



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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Columbia, Illinois 62236

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**CELEBRATING 163 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE**

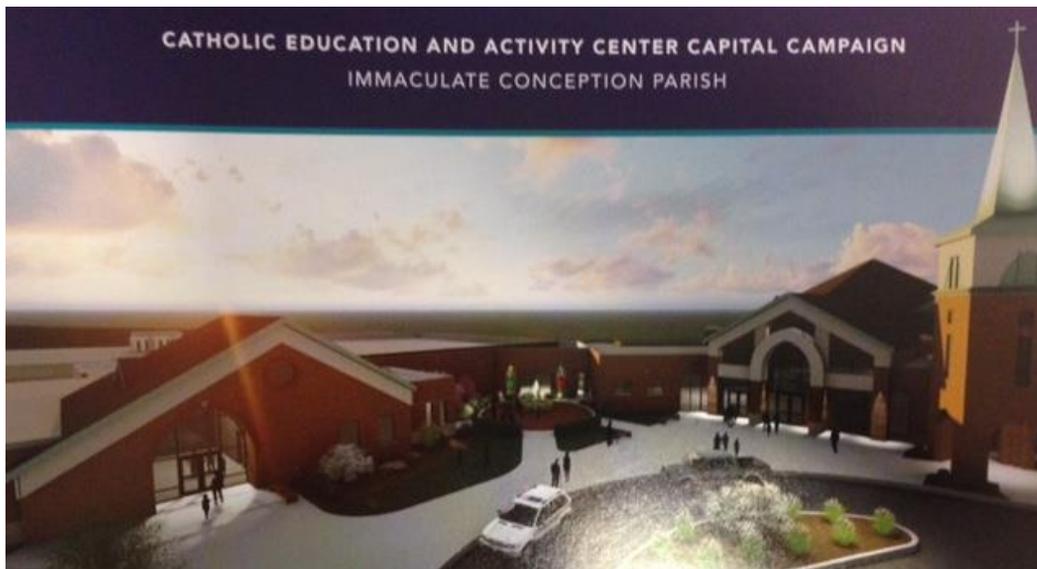
*The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.*

October 6, 2016

V. 42 #17

**THE JOY OF LOVE**

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



**THANKS TO OUR FIRST WAVE OF RESPONDERS** to our plea to make home visits for the new **Catholic Education and Activity Center** **65** house-holds **STRONG!** Sorry you couldn't make it **but** we have a back-up day for the next wave of 65---you:

**Thursday, October 13 at 7:00PM, the second Capital Campaign Orientation---**in the Garden Level. We need many more volunteers to lower the number of visits that need to be made!

We have to lower the door-to-door campaign average for our volunteers 1,506 households / 200 yields about 7 each. (But some are already finished in the Quiet Phase.) *Remember: Our story started with water into wine, some loaves and fishes, temple building people and YOU! Be a part of this modern day miracle! Join u and our 17<sup>th</sup> resident Pastor in this venture of a lifetime!!*

**FAMILY CARD AND GAME PARTY** Bring your friends and families to the Immaculate Conception Altar Society Family Card and Game Party! Bring your favorite card game, board game, or made-up game to the Garden Level on **Monday, October 10** for a day of FUN, FRIENDS and FOOD. Not to mention fabulous attendance prizes-everyone is a WINNER! Doors open at 12:30 and the party runs from 1:00-3:30. **No school that day, so come out and support the Altar Society.** We would love to see you! **Columbus was a gamer! Come and honor him! (He was also green before his time and got 3,000 miles to the galleon!)**



**ICS WON THE ST. JOHN VIANNEY ACADEMIC DECATHLON FOR THE 2nd CONSECUTIVE YEAR!**

22 St. Louis area Catholic schools competed in the 9th annual academic contest where each school sends ten students to compete in Mathematics, English, History, Science, and Technology. Four 8<sup>th</sup> grade, four 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and two 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected to compete. Leading the way to victory for ICS were 6<sup>th</sup> grader Tyler Wahle, second place in Technology, and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jacob Whitworth, third place in Mathematics. However, ICS also depended on strong performances from Jacob Feldker in Mathematics, Katie Grawitch and Sydney Wahle in English, Marie Prindiville and Autumn Ramey in History, Eli Garcia and Daylen Litke in

