



SERVING HIS PEOPLE



As I write to you today, our seniors are preparing for their final days of high school; at the same time we are making plans to welcome our Class of 2013 at the annual Freshman Welcome. The life of the school is changing, yet remains consistent in a lot of ways. School years are measured by the success of the senior class. The leadership that is needed by this special group of students is a key ingredient to a successful school year, and the Class of 2009 did not disappoint. It was a very good class, one we will miss at Mater Dei. I know I speak for all of you when I say "Thank You" and "Good Luck" as those 126 seniors leave us to pursue their dreams!

Throughout the past two issues of the VITA we have focused on our graduates who have answered the call of the Lord by serving his people throughout his Church. Please know how proud we are of them and join me in prayer to help

strengthen their commitment to their vocation. I know you will enjoy hearing their stories in their own words throughout this issue of the VITA.

Recently Mater Dei was recognized by the Department of Human Services of the State of Illinois for the school's commitment to Murray Center in Centralia. This award was presented to our school at the annual National Honor Society Induction and Awards ceremony. It recognizes all the volunteers who served the residents of Murray Center over the past forty years!

Please know how important your continued support is to the future of our school. The support comes in many different forms: financial, verbal, spiritual, and service. As we enter into the summer season I challenge all of you to be all you can be and make a difference in your world, in God's world!

Good luck and thank you for your support!

Dennis A. Litteken, '79
Principal

MATER DEI RECEIVES STATE AWARD

To recognize Mater Dei Catholic High School for its 41 years of volunteer service at the Warren G. Murray Developmental Center in Centralia, Illinois, the Department of Human Services of the State of Illinois awarded Mater Dei its 2009 Group Volunteer of the Year Award.

Mater Dei received the award on Tuesday, May 12, at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and Awards Night. The award was presented by Greg Fenton, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services/Division of Developmental Disabilities, and was accepted by Dennis Litteken, Principal, and Dan Wescovich, Mater Dei Murray Center moderator, on behalf of the all the students who have volunteered their time and talent throughout the



Representatives from the Department of Human Services of the State of Illinois and the Warren G. Murray Developmental Center were at Mater Dei on May 12, 2009, to present the 2009 Group Volunteer of the Year Award for the State of Illinois. Pictured are (l to r) Melissa Cavitt, Director of Activity Therapy & Volunteer Services, Murray Center; Greg Fenton, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services/Division of Developmental Disabilities; Dennis Litteken, Mater Dei Principal; Dan Wescovich, Mater Dei Murray Center moderator; Liz Simmons, Director, Office of Human Resources for the Department of Human Services; Jamie Veach, Director, Murray Center; Richard Starr, Assistant Director, Murray Center.



A little known fact about Mater Dei today is that at one time in the mid 60's for a period of three years there was a "Latin School" (high school prep seminary) connected with Mater Dei. Bishop Stan Schlarman now shares his

remembrance of it with us in the following.

I served the Don Bosco Latin School located in the abandoned convent in Aviston, Il. In its last two years of its three year existence. Monsignor Lawrence O'Connell, Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Vocation Director in the Diocese of Belleville, had responded in those years to the crowded conditions at St. Henry's Preparatory Seminary in Belleville, and decided to give the overflow of Freshmen applicants a chance to prove themselves in a temporary place with a view towards eventually getting them into our seminary. An old stucco two storied building most recently serving as a convent in Aviston was vacant. He had it simply remodeled and I lived there with 10 Freshmen boys my first year, and a few of them returned their Sophomore year to join other Freshmen for a total of some 15, 7 of whom eventually finished the school year. I was the director of the house, their mentor in studies, their leader in prayer daily, while a lady served us as an excellent cook and did the house laundry. The boys did their own laundry and learned all the housekeeping skills needed to keep our place clean and orderly. Parents and family visited every other Sunday, as in other minor seminaries, and I reported to them the progress of their students whom I coached in studies. Each boy had his own chosen spiritual director, and I took the boys with me every day to Mater Dei High School for their regular curriculum. They were in my religion classes there and I continued my regular full time duties there, as well. When I brought them home they followed basically a seminary schedule of prayer, study, recreation and household duties. The school closed after its third year since there was now room at the seminary in Belleville.

