



Impact

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MAGAZINE

SUMMER/FALL 2014

Adriana Pratt
Guerin Catholic Alum

Adriana Pratt: My leap of faith

PLUS

Destination: Costa Rica
Gift of God



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MISSION STATEMENT

Guerin Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic college preparatory school serving students from diverse backgrounds and preparing them to be servant leaders through authentic faith formation, academic excellence and student life opportunities.



Lead with Humility
Serve with Love
Trust in Providence

President's Message

Another school year has passed, and Guerin Catholic High School is once again providing the world with hundreds of faith-filled, intellectually-talented young men and women.

I feel blessed to work here at Guerin Catholic, where everyday I see the beauty of God's intentions with our students. Time and time again I am reminded these young people have the ability and desire to love others as God does. I see examples of our students using their intellect to form plans of action in order to be the hands and feet of God to those of us in need. Our students are people who are excited about finding truth and making a difference. We all know the society in which we live seems to be morally defunct. But rest assured, the Holy Spirit is every bit as creative in drawing up the solutions to our prayers. One of the most wonderful parts of my job is watching God call our young people to be His answers.

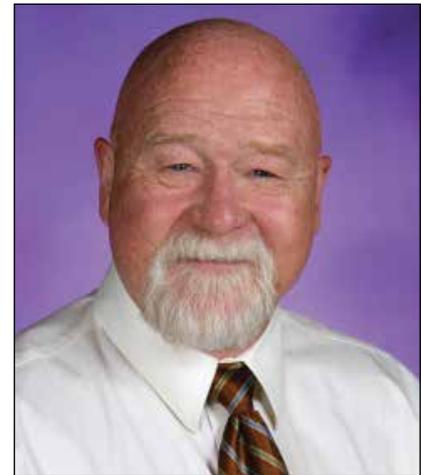
We thank you for supporting this wonderful mission because, by doing so, you are a part of the antidote God intends for the world. The truth is, God is forming the remedy right here at Guerin Catholic. As our students become doctors, scientists, engineers, managers, religious leaders and mothers and fathers, they will take the helm of our society! It will be through their spiritually-formed intellects that we find the rightful redirection of our community.

So be at peace and enjoy the summer! Please remember to pray for us so we may have the courage to stand for God's love in the world and we will continue to probe the depths of His will for our lives.

May God continue to bless you,



Paul S. Lunsford
President



“
*God is forming
the remedy
right here at
Guerin Catholic.*
”

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

The 168-member class was offered more than \$17 million in scholarships, had five National Merit finalists, six valedictorians and three salutatorians!

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Andrew Bentivoglio
Son of Nora & Joe Bentivoglio of Carmel, IN
David Bergsma
Son of Quaobing & Timothy Bergsma of Carmel, IN
Gabrielle Feters
Daughter of Tracy Luhrs & Clifford Feters of Carmel, IN
Nicholas Macke
Son of Cathy & Jeff Macke of Carmel, IN
Zachariah Richardson
Son of Marla & John Richardson of Carmel, IN

VALEDICTORIANS

Andrew Bentivoglio
Son of Nora & Joe Bentivoglio of Carmel, IN
Joshua Durbin
Son of Teodora & John Durbin of Westfield, IN
Nicholas Jakupco
Son of Patricia & Richard Jakupco of Carmel, IN
Rachel Louthan
Daughter of Mary & Mike Louthan of Noblesville, IN
Jacob Thieneman
Son of Shannon & Ken Thieneman of Carmel, IN
Abigail Trusler
Daughter of Jenny & Marshall Trusler of Fishers, IN

SALUTATORIANS

Michaela Gibbs
Daughter of Veronica & Danny Gibbs of Westfield, IN
Bryana Bell
Daughter of Tracy & John Bell of Cicero, IN
Elizabeth Erickson
Daughter of Teresa & Jon Erickson of Carmel, IN



(L-R) Jacob Thieneman, Andrew Bentivoglio, Joshua Durbin, Nicholas Jakupco, Rachel Louthan, Abigail Trusler



(L-R) Michaela Gibbs, Bryana Bell, Elizabeth Erickson

Simply Blessed

4-Star School

INDIANA
4-STAR
SCHOOL

Indiana State Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz announced this spring the list of schools receiving 4-Star designation. In order to achieve this designation, a school must be in the top 25th percentile of schools in ISTEP+ testing results. **Guerin Catholic was again recognized** as were all of our Carmel Deanery Partner Schools: Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Louis de Montfort and St. Maria Goretti.

