



# DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT

## OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

VOLUME II, NUMBER I

AUGUST 2009

### Mission Statement

“...to ensure that the children in the Diocese of Beaumont develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally to their fullest potential so that they may help shape society according to the Catholic values which we cherish.”

**“Dear God of Joy,**

**Let my mission of love begin in my own home, and then spread out to all who are in need of your love and grace. Let your love take root first in my heart and then in the hearts of all those with whom I come into contact.**

**Let me begin then in the place where I am, with the people I know, and let the lamp of your love always shine in the windows of my heart and my home. AMEN.”**

**(Egan, At Prayer, p.77) Experiencing Jesus with Mother Teresa**

### *FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT*

*By Superintendent, Nancy Collins*

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! God has blessed us once again with plentiful numbers of His children to build a stronger relationship with God.

Collectively, we have twelve more students than this time last year. Even though with the difficult downturn in our economy, parents have continued to entrust their children to us as we partner together with our priests to educate spiritually as well as academically. Thanks to the hard work of our administrators, faculties, and staffs,

the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Beaumont are thriving.

The 2010 NCEA slogan for Catholic Schools Week is **Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life**. In the April/May NCEA Momentum Magazine, the theme is further articulated, “In these tighter economic times, the theme also reminds parents that these dividends- faith, knowledge, morals and discipline- truly are payable for

life. There’s no better way to invest in a child’s future.”

As Catholic educators, we are participating in preparing a better world for our society. You are very special! Have a great year!

We welcome our new teachers and administrators. Following are small snapshots of our new personnel.

## Calendar:

**Wed., Aug. 26**PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
St. Anthony Chapter  
Room**Friday, Aug 28**Kelly Varsity Football  
Game 7:30pm at  
Kelly Stadium**Mon., Aug 31**

Early Dismissal Noon

**Mon., Aug 31**Curriculum Develop-  
ment Meeting 1:30  
at Kelly High School**Friday, Sept. 4**Kelly Varsity Football  
Game 7:30pm at  
Kelly Stadium**Monday, Sept. 7**

Labor Day Holiday

**Tue., Sept. 8**PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conf. Room**Sept. 14-18**Progress Reports  
ALL SCHOOLS**Tue., Sept. 15**Student Assessment  
Tax Report Due to  
OCS today**Tue., Sept. 15**Principal's Meeting  
St. Anthony Chapter  
Room 9:00-2:00**Thu., Sept. 17**Diocesan School  
Board Meeting at  
St. Anne's Holub Hall  
11:30-1:30

# New Principals and Teachers

**Mr. Todd Higginbotham, Principal St. Anne Catholic School**

Mr. Higginbotham was raised in Port Arthur where members of his family still reside. He entered seminary following high school. He has served in a Catholic school as an assistant principal and theology teacher for three years in the Galveston-Houston Diocese; three years as a principal at St. Mary Catholic school in Orange, Texas; three years as a principal in the Diocese of Dallas and one year as a theology teacher at John Paul II High School. Todd is married and the father of three girls, two that are at St. Anne. He feels that Jesus called him to this position and that being a principal is his ministry. The gifts Todd brings are experience as a business owner, curriculum and the fact that he is a people person.

**Lauren Smith, Dean of Primary Students St. Anne Catholic School**

Lauren is from Woodville, Texas and a graduate of Texas A & M. She is married and has two children. Lauren believes God opens doors for us and leads us. She truly feels God has called her to the position He planned for her. The gifts Lauren brings are leadership, patience and kindness.

**Jodi Kraus, Dean of Secondary Students St. Anne Catholic School**

Jodi is originally from New York. Jodi is married and has three sons. She feels called to work with students, parents and teachers to make the Catholic School experience one that is rewarding for all people involved. The gift that Jodi brings is the desire to serve all people involved in the Catholic School.

**Daiana Muniz Wheeler, Kindergarten Teacher St. Anne School**

Daiana is from Puerto Rico. Daiana is married and has three sons. She truly enjoys being with younger students. They are fun, curious and most importantly ready to learn. Daiana's gifts are a happy disposition and organization.

**Brandi Wulf, Teacher's Aide St. Anne Catholic School**

Brandi is married and has two children. She is a parishioner of St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Beaumont. Brandi said that her love to help others, to teach and wanting to be part of the St. Anne Community and to be able to be with her children is what called her to this position. Her gifts are her smile, joy for the Lord and for others, her organization skills and her love of teaching.