Science, and Noah Newton in Technology to post the highest team average(230) which was 27 points higher than second place team Queen of All Saints(203). Math Teacher Mrs. Karen Weiler coordinated this team effort which is the product of motivated students and outstanding teaching and at ICS! ( think we are always in the top 5 on this one so this is no fluke.)

**FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENTS' MEETING OCTOBER 11:** Second-grade parents (and any parents of older Catholic students who have not yet made their 1st Communion), please be sure to attend the meeting Tuesday, October 11, at 7pm in the Garden Level of church. Lizanne Young and Fr. Carl will talk about the sacrament, our expectations for the students, the take-home materials you need, and the Ice Cream Social after First Reconciliation, which is Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3pm. This is also our first dip into the discussion about First Eucharist in the spring. If you have any questions, contact Lizanne at [lyoung@iccmil.org](mailto:lyoung@iccmil.org) or 281-5105, ext 354.



**We practice safety a lot! But we have a PARKING PROBLEM---OUR NEIGHBORS ON LIBERTY.**

Basically:

- 1 cars parking in and blocking the driveway to their parking lot while walking their children in
- 2 cars parking on their private lot
- 3 U-turns in their driveways

Towing and ticketing creates nothing but ill-will and they do not want to do that. Just like recess, if you follow the law, we get along. Please be a good neighbor and respect our neighbors and be considerate of their needs to run a business and have access to their property. Tell Grandpa and Grandma too!

The School Handbook requests that you drop off your children onto sidewalks on our property or on the old church parking lot. We never want to forget we lost a student on Main Street in the 1950's and had a student struck on Metter Ave in the 1980's. Safety and consideration please!

**BEGINNER SPEECH MEET** We need a parent to shadow Mrs. Watters to take over the program next year. Please step up for one our best programs!

**REVIVAL---**Either you are glad you came or sorry you missed it or just plain wonder what it was. A big success. Today is DAY FOUR. Do something to bring alive your rebirth in the Lord! Jesus made a difference one person at a time and we pass it on the same way!

**JOY OF LOVE REVIVAL SHIRTS:** We have had many requests for ordering our "Joy of Love" Revival t-shirts. Printed black-on-white, they are GREAT for coloring with Sharpies or fabric markers to make your shirt one-of-a-kind. **Price is \$15 per shirt**, (write your order and send in envelope with payment: cash or checks payable to Immaculate Conception Church). Proceeds benefit **Our Brothers' Keepers of Southern Illinois**. Sizes available: Youth Small, Youth Medium, Youth Large, or Adult Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2XL and 3XL. **Deadline to order: Friday, October 14 through ICS, or Sunday, Oct. 16 through Church. (Payment must accompany order.)**

**NEXT WEEK IS HUGE FOR US! Columbia Middle School: 7-7-7-2 All pm. Talent beyond measure! Thursday---Friday-Saturday-Sunday:** "Dear Edwina, Jr."---our musical. Please support our Builders Club. This is our #2 fundraiser for the year. We will again take up a collection at Intermission for Sr. Thea Bowman School. "Kelly's Lunch Stand" (from the Play)



**JAZZ IS COOL AND SO IS BEING A SMALL SCHOOL!** The Jazz Band traveled to Jazz at the Bistro in Grand Center. They saw a performance by Hammond B3 organ player Dr. Lonnie Smith and his band. ICS was joined by students from Ferguson/Florissant and Riverview Gardens school districts as part of Jazz St. Louis's educational outreach program. Mr. Matt Hake is a bona fide Jazzer and brings this unique gift to our Jazz Band. Next year I'm going!

