



# The Alaskan Shepherd



Volume 46 Number 7

September 2008

*Some give by going to the Missions*

*Some go by giving to the Missions*

*Without both there are no Missions*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF FAIRBANKS A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

*“Let it be known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for these schools, the unseen but ever present teacher in their classes, the model of their faculty, the inspiration of their students.”*

*—This sign greets students, teachers, parents, and visitors upon entering the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks.*

Immaculate Conception School and Monroe Catholic Junior-Senior High School (The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks) are coeducational schools established by the Diocese of Fairbanks nearly 13 years before Alaska became a state. Classes

began in the basement of the Immaculate Conception church on September 3, 1946, with Kindergarten and grades one through four. Fifty-five children were enrolled. Two Sisters of Providence, Joan and Ignatia Marie, were the first teachers. Each succeeding year, the next higher grade was added. The first grade eight class, numbering eight, graduated in 1951.



*From left to right: Alex Jordon, Sarah Nichols, and Ryan Burke take down our nation’s flag at the close of the school day. These students, now 7th graders, attend Monroe Catholic Junior/Senior High. The raising and folding of the flag each day falls to Immaculate Conception’s elementary students.*

**CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA**  
1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709  
Phone: 907-374-9532    <http://www.cbna.info>

*Special Masses are offered throughout the year for you and your intentions by our Missionary Priests. Please pray that God may bless us and our work.*



*Left to Right: Skye O'Kelly-Ault, Shae Breff, and Elizabeth Brockman, now Kindergarten age, pose for the camera of the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks Development Director, Darrell Clark, in their Pre-school homeroom at Immaculate Conception School.*



*I love Immaculate Conception School because I am allowed to learn about God and you can't do that at every school.  
--Abigail Allen, 2nd grader, ICS*

only a small, unheated Quonset hut. This was replaced in 1966 by the new, modern gymnasium, named "Boileau Hall," in honor of Bishop Boileau. Two library-classrooms were added to the high school building in 1960.

By 1951, the school had long since outgrown its basement facilities. That spring and summer, Father Edmund A. Anable, S.J., supervised the construction of the new school. This was built out of six used barracks bought from the city. The new school had eight classrooms and a principal's office. For almost three decades, the barracks school served its purpose well. The years, however, exacted their toll. The school simply needed to be replaced. This was done in 1979 with the construction of a new two-story building.

In 1952, Father George T. Boileau, S.J., became pastor of Immaculate Conception parish. One of his priorities was to see to the bringing about of a Catholic high

school. Named for Father Francis M. Monroe, S.J., Monroe Catholic High School had its beginnings, as did the grade school, in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church, in the fall of 1955, with an enrollment of nine students in the freshmen class. On September 2, 1956, the new high school, built next to the grade school, was dedicated and ready to receive its first freshmen and sophomore classes, numbering 32. Father Lewis N. Doyle, S.J., was now its principal, and Sister Dorothy, a Sister of Providence, was the first Sister to teach in it. To begin with, Monroe had for a gymnasium

**We want to thank in a special way those of you who have included the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (our legal title) in your bequests and wills, and those of you who, at the time of the deaths of dear ones, have suggested that in their memory contributions be made to the Missions of Northern Alaska or to the Alaskan Shepherd Endowment Fund. A suggested wording: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska..."**

Throughout their long history, the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks have been singularly blessed, and in countless ways. All along, they have enjoyed the good will and support not only of the Catholic Community of Fairbanks, but also that of the Fairbanks community in general. A significant number of the students attending the Catholic schools are not of the Catholic Faith, but all acknowledge the schools to be “a community of Faith,” true to its stated philosophy. The Mission Statement of the Catholic schools reads in part:

*“Within the mission of the diocese, the schools’ role is to create an environment of academic excellence and a compassionate Catholic Community to achieve academic excellence through a challenging core curriculum; to prepare students, through education, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word, worship and service; and to prepare students for the vocation of leadership and service in the Church and in society.”*

To underscore the schools’ affirmation of “the centrality of Christian values in all aspects of life,” a new chapel, dedicated to the Holy Family, was built in the center of the Catholic schools complex. This was solemnly dedicated on April 14, 2000, by Michael J. Kaniecki, S.J., Bishop of Fairbanks at the time.