Only one student from this experiment eventually went on to be a priest, and a truly excellent one, Msgr. Ken Schaefer. However, years later students of my time at the school surprised me with a reunion as adults and well into their successful lives, and all but one had gone on later to college and done quite well. So their formation, both as students with good study habits and as Catholic young gentlemen, was well worth the effort. I have to say I learned much myself in my young priesthood, and truly enjoyed the experience of being a "surrogate dad" to these young men. While I'd served Mater Dei High School from 1959 to 1974 as teacher, counselor, and eventually principal, there is nothing like living with a crowd of adolescent boys learning to grow up, with the responsibility of looking to their spiritual lives and discipline in studies and habits of right living.

The old house we occupied, long since torn down, was dubbed "The Alamo" by the boys, since all it needed was a cannon mounted on the roof of the front porch, they said. It was truly an old building with lots of windows through which the wind whistled. But the boys helped me seal ourselves in for the winter months with plastic, and we cut the fuel bill in half. We had an excellent oil furnace, but it had to work overtime otherwise. Someone said he'd have done that if he'd had the chance, but thought the windows would "laugh at him." Not true. Another great advantage for the boys to let off steam was the parish gym next door to us, where they could work out playing basketball. And the nuns teaching in the parish grade school and living next door, along with the wonderful parishioners of the parish in Aviston, were a great support to the boys, as well. We kept an extended family going.

One individual who attended the Don Bosco Latin School for one year and who was ordained to the Priesthood on June 8, 1974, for the Diocese of Belleville, was Monsignor Ken Schaefer, currently pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Herrin, Illinois.

Bishop Schlarman

My Catholic Faith was given to me by my parents and reaffirmed by my grandparents.

The academic part began at St. Mary Catholic Grade School in Carlyle. My parents sacrificed financially so I could go there and we could remain parishioners at St. Teresa. Marydale is where I began serving Mass (in Latin, with the Priest's back to the people) when I was only seven or eight. In the summer between seventh and eighth grades, four of us "country boys" went to St. Henry's Seminary for two weeks in the summer. None of us continued there, but we all went to Mater Dei High School after graduation.

I remember my first days of being a freshman at Mater Dei. I was scared to death, especially of the big seniors. I remember that in those years there were only about five or six lay teachers and about thirty or forty priests and sisters teaching everything from agriculture to religion to about 1100 students. It was the time of "bell-bottomed" pants, long hair, and peace buttons.

My Senior year was the only year I was able to be actively involved at school, because of the travel distance from Marydale to MD. I was president of the Spanish Club (I was the only boy in the Spanish IV Class) and I was the Sports editor of the Lance. We had mission projects then, just like today at Mater Dei. Our senior class had raised \$2000 for a school to be built in Guatemala. I was selected to represent our class and visit the new school, built where some peace corps representatives from our area had been stationed. I examined the small, tin-covered school building for which the community was proud and grateful to the class of '70.

I recall barely passing Chemistry, acing Spanish, Latin, English, and struggling with Algebra. But the classes I enjoyed most were my Religion classes. In junior year we reviewed current events within the Catholic Church and studied "West Side Story". My most exciting class was senior year religion class. We had a marriage class and studied Genesis, Exodus, and Mark. Father Karban was my religion teacher both years. I marveled at how exciting he made the Bible and never tired of learning the stories and the background of that inspiring book of faith.

I started dating the end of my senior year and married a classmate, Joanne Brandmeyer, June 23, 1972. We were married 20 years and had three children (Leah '91, Monica '92 and Jeremy '97, all graduates of MD). She died of cancer on February 5, 1993. I was working for our parish at Marydale, coordinating activities, teaching religion, doing secretarial work, and visiting the sick with our pastor, Father Feldmann. He was very supportive in my faith journey and encouraged me to begin preparing for Deaconate ordination. I was working with the youth of our parish when I met my present wife, Kim Korte. She was the CYO Moderator of her parish at St. Mary, Trenton. We were married on September 2, 1994. We have a daughter, 12, whom we are grooming to attend Mater Dei.

