



CELEBRATING OUR TRADITION...EMBRACING OUR FUTURE!

Mater Dei

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Our Vision

For over fifty years, Mater Dei Catholic High School has been providing a value-based Catholic education for the young men and women of our area. This powerful legacy has positioned us to embark now on an aggressive renovation program which was identified during our Strategic Planning retreat. Our capital campaign of \$2.5 million, *"Celebrating Our Tradition...Embracing Our Future,"* will be a vital step in securing the future of the Mater Dei tradition.

The Strategic Plan

In November of 2009, Mater Dei Catholic High School's board, administration, faculty, alumni, parents, and area pastors gathered to prepare a strategic plan for the school's future. Participants examined all facets of Mater Dei school life: curriculum, facilities, technology, staffing, enrollment, finances, development, community relations, and Catholic identity.

The participants recognized that various parts of the physical plant, constructed in 1956, needed to be renovated. The need and responsibility to address and remedy facility infrastructure issues as well as the physical appearance of the school were also readily recognized.

Based upon the recommendations of the Strategic Planning retreat participants, and to meet the needs of future Mater Dei students and their families, the Mater Dei School Board has made a commitment to accomplish this capital campaign: *"Celebrating Our Tradition...Embracing Our Future."*

A Faith-Filled Future

It is our vision that Mater Dei Catholic High School will become the leader in secondary education in Southern Illinois. Mater Dei Catholic High School will be known for giving all her students everything they need to

succeed academically, athletically, emotionally, and

spiritually. It is our vision that through our

comprehensive program, students

will have a burning desire to excel

in all they do. Students will be

excited and motivated about

attending Mater Dei Catholic

High School. Students will

strive to deepen their Catholic

faith and become active

members of their parishes.

Mater Dei will be known to do

everything with class, respect,

and within the framework of

good sportsmanship.

In summary, there should be no

doubt what our mission is because every

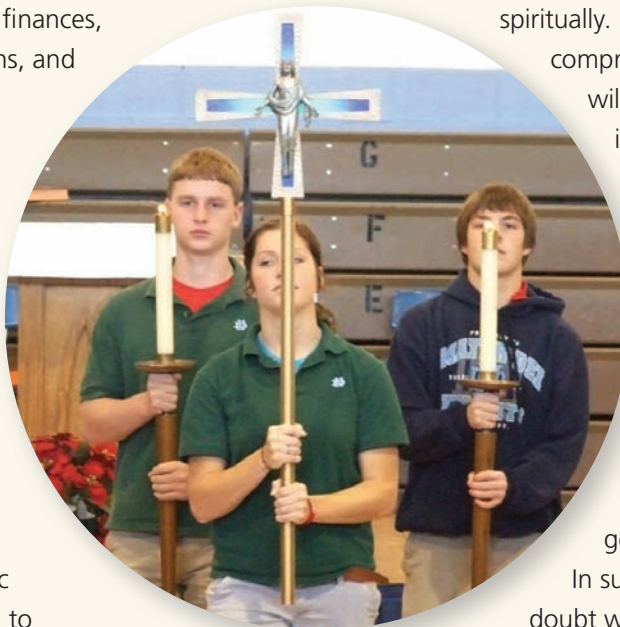
action and reaction of a staff member will be

guided by the mission of this Catholic high school.

Mater Dei Catholic High School provides the young

people of the area the best chance for a faith-filled

future.





My 15 years serving as teacher and guidance counselor (13 years) and principal (2 years at the height of enrollment) taught me more from the goodness of students and the sacrifice of parents than I could have taught. This sacred tradition of Catholic faith and self-giving has not diminished, as I've noticed in these later years. The Lord Jesus' blessing and Mother Mary's prayers be joined to ours, dear students past and present and faith-filled parents and grandparents, many of whom I taught and counseled, as we look to Mater Dei's bright future.

BISHOP STANLEY G. SCHLARMAN, HONORARY CHAIRMAN

Celebrating Our Tradition... Embracing Our Future.

This capital campaign will be directed toward alumni, alumni parents, parents, friends, corporations, and foundations. Your stewardship will assist in preserving the mission of our school today and for generations to come.

With your input, support, and guidance, Mater Dei Catholic High School will continue to thrive.

