



3 Exceptional Catholic Educators

As the summer comes to a close and students return to school, we

are highlighting the lives of three Catholic saints who were instrumental in furthering education. Whether they were founding parochial school systems in the United States, furthering immigrant education, or establishing teacher's training programs, each took strides in improving educational opportunities for students across the globe.

St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle

Jean-Baptiste de La Salle was the last person anyone would have expected to be a leader of educational reform—he himself was never an exceptional student. Yet his life is proof of how God works in mysterious ways and how his “power is made perfect in weakness,” (2 Corinthians 12:9). In 1679, a man named Adrien Nyel asked Jean for help starting a school for the underprivileged in Reims, and he agreed, thinking he was simply taking on an administrative role.

The school in Reims became immensely popular, and soon, Jean realized that additional resources would be needed, and opened his own home as a training center for teachers and a refuge for the poor. Jean himself also taught the students and proved himself a capable educator. Unfortunately, Jean's family never approved of his work, but that didn't stop him from expanding his efforts and becoming wildly successful. The “Brothers of the Christian Schools” were soon known for their exceptionality. By 1717, in addition to their boy's schools, including a reformatory school, the Brothers of the Chris-

tian Schools had established a teacher training program and an educational program for adult prisoners.

Jean was ahead of his time in his educational methods: he would teach the students in vernacular languages instead of Latin, which was standard at the time; he put students in classrooms together for each subject, instead of giving individual instruction; and finally, he required silence in the classroom. He is portrayed in the Basilica in the northeast nave clerestory window, and is the patron of teachers.

St. John Nepomucene Neumann

From an early age, John Nepomucene Neumann had a keen sense of a higher calling to the priesthood. This motivated him to be a diligent student, enrolling at a diocesan seminary and later at a university in Prague to study theology. Despite receiving no responses to his applications to dioceses in the United States, John was not easily deterred. Taking a leap of faith, he sailed across the ocean with only \$40 in his pocket, arriving in New York City in 1836. Only a month later, he was ordained and spent four years working with German immigrants in Buffalo, New York. Though John felt the work was meaningful, he found his life to be lonely and difficult. Longing for a greater spiritual community, he joined a Redemptorist order and continued his ministry up and down the East Coast.

John's hard work was recognized in 1852, when he was appointed bishop of Philadelphia. In this beautiful American city, he dedicated himself to the oversight of building schools, churches, and a cathedral. He was particularly committed to offering educational opportunities to immigrant children. The American hierarchy approved two catechisms written

by John in 1852, and in the years that followed, the works became standard texts. Whether he was founding churches and schools, or writing his catechisms or articles in newspapers, John left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of Americans. He passed away in 1860 after suffering from a stroke in Philadelphia and was canonized in 1977. He is honored in the Basilica in Memorial Hall, the Our Lady of Holy Hostyn Chapel, the Second Coming mosaic, the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel, the southeast nave clerestory window, and the Trinity Dome mosaic. The patron of immigrants and sick children, St. John Nepomucene Neumann was the first American man to be canonized.

St. Elizabeth Aneton

The first native-born American citizen to be canonized as a saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton is best known for her role in starting children's parochial education in America. Born on August 28, 1774, on Staten Island, Elizabeth was originally raised in the tradition of the Episcopalian church. After spending time in Italy, she was struck by the beauty of Catholicism, and converted in 1805. Following her husband's premature death, Elizabeth started a Catholic school for girls in Baltimore, Maryland, at the request of a priest. Elizabeth's most lasting impact, however, was the founding of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph's in 1809—the first religious order in America. This order not only helped hospitals and orphans, but also established the parochial education system in America. Elizabeth's devotion to educating children and caring for the less fortunate has had an impact lasting well beyond her own life.

Sources:
Butler's Lives of Saints, ed. Bernard Bangley
The Way of Saints, Dr. Tom Cowan

THE EUCHARISTIC ROSARY CONGRESS IS COMING TO BERKS COUNTY

Do you want to spend more time with Our Lord Jesus Christ in adoration? Are you having trouble finding time in your schedule to do so? There may be a solution for you.

