



FOCUS

North Platte Catholic Schools
Endowment-Trust, Inc.
Fall FOCUS
Volume 25 Issue 2

Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future

Special points of interest:

- **G.R.E.E.N. Night, October 27, 2007**
- **Meet Holy Spirit's Fr. Jim Novakowski**
- **Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Annual Stewardship Award**
- **Endowment Board Changes**

ANNUAL PHONE-A-THON WRAPPING UP

The Endowment's annual telephone fundraising drive is coming to a close. You may have already received a call asking you to support McDaid and St. Patrick's schools with a financial gift.

Representatives will be calling through the end of October. We graciously ask for your continued support. All pledges received will go directly to North Platte Catholic Schools. Funds raised during the phone-a-thon are **vital** to sustaining the school system throughout the year. Please direct any questions to the Endowment office.

Thank you for your support and timely payment of pledges.

Get Ready for G.R.E.E.N.

On Saturday, October 27, 2007, the fifth annual **G.R.E.E.N.** night event will be held at the Quality Inn in North Platte.

G.R.E.E.N., *Generating Resources for Educational Excellence Now*, is a wonderful evening that generates a portion of the necessary funds to support St. Patrick's and McDaid Catholic Schools in North Platte.

Mark your calendars and join us for a fabulous dinner, entertainment and an opportunity to bid on hundreds of items at Silent and Live Auctions. This year's **G.R.E.E.N.** Committee planned an exceptional evening with something for everyone.

The Silent Auction includes over 120 items including collectables,

religious items, sports memorabilia, Christmas decorations, gift certificates, game tickets, auto care, and much more.

The Super Silent and Live Auctions feature hand-crafted furniture, trips (Black Hills, Las Vegas, Austria, NCAA final four), a Dell computer, and some fabulous dinner opportunities.

Family-friendly comedian-magician Gayle Becwar will join us between dinner and the Live Auction.

This year's **G.R.E.E.N. RAFFLE** gives you the chance to win a \$15,000 voucher to be used at any North Platte New Car & Truck Dealer's Association



2007 GREEN Committee (L/R) Brian and Mindy Hope, Treg and Cameron Vyzourek, Mike and Barb Honeman, Dan and Judy O'Neil, JoAnn Windholz, and Deb O'Malley. Not pictured: Matt and Kdley Hasenauer, Wendy Dodson.

Member. This is a fantastic opportunity to pick the vehicle of your choice from 5 local dealerships! Visit www.npcset.org to purchase a ticket and view auction catalogs. Or, call the Endowment office, 308-534-5939 to purchase tickets and make dinner reservations.

Endowment's 2007 Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

In May of this year the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust awarded six graduating seniors college assistance funding with one four-year, and five one-year college scholarships:

The Sharon Goffena Scholarship was awarded to Kari Halkens; the Kent Boyer Education Fund was awarded to two young men, Max Clouatre, and Sean O'Neill; the Major Alvin Maurice Mougey Scholarship Award four-year

scholarship to Elizabeth Waltman and a one-year scholarship to Carlos Rivas; and the Robert E. and Margaret E. Rea Memorial Scholarship Fund was awarded to Jordan Ochs.

Through the generosity of ten other families, the Endowment awarded tuition assistance to 30 students. These funds assist families with tuition costs for academic year 2007/2008.

Through careful stewardship, many families receive assistance

so that their children can have a quality Catholic education.

This is a direct opportunity for anyone or any family to have a lasting impact on the lives of our students at St. Patrick's and McDaid, as well as our graduating seniors. For more information, call the Endowment at 308-534-5939.

IN GOD WE TRUST

Welcome Fr. Jim Novakowski

North Platte is lucky to now have two Father Jim's. Father Jim Novakowski recently assumed duties at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. He follows Fr. Art Faesser, who relocated to St. Patrick's parish in Sidney, Nebraska.

Fr. Jim Novakowski was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia with a degree in Philosophy, then moved to Denver, Colorado to study Theology at St. Thomas Seminary for the Diocese of Grand Island. Fr. Jim was a Deacon Chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital in



Denver until he was ordained to the Priesthood in 1995 for the Grand Island Diocese. Fr.

Jim served at Holy Rosary in Alliance, St. John's in Stapleton, St. Agnes in Arnold, St. Boniface in Callaway, St. Mary's in Oconto, and most recently at St. Patrick's in Sidney.

Please give Fr. Jim a warm welcome to our community and our schools.

Fall Food for Thought

It may be hard to think about, but the holiday season is truly right around the corner. In the midst of family gatherings and gift buying, I encourage you to think of the gifts that truly matter most, and ways that you can support North Platte Catholic Schools as a part of your holiday planning. Consider **SCRIP** as a practical and popular gift alternative. It can be purchased after Sunday masses at St. Patrick's and Holy Spirit and at McDaid during the week. There truly is something for everyone with local and national retailers! Who wouldn't love a gift card to their favorite store or restaurant? Also remember that you can honor loved ones with a special living memorial in the **Book of Blessings**, on display in the Endowment Office. All gifts directly support the North Platte Catholic Schools, and all gifts to the Endowment are **tax deductible**. Please keep Catholic education in mind during the holidays. Visit the Endowment website www.npcset.org for more information on end of the year giving.