Throughout these 62 years of Catholic education the schools have made do without certain basic school facilities or with below standard facilities. In spite of these challenges, the Fairbanks Catholic schools have over the years achieved a degree of excellence that is enviable. Graduates of the school have, with few exceptions, always been well prepared for the next academic life hurdle. The two schools proudly number among their former students and lay teachers a number of priests, as well as numerous medical and academic doctors,

lawyers, top ranking military officers, civic leaders, and the list goes on.

The schools can attribute their success to many factors. Quality curricula have been a mainstay. The true success of the school can be told in a story of dedication and sacrifice on the part of teachers, administrators, parents, and the community of Fairbanks. All have considered the schools worthy of their best efforts—efforts aimed at one goal—that of excellence.

Bishop Donald Kettler has as a goal for the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks that every parish, mission, institution, program, project be as self-helping, self-supporting as possible. In the case of



*Katie McCurry, now a sixth-grader, serves Mass often at Immaculate Conception School. Students celebrate a weekly Mass together where they take turns preparing and participating in the Liturgy. Photo By Darrell Clark*

the Catholic Schools however—even given the best of intentions and efforts on the part of all involved—total financial self-sufficiency is beyond their reach. That is the reason for the outstretched hand, the plea for outside help. The school does charge tuition. This year the school must raise \$920,000 to cover the \$1860 difference between tuition charged and the actual cost of education. If tuition equaled the full cost of education, the school would be an option only for the wealthy. Even with the reduced rates, all families sacrifice to send their children to the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks. The staff, students, and families at the schools strive for academic excellence, community involvement and awareness, spiritual growth, and distinction in all endeavors.

In 1970, the first HIPOW (Happiness is Paying Our Way) auction was held in Boileau Hall. Father Francis

*Continued on page 9*



*Darrell Clark snapped this photo of now 3rd-grader, Jack Cook, during weekly Mass at Immaculate Conception School.*



*Stephanie Swaim, 2008 Monroe Catholic High School graduate, plays her bagpipes at the Baccalaureate Mass. Stephanie will attend California Institute of the Arts in the fall.*  
*Photo By Darrell Clark*



*I love Immaculate Conception Grade School because the teachers know how to help you when you are having problems with class work. I also love the way the teachers are just wonderful with the kids. I am happy to be attending Immaculate Conception Grade School because the kids are like one big happy family put together that never comes apart.*

*--Brianna Lundgren, 5th grader, ICS*

# **CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA**

*THE ALASKAN SHEPHERD*

1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-5199

Dear Friends of the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks:

Sixty-two years ago, in September 1946, under the supervision of Father Edmund Anable, S.J., and the Sisters of Providence, fifty-five 1st-4th grade students began classes in the basement of Fairbanks' historic Immaculate Conception Church. In 1951, six construction camp buildings and the old army officers club were moved to a site on Noyes Slough. These buildings, arranged under a single roof, became the home of Immaculate Conception School and of 115 elementary students. In 1955, the first 9th grade class met at Immaculate Conception Church. In 1956, a \$400,000 high school, named after Father Francis Monroe, S.J., founder of the first Catholic Parish in Fairbanks, was completed and opened. On May 29, 1959, Alaska was celebrating its first year of statehood, as Fairbanks' Monroe Catholic High School graduated its first senior class, a class of six. By 1978, enough funding had been secured for construction of a two-story elementary school. In 1980, the first parent-funded kindergarten was held. Today, there are 450 students reaping the benefits of a Catholic education in Fairbanks.

Immaculate Conception School and Monroe High School comprise the only K-12 Catholic school system in Alaska. Situated in Fairbanks, just 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle, these schools educate students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some live within walking distance, others travel 25 miles by bus or car, and still others have left their home villages and towns to board in Fairbanks to attend a Catholic school. The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks provide an educational environment that is rooted in faith, rich in academic excellence, strengthened by service and nurtured by community.

