



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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**CELEBRATING 162 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE**

*The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.*

**OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!**

August 7, 2015

V. 41 #06

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY** As per Diocesan policy, all parents who coach, chaperon, volunteer in the classroom, or work with our children but complete the initial training. This will be **August 17 from 6:00-8:00** at the Knights of Columbus room in our new Church. Please do this and get it out of the way. You will also need to fill out a CANTS form for the Diocese. For everyone else, we have to annually take a refresher course. We will also have this site listed under parent forms on our website. <https://safeandsacred-diobelle.org/> Click, "Online Training Course"

**A BIG thank you** to all the parents who took advantage of the uniform resale on July 25, 2015. Andrea Harget and Carrie Ward, co-chairs -- Cashiers and set up workers, Reece and Rhyan Ward. Katie, Danny, Holly and Abby Repp---best workers bees we have ever had. Dads Steve Ward and Tim Mueth heavy lifters. We made \$920.00 for ICS Parents & Friends, forwarded 15 bags of clothing to children who may be in need of a little help. See you the last Saturday in July 2016. Skip Ward, Grandmother

**SCHOOLA** Last spring our Parents and Friends President Jolene Sasser found a great way to recycle clothing. We sent in some boxes to Schoola and they just sent us a check for \$1,174.38! Thanks Jolene and thanks donors! We hit another home run!

THANKS TO...**AT & T Employee Giving Campaign** for \$14 and...  
\$100 from **Express Scripts Matching Gift**

**20th Annual ICS/Joe Hoquet Memorial Golf Tournament for Athletics and Technology:** For registration or questions Email / Call / Text [icsfathers@gmail.com](mailto:icsfathers@gmail.com) 314-690-3237. Not a golfer but still want to help? \$100 Corporate Sponsor \$50 Family Sponsor \$20 Dinner only reservation. 3 Person Scramble \$90/player \$270/team Friday, Sept. 18th 2015 Columbia Golf Club 11am Registration 12pm Start **\*\*Early Registration by Sept 1st enters you into raffle for 4 Cardinal tickets section 161 row 16\*\*** Sponsored by ICS Fathers' Club to benefit ICS Athletics and Technology

**Soccer---** 2 weeks ago we sent home all the forms for soccer. See that week's letter if you don't have them. **GRADES 5-8:** Bring all the forms this Sunday night, August 9 for uniform pick-up at the gym from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. **GRADES K-4:** No need to come on August 9. Uniforms will be passed out by Mrs. Whelan during PE class since your season starts later than the upper grades but we do need all paperwork.

At Uniform Distribution, please be sure to bring:

- a. ICS Athletics registration form and any sports fees due if not already paid
- b. Physical for 2015-16 athletics seasons
- c. Consent form filled out and signed

- d. Parents Agreement filled out and signed
- e. Diocesan Parent Code of Conduct Form filled out and signed
- f. Maple Grove Fees (\$50 for first child, \$40 for second child, \$30 for 3<sup>rd</sup> child)

**SPORTS SCHEDULES AND COACHING:** We are grateful to our Coaches for Soccer, basketball, volleyball, and track. We will hold a coaches meeting on Sunday, August 16. To coach, you have to complete the “**Win the Prize Program**”, Child Protection Policy initial or renewal, and adhere to Diocesan and school policies. We still need coaches for basketball and volleyball. If interested, please contact Mike Kish at [mkish@icsmail.org](mailto:mkish@icsmail.org). Terry Soucek, Rob Powers, Mary Ann Lambert, Eric Gillan, Jayleen Murphy, and Jim Wessel are on the list so far. Contact me this week. **Games and Team Composition** depend on numbers. **If you want to play a sport and haven't signed up, we need to know by August 13.** [mkish@icsmail.org](mailto:mkish@icsmail.org).

## **ENERGY MEETS WISDOM FR. RON ROLHEISER, OMI**

(WHERE IS THE PRINCIPAL ON THIS SPECTRUM?)

In an ideal world, energy should be enlivening wisdom and wisdom should be admiring and initiating energy. What's meant by this?

Simply put, energy is what drives our planet in terms of natural motivation, youthful dreams, physical health, physical beauty, color, sexuality, and raw intelligence. Wisdom is what holds the community together at its center, teaches it meaning, and helps it to cope with suffering and death. These are very different things, not to be confused with each other. They are also carried and brought to the table by different constituencies: Youth carry and bring the energy, elders carry and bring the wisdom.

