



Impact

MATTHEW 5:14-16

MAGAZINE
WINTER/SPRING 2015

Peru:
**Serving
with Love**

PLUS

**2015 March for Life
Trust in God**





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Cover photo: Guerin Catholic students leading a service project in Peru in 2014.

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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

The blessing of another issue of **Impact** magazine allows me to once again share the joys of God's Providence in our school.

Without question, our primary goal at Guerin Catholic High School is to make sure all of us are aware of three things: God has made us with absolute purpose and intention; it is our goal to help the children find God's will for their lives; and we strive to inspire them to live a grace-filled life so they can live out God's plan.

Our world is a stressful place, and so many children are under tremendous outside pressure to perform and become a great accomplishment for their families, friends and/or themselves. Here at GC, we hope to defuse this pressure by instilling the truth that God already has a plan for our lives, and all we have to do is discover it. He has already created us with the intelligence needed and all of the personal talents necessary to live that life. We need to encourage our children to work hard to correctly discern this mystery.

At Guerin Catholic we use education as the tool to make this all come alive in the lives of our students and staff. Our teachers, priests, counseling staff and administration devote their careers to helping illuminate the souls of our students so they will in turn illumine their God-given intellects.

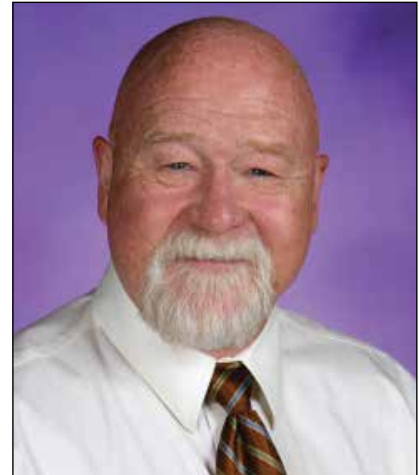
So we ask for your prayers to help us succeed in this mission of creating the Church's next generation.

Take a look at this issue, and I think you will see God's Providence is clearly in play, and our students and staff are preparing to make the world a holier place.

May God continue to bless you,



Paul S. Lunsford
President



“
*Our goal is to
help the children
find God's will
for their lives.*
”

Simply Blessed

Catholic High School Honor Roll

The Cardinal Newman Society again recognized Guerin Catholic as one of the top Catholic high schools in the nation. Guerin Catholic has received this prestigious recognition each year since 2007.



State Champions!

Guerin Catholic boy's soccer team captured its second consecutive IHSAA Class A State Championship by defeating Tri-West High School 3-0.



School Governing Board

Sam Gardner, Guerin Catholic Class of 2008, will be the first alumni representative on the GC School Governing Board. Gardner is working on his juris doctorate through IUPUI, and he is engaged to be married to Katie Regan (GC Class of 2010).

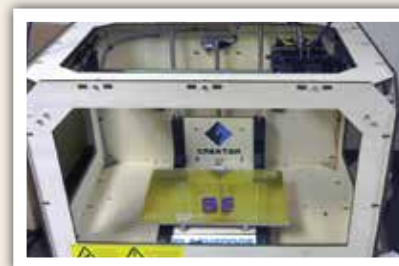
GC's First All-American

Congratulations to senior Andrew Kaskie who was named an All-American in boys soccer. Andrew is Guerin Catholic's first All-American athlete.



3-D Printer

Guerin Catholic is the proud owner of a 3-D printer, thanks to a generous donation from Adam and Alex Suchko of ECU Engine Controls. The Suchkos instruct ECM 110, an after-school engineering class for our students. In this rigorous class, students have the opportunity to learn about engineering design and processes. The students design their parts on a 3-D CAD program, build them on the 3-D printer and control them using small engines and computer state logic. Come and check out these projects at our next open house!



BWAG

Guerin Catholic successfully completed its annual “Because We Are Grateful” program benefiting several not-for-profit organizations. Students, families, faculty and staff contributed thousands of items and more than \$1,000 in monetary donations during the month of November and presented their collections to the charities during an all-school Mass on November 25.

Athletic Beautification Project

The outdoor athletic campus at Guerin Catholic received a major overhaul last fall. In addition to plaza paving, additional sidewalks and greatly-enhanced landscaping that includes mature trees and viewing mounds, the football field had the clay soil replaced with a sandy loam and re-sodded with new Bermuda grass. It's a beautiful setting for viewing Golden Eagle athletic events!

Survive till Sunrise

On February 6, more than 300 Guerin Catholic students participated in an all-night fundraiser benefiting Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent. Guerin Catholic students raised more than \$8,000!