The **Eucharistic Rosary Congress** ("ERC") will be taking place in Berks County from **Saturday, October 5, 2024 through Friday, October 11,**

2024. For those who may not know, the ERC is 7 days and nights of perpetual adoration, where the rosary will be prayed every hour, on the hour, in response to Our Lady of Fatima's call to conversion, consecration and prayer, promoting the mission of the current National Eucharistic Revival, to renew our worship of Our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, and to encounter and experience His healing grace. If you are interested in planning and/or participating in the ERC, please join us every Friday night at Sacred

Heart Parish in West Reading, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you are unable to make it to a meeting, but are interested in being part of this event, simply contact Mike Giles at

610.750.4027 (call or text) or mpglawyer@msn.com.

For more information on the ERC, we invite you to visit its website at <http://rosarycongressusa.org>.

We look forward to seeing you in front of the Blessed Sacrament, adoring Our Lord.

BUILD YOUR LEGACY & SUPPORT SACRED HEART PARISH

Support Our Parish Endowment

Sacred Heart Parish is fortunate to hold an endowment that can provide a perpetual stream of income for our parish mission "To Teach All Nations." To make a tax-deductible contribution to our endowment fund or if you are interested in establishing a new named endowment to benefit our parish, please call the parish office at **610-372-4010** or fill out the form on the following page .

A Gift in Your Will or Living Trust

A charitable bequest is an easy, flexible, and versatile way to ensure we can continue the mission of Jesus Christ in the Church. Simply include Sacred Heart Parish in your will or living trust.

Leave A Legacy to Our Parish

When you designate our parish as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan or bank account, you are leaving a legacy that will impact generations of Catholics long into the future.

Donate Stocks or Other Appreciated Assets to Support Our Parish

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, or mineral interests, for the benefit of Sacred Heart Parish. By donating directly to us, you allow the parish to receive the full pre-tax value of those appreciated assets and you avoid capital gains taxes.

Support Our Parish through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to Sacred Heart Parish without having to pay income taxes on the money. Simply ask your broker to make your check payable directly to Sacred Heart Parish.

Gifts That Pay You Income

There is a way for you to support Sacred Heart Parish and feel confident that you have dependable income in your retirement years. A charitable gift annuity can provide you with regular payments and allow us to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. You can also qualify for a variety of tax benefits, including a federal income tax charitable deduction when you itemize.

If you have any questions or would like more information about **Building your Legacy** through planned gifts, please contact the rectory office at **610-372-4010** and ask for Kate.

September 2024 LECTOR SCHEDULE

Sept. 7/8	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sept. 21/22	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 PM	Sandie Wrable	5:00 PM	Dean Reber
7:30 AM	JoAnn Schmura	7:30 AM	Vince Moffitt
9:30 AM	Lou Sutherland	9:30 AM	John Gleason
11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske	11:15 AM	Bill Wellock
Sept. 14/15	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sept. 28/29	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly	5:00 PM	Ann Reber
7:30 AM	Kathy Nevel	7:30 AM	Beth Tharp
9:30 AM	Mary Ann Kase	9:30 AM	Lori Anewalt
11:15 AM	Karen Ann Cameron	11:15 AM	Joe Tharp

FRIENDLY VISITORS MINISTRY

A FRIENDLY VISITOR IS AN ADULT WHO GOES TO THE PARISHIONER'S HOME AND TRIES TO BRIGHTEN THE DAY OF THE PERSON THEY ARE VISITING. IT COULD BE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FROM THE PAST OR SOMEONE YOU JUST MET.

YOUR VISIT COULD BE ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH AND LAST ANYWHERE FROM 30 MINUTES TO 60 MINUTES. YOU COULD BRING SOMETHING TO DO, SUCH AS A GAME LIKE CHECKERS OR CARDS, OR LET YOUR "FRIEND" DECIDE WHAT TO TALK ABOUT. BRINGING OVER A PUZZLE CAN BE AN INSTANT ICE BREAKER.

WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF PEOPLE TO HELP WITH VISITS. THE VISTS CAN BE ANY TIME OF THE DAY. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS MINISTRY AND CONTACT THE RECTORY AT 610-372-4010 OR ANN SUTHERLAND AT 610-914-5847.

ENLIGHTENING MINDS ♥ ENRICHING SOULS ♥ INSPIRING HEARTS

I/we wish to support the Sacred Heart Catholic Education Endowment Fund with a gift as follows:

Total Gift of \$ _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT (See reverse for payment details and authorization)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Payment ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

☐ TERMS OF PLEDGE: ☐ One Year ☐ Two Years ☐ Three Years

I WOULD LIKE TO PAY: ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly or credit card payments).