And they need each other. Raw energy, like a stream of gushing water, needs to be channeled. Left to itself, not directed by wisdom, it generally destroys rather than brings meaning. Uninitiated energy is generally individualistic, ego-seeking, and the source of jealousy. That is why something can wonderfully energetic, colorful, beautiful, funny, brilliant, witty, sexually robust, and bursting with physical health and, at the same time, in no way connected with anything that holds community together at its center.

The reverse is also true. Wisdom needs energy. Left to itself wisdom soon becomes grey, colorless, sexless, lifeless, and expressive more of the diminished physical capacities that come with age and handicap than of the pulse that God and nature put into our hearts and instincts. That is why something can be deep, sage, and capable of revealing secrets hidden since the beginning of time and yet seem totally unconnected to our life-pulse, our sexuality, and our aches and yearnings. It's not for nothing that we color wisdom grey.

Tragically, in our day and culture, wisdom and energy are rarely brought together and live almost as enemies. We never mistake Jerry Seinfeld for Henri Nouwen, Madonna for Mother Theresa, Alanis Morissette for Therese of Lisieux, Jay Leno for Billy Graham, or Mick Jagger for John Paul II. We look to the one for energy and to the other for wisdom. That's unfortunate because God is the deep source of both the energy of the one and the wisdom of the other.

The marvel of the annual Church World Youth Days is that they brought these two together. Energy and wisdom met, had a party, prayed together, informed and initiated each other. The Pope gets to do what every elder, male or female, is meant to do, bless, challenge, and direct young energy, even as he is colored, enlivened, and delighted by it. And the young pilgrims there got to do what every young person is meant to do, fill the air with dreams and surround those dreams with robust, lively, colorful, healthy, physically-beautiful, sexually-young-and-yearning energy, even as all of that is challenged, directed, and blessed by what's wise, aged, grey, and full of secrets that still need to be learned.

Most of us are neither as old as the Pope nor as full of life and color as the youthful pilgrims who meet with him. What's our job? To be both, pope and pilgrim, to do what the pope does, admire and direct youth, even as, like the youthful pilgrims, we humbly bring all that's robust and energetic inside us to the wells of wisdom to learn there some of the deeper secrets.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Upper grade soccer uniforms:** Sunday, August 9.

**Saturday August 15th - Columbia Daze Parade** - Parade at 5 pm on Main Street.

**Sunday August 16th - Potluck** for Pre-School, Pre-K, Kindergarten, New Student and Mentor Families - 12:30 start (following Mass) This event helps us know each other better and ease fears of new students as they get familiar with our school! Thanks to our School Board for going the extra mile on the parade and Pot-Luck! See the invite!

**Sunday, August 16 Coaches meeting in band room.** 6:00 pm is the time!

**SCHOOL STARTS August 19---full day!**

**OUR THEME SONG** [www.icscolumbia.org](http://www.icscolumbia.org) **OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY**

**PRAYERS:** Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Edward Pelker, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Josh Ritter, Valerie Bauchens, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intention

**THIS SUNDAY'S CONTINUATION OF THE BREAD DISCOURSE:** (from a good friend of mine)  
We continue the bread stories of John's gospel again. Since it was the last gospel to be put together for us and much different than the first three we can assume that John's gospel reflected the times in which it was written. First, folks at this time were mostly day workers. No work, no bread. It was hard to teach people to look beyond their need and worries for daily bread, to having them reflect on the bread that pointed the way to eternal life. We know the early Christian community understood their double role to provide daily bread and eternal life bread to all who joined them. Many who joined were the poor, widows, orphans, those most unsure of even daily bread, much less, sure enough to look beyond daily bread, to reflect on the bread from heaven that is eternal life.

The wisdom of that early Christian community was the wisdom of Christ. Feed the body and then feed the soul. You can't have one without the other. Those who came for daily bread only, also had to be urged to look beyond, to the bread of Christ's teaching that promised eternal life---to those who walked the meaning and hope of Christ's way of life.

Paul told us this morning what Christ's way to eternal life looks like. It puts away all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander; together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. That last is what we pray during every Eucharist. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen, Amen!

I love telling this story, because I think it imprints in my being, what those who get the bread stories really look like. Centuries ago, in 980, a persistent famine prompted Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester to sell the gold and silver vessels of his cathedral church in order to alleviate the hungers of the poor. He explained his actions in this way: "There is no reason that the senseless temples of God should abound in riches and the living temples of the Holy Spirit starve for hunger". Authentic Christians, daily bread and eternal bread for others, would clear our own personal temples, to see that all had both the breads that Christ ask each of us to be.