Opening Doors



It was announced in May that the Opening Doors Capital Campaign was finished. The academic facility, including all of the new classrooms in the new wing, will be completed this summer and ready for the start of school on August 11, 2014.

Alumni

Guerin Catholic alums **Mitch Renfro**, **Joey Mewborn** and **Kevin Butler** faced each other in lacrosse when Butler played Ball State in April. Their continued friendship is a simple testament to the incredible bond of the Guerin Catholic family!

(L-R) Mitch Renfro,
Joey Mewborn & Kevin Butler



Chaplain Success

Congratulations to Chaplain (Capt.) Father Joshua M. Janko who successfully completed the Basic Chaplain Course at Air Force Chaplain Corps College in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.



Survive 'til Sunrise

Guerin Catholic's annual fundraising event for Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent raised more than \$6,000!



Serving with Love

Guerin Catholic students performed more than 36,000 hours of service during the 2013-14 school year.



Trust in Providence



The 2013-14 Providence Fund raised more than \$280,000 for the operations of the school. Thanks to all for your ongoing support.

Fine Arts Trip to NYC

During a trip to New York City this past spring, the Guerin Catholic Music Department took our vision out on the street. Pictured is the group singing on the steps of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Hell's Kitchen, New York City. The group from GC was spreading some musical love and joy to the neighborhood that included the Sisters of Life and the women they serve.



Gala

The 2014 Guerin Catholic Gala was the most successful ever, raising well over \$300,000.



Track & Field Academic Honors

The Golden Eagle Track & Field team had seven boys on the Academic All-State First Team, more than any other school in the state of Indiana! Congratulations to Guerin Catholic's Academic All-State Track & Field athletes. First Team Academic All-State: **Rachel Yuska, Andrew Bentivoglio, Christopher Bluish, Patrick Martin, Nick Sarpa, Joseph Taylor, David Torres** and **Nick Young**.





Q: Tell us about the journey that led you to Guerin Catholic.

A: The road that led me to Guerin Catholic has actually been the convergence of two journeys, my personal spiritual life and my professional career. I began my education career as a math teacher in Logansport after working for a few years in an engineering position for a small company. I rose through the ranks quickly to become an assistant principal and was on track to become a principal in the corporation when God revealed other plans for me. While attending a Cursillo retreat and praying before the Blessed Sacrament, I felt the calling to work in Catholic schools. I returned from the retreat to accept a position as principal of All Saints Catholic School. Six years later, it was announced that Guerin Catholic was searching for a new principal. Once again, through prayer, I felt called to explore the opportunity. Guerin Catholic is an amazing place that combines the highest academic rigor with a total commitment to forming young people in the Catholic faith. I consider myself blessed to serve such an outstanding school.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your first year at Guerin Catholic?

A: Without a doubt my favorite memory was our first all-school Mass. It was a very emotional moment for me. My family was able to be present, and I remember sitting there and watching more than 700 high school students all praise God in unison. It was a surreal moment where I felt incredibly blessed that God had led me to Guerin Catholic.

Q: What would people be surprised to know about you?

A: Although I'm now well entrenched in Colts' country, I'm an avid Chicago sports fan. I was born there, and my extended family all lives in the Chicagoland area. I have been lucky enough to be at the first night game at Wrigley Field (the real one that was rained out in the 4th inning), the "Bartman Game," and the game with the first bounty scandal where the Packers nearly ended the career of Bears QB Jim McMahon.

Q: Tell us more about James McNeany, husband and father.

A: Jennifer and I were high school sweethearts, albeit from neighboring high schools. We met at Indiana Beach, where we both worked in Kiddyland. We became good friends and then started dating later that summer. We'll be married 16 years this July, and I attribute so much of who I am to her love and support. We have five kids, Noah (12), Evan (10), Adam (7), Mary (5) and Colin (8 months). People often ask me how I balance my long hours at Guerin Catholic with my family. The answer is that my kids love hanging around school almost as much as I do. They attend many events with me, as this is a very family-friendly community.

Q: What are your goals for Guerin Catholic this next school year?