I had the opportunity to teach religion at Mater Dei from 1995-2000. I learned a lot about my Faith and Scripture during those teaching years. Things were different at MD. There were only 5 sisters and 1 priest teaching and about 25 lay teachers. Gum fines were higher and boys were trying to wear earrings instead of the peace buttons. The halls weren't nearly as crowded. But Religion is still an integral part of the MD curriculum. I was ordained during my tenure at MD on April 19, 1997. I believe that my presence at the altar as a Deacon at Mater Dei Masses brought to light another avenue in which young men can serve the church. I'm looking forward to when one of my former students becomes a sister or brother, a priest or a deacon.

These past seven years have been spent visiting the sick, ministering to the dying and their families, and supporting the staff at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Centralia as a Pastoral Care Associate. I love bringing God's presence to those to whom I minister each day. I coordinate the religion program at St. Teresa, Marydale and teach the Confirmation class. I serve at the altar there and help Deacon Charlie Litteken move our parish forward. I co-coordinate the North Central Deanery Pre Cana Days and I am the Secretary of the North Central Deanery parish leaders.

My faith life was instilled in me by my parents and grandparents, nourished in service at the altar as a server in my youth and now as a Deacon, has grown in my years of Catholic education at St. Mary's, Carlyle and Mater Dei High School, and continues each day as I work and pray and journey forth. I'm grateful to my family. I'm grateful for my Catholic education. And most thankful to God for guiding me on my journey of faith.

Deacon John Hempen



Sean Palas is a 1999 graduate of Mater Dei and is currently a seminarian for the Diocese of Belleville.

Sean's home parish is St. Mary's Trenton. He is the son of Joe and Diane (Perkes) Palas. Born into a military family in Austin, Texas, Sean lived in England and South Dakota before his family settled in Trenton where Sean was in the second grade at St. Mary's elementary school. It was in the fifth grade that Sean began to discern a call to the priesthood while serving as an altar server and reflecting upon the unique ministry of the priest at the Altar. He began to develop a real and personal relationship with Christ.

Mater Dei helped continue this relationship by instilling a Catholic spirit of service in a prayerful environment. Following his graduation from high school, Sean entered St. Joseph College Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago at Loyola University where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in philosophy. He attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome for one year, but due to health issues did not return but took some time off from the seminary to pursue a Master of Social Work degree at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis.

Still drawn to the call of the priesthood, Sean felt attracted to a religious community called the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Kalamazoo, Michigan. But his desire to serve as a parish priest and serve the people who had never stopped praying for his vocation led him to apply to the Diocese of Belleville as a seminarian. Sean is completing his Third Year Theology classes at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

In Sean's own words: "The journey of discerning God's will in my life has been both difficult and rewarding. The life of a seminarian is indeed countercultural and demands a certain amount of sacrifice. However, in these sacrifices and countercultural lifestyle, I found a deepening intimacy with God that has allowed me to break out of myself and serve others with a greater devotion. This is the great joy of seminary formation and the priestly life – we go through the tough process of allowing God's grace to move us to an attitude of John the Baptist who said, 'He must increase but I must decrease' (John 3:30). Please continue to pray for vocations and for us seminarians."

Bishop Braxton recently called Sean to Holy Orders to be ordained a Deacon on May 30th, 2009, at the Belleville Cathedral.

Sean Palas



High school is a once in a life time experience; a time to further your education, expand your mind, and develop lasting relationships.

High school is also a time to prepare for the future, explore the opportunity for continuing education, choose a career path, and give thought to life style choices. For me, it was also a time to contemplate my spirituality and my service to God. My experiences at Mater Dei High School inspired my current journey toward becoming a permanent Deacon. During my high school years, I felt a call to some form of service for the church. The Priesthood, however, did not seem like it was for me. Many years passed with college, work, marriage and starting a family. During that time, I remained a "good" Catholic and

continued to participate in various roles within the church. Faithful attendance and isolated church duties, however, did not seem to be "enough." A few years ago, I was invited to the last ordination of permanent Deacons in the Belleville Diocese. After the ordination, I began to study the Diaconate. The more that I learned about the role of the Deacon within the Church, the more I realized that the calling I felt back in high school could finally be realized through the Diaconate. The education and spirituality I gained in the Mater Dei religion classes and the TEC retreats continue to help guide my daily choices. The educational opportunity provided through the Deacon formation classes from the Diocese and St. Meinrad School of Theology have prepared me in my journey as a Deacon in service to the Church. I hope to be found worthy of this honor and will be always grateful that I have the opportunity to call Mater Dei my alma mater.