**THANK YOU TO WELLS FARGO for a \$321.50 matching gift!** Double the pleasure, double the joy of generosity!

**St. Raymond's collection: \$216.92 today. 1,490 quetzales!**

**PAPA JOHN'S \$47.77 for the first pizza night of the year!** Thanks for ordering!

**Looking for footie PJ's size 12 months to 5 T for Honduras**

My name is Zach Hennes and I am a senior at St Louis University High school and a graduate of ICS. I will be going to Honduras for the month of January for my senior service project to work in an orphanage/nutrition center that is run by SLUH.

We will take several things with us for use in the orphanage. Currently we are collecting footie PJ's for the kids ( size 12 month to 5 T ) They can be gently used or new. If anyone has any they would like to donate to the kids in Honduras, I would appreciate it very much, along with the kids. You can send them to ICS & put in a bag marked for Honduras ( Zach Hennes) or you can contact me & we will be happy to arrange a convenient time to pick them up.

Thanks in advance.

Zach Hennes---[618-476-7502](tel:618-476-7502)

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NOTES...**

**BOXTOPS COLLECTION CONTEST: OCTOBER 10-OCTOBER 21**

Every student who submits a sheet of BoxTops will receive a card for a complimentary item from McDonald's. (1 per student.) For every 50 BoxTops turned in, students will earn 1 entry into a Raffle Drawing for a \$25 iTunes card. Prizes for the grade with the most BoxTops turned in:

1st = kickball party

2nd = hat day

3rd = crazy sock day

Please make sure students attach their name to the BoxTops collection sheets. Collection sheets can be found on the ICS website under Parents, then Forms (scroll down to BoxTops Collections). Please glue or tape BoxTops to the collection sheets. Bonus BoxTops can be paper clipped or stapled to the sheets (they are submitted separately). Check for expiration dates...**Expired BoxTops don't count!**

Thanks for your continued support of ICS! And thanks to Carrie Boser for chairing!

**SCHOOLA! Clean our your closets! Immaculate Conception School is having a Schoola clothing drive! We will be collecting gently-used clothing, shoes and handbags, October 17-21 .** Please fill up a bag with your best pre-loved clothes and drop it off in the hallway by the gym the week of October 17th. A sticker label will be coming home with your child soon. Please fill it out completely and attach it to the bag to make sure we get credit for your donation. These items will be resold at [www.schoola.com](http://www.schoola.com). We earn 40% of the profit after shipping costs. So, please only send in what can be resold.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Schoola only accepts items they can resell for at least \$10 (so \$30 or more original price).**

- Freshly laundered kids through womens size
- Mens clothing if it is something a teenager could wear
- No holes, stains or missing labels
- **No socks, underwear, robes bedding or pajamas**
- Swimsuits only if new with tags

Coats, jackets, dresses, shoes, handbags and name brand items will earn the most!

**Questions?** Contact Jessica Wachtel- [314-749-1663](tel:314-749-1663) or our Schoola Coach, Julie Verslues, 314-922-2235

**POTLUCK FOR PARENT TEACHER** Our Faculty and Staff members (and that is me too) are spoiled! If you signed up to bring in food or drinks for the potluck, we need them in the cafeteria between 4:30pm and 5:30pm on the 27<sup>th</sup>?

**STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

**FLU SHOTS** Recently, the CDC stated their recommendation, the nasal mist flu vaccine should NOT be used during the 2016-2017 flu season.

Therefore, nasal mist influenza vaccine WILL NOT be available during the 2016-2017 flu vaccination clinic season. This decision will impact the in-school vaccination clinics. We will not be hosting a flu shot event this year. Influenza vaccine INJECTIONS WILL BE available for the 2016-2017 flu season through the Monroe County Health Department there.

ICS Trivia Night is coming soon. November 5th in the ICS Gym. See attached flyer. Please make sure you get your table reservations in quickly to guarantee a spot.