Jim Schneider Receives Stewardship Award

Time, talent, and treasure. These are the gifts that a true steward shares with the community around him. These are the things Jim Schneider has shared with the North Platte Catholic School community for many years. That's why Jim was named the 2007 Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Stewardship Award winner by the Endowment. The Ursuline Sisters of Louisville served as teachers in the North Platte Catholic School system for over 75 years. To be considered for their honorary award you must, among many things, be dedicated to service, to the school, practice strong Catholic values,

and love children. Jim exemplifies each of these qualities. He is one of the founders of the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc. and serves as Director Emeritus on the board of directors. He and his wife, Marilyn, have raised six children who all graduated from St. Patrick's High School. He continues to serve as a strong voice and leader in the Catholic School system. Jim's commitment to the Endowment Board is an example to all who value their faith and the future of their children. Congratulations Jim on this prestigious achievement!

Jim Schneider receiving his award in August



Endowment Receives Hunter Home

The giving spirit is very much alive in one local couple. John and Mary-Alice Hunter are long-time members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and have been long-time devoted supporters of the Endowment. They recently gave the ultimate gift to provide for Catholic education in the future, by donating their home. When the Hunters decided it was time to move into town from their home north of



North Platte, their first thought was of the Endowment. The property was signed over to the Endowment in April, 2007 and was sold in August. This gift is proof of the incredible difference that one couple can make, and proof that the goals of the Endowment are within reach. Please extend your heartfelt thanks to the Hunters for sharing such a big part of their lives with the Endowment.

New Faces on Endowment Board

Wendy Dodson is the new Executive Director of the Endowment. Wendy holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She spent five years as a news anchor, producer, and reporter at KNOP-TV in North Platte. Most recently she

worked in marketing, public relations, and sales for two local companies. Wendy's husband Kevin is a teacher and coach at St. Patrick's High School. Wendy and Kevin have a son, Logan, who will turn one in November. They are members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.



Wendy Dodson
Executive Director

Mike Nozicka is a 1985 graduate of St. Patrick's High School and a graduate of Chadron State College with a major in Criminal Justice. He was also a member of both the football and wrestling teams while at CSC. He attended Creighton University School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor in May, 1993. After working as a

Deputy County Attorney and associate attorney in Wayne, Nebraska, Mike and his family returned to North Platte in January 2002. He opened the Nozicka Law Office in February, 2007. Mike and his wife, Beth, have two children, Jobeth and Erin, who are students at North Platte Catholic Schools.



Mike Nozicka
Board Member

Troy Brandt is a native of Bayard, Nebraska and a graduate of Chadron State College where he majored in Accounting. Troy is a Commercial Lender at TierOne Bank in North Platte, and has been with that company for two years. As an active community supporter, Troy has been

Treasurer of the Mid Plains United Way for four years, is involved with Habitat for Humanity, Rotary, and is a Family Support Chair. Troy and his wife Renae have two children. Their daughter Kirstin is 2 years old, and their son Cade is 6 months old.



Troy Brandt
Board Member

Check us out on the web... www.npcset.org

Winning Improvements

If you build it, they will come. That's the premise at Knights of Columbus Field. The St. Patrick's Activities Association was the lucky recipient of a brand new football scoreboard, donated by NebraskaLand National Bank. The partnership with NebraskaLand is also funding a new wrestling mat.

The scoreboard was installed this summer, with the help of numerous volunteers, and now provides a spectacular view for fans throughout the stadium.

Athletic Director Mark Skillstad says not only has it added significant aesthetic value to the field, but it has also been a very nice change to have a scoreboard that's "maintenance free."



Irish touchdowns are now much easier to count, thanks to the new scoreboard at Knights of Columbus Field.

Many thanks to NebraskaLand National Bank for their generous donation.

Another new addition is easy to "view" at Knights of Columbus Field. Viewing windows, or skyboxes, have been added to the William Ramaekers Press Box. The first premium views will be offered to bidders at G.R.E.E.N. Skybox seats for the 2008 football season are up for bidding on the live auction. They could be yours, if the price is right!



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We still have a few questions. . .

Without a doubt we have more ways to get information than ever before. With a couple of clicks we have the latest investment updates, sports bios, links to church history and religious facts, or an address with a map to a classmate's front door.

Many of the "greatest generation" and "baby boomers" have a lot of places to go and things to do in this life. But have you actually prepared to do it? In this techno world is there a key to click for completed estate plans or your will? For all our accumulated knowledge, only about 38% have done any estate planning or even made a will.

There are a few questions that may need to be answered: What if I die too soon? What happens if I live too long? What will happen to those I care about? Finally, how will I be remembered? Each of us has the need to know that our lives mattered and that we will be remembered.

These questions can only be answered in thoughtful conversation with a financial planner and/or a lawyer who is

versed in doing estate planning. Aside from leaving cash or property to a spouse, there are only a few other options that will not incur either gift or estate tax when transferring wealth.

North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc. is directly associated with your faith family and educational heritage of your family. I encourage you to prayerfully consider a charitable gift in support of Catholic Education in North Platte. In the long term, a charitable gift through the Endowment-Trust is the financial future of our schools and the growth of the Catholic faith.

Okay all you technocrats, to find more about the Endowment-Trust, log onto www.npcset.org and click Supporting Catholic Education. Then click long-term security. Read—Review—Call a Financial Planner and/or a lawyer to discuss what you are thinking about doing. Most of all, ask a lot of questions. You have to make good decisions for your financial future, or the "state" will. DO IT NOW!