MATER DEI Vita

A Tradition of Excellence in a Quality, Catholic, Caring Environment VOL. 15 NO. 1

SHARE IN THE MISSION

Greetings from Mater Dei!

As we celebrate our 54th academic year as Mater Dei Catholic High School, we reflect on our mission to foster faith and promote Gospel values in all of our students. It is my belief that our mission is as important today as it was back in 1954 because of all the challenges our students and their parents face in our world today. Bishop Wilton Gregory stated years ago that, "The ultimate purpose of providing any child with Catholic education is not simply a preparation for doing good in the secular world, but a process to begin the formation of faith in our students in order for those students to begin to see the world with the eyes of Christ and to love others with the heart of Christ and to serve others in the image of Christ." Bishop Gregory went on to say that a Catholic education is intended to fashion young people into the very likeness of Christ Jesus.

Please be assured that everyone associated with Mater Dei Catholic High School takes the responsibility of living the mission very seriously. Through a constant push of challenging our students to see Jesus in the eyes of others, the mission of Mater Dei is alive and well! This VITA is dedicated to the alumni who have helped share the mission of our school through service back to their alma mater. Over the years, Mater Dei has been very blessed to have alumni come back and Share in the Mission, a mission that is a gift to the entire Southern Illinois region! I invite you to join me in thanking all those who have or who still help share the mission at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

As we begin the Advent season, please keep in mind the reason for the season and help us keep Christ in Christmas. Thank you for your continued support and please know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers at Mater Dei.

Dennis A. Litteken, Principal, Class of 1979

The ancient African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child," is as true today as it was when it was first uttered. Mater Dei Catholic High School is inviting you and your family to become part of the mission of educating the young people who come to us to receive a Catholic education. There are different ways in which you can "share in the mission" at Mater Dei.

Stewardship is the fundamental obligation we have as active Catholics. Sharing one's treasure through stewardship is a very important component of the mission. Over the years many have stepped up and committed their gifts of time and talent for various boards, committees, and work projects. Many supporters have been faithful in promoting the mission to parents and students who are looking for a Catholic secondary education. School boards, Foundation boards, capital campaign committees, parent groups, and alumni activities have all been serviced by those who have said "Yes" to share in the mission at Mater Dei.

One cannot overlook the role our parish priests and parish life coordinators have had in raising our students. The mission we share is not just of educating our young people, it is teaching young people about the Word of God, strengthening their commitment to their Catholic faith, and instructing

them so they are able to take a more active role in parish life. We at Mater Dei believe that spreading the Gospel to all we serve is another way to share in the mission.

Throughout the 54 year history of Mater Dei and all Catholic schools throughout the country, there has been a phenomena occurring; our schools have been staffed by alumni who want to give back, who believe in the mission to the point that they, too, want to share in the mission by committing their professional lives to the mission of Catholic education. In this edition of the *VITA* you will be introduced to three Mater Dei graduates who have made the commitment to Mater Dei and its mission.

The first alum is Dennis Litteken, Class of 1979. Litteken began his teaching career in the Pearl City public school system. Pearl City, a small rural community in northern Illinois, is approximately 325 miles from Mater Dei. After a year of service, Litteken taught at Springfield Griffin during the spring of 1983. It was at that time that he felt the personal gratification one receives from sharing in the mission of the Church. The faith-filled community of Griffin felt like home, a feeling he experienced when he was a student at Mater Dei. Working for a purpose and being able to live his faith in and out of the classroom was a great gift for Litteken and he knew that he wanted to be able to continue that throughout his teaching career. Being the example for young people was a huge responsibility, but through the power of his faith and belief in the mission, Litteken was excited about the challenge.

During the summer of 1986, Litteken and his wife Rita (Von Hatten, '79) were preparing for the birth of their first child when Mr. Joel Sheridan, Mater Dei's principal at the time, asked if he and Rita would be willing to come back home and "share in the mission" at Mater Dei. Litteken accepted the challenge and 22 years later he serves the school as its principal. Promoting the mission each day is still the driving force that keeps Litteken fresh and energized. When asked what keeps him at Mater Dei, he is quick to say that each day is a special day, a great opportunity to be a witness of his faith to the students and the school community. Litteken believes the special qualities that are present at Mater Dei cannot be found in any other school. Litteken states, "The Holy Spirit has blessed our school, working through all those who have helped share in the mission each and every day."

Scott Timmermann is a member of the Mater Dei Class of 1999. Following his graduation from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, he continued to work in the area. In the fall of 2006, he began his teaching career by joining the Mater Dei faculty. He looks forward to beginning fresh each year with the opportunity to improve in his craft.