**WHICH FABULOUS ICS BUSINESS OWNERS WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS YEAR'S TRIVIA NIGHT?** This is a very affordable sponsorship for small businesses to promote their product/services. Our ICS family tries to stay loyal to one another, but we can't be your customer if we don't know about you :And non-local business owners, please remember we know how to spend money outside of Columbia! Contact Kara Boyd ([knboyd2@yahoo.com](mailto:knboyd2@yahoo.com)) November 5 is the date for a fun night. Get your best music genius, sports fanatic, history buff, math hero, scientist, current events freak and compete for the big winnings!

**Please return your ICS Welcome Sign** to school for re-use. Thanks to Teresa Dorshorst for planting the signs! You sowed the seeds!

**COLUMBIA HURRICANES BBQ** Sunday, October 9 from 10:00-3:00 at Tiny's Parking Lot on Main. Pork Steaks, Brats, hot Dogs, Side dishes, baked goods. Stop by after Mass!

### **THE SPORTING NEWS... Diocesan soccer tournament---**

**Parochial Girls** – were the 4th seed overall and defeated the #5 seed Holy Childhood (2-0) and #1 seed St. Teresa (2-0) to advance to the finals on Sunday against St. Clare. After a scoreless game and two scoreless 5 minute overtimes, we went to PKs and were outshot 4-3 so we lost 1-0. It was a well-earned **2<sup>nd</sup> Place and a just inches from the championship!** What a goalie-what a team!

**Jr. Boys:** We were 6th seed and beat 3rd seed St. Teresa, (first victory vs. them in six (6) years) and next beat Blessed Sacrament 3-1. We lost to **Holy Trinity 2-1 in a terrific game. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place!**

**Jr. Girls:** Lost a heart-breaker 3 to 2 vs. Queen of Peace. Came back from a 0-2 deficit. Great second half for us!

**Parochial Boys:** not enough teams to host a Diocesan Tourney

We played some of the best games of our season last weekend and came up just a little short.

Soccer is now over except for one tourney. Please launder your uniforms and return them with you name to Mrs. Whelan for tabulation.



**Marie Prindiville** placed 4<sup>th</sup> of 260 runners on October 1. She led till the last 200 m and the 3 girls ahead of her were from large schools she had previously beaten. She ran a 12:26 in super rainy and muddy conditions. Dominic Dalpoas placed 62<sup>nd</sup> and Owen in 50<sup>th</sup> in JV. Class S State comes up in 2 weeks.

**Cross Country St. Mary Invitational in Centralia:** Marie Prindiville 1<sup>st</sup> place by 27 seconds with a time of 12:20, Dominic Dalpoas 14<sup>th</sup> with a time of 12:16!

**St. Theresa Invitational in Salem:** Marie Prindiville 1<sup>st</sup> of 180 girls with a 12:08. Dominic Dalpoas was 34<sup>th</sup> in varsity boys and Owen Dalpoas 61<sup>st</sup>!

**COLUMBIA HOCKEY TEAMS** are having a couple of fundraiser. See the attachment.

### **GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

**Chicken and Beer Benefit for Jessica Stemler Barcik(ICS grad)** who is suffering from cancer on **October 15, 2016** at 6:00 in the Gibault Catholic gymnasium. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact Sev [sev@gibaultonline.com](mailto:sev@gibaultonline.com) for tickets or more information. I hope to go. Maybe send a donation if you remember this sweet kid who is now a special ed. teacher in Springfield.

Gibault's "Fabulous 50" Oktoberfest Auction will be on **October 22, 2016**. Admission is \$50 per person with dinner at 6:00 PM. [gibault@gibaultonline.com](mailto:gibault@gibaultonline.com) for information, donations or reservations.

**Comparing high schools?** Our innovative schedule and electronic curriculum will get your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader excited about high school! Schedule your student's date to shadow a Gibault Catholic student for a full day of class by contacting Pat Herzing ([pherzing@gibaultonline.com](mailto:pherzing@gibaultonline.com)). *Something Different Within Reach*. We look forward to meeting you! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@GibaultCatholic) and Instagram (#gibaultproud) for more information.