Fine Arts

Nearly 150 band and orchestra students from Guerin Catholic, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maria Goretti, Our Lady of Grace and Our Lady of Mount Carmel spent Saturday, February 28, doing what they love most — playing music together while meeting new friends at the ninth annual Joyful Noise Instrument Festival at Guerin Catholic.

Golden Eagles Squadron

The core of the program is ground instruction in preparation for the FAA Private Pilot (Glider) Knowledge Test and preparation for glider flight training by use of a flight simulation software program. Additional activities include: taking an EAA Young Eagle Flight (at no charge), flying radio control models, launching model rockets, field trips to aviation venues and the opportunity to participate in a summer aviation/ flying camp at the Central Indiana Soaring Society Gliderport in Alexandria, IN. Squadron members will also learn about living their faith through life and spiritual lessons tied into each aspect of their activities.



*Cupertino Aviation Clubs are a division of the Catholic Aviation Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Indiana.

GC Spotlight



Follow Mr. Rafferty on
Twitter at @RaffertyNeil



Neil Rafferty

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

A: Someone told me once it was necessary to find out your avocation and then make it your vocation. God is a great GPS system, but sometimes we choose to go off-roading. Looking back, it is clear to me what I am doing now I have been doing all my life. Being curious and struggling to figure out a difficult problem is a wonderful pursuit. Inspiring curiosity, working with the curious and helping them figure out what I know is my avocation. Arguing with them along the way is just a hobby. When I became partner in a law firm for the first time, my first thought was, "Oh no, what am I going to do now?" Along with that was an overwhelming feeling I was probably supposed to be doing something else. Now I have an overwhelming feeling this is exactly what I should be doing and where I should be doing it.

Q: What do you enjoy most about teaching here?

A: At the teacher retreat before school began — when I knew only Mr. McNeany, Dr. Dispenzieri, and had only briefly met Mr. Panasuk, Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Kirkwood — the new teachers were asked to get up and say what they were most looking forward to. I said I was most looking forward to a crucifix in the classroom and praying with students. I have never been surrounded by so many brilliant, caring and faith-filled people rowing in the same direction. Guerin Catholic is an amazing community.

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

A: People might be surprised to know I am very shy. That's probably the big one no one will believe. Aside from that, recollecting moments when people just refused to believe me or things that just stand out: I once dunked a basketball; I dated the same girl Ferris Bueller's best friend, Cameron, dated; I have been drug-free my whole life; I got through my last semester in law school without books; I was once mugged; I am the son and brother of drummers but can't clap a beat or even guess at how people dance; my high school aptitude test suggested I should be a social worker or teacher; I fell asleep at a bus stop in law school — until the next morning; and birthmothers are my heroes.

Q: How do you incorporate faith into your teaching?

A: From the first day of IB Business, I have stressed corporate social responsibility and servant leadership. These are the threads we are using to sew the various pieces of content fabric together. Fortunately, these are dominant topics not only in our room but in the business world today. It may be reflective of the Millennials who are now pushing into the workforce. They tend to be more experience-oriented, more willing to share power and empower others and less preoccupied with tangibles. It's great to be able to talk about the Rules of St. Benedict as a business model and show examples of success outside of Trappists making cheese and beer. We have read these 600-year-old ideas rephrased in secular terms and published in "The Economist" and "Harvard Business Review." The current literature gives me relatable, timely and timeless material to point to as examples of great success (in a St. Benedict and St. Bernard sense). We also explore the conflicts between our faith and the world in which we live. They will, without doubt, be tested outside the safety of a classroom in gray areas where rationalizations wait and great battles are won and lost. On this point, outside of my faith, generally, I have faith in the students I see and hear every day. I am charged to lead with humility, but more often I follow in awe. If pride was not a sin, I think Sts. Benedict and Bernard would be proud of them.

Reid Brewster

Alumni Profile

Do you remember the original “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” movie? I’m talking about the one made in 1971 starring Gene Wilder. I didn’t see the newest incarnation directed by Tim Burton, and I wouldn’t want to. The original was a classic. Everything about it just felt genuine, like when Charlie discovered he was the last one to get the golden ticket. He just looked so happy when he got that ticket. You could feel the joy as he sang:

***“Cause I’ve got a golden ticket, I’ve got a golden chance to make my way.
And with a golden ticket it’s a golden day.”***

A quality education is a lot like a golden ticket. Whether you’re rich or poor, an education can take you from what you are to what you want to be. Granted, you have to couple that with hard work — nothing comes easy in life — but an education can show you the way. It just comes down to one thing: can you access that golden ticket? If you’re a child living with a poor family in a poor, crime-ridden part of town, the odds are against you — just like they were for Charlie.

