



# FOCUS ~ ON ENDOWMENT

Volume 23, Issue 1 Summer 2005

## Faith of Our Fathers is Entrusted to Us

and it isn't. ❖

Recently, I read an article about a University of Kansas Professor who wanted to test her hypothesis that minority children had less hope for the future than other schoolchildren but she overlooked one important variable...Catholic Schools.



Fr. Vince Parsons,  
Pastor St. Patrick  
Catholic Church

In her research, based on 1,200 schoolchildren from both public and private schools in Kansas City, she was surprised to discover that those in Catholic Schools had significantly higher hopes for their future than did their public school counterparts, despite the fact that the Catholic schoolchildren came from the same lower socioeconomic background as other children surveyed.

Well, I am not surprised. I believe that we are still following the mission of Catholic Schools when it was first made possible around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In those days, Catholic Schools in New York, Boston and Cincinnati were started in the basements of Churches to teach something more than the three 'R's' (+ religion). Historians tell countless stories of immigrants coming to this country who would sacrifice everything for the belief and hope for a brighter future for their children in faith, values and academia.

Now more than ever, I believe that it helps children to be surrounded by people who believe in them and tell them they can overcome anything. I know they hear this message a lot. It's the message of the Gospel.

Furthermore, research has proven that Catholic schools provide the best education for the child's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social growth. Standardized test scores indicate that children attending our Catholic schools

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The most recent St. Patrick's graduating class of 2005 continued the long line of St. Pat's classes to earn significant group averages on the A.C.T. college placement exam. Thirty-one of thirty-four of the graduates took the A.C.T. Two of those who did not were foreign exchange students. The group average on the test was 24.0, well above the state average of 21.8 and the national average of 20.9. St. Pat's reading scores were a full three points over the national average.



William C. McGahan  
Superintendent of  
Schools

I share these figures with our graduates and supporters not to boast, but to make a point. Our tradition is one of high expectations, and we expect strong A.C.T. scores.

St. Patrick's and McDaid Schools have a deserved reputation for strong academic performance. We also enjoy a reputation for strong music, speech and athletic programs. What truly makes attendance at St. Patrick's and McDaid golden, is the Faith and values our students receive.

Then why is our enrollment down again this year? What Catholic parent who is truly concerned about their child's future would not want their child focused on Hope and the Faith-filled values infused education that St. Patrick's and McDaid provide?

What do we really value in our lives and those of our children? Is the religious and moral formation of our children the priority it should be? When we have our child baptized we ask for the gift of Faith in their lives. Do our lives and our choices for their education truly reflect our belief in the importance of God in their lives? If so, our Catholic school should be filled to overflowing

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### Special points of interest:



### GREEN 2004 Diamond Lost & Found

Elaine Gosnell was given what she assumed was a cubic zirconia by a friend, Gail Hubble at GREEN Night, Nov. 6, 2004. When she checked it in April 2005 – HURRAH! It was the missing diamond.



# Annual Alumni Decade Challenge

**A**ttention St. Pat's Alumni - the Annual Alumni Decade Challenge is off to a great start. As we go to press (Aug. 25), alumni have contributed \$17,328 to this year's Annual Fund.

The silver lining is that we have heard from some alumni that we thought had forgotten their alma mater. I know it is hard to believe

but it has happened.

Many alumni are participating in the "Dollar-A-Year" Club. This is an easy way to help keep their alma mater the exceptional school it is.

The kickoff for the Annual Alumni Decade Challenge began at the 2005 Class Reunion to encourage each alumni to challenge another St. Pat's

decade to raise the most funds

between now and Dec. 31, 2005.

To check on the progress of the different decades, the Fall FOCUS will have an update. The winning decade will be announced in the winter edition of the FOCUS. The winning decade will be the feature story in this edition as well as having their decade listed on a plaque at the Endowment Office. **GO ALUMNI!**

[www.npcset.org](http://www.npcset.org)

## Book of Memories

Mark your calendar for October 1st and go to [www.npcset.org](http://www.npcset.org).

You will find some traditional topics, as well as some specific dated information – Phone-a-thon, GREEN Night, etc.

You will also have the opportunity to directly contribute to the Annual Fund, Book of Memories and order Scrip.

Please e-mail your comments.