**Save the date!** Open house at Gibault Catholic High School **November 6, from 11-2.** Come see what we have to offer... ***Something Different Within Reach!***

**GIBAULT RECYCLE CAPS & LIDS PROJECT** Thanks for your help in recycling caps & lids! We collected over 1600 pounds last year and were able to build 4 benches from the plastics. We would like to add 2 more benches to the Gibault campus. Please help us achieve our goal and continue to save your caps and lids. Drop them off at the Gibault office or contact Karen Asbury at [kasbury@gibaultonline.com](mailto:kasbury@gibaultonline.com). Thank you for your support!!

**EVERY SUNDAY IS PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY...**and it is the hardest and best day of the week for most priests who "smell like the sheep". Monday is supposed to be Fr. Carl's day off but you see him at all kinds of meetings and working that day too. Here is a third grader perspective:

*You are very kind and put good thoughts in our mind.  
You celebrate Mass each day and celebrate all our birthdays  
But now it's our turn to do the same for you.  
On your special day that celebrates you!  
There's no better Father neither old or new!  
So here we all gather and are all proud to know,  
You are our Father where ever we go.  
Happy Priesthood Sunday, Fr. Carl!*

Avery Herrmann-Grade 3

**Come Join the FUN!!!** ICC Server Party! Grades 5-8. For new and current servers. Friday, November 4, 6-8:00 p.m. at the Monroe County YMCA. There will be food, swimming, and activities! 281-5105.

**OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY** We honor the Mother of Jesus. We do not worship her. We do not worship statues. They are reminders to us. Oct. 7 is the feast day of the Holy Rosary. Oct. 13 is the anniversary of Mary's appearance at Fatima, Portugal 99 yrs. ago. Our statue lovingly watching our playground is Our Lady of Fatima. Come to a ROSARY RALLY on Saturday, Oct 15th --- NOON at COLUMBIA CITY HALL Honor Jesus by praying to his Mother!! She would love to see a big crowd of students and families!

Brian Repp's cousin **Mandy and her family** could really use some prayers right now. Her husband Tony was in a head-on collision this week with their 6 month old baby Bella in the car. Both are in critical condition. Please help me lift them up in prayer!

**Mike Juengling** Nick's dad, Mike was recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer and is scheduled to have surgery today. God bless the hands of the surgeon!

**Zola Nickerson**, mother of Dan Nickerson, Principal of Sr. Thea Bowman School, passed away last week after she suffered a stroke. He is principal of Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School. May she rest in peace and God's consolation to her family.

**PRAYERS: Special Intention,** Mike Juengling, Dan Borisuk, Dan Whelan, Patricia Steppig, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Barb Winschel, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Josh Ritter, Stella Moll, Gertrude Scherrer, Henry Scott Dabbs, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Mary Giovanni, Denise Conner, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure,

**Our Building a Catholic Education and Activity Center Prayer:**

Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church.

Guide us in building our new Catholic Education & Activity Center, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the **work of our hands**, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN

**GOD ALWAYS SPEAKS TO US RIGHT WHERE WE ARE:** Look at this from the Book of Kings:

**Reading 12 KGS 5:14-17**

*Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of Elisha, the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy.*

*Naaman returned with his whole retinue to the man of God. On his arrival he stood before Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. Please accept a gift from your servant."*

*Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives whom I serve, I will not take it;" and despite Naaman's urging, he still refused.*

*Naaman said: "If you will not accept, please let me, your servant, have two mule-loads of earth, for I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except to the LORD."*

Mules dragging slips dug the earth for our current 1921 building. We have taken so many of our treasures to our new church and will do the same for our new Center. where we will celebrate knowledge with faith. Come and celebrate at our Altar resting over the relics of saints from hundreds of years ago and be thankful!

Come and be grateful leper this Sunday. Remember, "*in those times*", there was no "good" Samaritan. Society had labeled them all bad. Society often labels us bad. Let's be Good Samaritans and be faithfully grateful!