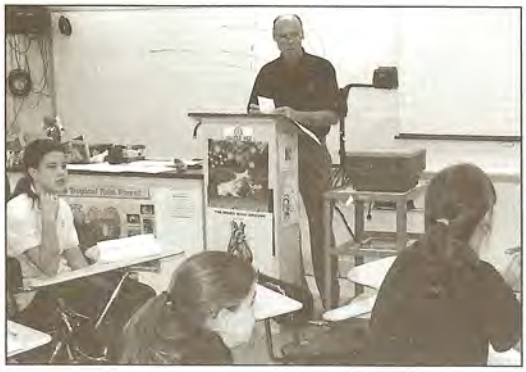
Mr. Timmermann marvels at the student body. He says that he sees the mission carried out by our students every day. "The students remind me of our mission every chance they get, from their work in the classroom, to their volunteerism outside the classroom, to their sportsmanship on the fields of play. We certainly are blessed to have families in our area that teach their children that the core values of our mission must permeate everything in our lives."

Mr. Timmermann feels blessed to have found a permanent home at Mater Dei. With the students as an everyday reminder of his mission, he feels that he, too, will grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Did you know...

that of the 59 faculty and staff members currently at Mater Dei, 28 are alumni, ranging from the Class of 1960 to the Class of 2001?

Marvin Eversgerd is a member of the Mater Dei Class of 1970. After graduating from Quincy College (now Quincy University) in 1974 Eversgerd taught at St. Rose for five years. In 1979 Eversgerd had the opportunity to return to Mater Dei and was excited to become part of the faculty. The value and purpose of a Catholic education pushed Eversgerd to remain at his alma mater for 26 years.



Mr. Eversgerd said he feels lucky, and with the graces of God, to be part of this outstanding Catholic high school. His faith formation that he developed as a Mater Dei student has been strengthened through his contact with the students he teaches and coaches today. "We have very good Christian students at Mater Dei and that is a tribute to their parents and families. The entire Mater Dei community is proud of all the young men and women who have graduated from Mater Dei as it sees Catholic education as a process that involves many good people who help the students reach their goals and prepare them for their futures."

Mr. Eversgerd feels as though the real "Head Coach," Jesus Christ, selected him to be on His team at Mater Dei and thus feels fortunate to be one of the players who compete for Him on a daily basis. We are all members of His team who share in the mission.

Alumni who have served as faculty, staff, or coaches at Mater Dei:

Matt Becker - 1995
Bridget Beckmann - 1997
Roberta Beer - 1969
Deb Benhoff - 1977
Sandy Bonvie - 1973
Linda Brosch - 1961
Sarah Buckles - 1977
Marilyn Buscher - 1966
Erin Crawford - 1994
Jan Deiters - 1977
Lynn Etter - 1979
Marvin Eversgerd - 1970
Heather Fix - 2005
Margaret Foppe - 1965
Dennis Gebke - 1974
Jeremy Gebke - 1993
Travis Gebke - 1999
Anthony Goebel - 1984
John Hempen - 1970
Joe Henken - 1988
Mary Hoffman - 1965
Nick Hollenkamp - 2001
Bonnie Holzinger - 1963
Kathy Huelsmann - 1979
Rosemary Huelsmann - 1969
Eleana Humphrey - 2000
Susan Isaak - 1988
Bob Kasson - 1979
Terese Kasson - 1980
John Jennetten - 1961
Kurt Kalmer - 1996
Judy Kampwerth - 1970
Mike Kauling - 1968
Ray Kauling - 1993
Kevin Kellermann - 1972
Rene Kellermann - 1975
Brian Klostermann - 1999
Joe Klostermann - 1963
Ron Knapp - 1979
Jeanette Koerkenmeier - 1964
Dave Kohnen - 1971
Tim Korte - 2000
Craig Krueger - 1994
Mike Kuper - 1988
Dennis Litteken – 1979
Jason Litteken - 2001
Darin Loepker - 1993
Becky Long - 2000
Keith Mensing - 2000
Mary Miesner - 1979
Jenny Mondt - 1993
Jen Owens - 1995
Brian Perkes - 1978
Kim Petermeyer - 1981
Gary Pollmann - 1991
Chad Rakers - 1993
Fred Rakers - 1963
Jason Rakers - 1993
Amber Ranken - 2001
John Schnieder - 1981
Darlene Schulte - 1960
Jim Steinmann - 1965
Mary Thomas - 1961
David Timmermann - 1968
Scott Timmermann - 1999
Shelley Toennies - 1982
Dennis Trame - 1962
Cheryl Varel - 1996
Chad Venhaus - 2001
Brandon Wade - 1996
Corynn Wheelan - 1990
Maria Zurliene - 1994
Sharon Zuliene - 1970

PLANNED GIVING: SHARE IN THE MISSION TODAY AND INTO TOMORROW

WHAT ARE PLANNED GIFTS?

