

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

In an article entitled, “How We Chose a Catholic School,” at www.catholicplanet.com, a young mother named Gwen Kopetzky describes the process that she and her husband used in choosing to send their daughter, Cassie, to a Catholic school. Much of it sounds like the deliberations and discussions I have heard from other parents. But the resolution of the question in Gwen’s mind and heart was simple and beautiful: *“You might wonder how we finally found some middle ground. I have to give Dave all the credit for that. My normally agreeable, easy-to-sway husband would absolutely not budge. That told me just how important this was to him. Yet, although I could respect his wishes, I still needed a reason. He gave me one, and one I couldn’t beat. Dave told me that he wanted Cassie to think of Catholicism and God as part of her everyday life, not something she only thinks about on Sundays.”*

I know from my own experience that there are many faithful families who “do” their Catholicism all during the week, and whose children attend public schools and still see God and practice their religion as a part of their everyday life. But those families are becoming fewer and farther between. And it seems to me that they have to work doubly hard to make faith and life happen together—a lot harder than my parents did.

It makes good sense, then, that parents who are able would choose to send their children to a vibrant Catholic school like St. Philip’s. And it makes sense that we will do our best as a parish to support them. As students move through school they spend progressively more and more time being formed by people other than their parents. At the high school level, students easily can spend a majority of their waking life at school. How wonderful it is that what is most important in our lives—our soul and its relationship with God—can be made a priority and given a primary place in our Catholic schools. How important it is to give our spiritual life the attention it deserves. And how blessed we are to have St. Philip’s School, and all our Catholic schools, where Catholicism and God are a part of everyday life, including every day’s education.

Sincerely,

Fr. Paul