**Mandy Oliverio, Teacher St. Anne Catholic School**

Mandy was raised in Beaumont, lived in Tennessee for fifteen years and moved back to Beaumont. Mandy is married and has two children who both attend St. Anne School. She missed teaching and brings the gifts of enthusiasm, energy and love of children to this position.

**Becky Sanders, Teacher St. Anne Catholic School**

Becky was born and raised in Beaumont. She is married and has four daughters and two grandsons with another grandchild on the way. Becky feels called to teach where she can openly practice her faith. The gifts she brings are a positive attitude, love of learning, helping others to learn and helping students see their potential.

**Mrs. Dorothy Wheaton, Principal Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School**

Dorothy has lived in Beaumont all her life and attended OMOM School. Her children also attended OMOM. Dorothy is a retired public school teacher, counselor, and administrator. Dorothy is married and has four children and seven grandchildren. The gifts she brings to this position are her love and caring for the students, retired teacher, counselor and administrator.

**Acasha Mills, Teacher Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School**

Acasha was raised in Beaumont. She is the mother of two children. Acasha feels prayer to God is important everyday and knows from experience what a Catholic education did for her. The gifts she brings are the ability to see things in a different way. She can show the students the world looks differently from different angles.

## Calendar:

**Sept. 21-22**

TCC Conference  
Superintendent's  
Meeting

**Tue., Sept. 22**

SACBS Open House  
6:30pm

**Tue., Sept. 22**

Texas A & M Teacher  
Awards

**Wed., Sept. 23**

ITBS Training by  
Michael Ward at  
CPC Conference RM  
10:00am

**Sat., Sept 26**

SAS Auction Dinner

**Fri., Oct. 2**

Kelly Varsity Football  
Game 7:30pm at  
Kelly Stadium  
HOMECOMING

**Mon., Oct. 5**

NCEA School Data  
Forms Due to OCS

**Tue., Oct. 6**

PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conf. Room

**Sat., Oct. 10**

Kelly High School  
Tailgate Auction

**Thu., Oct. 15**

Diocesan School  
Board Fin. Meeting  
St. Anne's Holub Hall  
11:30-1:30

**Friday, Oct. 16**

End of the First Nine  
Weeks of School

# New Principals and Teachers

**Joanie Scott Wyatt, Physical Education Teacher Our Mother of Mercy School**

Joanie is from Beaumont, Texas and a graduate of Prairie View A & M University. She is a newly wed, married in July 2009. Joanie feels that God has positioned her specifically for this job. Her gift is enjoying teaching others the benefits of good health and exercising.

**Suzy Wimberley, Teacher St. Mary Catholic School**

Suzy is from Orange, Texas. She has been married for 26 years and has four children, ages 21-2 years old. Suzy feels that she has been blessed with many things and people in her life and she wants to give back to God for all of the wonderful gifts she has been given. The gifts she brings are a love for children and helping them grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

**Regan Slovak, Teacher St. Mary Catholic School**

Regan is from Bellville, Texas. She has two younger sisters. Regan graduated from Texas State University in 2008. Regan believes that God has a plan for each and everyone of us and this position is the plan He wanted for her. She feels her gifts are a love for working with young children, her enthusiasm, and the fact that she is young and can bring a different perspective to the table.

**Cynthia Solberg, Teacher St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School**

Cynthia is from Groves, Texas. She is retired from Port Neches Groves School District. Cynthia has one child and one grandchild. She feels she has a gift with nine and ten year old students. Cynthia believes God has a purpose for her teaching at St. Catherine this year.

**Bill Robert, Physical Education Teacher St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School**

Bill is from Waller, Texas. He attended college at Sam Houston State. Bill is married and has four children and nine grandchildren. He has been married for 25 years. The desire to teach and coach students called Bill to this position. Bill's gift is the ability to coach several sports.

**Joseph Rasnick, Teacher St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School**

Joe is from Beaumont, Texas. He is a retired teacher and administrator, having taught science for fifteen years and was an Assistant Principal at West Brook High School for nine years. Joe has one son who is in Kindergarten at St. Anthony this year. He feels truly called to be a teacher. It is what he has always done, and done well. Joe's gifts are patience, a sense of humor, a sense of wonder and the knowledge that he truly can make a difference.

