leave with a value system based on spirituality, morality, and ethics because they are part of a big family. We are a family that prays together, works together, and celebrates and mourns together. We gather together. We enjoy our "Family Reunions."

The annual Alumni Reunion is approaching. Perhaps you will reminisce. Maybe while you reflect on your experiences you will feel compelled to give back something to support the good work that continues today. You can be sure your gift will benefit another family, possibly even that of a former classmate, or the grandchild of parents who sacrificed in the past. It is our hope that the North Platte Catholic Schools will flourish for years to come. We believe in our schools. We pledge our gifts of financial support and time, promotion and prayers. Won't you join us? Our "family" needs you.

Niles & Suzy Dodson
North Platte

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69101
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**FIND THE
"CARROT"
(not Marilyn's
KARAT) but
MY**



And win an
"Irish" Cap.
First caller
wins.
308-534-5939

"WE ARE IN THE GAME TO WIN"

My / Our Annual Fund Gift for Catholic Education in North Platte ~ 2005 / 2006

I will support Catholic Education in North Platte with my pledge to give:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500

_____ \$1000 _____ \$5000 _____ Other

_____ I will make one Annual Gift in _____ (Date).

_____ I will make _____ monthly payments of \$ _____ .

_____ Check enclosed – payable to North Platte Catholic
Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.

_____ Bill my VISA, MasterCard (call 308-534-5939)

_____ **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) - (call 308-534-5939)**

_____ As often as I can.

_____ My company will match my gift.

_____ I have arranged to have my gift matched.

_____ I work for Union Pacific Railroad. Please send a form.

Name: _____

Job Title _____

Company _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Bus # _____ Home # _____

E-mail Address _____

_____ I need information on making a will.

_____ I need information on Gift Planning for Catholic Education.

_____ I need a Book of Memories and/or Book of Blessings cards.

“KEEP EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION A PRIORITY”

The Quality Inn was the stage for the May 6th, “KEEP Excellence in Education a Priority” Testimonial Dinner to kick-off the 2005/2006 Annual Fund for the North Platte Catholic School System. The evening was hosted by the North Platte Catholic School Endowment-Trust with Chairman Jim Schneider, Board Member of the Endowment and a local attorney. Over 200 guests were welcomed by Jack and Jane Campbell, parents of St. Pat graduates and long time supporters of Catholic education. Father Richard Piontkowski, pastor of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church gave the invocation.

The speakers for the evening were alumni Mary Ellis, Class of ’73 and Joe Krzycki, Class of ’74. Mary Ellis is the School System Librarian and Joe Krzycki is a professor of microbiology at Ohio State University. Both related to the audience funny episodes while students at St. Patrick’s and the invaluable education and religious instruction they received. They strongly encouraged parents to stay engaged in their children’s education and continually promote and support McDaid Elementary and St. Patrick’s.

Later in the evening, Jon Wieseler, President of the Endowment, presented William C. McGahan, Superintendent of the North Platte Catholic School System with the first Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Stewardship Award from the Endowment. This award is given to an educator who promotes and supports Catholic education. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville taught school at McDaid and St. Patrick’s High School for 75 years.

The Annual Fund raises one-third of the necessary funds or \$500,000 to operate the Catholic Schools in North Platte and provide tuition assistance and scholarships for students.



Jim Schneider, Chairman



Mary Ellie, Class '73



Joe Krzycki, Class '74



G.R.E.E.N Night

Mark your calendars, Saturday, November 5, 2005, the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust will host the third annual **GREEN** night fundraising banquet in support of Catholic Education in North Platte. This year the **GREEN** Chair Committee members include Susan and Shane Kryzsko, Julie and Bill Mackley, and Jeanne and Kurt Pieper.

The **GREEN** night will offer a fabulous dinner and an opportunity to participate in both a silent and a live auction. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Quality Inn in North Platte. There will be something for every budget and bids will be taken throughout the evening and the live auction will feature items valued at \$500 or greater.

SCRIP

SCRIP has generated more than \$11,000 since last September. During the summer **SCRIP** can be purchased at the Endowment Office (601 S. Tabor, 308-534-5939) or after all the weekend masses at St. Patrick's and Holy Spirit Catholic Parishes in North Platte.