This is Our Mater Dei

- Four hundred seventy students arrive from 26 parishes every day, blending together as one.
- The Class of 2011 earned more than \$3.9 million dollars in academic scholarships and grants.
- Ninety-five percent of 2011 Mater Dei graduates enrolled in college programs, while 3% entered career training programs, 1% joined the military, and 1% entered the workforce.
- Mater Dei students earned 2,451 hours of college credit through dual credit and advanced placement courses, thereby saving families thousands of dollars in college tuition.
- The average ACT score for the Mater Dei Class of 2011 was 23.5 – far exceeding the State of Illinois average of 20.9 and the national average of 21.1.
- The Class of 2011 boasts 24 Illinois State Scholars which is 19% of the class (the state average is 10%).
- Mater Dei has a student to faculty ratio of 15:1.
- Twenty-three percent of our students receive some type of financial aid or tuition assistance.
- Fifty percent of our sophomores, juniors, and seniors are members of the National Honor Society.
- More than 75 students practice and participate in Marching, Concert, and Jazz Band in our new state-of-the-art music facility.
- Our students performed nearly 20,000 hours of community related service hours in 2010-2011.
- The library, several computer labs, and most classrooms offer state-of-the-art technology with internet capabilities.
- Mater Dei has an active campus ministry program providing resources and guidance for spiritual development.





Our Plan

As our plans for the future shape up, it is important for us to share these plans with you and to ask for your continued philanthropic support. We seek to raise \$2.5 million over the next three years to assure our important goals to:



Develop a campus master plan for ongoing facility needs and beautification, such as renewing tired areas of the school facility, with our focus on replacing roofs, replacing all the exterior doors, and implementing sidewalk, curbing and exterior façade improvements. \$1,000,000



Construct a long-needed remodeling of our cafeteria, creating a courtyard area to house a state-of-the-art and technologically superior Student Center, where our students can gather for meals, meetings, small group and individual learning, recreation, and other interactions throughout the day. \$1,000,000