I’m very fortunate to have been educated. I graduated from Guerin Catholic in the spring of 2008. As a student I had the privilege of learning in an atmosphere that encouraged and demanded high-level critical thinking. We had outstanding teachers then, as we do now, who taught us everything we needed to know about theology, math, history, science and language.

Seven years removed, I can’t tell you everything I learned in those classrooms. I can’t tell you how to do trigonometry (sorry, Mr. Lustig), and I can’t recall much Spanish (lo siento, Señor Wagoner). But what I can tell you is each classroom had a crucifix, and that crucifix taught me to love another is to love God — especially the most poor and troubled among us. So while the Guerin Catholic atmosphere fostered that intellectual stimulation, it also cultivated in its students something much greater: compassion and charity.

I live in Chicago, and it seems like every day there are new numbers indicating how many students are failing or schools are closing. It’s very easy to become numb to it all after a while, accepting it as just some fixed, concrete occurrence. But those two things Guerin Catholic gave me — compassion and charity — allowed me to recognize the numbers I heard every day weren’t set in stone. Things could be done to give those students and schools what they needed. And what

they needed was access — access to both receive and provide a quality education. That realization compelled me to begin volunteering for Chicago’s Big Shoulders Fund. The nonprofit fund provides scholarships to underprivileged, low-income children to attend Catholic primary and secondary schools around the city.

Because the students come from low-income families, their ability to pay tuition is often difficult and sometimes seems impossible. When this happens, Big Shoulders steps in to provide the schools with the funds, operational support and volunteers it needs.

It’s a gratifying feeling to know you’re helping give these kids a chance — a chance to completely change their lives. That’s the opportunity an excellent education can provide. Guerin Catholic was that golden ticket for me. Now I’m just trying to pass out as many tickets as I can to kids who desperately need them.

Reid Brewster

Guerin Catholic
Class of 2008

University of Notre Dame
Class of 2012

Lives in Chicago and
works at Geometry Global



Reid (Middle) hanging out at Notre Dame with James Reardon and Julian Murphy.



John Legend (Middle) with Julian and Reid.



‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

– Matthew 25:44-45

March for Life

By Mary Elise Dorsett

Guerin Catholic
Class of 2015



March for Life

The March for Life has been something I always wanted to be a part of. Luckily, this year I was given the opportunity. Pro-life is very close to my heart because I am adopted. This past year I have been working more to spread the message of the beauty of adoption and putting an end to abortion. Although making up all the homework and being uncomfortable trying to sleep on a bus were burdens, it was doable because I was on my way to do something great.

Prior to the March for Life, we had the opportunity to take in many sights. We visited the National Basilica, toured the U.S. Capitol and spent an extended time touring the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Because of Mrs. Neman's IB History class, I recognized a lot of information regarding Hitler's rise to power and the beginnings of the war. As the museum went on, everyone was quiet, and we each went at our own pace. It was difficult to imagine people could ever treat others in such a way, but in the same way today, innocent babies are being killed without any regard to their lives. More than 3,700 babies are killed by abortion each day.

We spent the night at a Catholic church in Maryland. They graciously welcomed us with cheering and gave us dinner. We spent a really special evening with other "pilgrims" on their way to the March. The night was beautiful! They held an Exalt — featuring the Catholic band The Thirsting, who performed for us as we all spent time praising the Lord with song and a very intimate Adoration.

On January 22, the 42nd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, I finally joined the March! I was astonished by the thousands of people who were as passionate as I was about standing up for pro-life! As we slipped into the line of marchers, I could hear people chanting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, *Roe V. Wade* has got to go!" Soon our group was joining in. We chanted, "We love babies, yes we do, we love babies, how 'bout you!?" And we sang, "Nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, *Roe V. Wade* goodbye."

For those of you who do not know me, I am quite short at 4'10." When we reached the top of the hill and neared the end of the March, I had to hop to see the large crowd behind me. My heart was filled with love and joy because I saw how many people I was standing with in support of this cause. What struck me the most was how many teenagers I saw walking all around me. We are the next generation, and if we are standing up for what we believe in now, we can do great things in the future. I felt so empowered by the whole experience. I was sticking up for what I believe in, and I was sticking up for those without a voice.

I feel truly blessed to have been granted the gift of life. My birthmother could have chosen to abort me, but she chose to give me life. That is why I especially feel called to speak for those who do not have a voice. I will continue to pray for the law to change so we won't need to go back next year.



Student Reflections

Abby Johnson



Abby Johnson has always had a fierce determination to help women in need. It was this desire that led Abby to a career with Planned Parenthood, our nation's largest abortion provider, and also caused her to flee the organization and become an outspoken advocate for the pro-life movement.