Until the 1980's, ICS and Monroe employed a large number of Religious, both men and women, and members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. In the last 20 years, the JVC has turned its resources to other areas and there has been a significant decline in the number of Religious. The Religious and the volunteers donated a tremendous amount of time and energy at a very low cost. The increases in educational costs have gone largely to paying teachers and staff.

That is why we find ourselves knocking at your door. Contributing to the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks will ensure that the schools will be able to pay for textbooks, computer supplies, salaries, maintenance costs, and other costs associated with running a school. Additionally, your donation will help keep tuitions at affordable levels so that more families will be able to have the choice in the education of their children. Finally, you will be part of a tradition of giving--dating back to 1946, when the schools opened in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church.

With all sincere, grateful, best wishes,

+ *Donald J. Kettler*

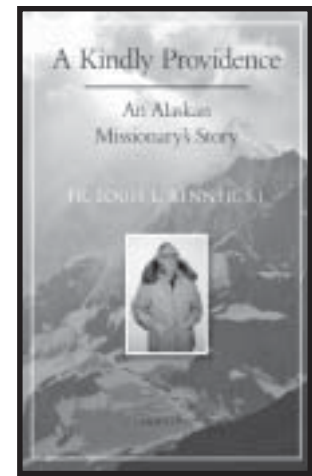
Donald J. Kettler,  
Bishop of Fairbanks



Just Published:

# A Kindly Providence

## An Alaskan Missionary's Story



Yes, please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *A Kindly Providence*  
written by **Father Louis L. Renner, S.J.**

I am enclosing \$35.00 for each book, which includes shipping.

Please make checks payable to CBNA (Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska)

Credit Card purchases can be made by calling the Alaskan Shepherd Business Office at 907-374-9532.

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2008 REN KP F921



**Concerning the autobiography, they wrote:—**

“...written very vividly, clearly, and sincerely in a quietly engaging style.” (David J. Leigh, S.J., author of *CIRCUITOUS JOURNEYS: Modern Spiritual Autobiographies*)

“A fine and complete record of a full and fascinating life.” (Brad R. Reynolds, S.J., writer and photographer)

“Your Autobiography is very, very good. In reading it, people will have the experience of being right there where you are at the time. Chapter One is beautiful. It is an American classic, in itself.” (Margaret Cantwell, S.S.A., author of *North to Share: The Sisters of Saint Ann in Alaska and the Yukon Territory*)

**Fragmentary quotes from the autobiography weave an intriguing tapestry:—**

“As I was standing on top of Little Diomed Island in Bering Strait, the sight of the Siberian mainland warmed my heart....Just inches from my head, he left a 2-inch deep hoof print....but that was wartime....and Christmas 1943 was the most difficult Christmas of my entire life....the storm in my soul was hushed to a gentle breeze....the desire for the Alaskan missions....‘Thou art a priest forever’....an old, two-bladed pocketknife....On that day, one of the major surprises of my life awaited me....that solo drive....surrounded on all sides, as well as top and bottom, by absolutely nothing other than black coal....disembarked at Plymouth...we spoke ‘Frenghish’....longest, hardest, sweatiest day of my priesthood....talk about entering Vienna ‘in style!’....Mass in the submarine *US Quillback*....alone, in the presence of the head man of the Archdiocese of Munich-Freising....the *Scavi*, the catacombs under St. Peter’s....so, smuggling a crucifix out of East Berlin could be a bit risky....I rarely in my whole life felt so utterly relaxed, so totally at ease, so grateful....when Libby Riddles won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race....on King Island....Solemn Profession....Therefore be it resolved....most consoling of all my priestly Christmas seasons....well up the Chilkoot Trail....a very rude awakening....a Ruby in my life....Pope John Paul II and Pres. Reagan....And a challenge it proved to be!....the very summit of old Oz himself....when in walks Father General....‘And Gaawd bless you too, Faawther!’ ....stickdance....the slap of a slimy fishtail in my face....got down to minus 76....Yet another case of mixing the useful with the pleasant....Up comes the stern. And, up comes—the kid’s breakfast....end of a wonderful 2,327-mile trip!...But then I thought to myself, ‘Oh, what the hell! Why not?’ ....*Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary*....not a ‘natural’ for prison ministry....a grizzly parading her two cubs past our camp....left a big hole in my personal life....the Dempster Highway....little foxes running around on my tent platform....‘The Great and Sacred Jubilee Year of Our Lord 2000’ ....Vice President of the United States, The Honorable Richard B. Cheney....proved to be a fairly accurate prophecy...*ALASKANA CATHOLICA*.... the same kindly Providence.”