A: We have many exciting changes taking place next year. We transition to a learning management platform (Canvas) that will take our use of technology in the classroom to a new level. We are adding a Principles of Engineering class that I think is a much-needed step toward preparing kids for potential STEM careers. My biggest goal though, throughout all of these changes and our school's rapid growth over the past 10 years, is to maintain that small community feel that has made Guerin Catholic unique.

James McNeany

GC
Spotlight

Principal James McNeany

Third Principal of
Guerin Catholic High School

Undergraduate Degree:
Purdue University

Master's Degree:
Indiana Wesleyan University

Parish: St. Maria Goretti, Westfield

Resident of Noblesville

Favorite team (other than the
Golden Eagles): Chicago Bears



“

In his first year, James has brought a high level of energy, knowledge and passion to our team. He is a man with not only a keen talent for education, but he is a man of deep faith as well. At Guerin Catholic we like to provoke each other to learn to trust in God's providence, and the leadership James has provided is just another example of God's continued gifts to our school and its mission.

”

– Paul Lunsford



Q: Who is your favorite saint?

A: After studying her for the past year, Mother Guerin has quickly become my favorite saint. I pray to her each morning to give me guidance and perseverance to guide “her” school as she would.

Her life is a model of persevering, advocating and enduring hardship for the betterment of her students. All the while, she kept her life focused on Christ.

Alumni Profile



Adriana Pratt with Barbara Walters on “Good Morning America’s” career sendoff for Barbara.

Adriana Pratt

Guerin Catholic
Class of 2008

University of Notre Dame
Class of 2012

Daughter of Grace & Mike Pratt
of Carmel, IN

Resides in New York City’s
Upper West Side

Works as writer for
Good Morning America,
ABC News in New York City

**Part of the 2014 Emmy
Award-winning team at
Good Morning America**

I set three alarms and sleep with all of them in my bed. I lay out my clothes the night before work so I don’t risk being late the next day. I don’t take the subway home alone late at night. I am not a risk taker.

But for some reason, the idea of a brand-new school with no history, no accolades and no reputation to rely on appealed to me. Going to Guerin Catholic was the first big risk in my life. It would either turn out amazing or be one of my biggest regrets.

I’m happy to report it’s been one of the greatest blessings. It wasn’t perfect, but it was full of amazing, passionate people who helped us naïve high school students learn how to navigate the world. One of the most valuable lessons that giant risk taught me was that sometimes, going for the unknown is the best thing you can do to grow.

Curiosity about the world and those exploring different paths stemmed from my time at Guerin Catholic. There, I got my first glimpse at the many directions people head, and I also began to fully grasp how little I knew about so much. Step by step, teachers opened windows into new worlds and taught me the best way to learn something is to go experience it.

As a result, I sang horribly in Mr. Duray’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” I tripped down the basketball court countless times, embarrassing any and every Golden Eagle. I got a 48% on my first Calculus test senior year. I still don’t understand vectors.

But from all those experiences, I learned where my talents did – and didn’t – lie. More importantly, I also got to see and appreciate the many talents of others and stand in awe of the gifts they have.

Thank goodness for the stars of Mr. Duray’s theatre program, whose powerful voices drowned out my cat screech in the background. And our freshman basketball team chalked up a slew of victories thanks to others’ quick feet on the court. They kept things running smoothly, when I literally could not.

Mr. Lustig’s confidence that I could lift my Calculus grade up from that nasty “F” solidified my determination to do so. I couldn’t get there on my own though, so a special thank you goes to my talented math peers who answered my many annoying questions.

These days, I’m a writer at “Good Morning America,” and performing onstage, pretending to play basketball and dreading Calculus seem like forever ago. What doesn’t are the lessons about taking a risk and going for the unknown.



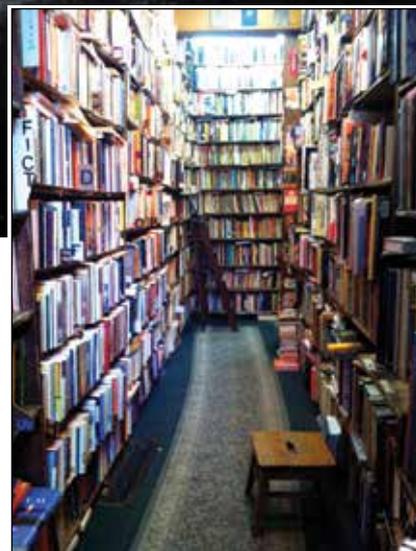
When I took a leap and moved to New York right after graduating from college, I felt constantly sick to my stomach. Why did I let myself move here? I hate it. There's too much commotion, too many people and too much competition.

