Mater Dei has been blessed with a support community of faithful, caring, and generous people whose commitment to Catholic education has strengthened our promise to educate, foster faith, and develop gospel values. With the support of so many, we are able to continue providing the opportunity for the young men and women of our area to become a part of the tradition of academic excellence at Mater Dei.

This Annual Report is our opportunity to express our gratitude to all those alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and students who helped make this past year so successful. The listing of all who impacted Mater Dei last year is a complex task. If we have omitted you or someone you know from our lists enclosed, please accept our sincerest apologies. Thank you again for your continued support and generosity, and with great pride we present the 2024-2025 Mater Dei Catholic High School Annual Report.

Mater Dei Catholic High School 2024-2025 Annual Report

Mater Dei Memorial Garden Completed

I am happy to report that after three years of planning and researching, the Mater Dei Memorial Garden is completed. This special place is located on the north end of the circle drive.

The Memorial is to stand as a constant reminder of how precious life is and how we are never to forget those young Knights who we loved, who were called home by God while a student at Mater Dei.

Students who are memorialized as Guardian Angel Knights are as follows:

Edward Heidel '58	Gary Wellen '68	Linda Von Hatten '73	Kim Heimann '88
Alan Kampwerth '64	Bill Garcia '71	Sharon Santel '75	Dean Luitjohan '91
Bernard Linnemann '64	Bill Cintalon '71	Ron Von Bokel '76	Jean Schrage '94
Kent Jantzen '64	Charmaine Lager '71	Beth Reitz '82	Brent Meyer ' 99
Mary Lou Renschen '66	LouAnn Weh '71	Glenn Deerhake '85	Jared Burke '01
Steve Becker '67	Mike Little '72	Charles Ade '86	Allan Horstmann '12
Mike Huelsmann '67	Bob Englemann '72	William Sullivan '87	Bella Brefeld '24

There will be a dedication of this space on October 2 at the garden beginning at 6:30 pm.

State of the School

Dear Friends of Mater Dei Catholic High School,

Since the 2021-2022 school year, we have challenged each other, as well as our students, to Be the Hands of Christ! It is our Mission to teach this responsibility to our students through our words and ACTIONS, as we model this for our students, families, and communities. As this school year comes to an end we reflect on the bountiful gifts we continue to receive at Mater Dei.

This annual report lists the names of those who donated throughout the 2024-2025 school year are listed. I sincerely thank those donors, without whom our efforts to provide a quality Catholic education would not be possible. I also thank those families of deceased loved ones who have designated Mater Dei as a memorial recipient, families who have established scholarships, and, of course, those people who have worked tirelessly "behind the scenes" for the betterment of Mater Dei Catholic High School.

I especially want to thank our retiring school board members Paula (Beckmann) Kampwerth '94 and Gregg Cox who have served our board for the past six years. Along with those two, I want to publicly thank our retiring Foundation Board members Terese (Henken) Kasson'80 and Brent Rickhoff '85 for their years of service to the Foundation. These volunteers have served our school community and represented their parish communities with professionalism and class.

The hard work of both students and faculty has resulted in successes both in and out of the classroom. The mission of Mater Dei is being lived by our students and staff. Please be assured that our students are working hard to reach their goals and to prepare themselves to become future leaders of their respective church and civic communities. On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration, I would like to thank you for willingly giving your time, talent, and financial support to our school. Mater Dei exists today because you are concerned, caring, devoted, and know the importance of carrying on the mission of the Church through Catholic education. As we live out our Mission, we continue to challenge our students and staff to Be the Hands of Christ.

MISSION EFFECTIVENESS

Our Catholic faith and traditions are the heart and soul of Mater Dei. Our mission of fostering faith and developing gospel values makes us unique and needed more now than ever. We are able to develop our mind and spirit in everything we do. Our Catholic environment includes daily religious instruction of Catholic teachings as they relate to our curriculum, including studies of Church doctrine and traditions, liturgy, sacraments, scripture, morality, and social issues. There has been special emphasis placed on the Corporal Works of Mercy, social justice and how we, as Catholics, are challenged to Be the Hands of Christ in our culture, society, and communities.

Mater Dei students teach in local Youth Faith Formation classes, volunteer in their parishes, and participate in Mass and community events. Our Mission Program, where each class adopts a mission and contributes to that mission throughout its four years, raised over $10,000 collectively throughout the school year. This money was donated directly from the students during their homeroom period. Currently our students have adopted St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya (Class of 2025), Santa Clara Scholarship in Guatemala (Class of 2026), Orphans in Haiti/Venezuela (Class of 2027) and Heifer International (Class of 2028) as their Mission Project. Students in our St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter organize and direct the student mission projects and special collections for local needs. Our Teens for Life group continues to promote activities that highlight LIFE! Activities include participating in prayer services at the abortion clinic in Granite City and being a part of the Pro-Life march in Springfield, St. Louis and at the county courthouse in Carlyle.

SCHOLARSHIP

The academic success of our students continues. Mater Dei inducted forty-two new members into her National Honor Society, had eighteen seniors named as Illinois State Scholars, and averaged over 63% on the Honor Roll. 99% of the Class of 2025 reported they were planning to continue their education in the fall. Mater Dei continues to set the bar when it comes to the ACT testing in the state. For the Class of 2024 (Class of 2025 scores are not available until fall), the top 44 % of ACT composite scores are all 23 or higher and have an average of 27.3. Our top 20% had an average of 30.1 on their ACT test. Mater Dei is very excited about having a student score a perfect 36 on his ACT during the school year!