*A Kindly Providence* is a comprehensive and richly illustrated autobiography. Fr. Louis L. Renner, S.J., a dedicated missionary in Alaska for 40 years, tells a compelling story of a full and fascinating life of service to the people and the Church in northern Alaska, a great land of natural beauties, challenging elements, and vast wilderness regions.

Beautifully, Fr. Renner interweaves the everyday lives of the people and the Church as he experienced them first hand as a scholar, a teacher, a “bush missionary,” and ever the Jesuit priest. In the course of his long years in Alaska, among other ministries, he taught German and Latin at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, edited the Catholic newsletter *The Alaskan Shepherd*, and had the pastoral care of two different Indian villages on the middle Yukon River. For his scholarly writings, Tony Knowles, the governor of Alaska presented him with the “2002 Governor’s Award for Friend of the Humanities.”

*A Kindly Providence*, in softcover, spans 583 pages including some 80 illustrations.

# ALASKANA CATHOLICA

*“Through years of dedicated research, writing, and documentation, Father Renner has created a succinct yet comprehensive guide detailing in total clarity and conciseness the history of the Catholic Church in Alaska. Within this historic documentation the reader can reference over 225 years of Catholicism in Alaska. Father Louis L. Renner, S.J., has accomplished in Alaskana Catholica a momentous feat—a magnum opus.”*

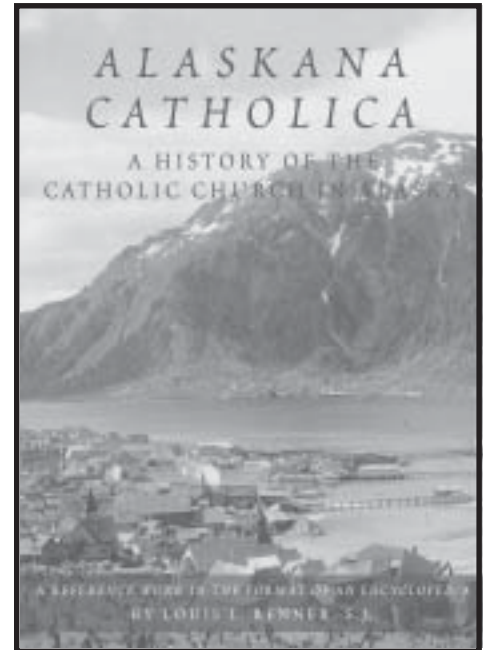
**Donald J. Kettler**  
**Bishop of Fairbanks**

*“Father Renner is the foremost authority on Catholic history in Alaska, writing history at its purest, almost exclusively from archival sources.”*

**Dr. Dorothy Jean Ray**  
**Historian and Anthropologist**

*“This fascinating volume offers an intimate picture of the activities of the Catholic Church’s Alaska Mission, from its beginning in the nineteenth century to the present. It is a fact-filled account of people and places with a wonderful array of characters...Father Renner, with a historian’s concern for the facts and a writer’s eye for a good story, has produced a valuable work.”*

**Francis Paul Prucha, S.J.,**  
**Professor of History Emeritus , Marquette University**



*“One of the main intents of this volume,” we read in the author’s Preface, “is to keep alive for posterity the memory of many major Catholic Alaskan figures—clerical and lay, Native and non-Native, living and deceased—by the recording of their lives and deeds.”*



*Alaskana Catholica* (“a unique gift, whether to give or to receive”) is a reference work in the format of an encyclopedia. It offers its readers something more than mere bare-bones reference data and Who’s Who-s. Moreover, some entries have a story about the given entry’s subject attached to them. Some have a “tapestry” woven out of a series of quotations from the mission diary of the given place attached to them. These stories and tapestries give readers a kind of “you are there” experience, of being present at an event of the past or at a place remote to them.

