

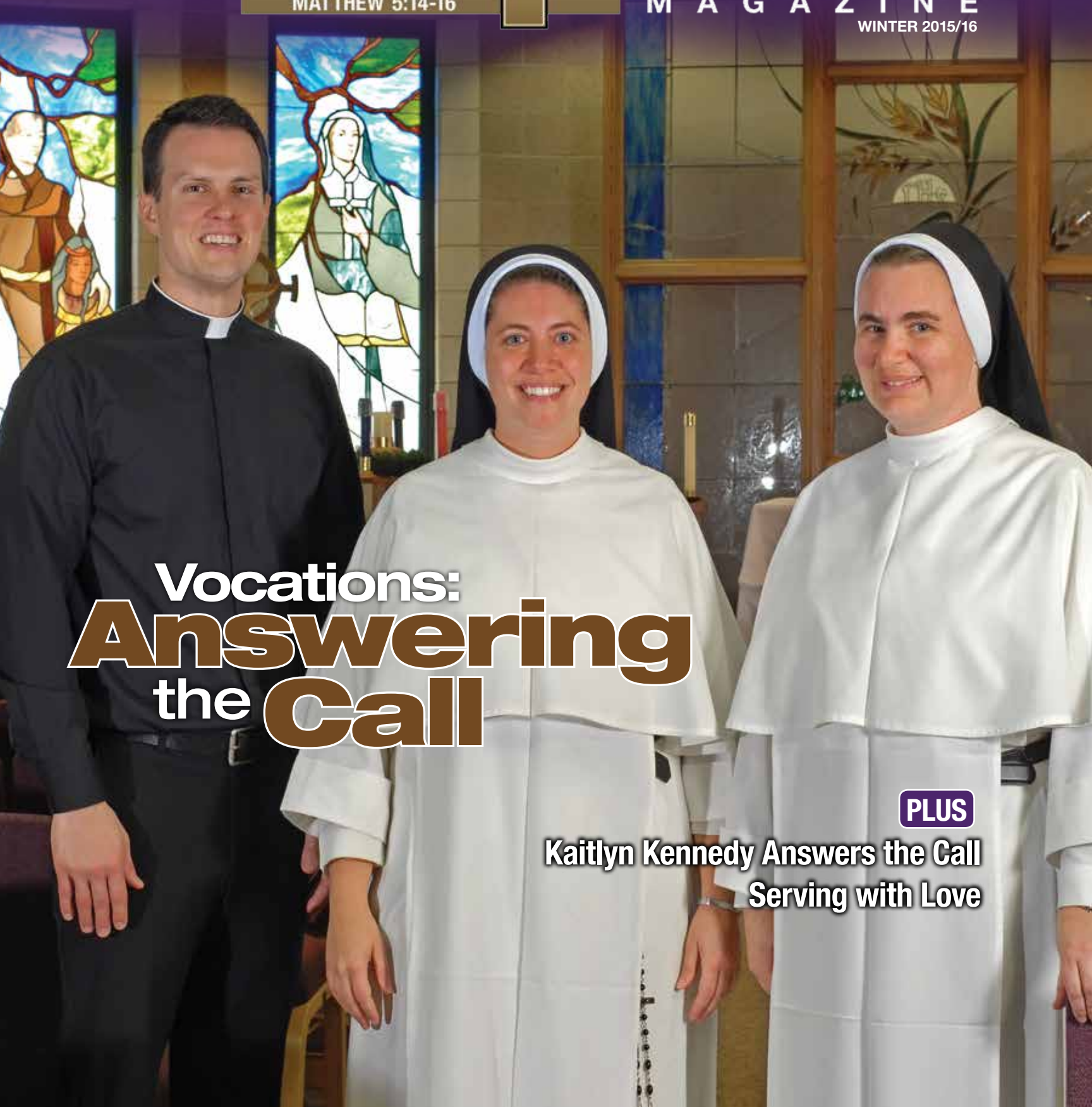


# Impact

MAGAZINE

MATTHEW 5:14-16

WINTER 2015/16



## Vocations: **Answering the Call**

**PLUS**

**Kaitlyn Kennedy Answers the Call  
Serving with Love**

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Cover photo: Fr. Thomas Haan, Sister Josemaria Pence, O.P. and Sister Gianna Junker, O.P. in St. Joseph's Chapel at Guerin Catholic High School.