Glenn and Robin Netemeyer have a son, Randy, who is currently a freshman at Mater Dei.

Deacon Glenn Netemeyer

It was with great sorrow that the Mater Dei Community learned of the death of Deacon Jerry Stockmann on Sunday, June 8, 2008.

Deacon Jerry was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on October 18, 1980, and served St. Francis Catholic Church, Aviston, Illinois. Retired Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman was the Principal Celebrant and gave a beautiful homily in honor of Deacon Jerry at his funeral Mass held on June 11, 2008 in Aviston. Our prayers continue to go out to Julia and her family. The following is an article Deacon Jerry himself wrote last Spring for inclusion in this VITA.

I was raised on a farm near Damiansville, IL by my adoptive parents, Fred and Veronica (nee Stockmann) Tonnies after my parents, Edward Anthony and Frieda Ann (nee Huegen) Stockmann died. I attended grade school at St. Damian's in Damiansville, three years at Aviston Community High School and I finished my last year at Mater Dei High School. I then graduated in 1959 from Mater Dei High School in the first graduating class from the new building. My extra-curricular activities at Mater Dei were very limited as it was my only year attending. Being raised by foster parents, knowing how much their faith influenced me and meant to them I also married into a family of religious beliefs, Julia (nee) Markus, MD Class of '61.

Seeing how four of my children Ed ('82), Lee ('87), Craig ('88) and Jason ('90) attended Mater Dei Catholic High School, I realized I really didn't know too much about my faith, so I began looking for ways to increase my faith and knowledge. I went to Father Karban's scripture studies and then became interested in the Diaconate, through the encouragement of Julia's three sisters who were SSND's, my family and Father Kopff. And so I started to study in the Belleville Deacon program.

During my training, I kept praying to God to find out if I was doing what he wanted me to do with my life. I was expecting and hoping for a clear cut sign or a yes or no answer. He answered me in a different way. I have served as a deacon at St. Francis in Aviston for 28 years and the answer is still the same, live a good life, serve your God and your people and pray daily.

Deacon Jerry Stockmann



Mother Teresa said, "Don't look for big things, just do small things with great love."

As I sat down to write this article I tried to think of all the "big" things I did in high school and thereafter. My thoughts immediately went searching for moments and events that would make me look good, make me look like someone more than I am. However, the fact of the matter is that I was simply an ordinary student, just like many other alumni, who were graced to have been educated at Mater Dei. For me it was many small things at Mater Dei that most influenced me and continues to impact my life and faith.

Mater Dei provided me an excellent academic education, enabling me to receive an accounting degree and become a CPA and a controller. But more important than the academics was the formation and deepening of my Catholic faith. Many, if not all, of my classes both directly and indirectly taught me about God and His creation. They taught me to apply religious values to everything I encounter and do. Mater Dei nurtured the early roots of faith, which over time continue to deepen and mature. The many dedicated teachers, parents, staff and supporters were and still are positive examples for us. Their influence has been greater than the specific subjects they may have taught.

This past summer I was ordained as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Belleville and have been assigned to serve in my home parish of St. Dominic in Breese. I am excited about beginning this ministry and pray that I will be a good deacon. In addition to the diaconate and my job as a controller for a scrap metal processing plant, I devote as much time as I can to my wife Sue (MD '74), our four children: Barb (MD '96), Tom (MD '98), Debbie (MD '01), Philip MD '03), their spouses and our two granddaughters.

A few years ago Sue and I visited St. Dominic's sister parish in Guatemala. (Remember mission collections during homeroom?) We went to Guatemala with our bags packed to the brim bringing them physical items and necessities. We thought we were really going to help them with what we were bringing. But, on returning home, we realized that the greater gift of this trip was the gift they gave us. They gave us a renewed understanding of dependence upon God, the value of love for neighbor, love for the Church and love for Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Notably, these are the same values that were instilled in us at Mater Dei.