The atmosphere of our school is conducive to learning. The expectation of our students and their teachers is one of hard work and staying focused on the job at hand. Mater Dei continues to walk with each student and their parents through our Campus Ministry, Academic Advisement offices, Parent Portal and TEAMS, as well as our peertutoring program. Members of the Class of 2025 were offered over $8,500,000 in scholarship money for their college education because of their high school experience. Our seniors are planning to attend thirty-six different schools across the country, with two students joining our military in the fall of 2025.

State of the School (continued)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

As a result of our strategic planning, a feasibility study was conducted to judge the interest in our community's support for a capital campaign to fund the needs that were identified through the 2021 strategic plan. As a result of this study, the Mater Dei School Board voted to initiate the Rooted in Faith, Building for Our Future campaign, which kicked off in April. The campaign is being chaired by Brandon Wade '96 and our Advancement Office. The goal is to be able to secure funds through individual gifts to be paid over the next five years. Items to be included are improved security around the building by updating the external locks and lighting, replacing the varsity gym floor and lower-level bleachers, replacing lockers in the PE locker room, updating floor coverings in the halls and bathrooms, classroom doors, creating a Stem Lab, and developing an indoor training facility. In addition, a review of our current office space and several other curb appeal projects are being planned.

At the time of this writing, the gym floor is 90% completed, and the bleachers are scheduled to be installed in the middle of August 2025.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Mater Dei continues to lead the way in academic dual-credit opportunities through the cooperation with Kaskaskia College. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, we added several new course offerings; Ag. Science, Soil Science, Animal Science, and Ag. Business. Through these additions, Mater Dei was able to initiate her membership to the National Future Farmers of America and establish her own Chapter. These programs and the FFA Chapter have been long coming, as it has been part of many years of discussions and planning. Mater Dei did have a local FFA Club in the 1970's and 1980's, however it was never recognized by the national FFA organization. Mater Dei also introduced a Certified Nurse's Assistant program (CNA). This program is being taught by Sue Darr `73 and Helen Essenpreis `73 under the supervision of the CNA program at Kaskaskia College. There are two courses associated with the program, both carry dual credit opportunities for our students.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Our fall play, *A Christmas Carol*, and our spring musical, *Freaky Friday*, were both successful. This year our award-winning Marching Knights competed in four field shows, bringing home first place in each of their competitions. The highlight of the season was the first-place finish at the University of Illinois State Band Championship in Class 1A. Our fall athletic season saw the boys' golf team win their regional and eventually finished fifth in the Class 1A State Tournament. In addition, our boys' soccer team won their respectful regional, while the girls' cross-country team qualified for the state race in Peoria. Senior, Nolan Goebel, advanced to the state cross-country race to finish his high school career on a positive note. The volleyball season saw our Lady Knights win their ninth state championship, as well as, being named the third best Volleyball program in the State of Illinois over the past fifty years! Our basketball teams, the girls' and the boys' entertained the fans throughout the season. Our boys team won the Mater Dei Christmas Tournament with an exciting overtime victory! In bowling, Jack Henss bowled a perfect 300 game, the first in school history, while Senior, Lynn Shirley, was the regional champ at her respectful regional and advanced to the state girls' bowling tournament. Jamie Jung and Lindsay Timmermann's varsity cheerleaders advanced to the IHSA state finals during competition season, after winning their Sectional before the State Tournament. Their efforts were appreciated by all the fans, both during the fall football season and during the boys' basketball season! The girls' soccer team, though young, proved to be a force once again on the turf as it was very competitive throughout the season. The spring season of baseball and softball, with new coaches leading the way, improved throughout the season and are poised to be very competitive next year. Colten Strotheide's track teams qualified many runners for the state track meet in Charleston. The Scholar Knights, as usual, were very competitive as they were forced to move up a class due to their success in the past. This group won the Catholic School Championship under the direction of Scott Timmermann.

FINANCES

Please know how thankful we are at Mater Dei for all of the support we received throughout the school year. The annual fund drive continues to grow, both in dollars and participants. This growth is a great tribute to our entire school community! Our special events program, under the direction of Fr. Chuck Tuttle, continues to push the bar in record setting fashion! Words cannot express the heartfelt gratitude I have for all the support we receive from you, our alumni, our parishes, and our friends. Mater Dei is blessed each and every year for all of the support you are able to provide.

It is important that everyone understands that Mater Dei is their local Catholic high school, a very important part of their parish.

State of the School (continued)

The support Mater Dei receives from the local parishes is outstanding! Our tuition for the 2024-2025 school year was $6,351, which represents 62% of the total cost to educate a student at Mater Dei. On behalf of the parents, I thank you for helping us offer a quality Catholic education at an affordable price. Please know that without your continued support, Mater Dei would not be able to be affordable for our parents, THANK YOU!