But then I stopped in the Westsider Rare & Used Bookstore one random night and emerged with a copy of "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann. The novel follows an array of characters living in 1970s New York City, the most memorable of which is a young Irish monk who makes his home amongst prostitutes in the Bronx, offering hope and nonjudgmental love as often as he can.

The paths of each of the novel's characters cross during a real-life event, centered on high-wire walker Philippe Petit's daring trek across a cable strung between the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in 1974. As each character balanced their own challenges in life, one of the biggest takeaways from the book was recognizing the valuable role each person plays, regardless of their background and beliefs, in making this great world spin.

That book led me to one of the best decisions I've made since moving to New York. Shortly after finishing it, I started tutoring K-5 students in reading at the South Bronx's Mercy Center on Saturdays. Traveling there was a step outside my comfort zone, but the hope and beauty of the people who run and participate in the program is one of the best gifts I've gotten since moving to the city.

Because there was such an emphasis on going outside your comfort zone at Guerin Catholic, I gained the confidence to try things that have no guarantee of working out, while focusing on finding the beauty in the experience. I'm not sure what will come from my time working in television, nor do I know that it's my ultimate calling. Moving to New York was a big risk, and it may not ultimately be for me, but I'm learning a heck of a lot about others and myself by being here during this chapter of life.



Sometimes risks work and sometimes they don't, but there's always something you can learn. Most importantly – that each person plays a unique and valuable role in this world, and there's always something to be gained from giving what could be a great opportunity a chance.

writer: Good Morning America

Grace Pratt visiting her daughter on a recent visit to New York.

Mission Trip



Destination: Costa Rica

While I have traveled with many groups from Guerin Catholic, I will never forget the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica for the first-ever Spring Break Immersion Mission Trip to Costa Rica. With a handful of my peers and two Guerin Catholic staff members, we were able to experience being the hands of Christ and the importance of taking opportunities to develop new friendships with the people we met.



After many hours on the flight, the service company picked us up and gave us a tour of the area. They spoke with us about the history, culture and traditions of the people of this beautiful country. We also got to know our guides for the week, asking questions about their experiences in the country and what brought them to serve the wonderful people of Costa Rica. We concluded our first day reflecting in our journals about our expectations for the week. I simply challenged myself to be open to the trip and let God use me to minister to the people in the community.

The next morning we packed up and traveled to the central mountains to the town of Turrialba. When we first arrived, we were introduced to our host families who we were staying with at the end of each evening. Even though my “tico” family spoke little English, they helped me improve my Spanish, taught me about the neighborhood and treated me like one of their family. I will always remember their gentle patience and care.



During the day we spent most of our time refurbishing the local Catholic Church in the nearby town of Sito de Mata. While we did have physical work to complete during the day, our guides encouraged us to spend time with the local people. Many times people would approach us, and we would stop “working” and listen to their individual stories. I was amazed by how friendly and open everyone was to our group. Each evening we experienced a piece of local culture including cooking and dancing lessons. I felt we were part of a special community.



At the end of the week we had to say our goodbyes. On the bus trip to our hotel, we all compared stories of our week of work. A common thread from the group was the relationships everyone formed during the week. I was amazed by how taking a little time to slow down and listen to someone gave me a sense of community. I learned that joy can be achieved through simple tasks and appreciation of things and people in my life.

I will always remember the people of Costa Rica. The opportunity to learn and serve a community will help me appreciate how blessed I am and be open to serving others because through service I experience what it is to answer God’s call to serve with love.

– Holtz Ludlam, 2014 Alum



Parent Perspective

GIFT OF GOD

By Kim & Chris Kennedy

Kristen, Guerin Catholic Class of 2009

Kaitlyn, Guerin Catholic Class of 2012

Our family had been informed about a school in Noblesville being built and named after Saint Theodore Guerin, even before we moved to Indiana from the Gulf Coast in 2002. Finding out more about this amazing saint who walked the same soil in Indiana we do and did so many incredible things for God and for others inspired us then and continues to motivate our family. The Holy Spirit and her charisma are alive at Guerin Catholic. Several years later, talking to a priest, we found out “Theodore” means “Gift of God.” We felt St. Theodore Guerin was appropriately named.