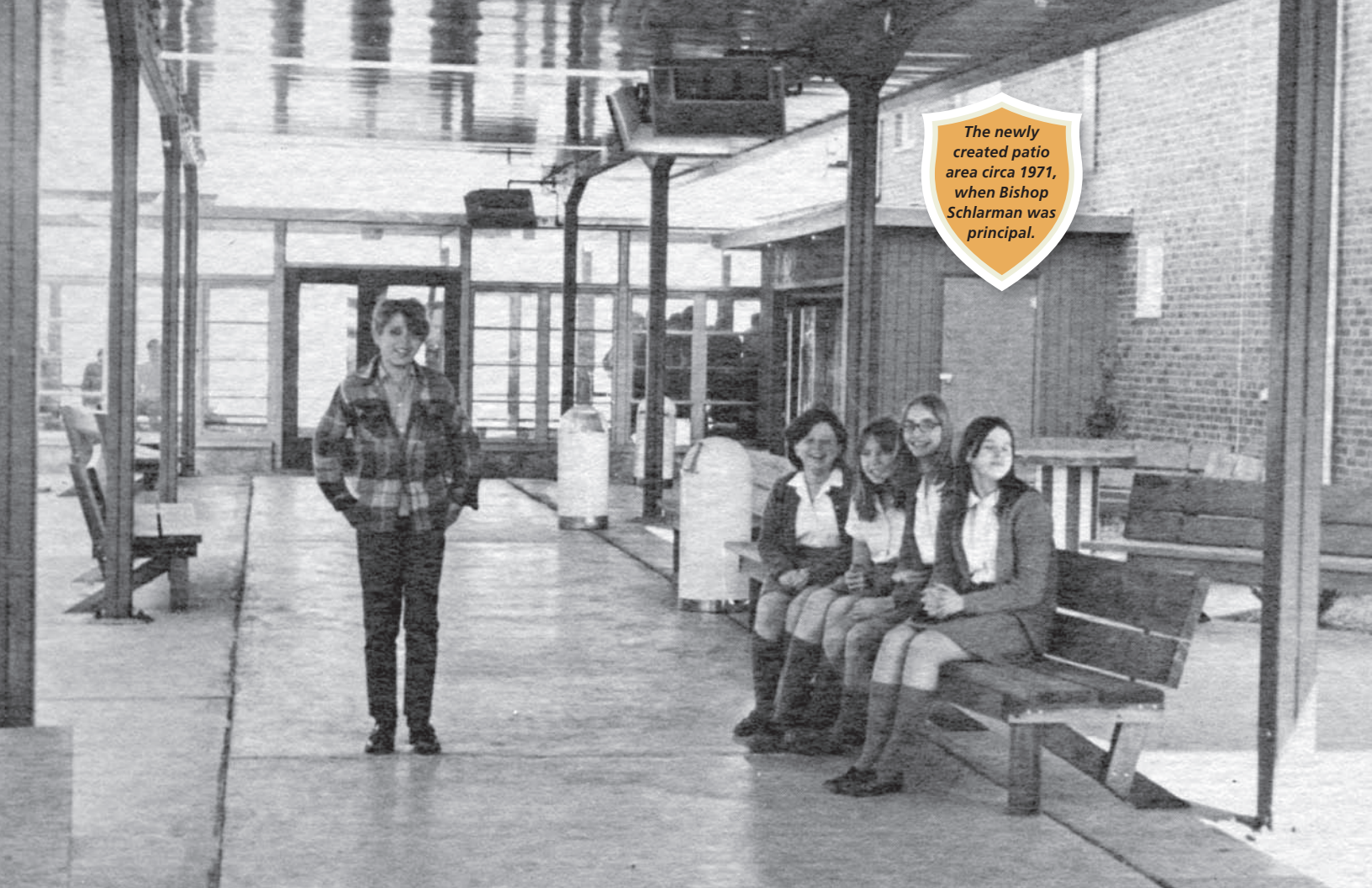


Develop plans and phased implementation for the renovation and renewal of the football, soccer, band, and track facility including replacing worn fencing, renovating bathroom facilities, upgrading bleachers, improving track, and upgrading front gate area. \$500,000

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

"Catholic schools have proven to be of priceless value to generations of children, teaching them to know, love, and serve God, and preparing them to take their place with responsibility in the community."

BLESSED POPE JOHN PAUL II



The newly created patio area circa 1971, when Bishop Schlarman was principal.

Contemporary Student Center \$1,000,000

We envision expanding the current cafeteria space into the existing patio, resulting in a beautiful, bright, energy-efficient contemporary student center where students will gather for meals, meetings, classes, small group and individual learning, social interaction, and various extracurricular activities. This new, attractive, and technologically superior space, together with the planned updated kitchen facilities, will also lend itself to gatherings of alumni, parents, and friends of the Mater Dei community before, during, and after school hours.



Major Building and Grounds Improvements \$1,000,000

Roof replacements, sidewalk, curbing, and exterior facade improvements are needed for efficiency, safety, and overall appearance. Also needed is the replacement of exterior doors and corridor windows. Besides the immediate needs, we plan to develop a campus master plan designed to systematically address these types of needs on an annual basis.



Outdoor Football, Soccer, Band, and Track Facility \$500,000

While we continue to invest in repairs and attempt to keep the athletic field, stands, and restrooms in good condition, the passage of time and extensive use by our football, soccer, and track teams, along with the marching band, intramurals, and others, demand that we address these facilities in a comprehensive manner. We envision replacing the outside fence and the front gates, upgrading our grandstands to meet safety standards, upgrading the track, and renovating the restrooms.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who planned and authorized the “Celebrating Our Tradition...Embracing Our Future” capital campaign?

A: In 2009, Mater Dei school board members, administrators, faculty, alumni, parents, and pastors gathered to prepare a strategic plan for the school. The participants identified that various parts of the physical plant constructed in 1956 needed to be upgraded. Also, the participants recognized that the cafeteria/patio area needed to be renovated, and the athletic field needed to be upgraded. The Mater Dei school board members are committed to a capital campaign to accomplish the goals set forth by the strategic planning participants.

Q: Why are we undertaking this project at this time?

A: In order to address the issues identified by the strategic planning committee and to continue the excellence in education that is a tradition of Mater Dei Catholic High School, we must begin our fund-raising efforts now. It has been ten years since we conducted the first campaign and the needs now are as important to the future of our school as they were then.

Q: What are the objectives of the capital campaign?

A: We have several objectives, all of which will enhance the educational experience of the students at Mater Dei. Objectives include renovating and improving outside areas of the school facility (roofs, sidewalks, curbing), remodeling of the cafeteria/kitchen, enclosing the patio for a contemporary student center, and updating the athletic facilities.

Q: What is the anticipated schedule to begin the renovation and improvement projects?

A: We plan to have the renovations and improvements begin in one or two years, as we are required to have half the needed funds in hand and half the needed funds in pledges before we begin the project.

Q: Who will be asked to support the capital campaign?