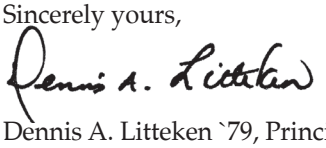
CHALLENGES

Please join me in thanking and wishing good luck to three individuals who retired at the end of the school year. These professionals dedicated themselves to the Mission of Mater Dei for most of their professional careers. Coach Brian Perkes '78 retired after thirty-one years of service to our students as a teacher, coach and athletic director. Mrs. Kathy (Henken) Huelsmann'79 worked in the advancement office for twenty-nine years and Doug Denaro has been our shop teacher for the past eighteen years. I ask you to join me in thanking them for their service. They have made a difference in the lives of our students as they are examples of being the hands of Christ! As we enter the 2025-2026 school year, we look forward to taking on the challenges that lie ahead. Our greatest challenge is controlling our costs while continuing to enhance and expand our school and opportunities for all of our students. Mater Dei needs your support in promoting our programs and our mission! Our Mission is to help spread the Gospels of Jesus Christ to the students that we serve. We need students to serve; we need your help in securing those new families that may not be aware of how special Mater Dei is and will be for their child. I was told recently by a parent of one of our students who lives on the western part of our region that "Mater Dei is a gem in the corn field," to which I replied, "Please let them know how special we are and how we can make a difference in their student's future."

As in the past, issues facing our school community included constant concerns with a sixty-year-old building as well as strengthening our Catholic identity within our community. Throughout this school year we will be looking at ourselves as a school community of faith, finding ways to Be the Hands of Christ to our students and our communities. I know this goal will be accomplished through our focus on Gospel values, prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Mater Dei is a great place. It is not a perfect place, and the real joy about being part of the school is that it knows the difference between the two. It is in fact this difference that moves all of us to come each day with the intention of being a better person and doing a better job whether a cafeteria worker, a student, a custodian, a teacher, or the principal. Education is about the future. Catholic education is about the future in faith, and it is with that future in mind that I look forward to the 2025-2026 school year.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis A. Litteken `79, Principal

In Memoriam

COACH JOE KLOSTERMANN ' 63
Coach K passed away on July 8, 2025. Joe dedicated his professional life to education as he spent 37 years in Catholic Education. Remember, "Those who fail to study history are doomed to repeat it."

BISHOP SCHLARMANN
Bishop Stanley Schlarmann served the students of Mater Dei as an instructor, counselor and principal for fifteen years. Bishop Schlarman was truly the Hands of Christ.

LINDA (BAEHR) BROSCH '61
Served our students as an assistant to the college placement office for twenty years. Linda never knew a stranger.

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Kelly Lake
Patty Loepker
Sandy Lutz
Kevin and Laurie Pollmann
Dennis Rakers
Mary Jo Schmitz
Chuck Schrage
Karen Schroeder
Jeff Schulte
Connie Tebbe
Luke Thole
Sandy Timmermann
Denise Trickey
Joannie Venhaus
Linus Wilke
Mary Zachry

CLASS OF 1981

Ruth Ahlemeier
Lori Beckemeyer
Floyd Becker
Brian Brueggemann
Jackie Chiarolanza
Jan Dall
Leon Fuehne
Tom Gerdes
Greg and Tina Haas
Colleen Harper

Major Gift Donors are **Bold**

Brenda Hellige
Mark Hitpas
Michael Huelsmann
Marla Kilpatrick
Dennis and Mary Jo Krebs
Jerry Loepker
Julie Olson
Greg and Kim Petermeyer
Ruth Rainey
Rita Ratermann
Jill Schlueter Dorries
Joe Schulte
Peggy Timmermann
Dave Toennies
Kathy Travis

CLASS OF 1982

Michelle Buehne
Darla Deiters
Kevin Diesen
Bill Foppe
Linda Fowler
Jim Goestenkors
Rochelle Halstead
Mark Heffron
Muzette Heiligenstein
Connie Holtmann
Tricia Horton
Alan Hund
Lisa Johnson
Dan Kampwerth
Dan Koerkenmeier
Jim and Kim Kueper
Jerry Lager
Michele Maue
Steve Maue
Michelle McBride
Dianne Michels
David Robben
Tom and Connie Robben
John Schnieder
Lynn Schulte
Larry Sommers
Shelley Toennies
Angie Wiegmann
Cindy Wiegmann
Chris Winter

CLASS OF 1983

Doug Beckemeyer
Jill Boysha
Marilyn Fuhler
Ron Gramann
Dawn Heimann-Neumann
Becky Hitpas
Colette Hitpas
Kathleen Hodges
Craig and Tammy Isaak
Jim D. Jansen
Deb Keilbach
Diane Maue
Dave Niedzwiecki
Phil Pingsterhaus
Russell Richter
Bruce Rolves
Bonnie Schnieder
Donna Schroeder
Dana Timmermann
Russell Voss
Rita Zinn

CLASS OF 1984

Julie Beckemeyer
Angie Becker
Rich Eilermann
Mark Etter
Carl Gall
Phyllis Gebke
Karen Gerdes
Mary Heffron
Chris Huegen
Brad and Donna Hummert
Ron Kampwerth
Deb Knebel
Aaron Menkhaus
Sandra Ruth-Diesen
Dorise Schulte
Rick Sherman
Wayne Toennies
Dave Vandeloo