**Dianna Harvill, Teacher Msgr. Kelly Catholic High School**

Dianna was born and raised in Beaumont, attended Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School. She is married and has three sons and six grandchildren. Dianna's gifts are a love of teaching, experience in the subject she will be teaching, technology skills, and a love of her faith that she can pass on to her students.

**Beverly Bailey, Teacher Msgr. Kelly Catholic High School**

Beverly is from Houston, Texas, she moved to Beaumont in 1973. She has been married for 39 years and has two daughters and four grandchildren. Beverly feels called to this position because she is a biologist and science is her favorite subject. The gifts she brings are 35 years experience, she is a hands-on instructor who believes science should be fun as well as challenging.

**Calendar:****Sat., Oct. 17**SACBS Golf  
Tournament**October 19-23**ITBS Testing  
All Elementary Schools**Tue., Oct. 20**Principals' Meeting  
Holy Family Retreat  
Center 9:00-2:00pm**October 24**St. Anne School  
Carnival**Oct. 30 - Nov. 1**ASCD Conference on  
Teaching and Learning  
in Maryland  
[www.ascd.org/register](http://www.ascd.org/register)**Friday, November 6**Kelly Varsity Football  
Game - SENIOR NIGHT  
7:30pm at Kelly  
Stadium**November 9-10**Superintendent's  
Meeting Austin, Texas**Saturday, Nov. 14**7:00 Catholic Charities  
Harvest of Hope  
MCM Elegante Hotel**Tuesday, Nov. 17**Principals' Meeting in  
CPC Conference Room  
9:00-2:00pm**Tuesday, Nov. 17**PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conference Room**Thu., Nov. 19**11:30-1:30 Diocesan  
School Board Meeting  
CPC Conference Room**Tue., November 24**Early Dismissal - Noon  
All Schools**November 25-27**Thanksgiving Holidays  
All Schools**2009-2010 School Enrollment (As of 8/27/09)**

Our Mother of Mercy	56
St. Catherine	174
St. Mary	214
St. Anthony	225
Kelly	438
St. Anne	588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,695</b>
<b>(As of August 2008-09)</b>	<b><u>1,680</u></b>
<b>NET GAIN</b>	<b>15</b>

**Safe Environment Training  
for Catholic Elementary Schools**

With the loss of our Brother Bernard, the Catholic elementary school teachers will assume the responsibilities of Safe Environment Training in grades 1,3,5,7. DVD's and materials will be provided. The trainings will need to be completed before the Christmas holidays. Principals will receive information at the September 15 Principals' Meeting.

**PARKING FOR CATHOLIC PASTORAL  
CENTER STAFF AND VISITORS**

**Fr. Michael A. Jamail, Vicar General has given us the following information:**

**Due to construction underway on the new Catholic Pastoral Center, please be aware that the Catholic Pastoral Center Parking Lot is not permitted for anyone, effective Monday, August 24, 2009**

**Visitors of the Pastoral Center May NOT Park in the following places:**

**Parking is NOT permitted**

in the chancery parking lot  
the Cathedral parking lot  
the extension of Jefferson Street into the Cathedral-Center campus  
in front of St. Anthony School (on Forsythe) where the red and bright yellow paint is evident  
on Holmes Street  
and on Wall Street.

**Staff and Visitors MAY Park:****Parking IS Permitted**

on both sides of Archie in front of the chancery and rectory  
on both sides of Forsythe up to Holmes Street  
on the parking area across from the Cathedral on Wall Street (where the high school used to be)

**Always have an umbrella handy.**

**Calendar:**

**Tue., December 1**  
PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conference Room

**Friday, December 4**  
CPC Staff Advent Day  
of Prayer - Pastoral  
Center Closed

**Tue., December 15**  
Principals' Meeting  
St. Anthony Chapter  
Room 9:00-2:00pm

**Thu., December 17**  
Diocesan School Board  
Meeting - St. Anthony  
Chapter Room  
11:30-1:30

**Friday, December 18**  
Early Dismissal - Noon  
All Schools

**Friday, December 18**  
End of the Second Nine  
Weeks of School

**Dec. 21 - Jan. 1**  
All Schools  
Winter Break

**Mon., Jan. 4**  
Teacher Workday  
Student Holiday  
All Schools

**Tue., Jan. 12**  
PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conference Room

**Mon., Jan. 18**  
Martin Luther King  
Holiday - All Schools

**Tue., Jan. 19**  
Principals' Meeting  
CPC Conference Room  
9:00-2:00pm

**Thu., Jan. 21**  
Diocesan School Board  
Meeting 11:30-1:30  
CPC Conference Room

**Sat., Jan. 23**  
Diocesan Stewardship  
Conference St. Jude  
Family Life Center

## Special Needs Update

As the school year began, Mrs. Collins ask the principals for a date to visit each campus to discuss the results of the Special Needs Survey from last spring and review what we had accomplished to date in addressing the needs of special learners. During the summer, Mrs. Collins has been putting together a process to use when identifying special learners. She has asked each school to provide two teachers to serve as a resource in the preparation of a special needs handbook. This handbook will include accommodations and modifications for use with special learners. A meeting date will be set with the principals at the September meeting.