A: All members of the extended Mater Dei family, which is comprised of parents, graduates, parents of alumni, grandparents, friends, faculty, staff, and school board members. In addition, we are anticipating the involvement of the Diocese of Belleville, various outside support groups, the Mater Dei Fathers & Friends and Mothers & Friends organizations, and the Mater Dei Band Parents organization.



“...Mater Dei is a tribute to the zeal and sacrifice of our people and is evidence of their abiding faith and deep love for the Mother of God.”

MOST REV. ALBERT R. ZUROWESTE
BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE

Q: Will the Mater Dei Foundation provide financial support for this campaign?

A: The Mater Dei Foundation will provide no direct financial support for this campaign but will continue to support Mater Dei Catholic High School as it has in the past.

Q: How will the Annual Fund Drive be affected by this project?

A: During this campaign, annual giving must continue even as new capital funds are sought. Tuition and fees cover only a portion of the cost of a Mater Dei education. As a private school, we rely on the annual generosity of our supporters to help make up the difference needed to provide a quality Catholic education for each student. For the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, annual fund drives will continue as in the past. Annual gifts may be solicited at the same time as pledges for the capital campaign.

Q: How much should I pledge to the capital campaign?

A: Only you can decide how much to give. By careful consideration of your ability to give and your belief in the mission of Mater Dei Catholic High School, we are confident that you will support our project. Please refer to the campaign materials for a listing of naming opportunities and gift recognition policies.

Q: How long do I have to fulfill my pledge?

A: You will have three to five years in which to fulfill your pledge. Keep in mind, however, that the sooner the pledges are received, the sooner we can begin the projects.

Q: Will I be notified when my pledge payments are due?

A: Yes. Regular reminders will be sent along with a newsletter to keep you up to date on our progress.



Q: What happens if we do not reach our goal of \$2.5 million?

A: At Notre Dame, the premier Catholic university in North America, former president Father Ted Hesburgh showed Cardinal Montini, later to become Pope Paul VI, the foundation for what would become the largest university library structure in the world. When Cardinal Montini asked the university president how he raised the money, Father Hesburgh replied, “We don’t have the money yet.” When Cardinal Montini looked astonished, Father Hesburgh told the future Pope, “Cardinal, you have to have faith.” We have every confidence that this campaign will be successful. However, should the goal not be reached, we will need to study the project and priorities and look at long-term financing to provide the remaining dollars.

Q: Will my employer match my gift to Mater Dei?

A: Possibly. Hundreds of companies have matching gift programs for campaigns such as ours. Please check with your employer’s Human Resources office to see if your employer will match your personal campaign gift.



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

On Thoughtful Giving

How Can You Help?

With your generous response and your prayers, we can respond to the continuing challenge of meeting the needs of Mater Dei students. Your participation is critical to our success. As you consider the options that follow, think about the impact our school has made in your life or in the lives of family and friends.

Cash Gifts

The most common gift is cash. Cash gifts to Mater Dei are tax deductible to the amount limited by law. There are over 500 employers who will also match your gift of cash to our school. Make checks payable to Mater Dei Catholic High School.

Gifts of Securities

A gift of appreciated securities is one way to make a significant contribution at a reduced cost to you. Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date of your gift. Please consult with your tax advisor or accountant on the tax treatment as it may vary from individual to individual.

Gifts of IRA (for a limited time only)

Retirees can avoid paying income tax on IRA distributions if they donate that money to Mater Dei. Individuals age 70 or older can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000

(\$200,000 for couples filing joint returns) that is paid directly from the IRA (excluding SEP or SIMPLE IRAs) to a qualified charity. The deadline for making a charitable distribution from your IRA that counts for the 2011 tax year is January 1, 2012.



Gifts of Real Estate

A residence, vacation home, farm acreage, or vacant lot may have so appreciated in value that its sale would mean a sizeable capital gains tax. Gifting the property eliminates this tax and allows the donor to receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the property.

It is also possible to gift your home and continue to use it for your lifetime while receiving a current income tax deduction. *Commemorative gifts may be

made to honor a loved one. Please contact the Mater Dei Development Office for details.

Deferred Gifts

Although gifts of cash, securities, and real estate are most desirable for this campaign, there are other ways to provide financial support that will help to secure the future of Mater Dei Catholic High School. If you are interested in information regarding gifts made through bequests, charitable life insurance, and life income trusts, please contact the Development Office at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

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