I will pay these months: Annually: _____ Semi-Annually: _____ Quarterly: _____

Please send a reminder ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

☐ I would like my gift acknowledged as follows:

ie: The Miller Family,
Mr and Mrs. John Miller,
The Miller children, etc.

Does your company match gifts? ☐ Yes Name of company _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

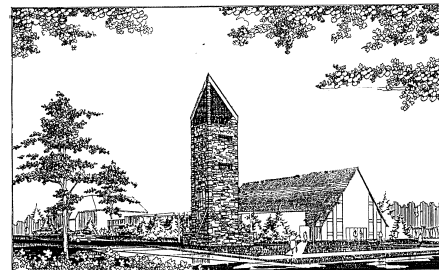
☐ I have remembered Sacred Heart School in my estate plans.



Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.
Non-profit 501(c)3 - Federal Tax ID# 23-1547583.

Please see reverse side for payment detail and authorization.

UPCOMING EVENTS



R.C.I.A.

Sacred Heart Church

Wachter Room

September 4th @ 7:00 p.m.

Religious Education

Sacred Heart Church

IHM Room

September 10th @ 6:15 p.m.



WELCOME

TO THE PARISH

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael
McDermott Jr. and Family**



Welcome Back to School Sacred Heart Students & Teachers!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"Let the Children Come to Me"
Matthew 19:13-15



Tuesday, September 10th we began our Religious Education classes for the school year **2024-2025**.

On **Sunday, September 15, 2024** our church will celebrate **Catechetical Sunday during the Mass at 11:15 A.M.** This annual event enables our community to pray and support our catechists as they are com-

missioned to go and echo God's message of redemption, God's love in us, with us, around us and through us!

May we begin this new school year with a grateful heart of being able to be in God's presence and serve Him one more year.

ALTAR SERVER A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

God is calling YOU to serve our Parish as an Altar Server!

We need Parish Youth, Grades 5-12 in the 2024/2025 School year to serve Sacred Heart Church as an Altar Server.

Please call the office at 610-372-4010 and let us know you would like your child to be added to the Altar Server training list this Fall!



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The number of our parishioners who are home bound and requesting the Eucharist is growing.

We are in search of volunteers (Current Extraordinary Ministers or interested in becoming one!) to assist in delivering the Eucharist to parishioners in need each First Friday of the month. If interested, contact the **Rectory at 610-372-4010** or **Ann Sutherland at 610-914-5847**.



Why Catholics sing:

Singing helps us *remember* God's Word. Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly...singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." The "word of Christ" mostly means the word *about* Christ, or the gospel. Songs whose lyrics expound on the person, work, and glory of Christ tend to stay with us long after we've forgotten the main points of the sermon.

First Practice is Thursday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m., come join us!

- Joe Oros



Do you know someone who wants to become Catholic?

Tell them about the RCIA! It's the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; it is the process by which adults can become members of the Catholic Church. If someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please invite them to our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Center**. Or if you are a Catholic adult who has never made your First Communion, or who was never Confirmed, you are welcome too. (Soon the RCIA will be known as the OCIA – the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.) You can contact us at SacredHeartOCIA@gmail.com or **call the office at: (610) 372-4010**.

*Experience
Peace, Tranquility
& Healing at
the Home of Padre
Pio in the USA*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Megan Murphy



"My Heart - A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Jesus"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

9AM - 2PM • PILGRIMAGE EVENTS

The **Diocesan Pilgrimage Committee** is excited to announce the first local pilgrimage for high school students to The National Centre for Padre Pio, in Barto, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The National Centre for Padre Pio is a scenic spiritual destination honoring one of the most beloved Saints of our time. Padre Pio led a life devoted to his work on the Altar and in the Confessional, embracing his role as a spiritual teacher to all. The National Centre for Padre Pio continues his salvific mission by leading more souls to God in his name.

FIRST SATURDAY

Fellowship



**Saturday, Sept. 7th
after the 8:00 a.m.
Mass.**

**Faith, Food, &
Fellowship**

Refreshments and light snacks in the Wachter room. Feel free to bring anything you would like to share.

-Maria Nawa & Regina Doyle