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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

What does it mean to be called by God?

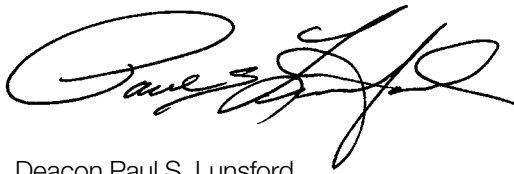
In our lifetime all of us are called to many things. As children we are called to dinner by our mothers and fathers or we remember being called to come out and play by our friends in the neighborhood.

Most of us remember being called to do well in school. By the time we make it to high school the calls should go beyond the immediate and grow toward, "Why are we here and what does God intend for me to do?"

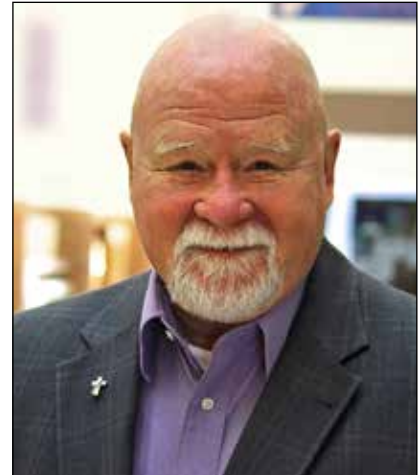
At Guerin Catholic, helping discern God's call is our prayerful goal with each child that comes into our care. As you read this issue of **IMPACT Magazine**, I hope you can see the very real difference we enjoy here at Saint Theodore Guerin. We are called. What a blessing to see these calls to serve our Lord directly.

I am particularly excited about this issue. It is my hope that you can see yourself or your child in these testaments to their God-given calls.

May God continue to bless you,



Deacon Paul S. Lunsford  
President



“  
*Why are we here  
and what does  
God intend for  
me to do ...*  
”



# Simply Blessed

## Congratulations to the Class of 2015

The 189-member class was awarded over \$25 million in college scholarships and 21% were full IB Diploma recipients. The Valedictorians were Olivia Bedford, Luke Bestard, Christopher Bluish, Arianna Dacanay, Maggie Rochford, and Nicholas Soni. Salutatorians were Jacob Pottratz and Rachel Yuska.



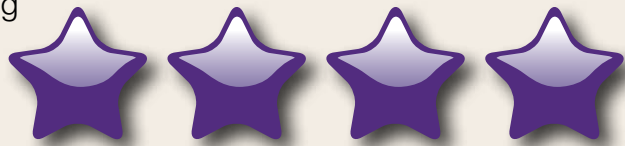
## Providence Fund

The 2015-16 Providence Fund Dinner was a successful launch to the year-long campaign as over \$332,000 was raised! Huge thanks to Guerin Catholic Senior Brenda Rodriguez and GC Director of Fine Arts Mark Duray as they shared their stories of Providence with the evening's attendees.



## 4-Star School

This past spring, Indiana State Superintendent Glenda Ritz announced the list of schools receiving Indiana's 4-Star designation and Guerin Catholic was again recognized. In order to achieve this designation, a school must be in the top 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of schools in ISTEP+ testing results.



## Making A Difference

**With the Class of 2015, Guerin Catholic now has over 1,000 alumni making a difference in the world!**

# 1,000

## Did You Know?

Ninety-two cents of every dollar received by Guerin Catholic goes directly to the programs that benefit our students!

