

Family Matters 30, 2007-08

Labors of Body, Mind and Spirit: Volunteers Help Form Saints and Leaders

I was working on an exciting project with a small group of volunteers last week, one of whom was concerned about adding what he perceived to be a full-time job to my plate of responsibilities. It could be, in a different community perhaps. But, it's just one of many, many exciting things we are able to do here because of the commitment, drive, and contributed services of a veritable army of volunteers. Despite a strategic plan that includes an amazing number of high-caliber initiatives, I often provide only the vision and "project management." And although it does take a bit of flexibility and a lot of faith to keep all those balls in the air, none of it would be possible without the collaborative team of professionals and volunteers that has come together under the moniker of St. Robert School.

This is National Volunteer Appreciation Week and it seems only proper to pause and reflect on the role and value of volunteers in advancing the mission of our school.

- St. Robert School is a ministry of St. Robert Parish dedicated to the formation of saints and leaders.
- We teach the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith in a loving environment that inspires the unique achievement potential of each learner.
- We are a faithful and innovative community committed to exemplary education.

Your labors of body, mind, and spirit are carving out a better way to do the business of school. You are the creators, workers and builders that give us the courage to dream big dreams. I can imagine no collaboration more powerful and no enterprise more gratifying than working side by side with a diverse group of stakeholders to advance the mission of Catholic education. Everyday that I observe your children and their teachers at work, I am confident that our collaboration is making this little corner of the world a better place. And I'm confident, too, that someday, the gifts we're nurturing will spill out to far flung places around the globe.

Our mission is noble and our work is honorable. Whether we're digging dirt in the new parish garden or soliciting donors for a capital campaign, the bits and pieces of our labor combine with loving hearts and hands to form the saints and leaders of tomorrow. The work is usually invigorating, sometimes exhausting, but always, truly, truly good. On behalf of your children and the untold generations who will walk these hallowed halls after them, I am most humbly grateful.