Sincerely,

*Mike Kish*, Principal

Ps

**No School on Friday-Teacher Institute at Holy Trinity.**

**No School on Monday: Columbus Day!**

## Monroe County Field Trip

By Katie Grawitch(used with permission)

On September 8, 2016, my classmates from Immaculate Conception School and I embarked on a field trip that broadened my mind and changed my perspective on where I live. I learned about the rich history of the city of Columbia and Monroe County and got to see it with my own two eyes! The Monroe County Field Trip affected me in ways I never thought it would.

During this trip, Mr. Mike Kish filled us in on the deep roots of Columbia and Monroe County. We were told of great families like the Weinel Family who helped the county grow to what it is today. The Weinel Family even owned the land where our new church is located! Admiral Parkway is named after one of their sons. The Luhr Family was also very influential with Aloys winning a Silver Star in WW II and creating Luhr Bros. Inc. that helped build our levees and still thrives today working with the

US Army Corps of Engineers. Lastly, the Steven Miles Family owned a huge amount of land. They built a mausoleum on the bluff you could see “miles for Miles”. Aside from the significant families, we also learned trivial facts about the archaeological digs in the area, Palmier Cemetery property where I saw a grave from 1850, the natural spring on the church property, the brewery on Main Street, and the cigar maker’s house. As Mr. Kish would put it, “Columbia is St. Louis’s best kept secret!”

Not only did we hear about amazing people and places, but we got to see them, too! We saw the foundation of a barn that was probably built with stone from Fort Piggott! We viewed Terry Springs. The spring looked like a treasure and the forest around it was breathtaking! We toured the Old Valmeyer that was destroyed in the Great Flood of ‘93 and visited the new city of Valmeyer. We had a great talk at Kidd Lake Marsh and could see Fults Hill Prairie from there. Along with that, we walked Salt Lick Trail and visited Rock City, the former quarry in Valmeyer.

The part of the trip I liked the best was touring the National Archives inside the quarry. It was so very interesting to see how the offices functioned and how everything was stored. Over 3 million records! There were so many seemingly simple jobs that actually turned out to be quite complex and fundamental to the system itself. From processing to storage, the Archives had an astonishingly organized way of doing things, and I admire that. As a very systematic person, I appreciated the uniformity of the process and how everyone and everything had a place to be. It was also intriguing to see the Archives themselves! As a very important government facility, I appreciated this once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the genius behind the National Archives. The cold storage that also is a business inside held 30,000 pallets of Meals Ready to Eat---over 17 million meals!

During this trip, I felt in awe of our county. Who knew that such a small area could have such a rich history? I was constantly learning new things and never ceased to be surprised! I also felt a connection with the area I had never felt before. These people we heard about were alive just as much as I am today, and someday I will be history, too. I felt a bond with the land to do my part and keep it up and running for future generations. If I work hard, I can make my mark on Monroe County and help it grow for the greater good just as our forefathers did.

This field trip definitely affected me in more ways than one. I saw and heard about the bygone times when this county was starting, had amazing experiences face-to-face with important places, and most of all, was inspired to add on to the list of marvelous things our county has in it. Through the exposure to this treasure hidden in plain sight, my eyes were opened to the wonder that is Monroe County.

## **COMMANDMENTS FOR MAKING FRIENDS FR. RON ROLHEISER, OMI**

More than twenty-five hundred years ago, Moses gave us the ten commandments. The centuries since, the Enlightenment notwithstanding, haven’t given us a single reason to doubt the validity and importance of any of those precepts. However, as we struggle to live out them out, it might be helpful if Moses again descended from that same mountain with two new tablets of stone, spelling out some rules for better befriending each other, God, life, and ourselves. Perhaps this second set of commandments might read like this:

### **1) Befriend humanity ...**

To be human is to be fallible, wounded, scarred, sinful, and living in a far-from-perfect history, body, family, church. Don’t look for anyone to blame, to sue, to be angry at. This is called the human condition. Make friends with it. Grieve, don’t rage. Think of chaos, not blame. Our parents called this “original sin”. We talk of “dysfunctional families”. It has ever been thus. Don’t live in a sulk.