This effort is in response to the Bishop's Summit on Catholic Education held last February.

### HEALTH

### Catholic school

#### students help create new bullying– prevention web site

*St. Paul, Minn. (CNS - Catholic News Service, August 13, 2009)*

“Guess who just signed on?” A teenage girl says to a couple of her friends huddled around a computer monitor. “Sarah. You know, Sarah - sits in the back of science (class), never talks to anybody. You know, Miss Science fair.” The girls all laugh. “I hear that she has a thing for Dylan.” “Wait, Dylan the quarterback? Like that’s going to happen.” “You guys, I think we should help her out,” one girl says with a smirk. “You in?” The girls proceed to set Sarah up, embarrassing her in front of her friends and Dylan while they are all attending a basketball game. Sarah is devastated. This fictional scenario is one of several videos students from Convent of the Visitation School and St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights produced for the **new web site TeensAgainstBullying.org**. The web site was created by Minnesota parent Training and Information Center, called the PACER Center. The Minneapolis - based nonprofit organization, which serves families of children with disabilities, seeks to educate teens about the damaging effects of bullying in all its forms as well as how to respond if they fall victim to a bully. The videos produced by the students can be viewed on the web site by clicking on “Respond” and then “Acting Up.”

### HEALTH UPDATES

New immunization policies were placed into effect for the beginning of the school year for Early Childhood and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Health Department will be checking for compliance in approximately a month. Be vigilant with parents’ compliance.

H1N1 Flu is a big topic as we move into the fall season. Hopefully, the predictions of the pandemics will not reach what they predict. However, each school should have a plan and keep the Office of Catholic Schools informed. In a May correspondence, the Center for Disease Control urged schools to remain open if at all possible. The U.S. Department of Education has an informative and helpful website. They have guidelines to follow, preparations to have in place when a child/adult becomes sick on campus and how to keep the disease from spreading. There are also posters to print for reminders to students and adults.

Go to: [//www.flu.gov/plan/school/index.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/index.html)

**Calendar:****January 28-30**

Renaissance Learning  
Response to Intervention in New Orleans  
www.renlearn.com

**Sat., Jan. 30**

Catechetical Workshop  
Assumption Church  
8:30-2:00

**Jan. 31-Feb. 6**

Catholic Schools Week

**Wed., Feb. 3**

10:00 Rainbow Mass  
St. Anthony Basilica

**Tue., Feb. 9**

PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conference Room

**Mon., Feb. 15**

Teacher In-Service  
Mike Patin, Presenter  
St. Anthony Cathedral  
Center 8:00-12:00

**Tue., Feb. 16**

Principals' Meeting  
CPC Conference Room  
9:00-2:00pm

**Thu., Feb. 18**

Diocesan School Board  
Meeting 11:30-1:30  
St. Anthony Chapter  
Room

**Friday, March 5**

End of the Third Nine  
Weeks of School

**Friday, March 5**

CPC Staff Lenten Day  
of Prayer - Pastoral  
Center Closed

**March 8-12**

Spring Break

**Tue., March 9**

PGC 6:00-9:00pm  
CPC Conference Room

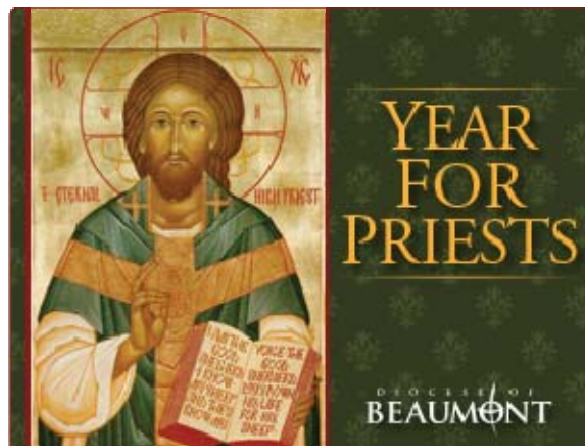
**Tue., March 16**

Principals' Meeting  
CPC Conference Room  
9:00-2:00pm

**YEAR FOR PRIESTS**

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2009 to June 2010 as the Year for Priests. The theme for the priestly year is "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests."