CLASS OF 1985

Lynette Eilermann
Dale Engelmann
Fran Etter
Marla Fusz
Lori Greene
Peggy Litteken
Dawn Maier
Brenda Niedzwiecki
Tim O'Neill
Terry and Theresa Richards
Roger Strieker
Steve and Gail Theising
Gina Vascsinec
Sharon Wilke Otrembiak

CLASS OF 1986

Dean Albers
Eric Fick
Ed Foppe
Jim Heimann
Lisa Holtgrave
Ron Kohrmann
Jeff Kuhl
Marsha Maller
Susan Matt
Louise Morgan
John Peppenhorst
Sharon Schriewer
Christine Toenjes
Dan Vandeloo
Mary Kay Wiegmann
Carol Winkeler

CLASS OF 1987

Mark Berndsen
Lynn Fischer
Alan Gerdes
Steve Heiligenstein
Karla Huelsmann
Karen Knackstedt
Michelle Kuhl
Jason Lampe
Dori Mason
Kathy Oertel
Curt Pollmann
Chris Rivera
Dean Schrage
Angie Toennies
Tricia Weis
Beth Wise

CLASS OF 1988

Craig Endres
Laura Gall
Karen Huels
Mike Huelsmann
Neil and Carol Hustedde
Vicki Kloeckner
Doug Kuhl
Vicky Langenhorst
Diane Lovejoy
Gina Peppenhorst
Brian Ritzheimer
Kate Rivera-Kunz
Dean Thole
Mike and Dana Toeben
Dan Trame

CLASS OF 1989

Christine Sullivan Gordon
Nicole Gray
Kim Haake
Chris Holthaus
Kent Hustedde
Brian Kloeckner
Matthew Mannhard
Kurt Rickhoff
Kyle Ritzheimer
Craig and Monica Schuetz
Tim and Jenny Spihlman

CLASS OF 1990

Josh Andrews
Angela Clarke
Marty Diekemper
Ann Godsey
Chad Holthaus
Matt Kampwerth
Jeff Kohlbrecher
Troy Loepker
Tim Mensing
Dana Patton
Mike and Jenny Rivera
Brenda VonHatten

CLASS OF 1991

Corey Booth
Renee Brokering
Shannon Fehrmann
Stephanie Hamilton
Patrick Kreke
Mark Mueller
Jason Swagler
Brenda Theising
Steve P. Winkeler

CLASS OF 1992

Doug Boeckman
Cindy Neumann
Cheryl Rakers
Jill Sinnock
Lisa Strieker
David Venhaus
Lisa Vonder Haar

CLASS OF 1993

Danny Beer
Melanie Brandenburger
Scott Kampwerth
Tanya Loepker
Tricia Poettker
Christine Rolves
Christian Schroeder
Cassie Varel
Kevin J. Voss
Ryan Winkeler

CLASS OF 1994

Mike Faust
Chad Hustedde
Paula Kampwerth
Kara Lydon
Colleen McDermott
Tracy Millard
Mindi Rickhoff
Rob Swagler
Curt and Maria Zurliene

CLASS OF 1995

Robin Dannegger
Nick Foppe
Brennan Hitpas
Brad T. Huelsmann
Lisa Napovanice
Jennifer Steinke
Kevin Thole
Kristie Wilson

CLASS OF 1996

Sarah Comstock
Nathan Haselhorst
Susan Heiligenstein
Kevin Hoffman
Doug and Diane Kuhl
Troy Pingsterhaus
Aaron and Dawn Rakers
Mark Rakers

CLASS OF 1997
Jamie Beer
John and Tammy Beer
Jessica Dobrynski
Brad Eversgerd
Eric Kues
Tricia Litteken
Eric Pingsterhaus
Jeana Thole

CLASS OF 1998
Julie Bartel
John Becker
Justin Benhoff
Russell Budde
Stephanie Cook
Jason Fuehne
Diane Hodapp
Bryan Holthaus
Angie Kohlbrecher
Keith Langenhorst
Karrie Rakers
Clint Wedekemper
Kristin Wheeler

CLASS OF 1999
Melissa Becker
Brad Jansen
John Kalmer
Brian Klostermann
Tim Koerkenmeier
Janet Kohlbrecher
Jenna Kues
Michael Kuiken
Sean Palas
Tammy Peters
Nathan Porzukowiak
Alison Schumacher

CLASS OF 2000
Lindy Camardella
Abigail Jackson-Kuofie
John Keeven
Scott Wobbe

CLASS OF 2001
Adam Barciszewski
Beth Bohnenstiehl
Jennifer Budde
Kevin and Meghan Eversgerd
Jason and Krystal Litteken
Leah Loddeke
Jacqueline Pingsterhaus
Chris Poettker
Paul Rinella
Amanda Sauer
Scott Winkeler

CLASS OF 2002
Andy Buller
Mia Friederich
Justin Kleber
Ann Klostermann
Travis Koerkenmeier
Brad Luitjohan
Josh Mahlandt
Corey Richter
Kevin Schlautmann

CLASS OF 2003
Jaclyn Albers
Dane Boeckman
Stephanie Dopheide
Kyle Eversgerd
Blair Frank
Eric and Michelle Gebke
Chris Hemker
Mark McNamara
Jenna Poettker
Bailey Rinella
Alicia Uhring
Randy Venhaus
Jill Voss

CLASS OF 2004
Stephanie Hemker
Ben Hughes
Colleen Kunz
Angela Richter
Luciana Sabatino-Cross