## GC Courtyard

The GC courtyard, located outside between the two academic wings, was completed for the start of school this past August. The Courtyard honors the memory of John R. Bates, M.D., patriarch of the Bates family, who have been active members of the Guerin Catholic community since its inception. This peaceful setting includes garden areas, ample seating and an outdoor classroom.



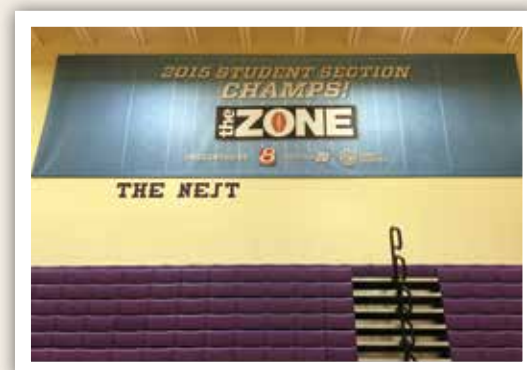
## Welcome Boys Volleyball

**Guerin Catholic is excited to announce that boys volleyball will make its debut beginning in the 2016-17 school year!**

**GOLDEN  
EAGLES**

## The Nest

Guerin Catholic's Student Section was recently named the "Best Student Section" by Indianapolis' WISH-TV – The Zone! Next time you're in town, be sure to check out the new banner hanging in "The Nest!"



# Faculty Spotlight

# Answering the Call



Guerin Catholic is blessed to have these three inspiring individuals, both teachers and mentors, as part of our Guerin Catholic family.

## Fr. Thomas Haan

I didn't intend this to be an ode to my parents, but it might as well be.

Growing up as an ornery adolescent, my presumption was that I always knew best. I caused my parents many headaches through the years, insisting on doing things the way I thought they should be done. But time and time again, it was proven to me that Mom and Dad knew best. This statement held true then, as it does now and ever shall be, world without end, amen.

By the time I graduated from high school, I assumed I had matured and learned my lesson of wise decision making. But looking back at my own path of discerning God's will for my life, I began with the same false premise: I knew best. I was somewhat convinced of a life in agricultural business, but through interactions with others, the wisdom of my parents (yet again), and frequent trips to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament I gradually became cognizant of the reality: God knew best, and He was asking me to be His priest. Come to find out, the priesthood is a life of joy and grace beyond my comprehension. Why am I continually surprised?

The bottom line is this: God knows us better than we know ourselves. "Lord, you have probed me, you know me ... you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139). With this reality in mind, why should we be scared of what God is asking of us or of our children? Yes, it often entails tremendous sacrifices, but doesn't our heavenly Father know best?



## Sister Gianna Junker, O.P.

Vocation ... home ... I think that for myself, the clarity of my specific vocation, or path, to Christian holiness came as a direct result of experiencing a sense of supernatural “home.” As human beings, our first experience of growing up in the home with our family is intended to teach us what it means to live in a communion of love with others amid the ups and downs of daily life. We learn the “place” in the world that the unconditional acceptance of others gives us, we experience the freedom of truly being ourselves, and we then give ourselves to others in love.



When God calls us “further up and further in” to the specific life path of holiness, one clear marker of its authentic correspondence to our heart is that fundamental sense of “home.” We find this sense of supernatural “home” in the profound experience of God’s personal love and in our own self-gift of love to others along the pathway of our vocation.

I was blessed to find that sense of supernatural “place” in which to make a joyful home with the Lord hidden in the chapel behind the gates of St. Cecilia’s in Nashville, Tennessee. For each of us, this sense of “place” in our life vocation is in itself only a small foretaste of the infinitely fulfilling home that God has made for us in His own heart for eternal life.