I am continually discovering it's not so much about the big things we do, rather, by the grace of God, it is about the many small things we can do for each other.

Thank you Mater Dei. You are truly a blessing both now and for our future.

Deacon Linus Klostermann

Many of the individuals and situations that were placed in my life by the hand of God to lead me to a vocation in the Franciscan priesthood, were present at Mater Dei High School while I was student there from '62-'66. There was no one situation that led me to the religious life but the Catholic atmosphere at Mater Dei certainly had an influence. Talking about our faith in the religion classes and living it out in service to the missions or in service to the school made a lasting impression on me. Of course Mater Dei High School was only one part of my life. It was an important part because it tied together my family and my church, St. Mary's in Trenton. That is one thing that I find significant about attending a Catholic School. It is able to tie faith and family together as you are reaching out to find out who you are and reaching your educational goals. School, family and church supporting each other gives a student a solid grounding to move ahead. For me, some of the important individuals at Mater Dei were Fr. Stanley Schlarmann (now Bishop) who showed you that he enjoyed being a priest and especially Sr. Peter Altgilbers, P.H.J.C. who took a personal interest in so many students and made them feel important. One significant event was when we had a "Vocation Day" when I was a senior. I guess it was the right person at the right time, but when Fr. David Eckelkamp O.F.M. came from St. Louis to talk about becoming a Franciscan, the Holy Spirit tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Give it a try."

After joining the Franciscans in 1968 and finishing my college seminary training at the Franciscan seminary at Quincy College (University), I started my theology training at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. It was here that a real direction in my ministry was set. Through a friend I began helping out at an African-American Catholic Church on the South Side of Chicago. It was there that I became enthralled with the African-American culture and the excitement of what was happening in the African-American Catholic Church in the 1970's. That was followed by six months as a deacon intern at an African-American Church in Monroe, LA where I am now pastor. Almost all of my 33 years of ministry have been in the Black community.

Being a member of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) has been a huge support for me as my Franciscan brothers and sisters help and encourage me in my ministry. I am also challenged by the life of St. Francis of Assisi who inspired me to love and respect all of God's creation, especially human beings. That love of humanity led me to become a Foster Parent and eventually adopting my sons, Joshua and Jason. Since being a parent, and now a grandparent, my ministry in the Catholic Church as a priest has been a little unique. My children have added a depth to my compassion and understanding of parenthood, my prayer life has been deepened and my joy has been increased.

Those formative years at Mater Dei High School, with its teachers and students, have been the presence of God for me and the acts of God that led me to where I am today. "God has shown me what was mine to do, may he show you what is yours to do." (St. Francis of Assisi)

Fr. Adrian Fischer, O.F.M.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC

HIGH SCHOOL
BREESE, ILLINOIS

You can remember and designate the following particular Funds in your Will:

EDUCATIONAL FUND
STUDENT TUITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
MATER DEI FOUNDATION

Please remember

*Mater Dei
Catholic High School
in your Will.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BEQUESTS

What is a bequest?

A **bequest** is an instruction in your written will that states how to distribute some or all of your estate.

How do I make a bequest?

A bequest is a written instruction and the words that you choose are important. There are four types of bequests: **Specific, Percentage, Residual and Contingent.**

A **Specific** bequest is a gift of a particular asset (e.g., 100 shares of XYZ Corporation).

A **Percentage** bequest is a gift of some part of the value of the distributed estate (e.g., 20% of my net estate).

A **Residual** bequest is a gift of the remainder of the estate after all taxes, expenses and other bequests have been satisfied.

A **Contingent** bequest is a gift that will be made to a second beneficiary in the event that the original beneficiary is deceased or does not accept that gift.

The type of bequest language that you choose should fit what you want to accomplish by that gift. You should think carefully about how your gift can help the person or organization when deciding what bequests to include.

Who will carry out my bequest intentions?

In your will, you choose an executor as the person entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out your wishes. The executor has to account for the entire estate (including debts and liabilities) and distribute money and property according to the law and your instructions.

