



February 2010

## *Greetings from the Development Office:*

**“I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.” Isaiah 65:17**

### *Another Opportunity to Grow*

This quote from Isaiah is such a positive approach to Lent, and also can be connected to the Development process. Our goal continues to be that of sharing information about our school’s needs, and also to help find funding for what will better educate our students in the future. The “Meeting the Catholic Challenge” Campaign is doing just that by dramatically improving our educational facility as well as investing in our teachers. This is also the time of year that we focus on GALA and I’d like to remind you of how easy it is to see the impact of that fund-raiser on Bishop Neumann capitol improvements.

As GALA proceeds are split (25% each to St. John’s and St. Wenc grade schools), the half that remains at Neumann has certainly had a major impact as originally intended. To review: GALA 2000 – security system; 2001 – new front entrance and landscaping; 2002 – renovated front office; 2003 – kicked-off classroom window replacement; 2004 – helped replace roof; and beginning in 2005 – started the kitchen/cafeteria renovation. Last year GALA proceeds helped to complete the bathroom renovations and this year, it will again have a major impact on helping fund the final campaign effort – air conditioning the classrooms and gym. I hope you can help with GALA – either working or attending or both! It has had a direct impact on getting our school ready for its next 50 years!

### *Focusing on the Campaign*

Recently the pastors met to look closely at both the budget of the school and refocus on the campaign. Each parish is in a slightly different situation, some have met their goal with pledges, and some are nearly there! Others are re-focusing on what needs to be done in order to meet their parish goals. They also discussed the goals for this summer, and as a group want to move forward with the next phase.

With their direction, we have met with engineers asking them to identify costs and timelines for the final phase of the campaign: air conditioning the classrooms and gym. They are currently assessing what would be needed to finish the remaining classrooms and if splitting this work from the gym will be economical. Our focus is to try to avoid borrowing any more from the Diocese in order to complete the work! (We still have around \$200,000 left on our kitchen/cafeteria loan.)

A major goal of the campaign was increasing the number of parishioners who are involved in supporting their Catholic Schools through their parish tithes and additional gifts. Overall, 38% of all parishioners asked did make a gift to the Campaign. This would be considered a very good response rate for a basic fundraising ask. But as Fr. Townsend pointed out, Catholics are called specifically to help educate our youth and the pastors as a group would like to see that much higher. Some parishes have a very respectable participation rate as Davey, Touhy and Weston all are over the 50% mark! However, as a group, the pastors would like to see a higher rate. If you can help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to make a gift, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Theresa Konecky Klein '80  
Development