Abby shared her story of conversion with Guerin Catholic students during Catholic Schools Week. Below are reflections on the talk from Guerin Catholic seniors Rachel Yuska and Lindsay Hofmeister.



Abby with the Guerin Catholic Teens4Life Club.



(L-R) Mrs. Murphy, Lindsay Hofmeister, Abby Johnson, Rachel Yuska and Mrs. Vaiana after the presentation.



Lindsay Hofmeister and Rachel Yuska pray with Abby Johnson before her presentation to students.

As I heard Abby Johnson speak for the first time at Bishop Chatard High School, I was beyond amazed. Her words not only captured my attention but also my heart. The love and care with which she spoke about such a controversial topic was powerful. At the end of her talk, the students gave her a round of applause and returned to class.

I was struck with awe by the number of students who stayed afterward to ask her questions. Abby answered each question with calm wisdom, true love and kindness. To think Abby was going to come back with us to Guerin Catholic, to our home, to give the same amazing message, lit me up with excitement and even more passion for the pro-life movement.

I think what made Abby's witness so powerful at Guerin Catholic was the perfect silence after her words sunk in, touching the heart of every student, teacher and parent listening. She did not lecture, get angry, point fingers at women who had received an abortion or bombard us with statistics about Planned Parenthood. She shared her story, her experience and her message to love people — all of them.

After Father Janko ended the convocation in prayer, I watched students crowd around Abby. Some wanted autographs and pictures, but many stayed just to listen to her words of encouragement and advice.

We are so grateful to the school administration who helped us bring such an inspirational speaker to our school. I am even more grateful for the courage of Abby Johnson to stand up for life and speak God's truth on the beautiful gift of life. Abby's visit to Guerin Catholic will be remembered for a long time, and her example has encouraged us all to keep alive the hope that one day, if we keep fighting, every human life will be respected and loved.

– **Rachel Yuska**
Guerin Catholic Class of 2015

I have never been more passionate about anything before in my life than I am about the importance of saving the millions of lives, both women and children, from the horror of abortion.

When Mrs. Murphy, the mediator of the Teens4Life Club, told me Abby Johnson was going to be coming to our school, I could not contain my excitement. Her passion and drive to tell the truth to my generation is critical if we hope to see a change. Although it is a very sensitive topic to many, it is the truth. At Guerin Catholic we tell the truth. If the truth can't be taught at Guerin Catholic, where else can we expect it to be taught?

I can honestly say hearing her speak was one of the greatest experiences I have had throughout my four years at Guerin Catholic High School. She is one of the greatest role models I have ever known. Her example has inspired me to never give up having hope that one day laws will be changed to protect the value of every human life, no matter how small. Words can't express the respect and appreciation I have for Abby Johnson!

I pray each of us will continue praying for an end to abortion and for the women who have been and will be affected by abortion. I am so blessed to be a part of a community that provides the opportunity to hear these amazing speakers.

– **Lindsay Hofmeister**
Guerin Catholic Class of 2015

Service Learning

By Marcia Murphy
Media Specialist

Destination: Peru



In October of 2006, I was blessed to be part of a group of students and adults who traveled to Rome for the canonization of St. Theodore Guerin. It was an amazing experience. On that trip I discovered many things about myself: it sealed the deal for my love of Mother Guerin; it allowed me to add meat to the skeleton that is my understanding of our faith; and I realized I am addicted to watching students be changed by what they encounter when immersed in a new culture! Since that time, I have taken students outside of the country five other times.

This past summer, I took a group of nine students to Peru for 11 days. One of the most unusual things about this trip was outside of two sets of siblings, none of the others were friends before we left. While we were there we experienced so many wonderful things. Sophomore Tillie Murphy said, "As I flew over those mountains, I realized for the first time how big and different our world is." We landed in Lima, to get adjusted to the altitude. In Lima, one of the most moving sites was the catacomb in the Basilica of St. Francis. We spent the Feast of Corpus Christi in Cuzco where there was a procession with beautiful floats of Mary. Later we took a train up into the mountains and climbed to Machu Picchu. The view was breathtaking. A few days after that, we participated in a service project where we worked on a structure that will be used by local women for weaving. We also went to visit Peruvian artist Pablo Seminario. He spoke with us about his vision of art and showed us around his studio where he employs locals.