## Sister Josemaria Pence, O.P.

A vocation is always God’s initiative. Our part is to answer, but often we do not hear it. For me, hearing the call happened during my 40-minute commute while living in Boston. As much as I enjoyed listening to Brad Paisley and Willie Nelson, I came to a point in my life when I realized there really must be something more ennobling than these ridiculous songs. And so I turned off the radio and drove in silence. In that silence, week after week,



I slowly became attuned to the movements of my own heart. And would you know that the God who gives us so much through grace has already given us great things in our very nature? It was my own heart that told me, echoing the sentiments of the psalmist: “Of you my heart has spoken, seek His face” (Psalm 27). I desired God above all else; I just needed silence to awaken the desire.

John Paul the Great tells us that we must never decide our future for ourselves alone and that we are never alone in deciding our future. After being with the Nashville Dominicans for a year, I started to feel the real sacrifices of leaving behind my family and home, my own schedule and my own desires.

My family had eagerly wanted me to marry, yet upon entering the convent they supported this way of loving. At a critical moment, the support I needed — the never-deciding-alone — came from my father. It was a simple question: “Did you enter the convent to have an easy life?” No. Not an easy life. I want a life of heroism and valor, self-sacrifice and joy, purpose and depth.

Following Christ is not easy, but it is a great life, a high life, a deep life. My heart desires to see Christ’s face far more now than it did on my Boston commute. Our God is a good God — for this infinite desire is already being fulfilled with infinite love, simply by answering His call.



# Mission Trip

By Maddie Stanton

Guerin Catholic  
Class of 2016



My mission trip to the Franciscans of the Poor Tau House in Cincinnati, Ohio, was my fourth as a Guerin Catholic student. All the others had some aspect of serving the poor, but it was on this mission trip that I truly got to work directly with the poor and homeless for the first time.

We always began and ended the day in prayer. The work sites we populated allowed us to interact with the people while helping them. At Inter Parish Ministry we assisted people at a mobile food pantry. At New Life Furniture we delivered furniture to people in need. Sometimes the most important thing we delivered was not the furniture, but God through our actions and a Bible. At Brighton Center and Matthew 25 Ministries, clothes were sorted and folded. At Matthew 25 Ministries though, we not only sorted clothes, we also saw pencils being made from scratch and pill bottles turned into dust. We also learned what people go through after natural disasters. We even had the opportunity to play with paint and get a little messy. We searched for good paint and then proceeded to make new paint that would later be used to paint homes in Africa. At Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), we helped repair homes and did some more painting. The last site we assisted was Rose Garden Home Mission; it was a place truly blessed by God where we could just feel God's presence. The Rose Garden was run by five Franciscan sisters, who absolutely loved what they were doing.

On the tour, we learned of the miraculous way the mission had been formed and grown. At first the Sisters were in a much smaller place down the street, then someone offered their current place to them. The Sisters wanted to open a free medical clinic for a while, but couldn't find someone to help them. A new volunteer at the mission said she was a nurse and would love to help start the medical clinic. A few days later a nearby hospital had to relocate and the Sisters were able to choose needed equipment.

This was not the only miracle they had to tell. On the tour the Sister told of a day they were handing out pizza. She said the Sisters calculated how many people they could feed with the pizzas they had. When the day ended, and the people helped had been counted, there should not have been any pizzas left, but there were two more freezers still filled with pizza! Little did we know we would experience something similar.

After the tour we were assigned different tasks: some to hospitality, some to babies and others to helping with the food distribution. I was assigned to food distribution. We were handing out pizzas for a while when Mr. Rafferty, our warehouse runner, said that we had run out of pizza. We started handing out egg rolls instead. A little later we ran out of creamer so Mr. Rafferty ran back to get some creamer, but when he returned he did not only have creamer but pizzas. The empty pizza freezers held more pizza giving us our own little miracle for the day. We like to call it "the multiplication of the pizzas." It was not only this miracle that made me feel the presence of God in the mission; it was the devoted, hardworking Sisters, volunteers and those who had come in for some assistance.

From the beginning, the Sisters made it clear that they were different from other charities. They said just like Jesus they do not turn anyone away no matter who they are or what they have. They welcome them with open arms. I think that is something everyone needs. I am so happy I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Rose Garden Mission and had the chance to feel those arms embrace me and draw me in.