This gives our school children and teachers in our schools an opportunity to thank our priests for all they do for us. It gives us an opportunity to pray for the priests at our weekly Masses and to let them know how much we appreciate them.



*Our Sunday Visitor has given us the following prayer:*

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

I encourage you to pray this prayer in your classrooms along with a vocation prayer.

**DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD**

The first meeting of the Diocesan School Board was held on Thursday, August 20. The members of the Board are: Greg Thompson – President; Bill Darling- Vice-President; Michael Fuljenz, Bill Scott, Ted Hillin, Lee Ann Fuselier, Brett Duplant, Rev. Tino Barrera and Dottie Johnson. Board members are appointed by Bishop Guillory.

The Board will host a Finance Meeting with CFO Laura Williams on October 15. The purpose of the meeting is to better understand the school budgeting process. Finance chairpersons and their committee members will be provided with monthly reporting information that will lead to a better understanding of the financial status of each school.

The Diocesan School Board members will visit each local school board during the school year to offer support and guidance and to answer questions.

**Grant Due Dates:**

Abell-Hanger Found.  
**None**  
<http://www.abell-hanger.org>

Bridgestone Firestone  
**None**  
[www.bridgestone-firestone.com/trustfund.asp](http://www.bridgestone-firestone.com/trustfund.asp)

Cora Foundation **None**  
[www.corafoundation.org](http://www.corafoundation.org)

DeVos Foundation  
**None**  
[suev@rdvcorp.com](mailto:suev@rdvcorp.com)

Frank J. Lewis Founda-  
tion **None**

Watson Charitable  
Foundation **None**

Brackenridge Found.  
**None**

Alkek Foundation  
**None**

Pocono Charitable  
Foundation **None**

The Henry Parsons  
Crowell & Susan Cole-  
man Crowell Trust  
**None**  
<http://www.crowelltrust.org/>

Rogers Foundation  
(Texas) **Oct. 1**

James R. Dougherty  
Foundation, Inc.  
**Sept. 1 & March 1**

Meadows Foundation  
**None**

THE INFORMATION IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER IS FOR THE  
USE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATORS,  
FACULTY, BOARDS  
AND PASTORS.  
PRINCIPALS ARE  
REQUESTED TO  
FORWARD  
INFORMATION TO  
APPROPRIATE PERSONS.

## DEVELOPMENT

## HARD-HIT SCHOOLS TRY PUBLIC-RELATIONS PUSH

*Districts Facing Declines in Enrollment Use Marketing Campaigns to Win Back Students—and the State Funding They Bring*  
*The Wall Street Journal, By Stephanie Simon*

Public schools in the U.S. have added professional marketing to their back-to-school shopping lists. Financially struggling urban districts are trying to win students fleeing to charter schools, private schools and suburban districts that offer open enrollment. Administrators say they are working hard to improve academics — but it can't hurt to burnish their image as well. So they are recording radio ads, filming TV infomercials and buying address lists for direct-mail campaigns. Other efforts, by both districts and individual schools, call for catering Mexican dinners for potential students, making sales pitches at churches and hiring branding experts to redesign logos. "Schools are really getting that they can't just expect students to show up anymore," said Lisa Relou, who directs marketing efforts for the Denver Public Schools. "They have to go out and recruit." Marketing consultants usually focus first on customer service. That includes keeping the front office tidy, cheerfully greeting visitors, and learning to sell a school with snappy soundbites. "They think like educators. They like to explain things in lots of detail," said Christy Lui, who works with schools through her firm Marketing On Demand, based in Oconomowoc, Wis. "They have to learn to think more like businesses."

*Our Prayers and Support....*

*Sadly, Ashley Elizabeth LaBiche, a senior at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School was taken from us to join in eternal life. To Ashley's parents, Dohn and Angie and brother Drew, we promise the prayers and support of our Catholic school community. Ashley was a delight to all who knew her and she touched many with her infectious personality. Ashley was and is a child of God as her light shone brightly for us all.*