**Mike Kish**  
**Principal**

Ps heard at a principal meeting: I wish the buck really did stop here, I sure could use a few of them.

Ps Class lists will be posted on the school website next week. This is always an exciting event. We have an excellent faculty who get to work with excellent students who come from excellent families!

# Why Catholic Schools Do Well



by Jerry Sanderson, *Diocese of Peoria*

*Parents are often unaware of the significant advantages offered by Catholic schools.*

We've all seen the barrage of headlines. Low test scores. Declining graduation rates. Drugs, bullying and fighting. It can all be a little disheartening. But for the nearly 4,000 students in the Peoria area who attend 13 Catholic elementary schools and Notre Dame High School, the future could not be brighter. Their parents have chosen to put them in these schools for some not-so-obvious reasons. It is handy shorthand to think parents want a Catholic education for their children, but that is seldom true. When you dig deeper, you discover they want something they associate with Catholic living: a strong moral center, a feeling of personal worth, character, integrity, compassion and caring for others.

The CARA Institute at Georgetown University recently confirmed that “strong moral values” is the top reason parents choose to send their child to a Catholic school. Another study at the University of Pennsylvania confirms that “success is not the number-one priority for most parents. We're much more concerned about our children becoming kind, compassionate and helpful.” When people in 50 countries were asked to report their guiding principles in life, the value that mattered most was not academic achievement, but caring.

In his recent bestseller, *The Road to Character*, author David Brooks talked about the value of character being a commitment to family, faith and community. “About once a month, I run across a person who radiates an inner light,” he writes. “These people can be in any walk of life. They seem deeply good. They listen well. They make you feel funny and valued. You often catch them looking after other people, and as they do so, their laugh is musical and their manner is infused with gratitude. They are not thinking about what wonderful work they are doing. They are not thinking about themselves at all... These people have achieved an unfakeable inner virtue, built slowly from specific moral and spiritual accomplishments.”

## Teaching What's Taught At Home

These are the things parents believe they receive from a Catholic school—the same reasons the unchurched, as well as parents from many other religions, choose Catholic schools. When it comes to raising their child, many parents look at the teachers at Catholic schools as partners, trusting they are teaching the same values in school as they teach at home.

Catholic schools focus on instilling character so students make the right choices, no matter what their friends or others might say. They provide the freedom to explore aspects of the world not found in state-mandated lesson plans; they incorporate spirituality into every aspect of the curriculum; and their teachers and leaders are held to a higher standard of professionalism, morals and ethics, both in and out of the classroom.

That may sound lofty, but the results are impressive. Research at Harvard University indicates that Catholic school students have higher levels of civic engagement and knowledge, and are more politically tolerant and supportive of civil liberties. In a 2011 study, Notre Dame Professor David Campbell reported that “historically, public schools have been celebrated as the exemplars of civic education, while Catholic schools were often thought to provide an inferior form of training in democratic citizenship. But now, scores of empirical studies have confirmed that some forms of private schools—specifically Catholic schools—are more successful than their public counterparts in inculcating students with democratic values.” It's hard to imagine a greater public good than that!

Catholic school students are less likely to have their marriages end in divorce; they vote more often; and for what it's worth, they also earn more money throughout their lifetime. The widespread institution of “service hour” requirements in Catholic schools over the last two decades has helped to create an entire generation of generous, socially-minded adults ready to help their community.



## **An Academic Edge**

But what about academic performance in Catholic schools? Here is where the story shocks nearly everyone.

Nearly all Peoria-area Catholic elementary schools have some variation of preschool for three- and four-year-olds. This is not daycare—this is preschool, where children first learn “how to learn” and form positive attitudes toward school. It is also likely to be the school where they will spend the next eight or nine years, and where a cohort of young mothers will form a lasting, supportive social network. This “family” support is one of the real strengths of Catholic education.

By the time Catholic school students reach the fourth grade, they are often a grade or two ahead of their public school counterparts, with such a significant lead that other schools find it difficult to catch up. Data from the 2014 Iowa Assessments indicate that by the time these students reach eighth grade, they are achieving three to four years above grade level—a remarkable testament to the power of a Catholic school education.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Catholic school students consistently score higher on advanced achievement tests, and by eighth grade, they outscore their public school counterparts in mathematics by a full 13 points. And every year for the past two decades, Catholic school eighth-graders have outscored public schools in reading by 20 points.