# Serving With Love



Nearly 900 students, faculty and staff participated in the fifth annual **Guerin Catholic Community Service Day** on November 10, 2015. In addition to raking leaves in Noblesville neighborhoods, we were happy to help the following organizations with various tasks throughout the day:

- The Convent for the Dominican Sisters at OLMC
- St. Vincent DePaul
- The O'Connor House
- St. Mary's Parish in Anderson
- Kindred Rehab
- Shepard's Center
- Third Phase
- St. Phillip Neri
- Magnolia Springs



*“Thank you to the beautiful women from Guerin Catholic who came to serve at the O’Connor House. We are blessed.”*

– Susan Barrett



*“Days like today remind me that we chose the right high school.”*

– Guerin Catholic Parent

# Alumni Profile

Guerin Catholic Class of 2012  
University of Notre Dame Class of 2016



(Top) Kaitlyn encouraging a resident.  
(Above) Mother Teresa House.

*“Guerin Catholic prepared me to understand the ways in which I felt God calling me ...”*

– Kaitlyn Kennedy

## Kaitlyn Kennedy

I remember the moment when I read the site description for Mother Teresa House on our Center for Social Concerns summer seminar web page. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my last summer of college yet, besides the fact that I should probably get more patient care experience hours for Physician Assistant School. But reading about this home for people who have been diagnosed with three months or less to live, who need full-time care their families could no longer give them, I knew it was where I was meant to be. This conviction persisted as I walked into the door of Mother Teresa House on my first day there and does to this day.

My daily tasks for the eight weeks I lived and worked at Mother Teresa House included taking care of the three guests' needs, such as preparing and feeding meals, helping to change their clothes, organizing their rooms, helping with bathroom needs and giving them medications – just as their family members would do at home. Through all of these simple, rather motherly moments, I was able to form beautiful connections with these people in this very precious time in their lives. We were able to talk about their fears, their accomplishments and their prayers. I also had the privilege of getting to know some of the family members of guests we had at the home. All of these people taught me so much about strength, forgiveness and faith.

One of the very last guests we had during my time at Mother Teresa House was someone I will carry in my heart forever. On one of her very last days with full cognition, in the midst of painful breaths, I could hear her saying the Our Father. This was a woman who was given her diagnosis exactly two weeks before this moment and three weeks before her actual death. Yet there was no resentment in her, only courage and faith. I felt God with her and her family during this incredibly difficult time, infusing grace into our encounters of prayer, song, laughter and tears. While my heart broke for this family losing such a special woman, I mysteriously felt joy through it all.

St. Ignatius is known for promoting the idea that discernment involves a feeling of peace when you end up where God wants you. But I would like to add that there is a feeling, or rather an embodied knowledge, of deep-seated joy. I say embodied knowledge because feelings can be fleeting and not all people consider themselves to be affective people. A lot of my days at Mother Teresa House felt like the opposite of joy. I knew with that faith-like knowledge that we as Christians are familiar with, at the core of my being, that I was experiencing joy.

My time at Guerin Catholic prepared me to understand the ways in which I felt God calling me to open my heart, which led me to my time at Mother Teresa House. Our community fosters a passion for vocation through the openness of religious leaders, the theology curriculum and devotion to Mother Guerin. Guerin Catholic also taught me to treasure the vulnerability of the people I was working with. The way faculty and staff showed me love and respect when I was at my weakest helped me to cultivate a sense of compassion that permeated all that I did at Mother Teresa House and beyond. During my time at Guerin Catholic, teachers promoted intellectual curiosity that shaped the way I looked at my studies that accompanied my summer service. But mostly, Guerin Catholic – and all of the people who made that community what it was and continues to be – helped me to be brave and share hope with the people I met at Mother Teresa House. Vocation and calling are always done in community and for community. My experience with the community of Guerin Catholic and many others supported me in my service this summer and continue to help me to best understand where God's call lies in my life.