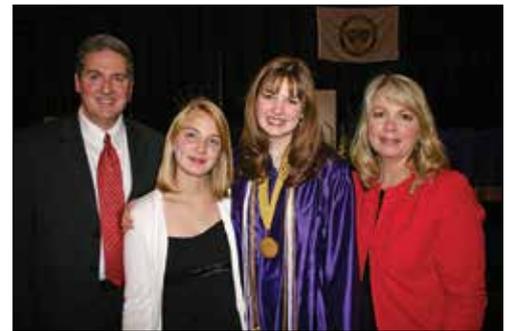
When we dropped our daughters off at Guerin Catholic, we felt they were leaving our family and going to another family – one we could trust and one we knew would provide them with support in their spiritual growth and academic success. The opportunities to experience and share their faith at Guerin Catholic became so important to our daughters that they became concerned they might not be able to find this same spiritual and faith-filled community in college. But God finds a way, and they have not only found supportive, faith-enriching groups, they also brought what they learned at Guerin Catholic to their colleges with the enthusiasm they experienced here first.

We’ve heard numerous stories of our Guerin Catholic graduates becoming involved in their colleges and beyond. From Los Angeles to New York City, we hear stories about the emphasis they place on Mass and the sacraments and projects to serve others. They are blooming where they are planted and making a difference in countless ways. And did we mention academics? We can’t say enough about the academic curriculum at Guerin Catholic. Words that come to mind are excellence, comprehensive, preparatory and challenging. Regarding Guerin Catholic’s academic rigor, we are sure many of the students can relate to this quote from St. Theodore Guerin, “I have already exceeded the amount of work my head can bear.”

In addition to academics, there are opportunities for involvement in fine arts, athletic and leadership programs. All of this is brought to life by incredibly gifted and dedicated teachers and staff all in a state-of-the-art facility with plans for future growth.

In our experience, Guerin Catholic has had a profound IMPACT on our family from the first day our oldest entered the building. After our youngest child graduated, we did not want to leave our school family – and so we haven’t.

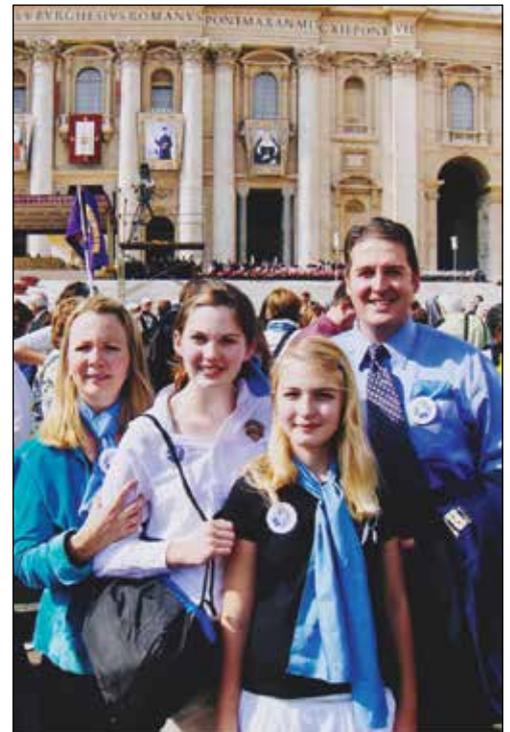
We are so thankful and excited when we think about the gifts and graces our daughters received during their formative years at Guerin Catholic. Our family was blessed to be at the Canonization of Saint Theodore Guerin, and we are blessed to see so many of the same faith-filled faces who shared this experience with us still beaming smiles at us in the halls of our school today. Even though new faces have arrived, the desire to lead with humility, serve with love and trust in providence continues to develop as each new life is touched by the experience of being a part of this “Gift of God.”



Kennedy family at Kristen's graduation



Kennedy family at Kaitlyn's graduation



Visiting Rome in 2006 for canonization of Mother Theodore Guerin



Guerin Catholic High School
15300 Gray Road
Noblesville, IN 46062



upcoming

events

KEY DATES

First Day of School
August 11

Providence Fund Dinner
September 10

Homecoming
October 3

Alumni Mass
December 19

BREAKS

Fall Break
October 23-27

Thanksgiving Break
November 26-30

Christmas Break
December 20-January 4