CLASS OF 2005
Amber Brooke
Lauren Eversgerd
Ryan and Shanna Litteken
Courtney Mahlandt
Ben Pingsterhaus
Amy Ritzheimer

CLASS OF 2006
D.J. Deiters
Whitney Koerkenmeier
Doug Litteken
Gavin Rehkemper
Aaron Venhaus

CLASS OF 2007
Jordon Buehne
Kelsey Eversgerd
Lauren Gaudion
Ellen Huelsmann
Becca Lamb

CLASS OF 2008
Aaron Becker
Megan Benhoff
Zack Boeckmann
James Dreas
Taylor Edmonds
Matt Feldmann
Kelsey Mack
Hayley Schnieder
John Tebbe

CLASS OF 2009
Megan Frey
Alli Kantner
Jeremy Kueper
Beth Markus
Justin Vonder Haar

CLASS OF 2010
Morgan Broughton
Carly Hovater
John Huelsmann
Corrine Jezek
Lacey Venhaus

CLASS OF 2011
Joey Deiters
Miranda Durham
Jacob Eilers
Rocco Gonzalez
Courtney Hobbie
Josh and Nicole Hodges
Jacob Kampwerth
Zac Revermann
Kaley Vonder Haar

CLASS OF 2012
Cory Arentsen
Nicki Campbell
Justin Dulle
John Hemann
Corinne Holtmann
Casey and Ally Huegen
Alyssa Kampwerth
Joe Kasson
Lauren Koerkenmeier
Rudy Litteken
Cody and Abby Ratermann
Rachel Rehkemper
Zach Schmitz
Ellen Streicher
Alex and Kristen Toennies
Kane and Ellen Weinberg

CLASS OF 2013
Jordan and Kari Becker
Kelsey Hemann
Kyle Kohnen
Anna Litteken
Connor Pollmann
Clayton Rehkemper

CLASS OF 2014
Julia Billhartz
Jessika Bossler
Philip Harper
Reid Holtmann
Quinton Huelsmann
Danielle Pingsterhaus
Blake Remmert
Jared and Lexi Thole
Amanda Williams

CLASS OF 2015
Shannon Groennert

CLASS OF 2016
Anne Antonacci
Clint Morris
Adam Rinderer
Ashley Tremain
Courtney Von Hatten

CLASS OF 2017
Branden Billhartz
Adam Gall
Ryan Huelsmann
Ryan Pingsterhaus

CLASS OF 2018
Nick Toennies

CLASS OF 2019
Caitlin Trame
Dennis Trickey

CLASS OF 2020
Alyssa Gall
Zach Napovanice
Troy Schroeder
Katie Toennies
Ryan Vogelbacher

CLASS OF 2021
Spencer Gramann
Allison Vonder Haar

CLASS OF 2022
Jayce Napovanice
Cole Schroeder

CLASS OF 2023
Mitchell Mannhard
Madelyn Vogelbacher

CLASS OF 2024
Garett Zurliene

CLASS OF 2028
Bodie Brockmeier

FRIENDS

Larry Absheer
Anonymous
Anonymous AT&T
Anonymous - Microsoft
Anonymous Wells Fargo
***Tony and Deb Antonacci**
Boeckman Milk Hauling
Jeffrey Bloss
Bonnie Boeckman
Jim Book
Bradford National Bank
Carol Carrillon
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Kevin and Diane Connelly
Davis Charitable Foundation
Mary C. Dreas
Michael and Mary Kay Durbin
The Engelmann Family
Jack and Mary Alice Etter
John and Jane Evans
Mary Lou Feldmann
Mary Lou Fischer
Robert and Deb Foote
Ben and Linda Fuehne
Steve and Jana Fulton
Jeff and Karen Greenstreet
Betty Gross
Rich and Marcie Hacker
Joe and Pat Hagen
Sylvia Henken
Ron and Susan Holevoet
Agnes T. Huelsmann
Dolores Huelsmann
Oscar Hughes, Jr.
Dan and Carol Imming
Henry Kasson
Doris Kauling
Kim Kimberlin
Roman Kloeckner
Kohrmann Electric Co.
Dolores Krebs
Charlie and Ev Kuhn
Robert and Mary Kuper
James and Joanne Lampe
Ralph Langhauser
Dick Lanoque
Lucille Loepker
Love You More Foundation
Marian Luebbers
Jim and Kathleen McDermott
Tim and Vicki Moylan
Dave and Kathy Mulvin
Joyce Niemann
Greg and Marie Niemeyer
Pat and Esther Norrenberns
Evelyn Pakosta
Norb and Alice Pingsterhaus
Ray and Judy Rainey
Lawrence Rakers
Cletus and Deb Ratermann
Mark Renschen
Lee and Marilyn Rich
R. Joe and Barb Richter
Dr. and Mrs. Renato Rivera
***Jim and Michelle Rozycki**
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Schuler III
Ronald Schultz
Pete Schumacher
Ken and Neide Steiner
Marge Tebbe
Joan Theising
Chris and Lindsay Tripp
Bob and Debbie Vance
Glen and Norma Von Bokel
Barbara Voss
Neal Welz
Andrew Winkeler