The techniques of charitable gift planning include both revocable and irrevocable arrangements, gifts available for use at the time they are given and gifts that may not be available until a future date and split-interest gifts intended to balance financial, personal and charitable objectives. These techniques are called "planned gifts".

Planned gift, deferred gift, estate gift are different names for a way to manage your affairs, plan for the future, and make a gift to Mater Dei Catholic High School. Planned gifts are a variety of charitable giving methods that allow you to express your personal values by integrating your charitable, family and financial goals. Making a planned charitable gift usually requires the assistance of a knowledgeable advisor such as an attorney, financial planner, or CPA to help structure the gift. Donors should seek charitable gift planning advice from professionals with integrity, expertise, and experience in law, investments, property, tax and charitable transfers in order to assure both the technical merits of the transfer and the philanthropic quality of the gift.

Did you know...

that although tuition for the 2007-2008 school year is only $3,652 the actual cost to educate a student at Mater Dei is $5,950? The difference is made up through the annual fund drive, parish support, fundraising, and scholarships.

Planned gifts can be made with cash, but many planned gifts are made by donating assets such as stocks, real estate, art pieces, or business interests – the possibilities are endless, considering all types of real and personal property and tangible and intangible assets. Planned gifts can provide valuable tax benefits and/or lifetime income for you and your spouse or other loved one. The most frequently-made planned gifts are bequests to charities, made through your Will. Other popular planned gifts include charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities.

The planned gift component of the Mater Dei Institutional Advancement Office is under the direct supervision of the Mater Dei Foundation Board. Advising the board will be a committee which is made up of members of the Foundation, Friends of Mater Dei, and a member of the administration. The purpose of the committee is to identify and cultivate prospective benefactors of Mater Dei. Each member will be responsible for personal contacts with those individuals or families that the committee, as well as the Foundation Board, has identified as possible benefactors.

The committee will organize and sponsor community service workshops which will consist of seminars on Wills and Probate, Trust and Estate Tax, and other helpful information. It is the intent of the committee to provide an attorney for any legal information that will be requested. The committee will also provide handouts and written documentation of the proper procedures of Planned Gift Giving.

Have you included Mater Dei Catholic High School in your Estate planning yet? Remember where there's a Will there's a way!

MATER DEI OPEN HOUSE

Mater Dei hosted its fall Open House on November 4 and welcomed over 55 prospective students and their parents and families. Student Ambassadors lead guided tours through the school and teachers were on hand in classrooms to answer questions. Demonstrations of Edline, the online parent/teacher link, were given every half hour in the library. After the tour and demonstration, guests were directed to the auxiliary gym to talk with department chairpersons, view textbooks, see examples of students' work on projects and assignments, watch the Marching Knights' field show, and talk with coaches. Also, representatives from the Mothers and Friends, Fathers and Friends, School Board, Foundation Board, and the Office of Institutional Advancement were available for questions. Cookies and punch were served and enjoyed by the guests.

Registering at the Open House is a future Knight.

Students' artwork was on display at the Open House.

Representatives from Mothers and Friends were on hand to promote the organization.

Student Ambassador Alex Haas leads her tour group around the renovated chemistry lab.

Math department chairperson Cheryl Sackett explains the department curriculum and policies.

Becky Long, left, discusses the different band options to a prospective student and her mother.

MATER DEI LEADS AREA IN ACT SCORES

Mater Dei students continue to perform well above the state and national averages when it comes to the ACT test. Since 2002, every Mater Dei student is expected to take the ACT before he or she graduates from Mater Dei. The school board and administration decided a few years ago to utilize the ACT testing service, with the incoming freshmen taking the EXPLORE test, sophomores taking the PLAN test, and juniors taking the ACT test by the time they are seniors. This experience of taking national standardized tests from the same testing agency has been a benefit to our students. Our core students, those taking the college readiness program, have an average composite score of 23.9 compared to our overall average score of 22.3. Both scores are higher than the previous year's scores and both are higher than the past five year averages for Mater Dei students.

Below is a chart which lists all the scores of the area high schools in relationship to the state averages. All scores are taken from each school's 2007 School Report Card.

2007 SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

SCHOOL	ACT	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE
State	20.3	20	20.3	20.2	20.2
Carlyle	20.1	19.7	20.2	19.7	20.2
Central	19.9	19.4	20	19.5	20.1
Centralia	18.7	18	18.6	18.9	18.7
Highland	21.2	20.8	21.2	21.3	21
Wesclin	21.2	20.1	21.5	21	21.7
Mater Dei	22.3	22.2	22	21.9	22.5
Lebanon	21.3	22	20	21.6	20.9
Mt. Vernon	19	18.5	18.9	19.2	18.8
Salem	20.1	19.3	20	20.4	20.1
Mascoutah	21.5	21.6	21.1	21.6	21.4

ATTENTION IRA ANNUITANTS

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 includes a provision – IRA Charitable Rollover – which could mean an additional gift to the Mater Dei Annual Fund Drive through an individual's traditional or Roth IRA.