What if I change my mind about the bequest?

If you change your mind about a bequest, you may amend your will to change the bequest. A will may be amended with a codicil (a short amendment to the will that is executed with the same formalities as a regular will). Or an entirely new will can be created that replaces the old will.

Also, remember that if you decide to leave a specific asset such as a car or a vacation home to a beneficiary in your will, then you later decide to sell or otherwise dispose of the asset, the specific bequest will fail and that beneficiary will receive nothing. It is a good idea to update your will on a regular basis to keep up with changes in laws and your own objectives.

Why should I make a bequest?

If you do not leave a will and do not make a bequest, you cannot be sure that your property will be distributed as you intend. When someone does not leave a will, the property is distributed by a pre-set formula according to state intestacy laws. If you die without a will, it is possible that special family members and close friends (including our organization) will receive no part of your estate. Creating a will is the only way to be sure that the people and causes you care for will receive your generous gifts.

*Provided for information purposes only.
Always check with your tax and financial
advisors before implementing any gift plan.*

MATER DEI HALL OF HONOR

On May 2, 2009, three Mater Dei graduates were inducted into the Mater Dei Hall of Honor. Inducted were Mr. Paul Georgy, '69, Reverend Joseph C. Rascher, '73, and Dr. Donald Wuebbles.

Mr. Paul Georgy is the President and CEO of Allendale, Inc., a worldwide agricultural advisory and research firm, a position he held since 1984. Georgy holds an elected position as GIB Representative to the National Futures Association's (NFA) Board of Directors. In 2007 he was elected to the executive committee of the NFA.

Georgy has been active the United Way, Friends of McHenry County College Foundation, the Crystal Lake Food Pantry, the high school booster club, and in numerous fundraising projects for his church and community. He has taken a position on the Leadership Board for the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

Paul Georgy is the son of Joseph and Barbara Georgy of Trenton, and the brother of Pat Poettker of St. Rose, Agnes Strieker of Aviston, and Michael Georgy of Mahomet, Illinois. Georgy and his wife Marilyn have three children: John, Steven, and Laura.

The Reverend Joseph C. Rascher is the son of Aloysius and the late Marcella Rascher of Breese and the brother of Mary K. Rascher, '77, of Rantoul, Illinois.

On June 6, 1981, Joseph Rascher was ordained at St. Peter's Cathedral by Bishop William Cosgrove. Fr. Rascher's parish assignments included St. Andrew Church in Murphysboro, St. James Church in Millstadt, St. Mary's Church in Mt. Carmel, St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Francisville, Immaculate Conception Church in Kaskaskia, St. Michael Church in Paderborn, St. Boniface Church in Evansville, and St. Pius V Church in Walsh. In 1998 Fr. Rascher became the Pastor of St. Stephen Catholic Church in

Caseyville where he still ministers today.

Fr. Rascher's volunteer ministry includes the Menard Psychiatric Center Prison, Bethany Place AIDS Resource Center, Always Our Children Support Group, various workshops and programs in the Diocese of Belleville, particularly in the area of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Liturgy. He is currently on a team conducting workshops training laity to lead Sunday Services in the Absence of a Priest and Funeral Rites.

Fr. Rascher states, "A love of music has always been part of my life. A great interest in the Liturgy of the Church has been part of my life since high school, nurtured by Bishop Stanley Schlarman who served as a counselor at Mater Dei when I was a student there."



Dr. Donald Wuebbles is the Harry E. Preble Endowed Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois. Dr. Wuebbles was Director of the

School of Earth, Society, and Environment from 2006 until 2008, and was Head of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences from 1994 until 2006. He was also the first Director of the Environmental Council at the University of Illinois, from 1996 to 1999.

Wuebbles is the author of over 400 peer-reviewed scientific articles. He has been a lead author on a number of national and international assessments related to concerns about climate change and about global chemistry issues. Dr. Wuebbles received the 2005 Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He shares in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the international U.N.-led Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dr. Wuebbles is the son of James and Helen Wuebbles of Carlyle and has been married to Barbara since June 1970. The couple has three sons: Ryan, Kevin, and Alan. They also have a grandson, Colton James Wuebbles.