FACULTY/ ADMINISTRATION

Cory Arentsen
Sue Darr
Trevor Durham
Helen Essenpreis
Christine Gramann
Melissa Kunkle
Dennis Litteken
Cale Lodekke
Colleen McDermott
Fr. Chuck Tuttle
David and Jodi Venhaus
Maria Zurliene

STAFF

Beth Grapperhaus
Kathy Huelsmann
Mary Miesner
Deb Ratermann
Shelly Ritzheimer
Bob Strieker

SCHOOL BOARD

Justin Benhoff
Marty Diekemper
Deacon John Fridley
Paula Kampwerth
Jill Sinnock
Jeana Thole
Lindsay Tripp
Brenda VonHatten
Carol Wiegmann

FOUNDATION BOARD

Beth Bohnenstiehl
Joey Deiters
Terese Kasson
George Marron
David Schmitz
Amy Wobbe

ORGANIZATIONS

Bishop Althoff 4th Degree
Knights of Columbus Council #2869 Breese
St. Ann Catholic Church, Nashville
St. Anthony-St Ann Sodality, Beckemeyer
St. Augustine Holy Name Society, Breese
St. Augustine St. Monica CCW, Breese
St. Barbara Catholic Church, Okawville
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, DuBois
St. Damian Church, Damiansville
St. Mary Church, Trenton
St. Michael Church, Radom
St. Theresa of Avila Church, Salem
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross

PASTORAL LEADERS

Anonymous
Phyllis Berndsen
Deacon Jay Fowler
Deacon John Fridley
Deacon John Hempen
Deacon Mark Kabat
Deacon Linus Klostermann
Deacon Steve Lemons
Sr. Theresa Markus
Fr. George Mauck
Deacon John Mote
Sr. Dorothy Niemann, SCSC
Fr. Steven Pautler
Fr. Patrick Peter
Fr. Ed Schaefer
Fr. Chuck Tuttle

UPCOMING DATES

Sept 22
Major Gift Mass
7:00

Oct. 1
Homecoming Parade
6:00

Oct. 2
Homecoming Mass
10:18

Oct. 2
Memorial Garden Dedication
6:30

Oct. 3
Golden Knights Reception
6:00 - 6:45

Nov. 6
Grandparent Mass
9:40

Nov. 17
Memorial Mass
7:00

Nov. 23
Knights Club Recognition Social

Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Mass
9:40

Non-Cash Charitable Giving Strategies

Strategies Qualified Charitable Distributions (QDC)

For Those Age 70.5 Years & Older and Individual Retirement (IRA) Holders Benefits:

- Reduces taxable income
- Counts toward required minimum distribution
- Direct gift to Mater Dei Catholic High School

Appreciated Assets

For Individuals, Families, Companies, Foundations, Other Entities

Benefits:

- Avoid capital gains on appreciated assets
- Receive an immediate tax deduction
- Flexibility to recommend grants to charities over time through Donor Advised Fund

Investments

For 401K Holders or IRA Holders

Benefits:

- Tax-efficient: Charities receive funds tax-free from retirement accounts
- Legacy planning: Ensures charitable giving continues after death
- Required Minimum Distribution strategy: Donating Required Minimum Distributions can reduce taxable income
- Name Mater Dei Catholic High School as a beneficiary

Planned Giving

For Those Age 18 Years & Older

Benefits:

- Reduce estate taxes by lowering the taxable estate
- Create a long-term philanthropic legacy
- Flexible structures can provide income to donors or heirs while benefitting charity
- Name Mater Dei Catholic High School as a beneficiary

Follow these three easy steps to get started:

1 Consult with your financial or tax advisor.

2 Select a method that aligns with your financial goals and philanthropic vision.

3 Contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle at 618-526-7216, ext. 108 or ctuttle@materdeiknights.org to let him know how you would like to proceed.

Class of 1959 Reunion

FR. Adrian Fischer OFM Class of 1966 Celebrates his 50th Anniversary as a Priest

Fr. Adrian Fischer OFM celebrating his 50th anniversary as a priest on July 13, 2025 at St. Mary's Church in Trenton with several of his Mater Dei classmates from the Class of 1966

Grateful for What Has Been and What Yet Will Be

Each year Mater Dei Catholic High School puts together an Annual Report to share with all those who have so generously contributed to the school's Mission during the past school year the scope of generosity of so many and to express our sincerest gratitude for their commitment. Without the continued support of our benefactors, Mater Dei would not be able to provide the quality of excellence that our students receive. For seventy years that support has ensured an environment in which our students are nurtured spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, and socially in a caring environment that fosters faith and develops gospel values (to paraphrase our Mission Statement).

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 Annual Fund Drive, we will be continuing the theme "Providing for Today and Securing for the Future". It is a way for our benefactors, and especially our alumni, to realize just how important they are to the continued successful operation of the educational programs at Mater Dei, both for current needs and future development. For three generations, Mater Dei has provided a caring environment in which students have been challenged to experience God in themselves and in others through a cultivation of respect and a commitment to service.

Our future, also, holds the prospect of a "bright tomorrow" as we enter our Capital Campaign, "Rooted in Faith, Building for our Future" to recognize the needs which will help Mater Dei to grow and to provide even more opportunities for our students. It has been said, "A generous person is enriched through the act of giving." Even through these difficult and challenging economic times, you, our benefactors, have recognized the significant difference your generosity makes to enhance the educational program and progress of Mater Dei. For the 2025-2026 Annual Fund Drive we are going to continue our emphasis on **"Major Gifts"** and **"Planned Giving"** as ways in which we can continue to build upon the tradition of the past by securing a solid foundation for the future.