The Book of Memories program is a way to give in the memory of others by creating a lasting remembrance. Your tribute to a beloved friend or family member serves as a memorial gift to our Catholic Schools that provides a secure and Christian-based learning environment that includes growth in religious awareness and an appreciation of morals

and values.

View the Book of Memories at the three North Platte Catholic Parishes:

- St. Patrick's Catholic Church on All Souls weekend, October 29 & 30th
- Holy Spirit Catholic Church on November 5th & 6th
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton on October 22nd & 23rd.

## Endowment-Trust Board of Directors

*As the Executive Director of the Endowment, it is my pleasure to introduce the Executive Officers and Directors of the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc. for fiscal year 2005/2006:*

President – Kathleen Keenan is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in finance. She and her husband, Pat and three children are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Two children attend and one recently graduated from the North Platte Catholic Schools.

Vice President – James E. Schneider is an Attorney at Law with 40 plus years of experience in North Platte having been one of the original founders of the

Endowment in 1977. He and his wife, Marilyn are members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and their six grown children were students at St. Patrick's High School and McDaid Elementary.

Secretary – Dr. Jeffrey T. O'Connor, OD is an optometrist and native of North Platte having attended McDaid Elementary and St. Patrick's High School. He earned his doctorate from the Illinois College of Optometry and is a partner in Complete Eyecare Associates in North Platte. He and his wife, Robyn are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and their three children are enrolled in North Platte Catholic Schools.

Treasurer – Dr. Mark R. Young, MD is

an Ophthalmologist in North Platte. A graduate of St. Patrick's High School, he received his medical degree from University of Nebraska Medical School. He and his wife, Jill are members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and their daughter attends McDaid Elementary.

Martin J. Troshynski is an Attorney at Law in the law firm of "Baskins, Pederson & Troshynski" in North Platte. He obtained his law degree from the University of Wyoming and is licensed to practice law in Nebraska and Wyoming and practices primarily the area of litigation. He and his wife, Lisa and their five children are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and the school age children attend the North Platte Catholic Schools. *(Continue to Page 5)*

# Faith of Our Father's is Entrusted to Us

*(Fr. Parsons, Continued from Page 1)*

rank one to two years above the national and local averages. It is the Church's responsibility to cultivate our children to become strong spiritual and moral leaders – especially in the day and age of moral relativism. Catholic schools provide that opportunity along with rigorous academic programs that will help shape the future for us all.

To those who send their children to North Platte Catholic Schools, I applaud you. To those who are considering giving the life-long gift of knowledge and formation to their children, I encourage you. In comparison, don't you believe that a little bit of sacrifice of our time and treasure now will benefit our kids tomorrow? Everyone wants the best for their children and North Platte Catholic School System is among the best!

We have made great strides in this last Century with Catholic Schools in this country. Even more important, we have shaped the past and are working towards the future with hearts full of hope and knowledge. ❖



## Now Everyone Can Find Us!

**T**hanks to Brad Hall, a senior at St. Patrick's High School working on his Eagle Scout requirements, the North Platte Catholic School Endowment-Trust now has a very handsome sign. The sign is built of sturdy wood stenciled with dark green lettering. Also Brad and other Scouts built the signs at the entrances of St. Pat's school. We definitely have a presence in the neighborhood: 601 S. Tabor, just south of the new (and fully paid for) McDaid Elementary. Open daily 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Phone: 308-534-5939, Fax: 308-534-6471, and [www.npcset.org](http://www.npcset.org) (Oct. 1st).

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## Board of Directors

Jon Wieseler owns and operates the Platte Valley Physical Therapy of North Platte. A graduate of Hartington Cedar Catholic High School and obtained his Physical Therapy Degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He and his wife, Kim and three children are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Two children attend and one recently graduated from the North Platte Catholic Schools.

Dr. Jeffrey C. Brittan, MD is a graduate of the Creighton Medical School whose medical practice is located at Midlands Family Medicine in North Platte. Dr. Brittan is involved in various volunteer activities and has donated considerable property. He and his wife, Connie and their four children are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. The children attend the North Platte Catholic Schools.

Fr. Art Faesser is the pastor at Holy

Spirit Catholic Church in North Platte.

Nancy Oates is a Program Development Specialist for Boys and Girls Home and Family Services, Inc. traveling throughout the United States. She is a California native who moved to North Platte in 1980 where her two daughters graduated from St. Patrick's. She is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in North Platte.