The IRA Charitable Rollover provision is in effect for 2007. A donor must be 70 ½ or older, and the donor can direct his/her IRA trustee to direct a contribution up to $100,000 each year to the Mater Dei Foundation (the legal title for the 501c3). For further information contact the Mater Dei High School (618-526-7216) Office of Institutional Advancement (ext. 27) or Principal Dennis Litteken (ext. 28).

Did you know...

that Kurt Kalmer, Class of 1996 and member of the state runner-up basketball team, is taking over the sophomore boys' basketball coaching duties? And that Matt Becker, Class of 1995 and M.D. basketball alum, will be in his third year as coach of the freshman team?

SHARE IN THE MISSION

The mission statement of Mater Dei Catholic High School is located throughout the school building and can be found in every classroom. It is a statement composed by the faculty at a strategic planning workshop during the 1990-91 school year. It was again examined in 2005 during the last strategic planning process and found to still be a viable statement. The purpose of our mission statement is to serve as a foundation upon which all aspects of Mater Dei Catholic High School are built. It is a statement to the wider community of who we are and what we do.

Our mission statement can be broken down into three parts:

"Mater Dei, a Catholic, diocesan regional high School..." In 1954 a dream was realized with the merger of St. Mary's High School in Carlyle and St. Dominic's High School in Breese when Mater Dei Catholic High School came into existence. In 1958 the existing school building was opened as a consolidated Catholic high school to serve the young adults of Clinton County. That dream has expanded through the years to include the surrounding communities and through the decades more than 7,000 young people have benefited from that vision.

Did you know...

that a Major Gift category has been created for the Annual Fund Drive? For as little as $250.00 you can make what will be recognized as a "Major Gift."

"...nurtures the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional and social growth of young men and women...." The purpose of Mater Dei Catholic High School is to help the young people entrusted into its care to discover the multifaceted gifts that God has given them and to grow into the best possible Christians they can become.

"....In a caring environment, respectful of individual differences, her comprehensive program educates, fosters faith and develops gospel values." The process of formation which takes place over the course of four years recognizes the uniqueness of each individual and offers an all inclusive curriculum that ensures that each student's needs are recognized and served.

Last year we invited our alumni and friends to make a donation to the annual fund by "Giving the Gift of Catholic Education." This year we invite you to "Share In The Mission." Come and be part of the mission of educating the young people who come to Mater Dei Catholic High School to receive a Catholic education.

Your prayers and financial assistance are important ways you can be part of the mission. Our ability to pray as a community of faith and to teach the values of a good Christian life is an integral part of what we do each day. Your prayers for our success are greatly appreciated and know that you in turn are remembered in the prayers that our students offer each day.

As a Catholic high school we do not receive tax dollars for the operation of our school; we must depend upon the generosity of individuals like you to help supplement the tuition and parish support we receive. Our goal, with your help, is to make Mater Dei Catholic High School available, accessible, and affordable to all who seek a Catholic secondary high school education in our area. Your gift to the 2007-2008 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE will have an enormous impact on Mater Dei Catholic High School. I invite you to "Share In The Mission" and help make the difference that only you can make.

Thank you to the families of recently deceased members of the Mater Dei community who have named Mater Dei Catholic High School as a memorial recipient.

Charles J. Albers
John A. Bickl
Ruth Donnewald
Bernice Elling
Benny Fields
Marion Fox
Philip Frerker
Arnold Gebke
Betty Gebke
Leona Huelsmann
Gerald Jansen
Leone Keune
Mildred Klockenkemper
Mary Kluemke, '60
Edward List
Bernie Niemann
Dolores Pingsterhaus
Mary Louise Ratermann
Edward Thoele
Lawrence Venhaus
Priscilla Voss
Andrew Wesselmann
Ronald "Dickie" Winkeler, '66
Johnny Winkler
Nelda Zieren
Joyce Zurliene

Gifts made to Mater Dei Catholic High School are directed to the Mater Dei Foundation unless otherwise specified.

Did you know...

that members of the Mater Dei Science Club will be working on a project this year called the LEGO Mindstorms? Using LEGO Technic construction kits, the students will be building, programming, and running a robot. The project was helped financed by two M.D. alumni who are in the engineering field and would like to promote student interest in science.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

Mater Dei Catholic High School
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