Major gifts help to grow the annual fund drive faster. A contribution of $250.00 or more is considered a major gift. This year's annual report lists the contributors and a bolded donor name indicates that that person made a major gift to the fund drive. A major gift can also be attained through the benefit of a matching gift from your business or corporation.

One can make a major gift by contributing $125.00 and having a matching gift of $125.00. Major gifts are an important way in which an individual can share more deeply in the tradition of providing quality faith-based education.

The process of making a major gift can be simplified by making monthly or quarterly donations either by setting up payroll deduction through your employer or through our online giving availability. With your employer, a specified amount can be automatically deducted and then deposited directly to Mater Dei. This can easily be coordinated with your Human Resources department. Another way is to use the on-line giving platform on the Mater Dei website by making your initial donation and indicating if you wish it also to be a recurring donation. And don't forget to check with your Human Resources department in regards to your donation to Mater Dei qualifying for a Matching Gift. In 2014 we initiated a special Mass to recognize our Major Gift contributors. We are planning this year's **Major Gift Mass** to be held on **Monday, September 22, 2025**, at 7 pm, in the Mater Dei Chapel. More details will be sent to 2024-2025 Major Gift contributors.

The death of an alumni, friend and benefactor is a sorrowful moment for the Mater Dei Community. You have the opportunity to make a donation in memory of a deceased family member, loved one, or friend on the Mater Dei website under the tab "donate to Mater Dei." We at Mater Dei remember both our living and deceased alumni and benefactors at every Mass that is said at Mater Dei. Since 2009, we have also held an **Annual Memorial Mass**, which will take place this year on **Monday, November 17, 2025**, at 7pm in the Mater Dei Commons. This Mass remembers those individuals for whom a Memorial Gift (either on line or at the Funeral Home) was made to Mater Dei on their behalf. More details will be sent to the family of the deceased for whom a donation was received.

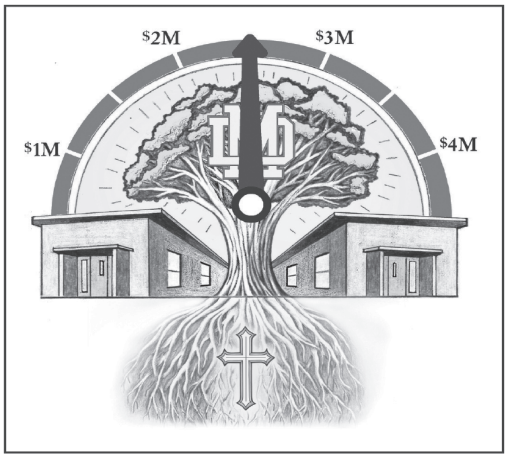
I would also like to share with you some other important dates to remember:

- Golden Knights in conjunction with the Homecoming Football Game on Friday, October 3, 2025, with sign-in from 6 - 6:45 pm in the Commons {recognizing all alumni who have graduated 50 years ago and more - with the Class of 1976 receiving special recognition this year).
- Grandparent Mass on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 9:40 am in the Main Gym.
- Knight Club Recognition on Sunday, November 23, 2025, (further information to be sent to Knight club members).
- 64th Mater Dei Christmas Basketball Tourney, December 26, 27, 29, and 30, 2025.
- Night at the Races sponsored by Mater Dei Band Parents on Saturday, January 31, 2026.
- Mater Dei Dinner Auction sponsored by Mothers & Friends on Saturday, March 21, 2026.
- Palm Sunday Breakfast sponsored by Fathers & Friends on Sunday, March 29, 2026.
- Hall of Honor on Friday, May 1, 2026, in Chapel with Mass at 6:30 pm followed by dinner in Commons.
- Mother's Day Mass on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 10:18 am in the Practice Gym.
- 37th Annual Mater Dei Golf Scramble Classic at Governor's Run on Friday, May 29 (tee time 12:30 pm) and Saturday, May 30, 2026, (tee times 7:15am and 1:15pm).

Fr. Charles Tuttle
Director, Office of Advancement

ROOTED IN FAITH, BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

Capital Campaign Update



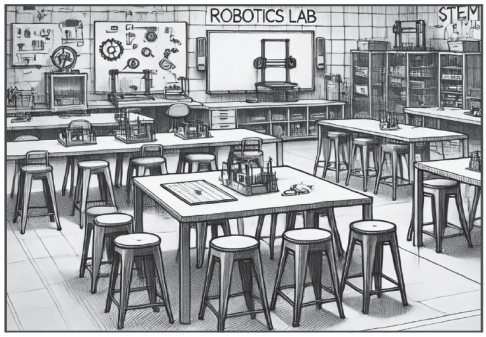
We are excited to share the incredible progress of our "*Rooted in Faith, Building for Our Future*" Capital Campaign. Launched at the end of April, this campaign has already inspired tremendous generosity from our Mater Dei community. As of July 25th, we have received **more than $2.75 million in pledge contributions**, placing us over the halfway mark of our $4 million goal!