# MaryAnn & GordonSmith

Parish: St. Maria Goretti

Our family has been parishioners at St. Maria Goretti and before that OLMC since 1992. In that time we have raised eight children, six of whom have been touched by, or even taught at, Guerin Catholic.

When we moved to Hamilton County, Guerin Catholic High School did not exist. In a unique way, our family has had the vantage point of seeing things both before and after Guerin Catholic over several years.

When we received the word that Peter '07 had decided to attend Guerin Catholic, we jumped on board with him. Peter was in the first class that attended all four years at Guerin Catholic. With the school still only partially built, Peter was one of the pioneers in a school that didn't have football bleachers, only half a parking lot and a recently completed first academic wing with no second wing even mentioned at the time. Peter enjoyed art and music and the Call was answered by dedicated teachers like Beth Wagoner and Mark Duray.

In 2007, our eldest daughter, Heather, just graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. She was discerning a religious vocation at that time. Again the Call was answered when she was hired to teach theology at Guerin Catholic for the year prior to her entry into the convent. Thanks to Guerin Catholic, she was able to share her faith journey with the freshman class of '11 prior to becoming Sister Maria Clare. That class included our second Guerin Catholic student, Angela '11.

Angela '11, the fifth Smith, participated in athletics and played on the volleyball team. Eventually, she pursued her love for singing and became very involved with the choral groups and acting ... culminating in the Golden Voice Choir and The Music Man production in 2011. Her dad even got to play trumpet in the Music Man pit band along side the pro Mark Duray! They were 75 trombones short, but had two trumpets. Angela had great admiration for Mr. Duray and the opportunities he provided for their choir. He brought out the very best in his students. Again the Call was answered.

Monica Smith '13 enjoyed Guerin Catholic so much, she almost forgot to apply for college! We think if she could have stayed an extra year, she would have jumped at the chance. She was involved in student government and was a four-year cheerleader under Coach Misty Booher. As a four-year Latin student, all we can say is we're glad Nancy Yust answered the Call and stuck with Monica all the way through.

Next is Nick '16. Nick had been around Guerin Catholic many years before arriving as a freshman. The surroundings were very familiar to him. Although the school doesn't look the same, as there has been so much growth and expansion of the second wing, the football stadium entry and the student outdoor courtyard. Nick has enjoyed being part of the wrestling family at Guerin Catholic. As a wrestler, his aspiration is to dominate on the mat his senior season. Coach Lane and his staff are building the program and guiding these young men to be the best. Nick has gained a respect for learning while at Guerin Catholic. His counselor, Grace Pratt, along with his devoted teachers have led him to a good study ethic, which will serve him well in all his studies after graduation. In Kairos, Nick also had many answer the Call for him.

Our "final four" years at Guerin Catholic will be rounded out with Evan, class of '19. In his first trimester, Evan joined the Guerin Catholic soccer family. Evan and his oldest brother Eric share the love for competing on the soccer field. Coach John Cech actually coached Eric in high school in the 1990's and now is watching Evan play at Guerin Catholic. Amazing! Evan has a thirst for learning biology which he has just discovered at Guerin Catholic. A thank you to his teachers Mrs. Wiczorek and Mr. Ricker for inspiring him. Evan has also had enthusiasm about the student debates which take place in Sr. Josemaria's theology class. He appreciates getting to express himself and listen to others. His teachers have answered the Call.

All of our students have had the benefit of being offered daily mass in the St. Joseph Chapel, for which we are truly grateful. Our priests have answered the Call to support them spiritually. We are thankful and proud to call Guerin Catholic our extended Catholic "family."

## Parent Perspective



The Smith Family





Guerin Catholic High School  
15300 Gray Road  
Noblesville, IN 46062



May Jesus Christ  
be born in you this  
**Christmas  
season**  
and dwell in you  
**forever!**