Nancy Faulhaber received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University. In 1983 she earned a real estate salespersons license and her real estate broker's license in 1987. She is part owner of Coldwell Banker Preferred Group in North Platte. Nancy currently serves on the board of directors for the North Platte Housing Authority. She and her husband, Orlin attend Holy Spirit Church. They have a daughter who is a sophomore at St. Pat's High School.

Fr. Vince Parsons is the pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in North Platte. He was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas and the family moved to Florida and later to Nebraska City, Nebraska. He attended Conception Abbey in Missouri for his seminary studies. Ordained in 2001, Fr. Parsons has served in Alliance and Hemingford, Grand Island and then to North Platte in 2003.

Bishop William J. Dendinger was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Omaha in May 1965. In 1970, Father Dendinger entered the US Air Force – a career that would span nearly 32 years. He retired in 2001 as a two-star general. After retirement from the military, he was named Pastor of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in Omaha, Nebraska. On December 13, 2004, he was ordained the seventh Bishop of the Grand Island Diocese.

North Platte Catholic Schools  
Endowment-Trust, Inc.  
PO Box 57  
601 South Tabor  
North Platte, NE 69103-0057  
Phone: 308-534-5939  
E-mail: windholzj@hotmail.com

Non Profit Org.  
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North Platte, NE  
69101  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**PHONE-(A-FRIEND-)  
A-THON**

Sunday and Monday,  
September 18/19 and 25/26.

Please warmly welcome the  
phone call from the  
**VOLUNTEER** who will be  
asking for your support.

“...Catholic schools provide the  
best education for the child’s  
spiritual, intellectual, physical,  
and social growth.”

# “Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future”

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.

# Planning Matters

Each year hundreds of Americans voluntarily contribute their time, energy, and other resources in support of Catholic Education. Fortunately, many of the supporters of Catholic Education are members the Legacy Society. They have set up a planned gift either through their will, a living trust, life insurance, a retirement plan, a charitable remainder trust, a charitable lead trust, etc. If this is something you are interested in doing, it is important to meet with an attorney and seek a professional financial planner that is reputable and that you trust to make your particular arrangements.

Recently the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust received two very generous gifts. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Irene M. Gorman Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust for the generous gift in support of Catholic Education in North Platte. Irene Mae Gorman, 84, formerly of North Platte, died April 2, 2005. She had been living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Born in Farwell, Nebraska and graduated from Cotesfield High School, she went to work for the Union Pacific in Grand Island and retired after 39 years. Irene moved to North Platte in 1943 and was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Likewise Ray and Winnie Pandorf, through arrangements made by Mary Salcetti Pandorf prior to her death, gave the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust yet another generous gift in Mary's name. Mary graduated from St. Patrick's High School in 1939 and spent her entire life devoted to education. In 1982 she married Ray and they lived in Stapleton, Nebraska. She and Ray were members of St. John's Catholic Church when she passed away in 1989.

One last thought, The North Platte Catholic Schools is the only kindergarten through 12th grade Catholic School System left between Grand Island and Cheyenne, Wyoming and Denver, Colorado. With God's Grace, and the commitment of His people, we shall continue for years to come.

## G. R. E. E. N.

This has been an exciting few months as the Annual **G.R.E.E.N.** Night approaches. This is significant because **G**enerating **R**esources for **E**ducational **E**xcellence **N**ow is what we want for our children and that is a priority for our families. I want to thank the many wonderful supporters of Catholic Education who have donated cash and silent auction items.

To highlight the evening, **G.R.E.E.N.** Night's special entertainment is comedian and magician, Gayle Becwar. Becwar is known for his engaging sketches with the audience.

**AND** bid on a new terrific trip to  
in Darlington, South Carolina in May 14, 2006.

Other special items include a Wildhorse golf package, \$1,000 gift card, Maui Trip, Husker Baseball tickets, Mexico Trip, Dinner with Bishop William Dendinger of the Grand Island Diocese, McDaid Christmas Program Seats, Eastern Dinner for 20, Furniture by Roger Wyatt, Dell Computer Package, a beautifully detailed 30 inch tall garden statue of St. Frances to the right, and the exquisite hand carved blue jay by Jack J. Budlar of North Platte on the left, to mention just a few.



**Saturday, November 5**  
**Sandhills Convention Center**  
For more information, call 308-534-5939