This campaign is a vital step in strengthening the future of Mater Dei Catholic High School and ensuring our facilities and programs continue to meet the needs of current students and generations to come. We extend our gratitude to the many alumni, families, and friends who have already pledged their support. Your commitment speaks volumes about the strength and unity of the Mater Dei community.

If you would like to learn more or join our efforts, please reach out to
Principal Dennis Litteken - dlitteken@materdeiknights.org or
Campaign General Chair Brandon J. Wade - bwade@materdeiknights.org

Phase 1 projects that have started:

- Replace the original hardwood floor in the main gym.
- Replace the downstairs bleachers in the main gym.
- Implement a financial incentive program for faculty to seek advanced degrees to expand our dual credit curriculum.
- Provide a special fund to enhance tuition assistance.



Phase 2 projects:

- Create a cutting-edge STEM and robotics lab.
- Install new lockers in the P.E. locker rooms.
- Replace the hallway flooring throughout the building.
- Upgrade the electrical panels throughout the school.
- Implement access-control measures to improve building security and safety.

Phase 3 Projects:

- Build an indoor multipurpose training facility.
- Renovate the gym lobby restrooms.
- Replace the visitors bleachers on the outdoor athletic field.

Deceased Alumni Throughout the Past Year

Philip Becker 1975
Gary Billhartz.....1972
Pauline Billhartz 1958
Linda Brosch 1961
Judith Brown.....1964
Jeanne Boulanger 1965
Maurice Buehne.....1973
Caroline Cordia 1958
James Cox 1967
Leroy Diesen 1966
Tina Donnewald 1980
Peggy Elliott.....1969
Thomas Eversgerd 1961
Joseph Foppe.....1983
Ruth Ann Gieseler.....1955
Mary Grabinger.....1968
James "Jim" Heimann .1960
Kathie Heimann 1961
Stanley Holtgrave.....1962
Hazel Huels.....2017
Diana Huelskamp 1967
Leo Huelsmann Jr.....1961
Geri Lynn Hughes.....1980
Joseph Humphrey 1972
Janae Jansen 1962
Victor Jansen 1955
Dean Johnson II 1988
Stanley Kampwerth 1965
Terrence Kampwerth ..1973
Dennis Kluemke 1964
Travis Knolhoff 2008
Robert Kruep 1968
Evelyn Lammers.....1962
Jerome Lampen.....1959
Keith Loepker 1987
Charles Markus 1965
Edward McQuade.....1960
Julian McQuade.....1957
Beth Meier 1966
Jerome Mondt 1964
Melvin Mueller 1969
Barbara Netemeyer 1960
Alfred Hammer 1963
Patrick Hitpas 1965
Jeffrey Peppenhorst.....1988
Raymond Petermeyer .1959
Lucille Pingsterhaus....1960
Ralph Renschen 1972
Charles Sautman 1956
Bernard Seiffert.....1957
Walter Spihlman.....1961
Antonette Sudholt.....1960
Roger Surette.....1967
Gerald Tebbe 1970
Marsha Timmermann .1979
Sharon Thomas.....1964
Darlene Toennies.....1967
Lois Toennies 1958
Eugene Trame 1964
Vernon Vahlkamp.....1955
Geralyn Vogel 1991
Laverne Zurliene.....1960

If we missed someone to be recognized, please contact Karen Boeckman at Mater Dei in order for us to update our records.

Eternal Rest be granted to these souls oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, AMEN

Mater Dei Reunions

Class of 1980
Sep. 13, 2025 • 45 Years
Golf at Carlyle Lake Golf Course: 10:00 am
Reunion at Fuehne's 6:00 pm
Larry Deiters – Peggy Korte

Class of 1975
Sep. 20, 2025 • 50 Years
School Tour at 6:00pm
Reunion at Bent Oak Golf Course
Monica Venhaus/Steve Usselmann

Class of 1965
Sep. 27, 2025 • 60 years
Reunion at Bent Oak Golf Course
Aggie Dumstorff

Class of 1970
Oct. 4, 2025 • 55 years
Bent Oak Golf Course
Marvin Eversgerd

See MD website for more reunion information at www.materdeiknights.org

First Step When Planning a Reunion
Mr. Dennis Litteken is the alumni/reunion coordinator at MD. If your class is planning a reunion, please email Mr. Litteken at dlitteken@materdeiknights.org and he can get you started.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
900 North Mater Dei Drive
Breese, Illinois 62230

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2026 Mater Dei Calendar Drive

Mater Dei Catholic High School
900 Mater Dei Drive
Breese, IL 62230
(please print)

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

(Must Have Mailing Address)

☐ No need to send me a Calendar – just enter my name into the daily drawing.

Sold By _____ _____

Grade _____

2026 CALENDAR REGISTRATION CARD

Calendars can be purchased from any Mater Dei student, online from the Mater Dei website, with the mail-in form at left along with your check, or in person from the Main Office at Mater Dei. **Cost is $25.00 per calendar.**

DID YOU KNOW ... that the net profit from the sale of calendars goes back to the students to reduce their tuition increase for the next year? The profit from the 2025 Calendar Drive allowed the 2025-2026 tuition to be $200 per student less than it would have been without this fund raiser.

To find more details about the calendar drive, payouts, and a list of calendar winners, please visit our website under Advancement then the drop-down tab "How to Support Mater Dei."