



December 2009

Greetings from the Development Office:

"Behold, your King will come to you." Zechariah 9:9

Keeping All the Balls in the Air

Year-end is always fun in the development office, a unique blend of intense concern and amazing gratitude! The needs of the school become more refined as people realize the end of semester is near. Urgency for balanced books is coupled with awareness of the wonderful support that so many people continue to give to their Catholic schools. And then we take a breath and realize how blessed we really are here at Bishop Neumann!

It seems this year we are juggling just a few more balls than usual. Pledges and gifts for the "Meeting the Catholic Challenge" campaign continue to come in as we work through the fallout of the recession. We are grateful for our solid agricultural base and that so many of our parents and grandparents remained employed! Mead and Davey parishes met their goals early in the process, but Colon and Valparaiso are extremely close to meeting theirs as well - right at the 90% goal pledged. Catching up are Wahoo (74% of goal) and Weston (63% of goal) so we are excited about that! All of the other parishes are below 50% but we are hopeful that the next year is a good one!

The \$250,000 matching gift from our outside donor is also adding intensity here - although we have until April 2010 to meet that match! These funds support the teachers' salaries at St. John Nepomucene and St. Wenceslaus Schools as well as Neumann's so it is a match that affects a lot of students across the area! Each year a portion of the three schools' teachers salaries are paid by this Future Funding (PACE) account so your gift will not only be doubled, it will go directly to help your student's teachers stay here in our Catholic Schools!

Each year our Neumann budget includes private gifts that are used for operations and are necessary to balance the budget. Yet another area of need. We are grateful for those gifts that come to help us keep things going on a daily basis!

So those are the balls we are juggling, and frankly it is an honor to receive any gifts here at Neumann! We are also blessed to have so many who struggled to build this school continue to support it, and so many new families showing their appreciation as well. The Neumann community is built of people of all ages who believe strongly in God and living His faith through their actions.

IRA Pre-tax Gifts

We received another wonderful gift for the campaign that arrived directly from a bank as an IRA disbursement. This is a wonderful way for those qualified to make a charitable gift and avoid unnecessary taxation. Since last year we have received a number of these gifts as folks take advantage of this soon-to-be-closed tax-saving opportunity! If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to give me a call here at Neumann or on my cell 402-310-2450.

Thanks for all who help in so many ways - from fulfilling the teachers' wishes (see back) to your ongoing parish support. May we all take the time to enjoy our family, and embrace the meaning and peace of the Christmas season. Thank you for all you do to support our Catholic Schools.

Sincerely,

Theresa Konecky Klein '80
Development