### **2) Befriend what’s best in you ...**

As long as we look out at the world through our wounds we will always fill with self-pity, bitterness, and jealousy. If, however, if we look out through the prism of what’s best in us, our jealousy can turn to appreciation and we can again be astonished at others’ goodness. We have two souls, a grand soul, where we carry the image of God and the memory of our blessings, and a petty soul, where we carry the bitterness and jealousies

that comes from our wounds. We need to attach our eyes, our ears, our speech, and our attitudes to our grand soul. We need to be better friends with what's best in us.

3) **Befriend those who love you ...**

There are only two potential tragedies in life: To go through life and never love and to go through life and not express love and affection to those who love us. We need to make better friends with our friends, to express more readily our affection, our gratitude, our appreciation, and our contrition. Thank those who love you for loving you. Never take their love for granted, or as owed. Give out a lot more compliments. Say thank-you constantly.

4) **Befriend chastity ...**

So much of our pain and restlessness comes from our lack of chastity and much of our subsequent rationalization and bitterness come from not admitting this. We have sophisticated ourselves into unhappiness. For all of our knowing, we aren't happy. Make friends with chastity. Children and virgins, scripture assures us, enter the kingdom easily. Be post-sophisticated. Learn to believe in Santa and the Easter-Bunny again. Enjoy second-naiveté. Ride a merry-go-round. Make a searing, honest confession soon.

5) **Befriend your own body ...**

Don't be afraid of your own body, of its goodness, its sexuality, its pleasures, its tiredness, its limits. It's the only one you've got in any case. Befriend it. Don't punish it, don't spoil it, don't denigrate it. It's a church, a temple. Give it enough rest, enough exercise, enough discipline, and enough respect.

6) **Befriend the other gender ...**

The mothers and the fathers, the wives and the husbands, are fighting. Small wonder the children are suffering. Never trivialize the issues of gender. We are being called to a new level of mutual respect and mutual sympathy. Make friends with what seems most threatening to you in the other gender.

7) **Befriend your father ...**

Father-hunger is one of the deepest hungers in the Western world today. Reconcile with your own father, with other fathers, and with God the Father. Your father's blessing will de-constrict your heart. Forgive him his inadequacy. Acknowledge your hunger.

8) **Befriend your mortality ...**

Death comes to us all. Make friends with aging, with wrinkles, with grey hair, with a body that is no longer young. Accept, let go, grieve, move on. Bless the young. Share your wisdom with them. Give away what's left of your life. Let the zest, beauty, and colour of young people enliven you.

9) **Befriend humor ...**

In our laughter we taste transcendence. Humor takes us above the tragic. Laughter gives us wings to fly. Thomas More cracked a joke to the man who was about to behead him. That's a quality of sanctity that we too often neglect.

10) **Befriend your God ...**

The gospel is not so much good advice as it is "good news", it tells us how much God loves us, what God has already done for us. God is as proud of us as is any mother of her children. Peace comes to us when we can enjoy that favor. Befriend the God of love and the God of the resurrection, the God who is completely relaxed, whose face beams like a marvelous symphony, whose power to raise dead bodies from the grave assures us that in the end all will be well and all will be well and every manner of being well be well. Befriend the God who tells us 365 times in scripture not to be afraid. Walk in that confidence. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

### Fr. Jerry Wirth and the new St. Joseph Olney School

I attended the blessing of the new St. Joe Olney School last Friday evening. I found many things I would love to have and we already have some planned in our new facility. We honored Fr. Jerry Wirth that night. He was a former Associate here at IC and a friend of mine. Good friend and fellow Principal Carol Potter quoted Fr. George Mauch in his funeral homily salute to Fr. Jerry: "*Fr. Jerry slid into his grave like he was sliding into second base.*" Fr. Jerry was a "Pope Francis priest" before there was a Pope Francis! Rest in peace Fr. Jerry and know your work lives on! In Olney, in me, in all you served!