## **Where Minority Students Thrive**

The impact of Catholic education on minority students is equally remarkable. What D.E. York found in her groundbreaking study was that the more “at risk” a student was, the greater the relative improvement that occurred. She also found that minority students were far more likely to take rigorous classes, graduate on time and attend college.

In one six-year stretch at Peoria Notre Dame High School, every single minority student graduated and went on to college. “If you’re serious about education reform, you have to pay attention to what Catholic schools are doing,” said Joseph P. Viteritti, a professor of public policy at Hunter College, who has edited four books on the subject. “They’ve been educating urban kids better than they’re being educated elsewhere.”

The academic advantage students accrue in Catholic elementary schools is well documented, but it is high school that really starts to change their lives. In today’s world, a high school diploma is almost mandatory if an individual is going to survive, much less thrive. All over the country, nearly 100 percent of Catholic high school students graduate; for public schools, that number is 78 percent. The disparity widens even more when considering college attendance, with 84.9 percent of Catholic high school graduates attending four-year colleges, more than double the rate of public schools. This number rises to 97 percent when the criterion is “some post secondary education.”

Catholic school students do better, and the research literature is replete with reasons. William Jaynes, education professor at California State University, found that Catholic schools “have fewer behavioral problems than their counterparts, even when adjusted for socioeconomic status, race and gender.” That translates into fewer gangs, less drugs and greater racial harmony. Jaynes believes Catholic schools “have higher expectations of students and encourage them to take hard courses,” adding that they subscribe to the notion that “students are often capable of achieving more than they realize.”

Many Catholic elementary students in the Peoria area matriculate to Notre Dame High School—one of the best in the state. Over the past six years, Notre Dame’s composite ACT score has increased every year and now stands at 24.6—tops in the area:

SCHOOL	2014 ACT SCORE	GRADUATION RATE	COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE
1. Notre Dame	24.6	100%	100%
2. Dunlap	24.3	89%	87%
3. Morton	24.0	94%	83%
4. Princeville	22.5	91%	78%
5. Tremont	22.4	92%	73%
6. Brimfield	22.1	94%	55%
7. Metamora	22.1	94%	76%
8. Washington	21.6	88%	78%
9. IVC	21.5	88%	71%
10. Richwoods	20.9	82%	69%

It’s interesting to note that not all students in Peoria’s Catholic schools are, in fact, Catholic. They welcome all religions, including the unchurched and unaffiliated—commonly referred to as “nones,” which account for nearly 20 percent of adults and one third of millennials, according to the Pew Research Center. The irony is that many Catholic kids are attending public schools and falling behind, while many non-Catholics are attending Catholic schools and excelling.

### Heading For College

It’s true that most kids educated in Catholic schools go on to college. While it may not be for everyone, individuals with a college degree are paid more—much more—than those without one. Degree-holders now earn 80 percent more than their peers with just a high school diploma, up from about 40 percent more in the late 1970s. According to a recent MIT study, the return on investment in education, from elementary school to college, exceeds the historic return on practically any conventional investment, including stocks, bonds and real estate.

Here in Peoria, the need for a college-educated workforce is critical. Caterpillar is in need of engineers; OSF demands talented nurses and doctors; the Ag Lab requires dedicated scientists, and the University of Illinois, Bradley, Robert Morris, Illinois Central College and Midstate are in search of instructors, researchers and other professionals. The Peoria-area Catholic school system has met this challenge by partnering with AdvancED, the world’s largest educational accrediting organization. Accreditation by AdvancED ensures the Diocese’s school improvement efforts are aligned with a rigorous set of research-based quality standards verified by an external review team.

Parents often ask, “Can I afford to send my child to a Catholic school?” My response is always the same: “Can you afford *not* to?” All parents want what is best for their children, and are willing to sacrifice to provide the best opportunities for their family.

Quite often, young parents are unaware of the significant advantages offered by Catholic schools. However, a tour of a Catholic school classroom promises a fulfilling experience: Smartboards and computers. Small class sizes with exceptional teachers who provide individual attention. Solid, often superior academics. Discipline and a sound spirituality. A place where teachers are expected to teach and students are expected to learn.

Peoria’s Catholic schools don’t usually make the headlines, and that’s okay. They simply provide their students with the best tools to fulfill their future roles as good citizens, productive and caring employees, competent professionals, and daughters and sons that will make their parents—and all of us—very proud.

*Jerry Sanderson is associate superintendent of the Diocese of Peoria.*