MATER DEI SENIOR NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Principal Dennis Litteken has announced that senior Amanda Niedzwiecki, daughter of Dave and Brenda Niedzwiecki of St. Rose, has earned the distinction of National Merit Scholarship Finalist. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2009.

More than 1.5 million juniors in over 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of

program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. Approximately 15,000 Semifinalists advance to the Finalist level.

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school. The Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self-descriptive essay and information about the Semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

The Mater Dei community extends its congratulations to Amanda Niedzwiecki for her achievement!



NEW ALUMNI CHANNEL INTRODUCED

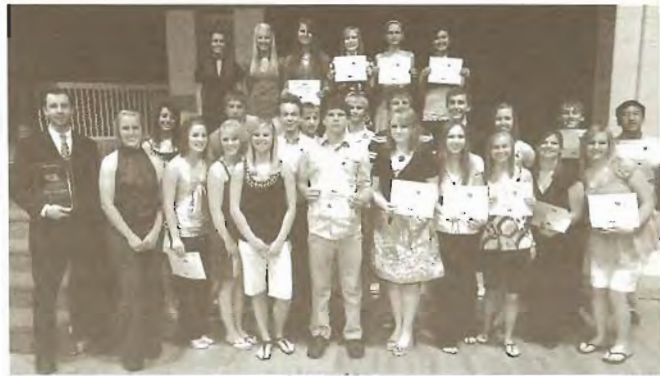
The Mater Dei Alumni Office is excited to introduce alumni, parents, and friends to a new website called the Alumni Channel. The Alumni Channel online alumni system is designed to increase alumni connections through a secure online alumni directory that will help connect an organization's entire members. Alumni Channel offers Mater Dei alumni a community of their own to contact each other, plan reunions, share stories and photos, and it enables Mater Dei to maintain and build an alumni database providing it with valuable alumni contact information. Mater Dei has the ability to not only announce upcoming events and campaigns on the site itself, but also customize and send mass e-mails, run reports, export data, etc.

The website is www.materdeialumni.org. To register as an alumnus, parent, and/or friend go to: New User? Get Connected and Register at the top of the web page. Register with the requested information, setting your own username and password. Register under as many categories that apply to you, but you will have to logout and re-register for each category. You may use the same username and password for each category. Use the website to stay connected with fellow Mater Dei alumni and with what's occurring at Mater Dei Catholic High School today. You can post a picture of yourself, allow others to e-mail you, share your personal web page, and much more.

MATER DEI RECEIVES STATE AWARD

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program's 41 years. Students who volunteered at Murray Center this school year were recognized and received a certificate of appreciation from representatives from Murray Center and the Department of Human Services. Melissa Cavitt, Director of Activity Therapy & Volunteer Services for Murray Center, who nominated Mater Dei for the award, asked that those in the audience who were at one time also involved with the Mater Dei Murray Center program to stand and be recognized. Many in attendance stood, which was witness to the commitment by Mater Dei to its mission to serve.



The students who volunteered this school year at Murray Center were honored in conjunction with the Mater Dei Murray Center program being named the 2009 Group Volunteer of the Year Award by the Department of Human Services of the State of Illinois.

Mater Dei Mega Raffle

GRAND PRIZE - \$10,000

AND: 2 - \$2,500 3 - \$1,000 20 - \$100

Ticket cost - \$100.00 each

**Prizes Awarded Saturday, June 6, at the
Mater Dei Golf Tournament**

**Tickets are available through any Fathers and Friends member, School Board member,
Fr. Chuck Tuttle or Kathy Huelsmann in the Office of Institutional Advancement,
or by calling Mater Dei at (618) 526-7216.**

**In the event that less than 500 tickets are sold,
prizes will be awarded based on a percentage of the prize pool.**

Mater Dei Catholic High School

900 N. Mater Dei Drive

Breese, IL 62230

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Mathias Diekemper
David Duing, '60
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Craig Huels, '94
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IN HONOR OF

Art and Jan Kampwerth

On the occasion of their wedding nuptials

Sylvia Henken and Ruth Lager

On the occasion of their 75th Birthdays