However, all these wonderful experiences were overshadowed by the magic that happens by just spending time together and having great conversations about our experiences. As I reflect on these experiences I realize although we did "service" we saw so many examples of others serving with love. Senior Kip Curtis described his indifference toward the trip, one his mother encouraged him to go on. "I didn't want to go to Peru or get a job to help pay for it, but I did. I didn't want to meet these other people, but I did." Despite his hesitations, Kip reflected on what was a life-changing experience. "It taught me there are times you just have to go for it, and it can change your entire life."

Traveling is hard – new food, different times zones (although not in Peru), different languages, and being away from the comforts of home. Everything is different! All these differences wear you down, and as a result, travelers become more vulnerable. This is when it's time for the Holy Spirit to come and do His work. This is when people change: they climb a height they never thought was possible; they try something they were fearful of; and they learn to love people in a way they never did before. It is so amazing to have the opportunity to witness the impact travel has on people. While I have loved every place I have traveled to, I've come to love the people I have traveled with more. These experiences, even when things go wrong, have brought me pure joy.

Over the last seven years I have traveled with Guerin Catholic students to 10 different countries. I thought traveling was just about seeing the world, but I have come to realize it means so much more. Mostly it's an opportunity to grow in understanding about yourself. Sometimes it even gives you the chance to serve with love.

If you are interested in travel for you or your student, please contact me. We're going to Portugal and Spain in the summer of 2015 and a World War II trip (England, France, Belgium and Germany) in the summer of 2016. Come and be changed!

Trust In God

By Susan and Joe Barrett — (**Katie**, GC Class of 2011;
Annie, GC Class of 2013; **Ellie**, GC Class of 2016
Joe, St. Maria Goretti – 8th grade; **Rosie**, St. Maria Goretti – 4th grade)

Anyone who knows me knows I am quite the procrastinator. I prayed the Holy Spirit would guide me and help me share what I know to be true — giving our children the gift of Catholic education was never a choice for Joe and me. For us it simply boils down to trust.



The Barrett Family

Recently, one evening we were sitting at Mass with our family. It was as if Father knew I had to write this article. We were celebrating the solemnity of Mary. There isn't a better example of complete trust than the Mother of God. The emphasis on trust in the homily was exactly what I needed to hear. We add up the numbers, and they don't make sense. People ask us how we do it, and we don't have an answer. All we know is we couldn't imagine it any other way. So you think it would be easy to explain something that comes so naturally, right? Wrong. We are in a world where our focus tends to be on the material rewards as opposed to spiritual ones.

I can say with confidence my children's Catholic education has taught them to center their lives around God's plan for them and what they can do to serve and love Him. Whenever Joe and I question our choice, which has definitely happened, it is amazing how God sends us a sign to remind us where we are is exactly where we are supposed to be. This is not something you can explain to anyone; this is something you have to experience for yourself.

We thank God every day for Catholic education, especially at Guerin Catholic: starting off each morning with prayer; constant opportunities to receive the sacraments; the focus on service; the rejuvenating retreats and the silent Christ-like witness of the teachers. This is the education we choose for our children. This is what will lead them closer to their ultimate goal: Heaven.

Joe and I have had three children graduate from St. Maria Goretti and two from Guerin Catholic. They have been through their fair share of hard times, but through it all they have continued to trust. We are confident they are grounded in their faith and are convinced this is due in large part to their Catholic education.

Seton Scholar Award

October 6, 2014 • Washington, D.C.

Each year the National Catholic Education Association honors four individuals across the country whose support and service impacts Catholic education and the well-being of our nation's youth. These four individuals then have a scholarship presented in their honor to a deserving Catholic student in the local community.

Katie was blessed to receive this scholarship in Fred Klipsch's name. She was chosen by several faculty members at Marian University, including President Dan Elsener, to represent Marian University in Washington D.C. and receive this award at the annual Seton Awards Gala this fall. Katie received this award simply doing what Guerin Catholic taught her to do — using her gifts and talents to serve others.



Katie receiving the Seton Scholar Award.

Throughout her time at Marian University, Katie has continued to answer the call to serve: volunteering at Cathedral's soup kitchen; organizing a 5K to support the O'Connor House; serving as the activities director for the College Mentor for Kids Program; and traveling to an orphanage in Guatemala for a summer service immersion. Joe and I were so blessed to take this trip to Washington D.C. to witness Katie receiving this great honor.



Guerin Catholic High School
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Noblesville, IN 46062



upcoming

events

KEY DATES

Spring Break

March 20 – 29

Good Friday

April 3 (No School)

Spring Musical

April 23 – 25
April 30 – May 2

Spring Concert

May 21 at St. Elizabeth Seton

Baccalaureate Mass

May 28 at St. Maria Goretti

Commencement

May 31

IHSAA Moratorium Week

June 29 – July 5