Close to 400 images illustrate *Alaskana Catholica*.

**Yes, please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Alaskana Catholica*,  
written by *Father Louis L. Renner, S.J.***

**I am enclosing \$85.00 for each book, which includes shipping.**

**Please make checks payable to CBNA (Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska)**

**Credit Card purchases can be made by calling the Alaskan Shepherd Business Office at 907-374-9532.**

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**200807 F92**

All donors are truly co-missionaries, since they alone make possible our work for the Lord and His Kingdom.

TO: CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA (our legal title):

1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5199

Date \_\_\_\_\_ F12 2008

Dear Bishop Kettler:

Enclosed is my special donation to the *Catholic Schools of Fairbanks Annual Fund*, a fund intended exclusively to help alleviate operational costs at the school. I am enclosing a check for:

\$15    \$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$1860 (tuition gap)    Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additionally, as a member of the Alaskan Shepherd "*Buck-A-Month Club*" I enclose my contribution to assist the Mission parishes of the Diocese of Fairbanks:   Date \_\_\_\_\_ F01 2008

\$12    \$15    \$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street No. \_\_\_\_\_

P.O.Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If donating by **check** please make payable to: *CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA* or *CBNA*

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**AMOUNT OF GIFT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD NUMBER:** (Strictly confidential): \_\_\_\_\_ **EXP DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_



*Beginning in 1983, Father Normand A. Pepin, S.J., served in a variety of capacities, but mainly as a teacher and chaplain at the Catholic schools. As a teacher, he routinely taught courses on all levels, courses such as Religion, algebra, French, music and chorus. As chaplain, he offered Mass in classrooms or in the gymnasium, depending on availability. All that changed, to his great joy, on April 14, 2000, when the schools' Holy Family Chapel was formally opened and dedicated. Thereafter, he offered Mass in it almost daily for faculty and students. As chaplain, he also taught Bible studies, accompanied and directed students on annual retreats, and oversaw the annual Holy Week productions of the Living Stations of the Cross. Understandably, his many contributions to the schools over the long years were deeply appreciated by all connected with the schools. Nancy Cook, long-time Director of the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks, wrote, "I can't thank Father Pepin enough for his long-term dedication to our schools. Father is unique. The students, faculty and staff, as well as parents and families of our students are blessed to have him as such an integral part of our community." For many years now Father Pepin has announced the items up for bid during the HIPOW auction. He is shown here with Mr. Vince Fantazzi, principal of Monroe Junior/Senior High School and an alum from the class of '73.*

*In attendance at the 2007 HIPOW dinner and auction were Todd and Sarah Palin. The Governor of Alaska made history on December 4, 2006, when she took office. As the 11th governor of Alaska, she is the first woman to hold the office. Sarah Heath Palin arrived in Alaska with her family in 1964, when her parents came to teach school in Skagway. She is married to Todd Palin, lifelong Alaskan, a production operator on the North Slope and a four-time champion of the Iron Dog, the world's longest snowmachine race. They have five children.*





*Bishop Donald J. Kettler, often celebrates Mass at the Catholic Schools. Here he extends his blessing upon now 4th grader, Maiya Yoshikawa. Photo By Darrell Clark*

McGuigan, S.J., organized the auction and each successive auction until his death in June 2000. HIPOW, has grown into a gala event on the Fairbanks social calendar, scheduled into the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Over 300 volunteers help with the endless tasks that must be accomplished to ensure the event's success. Thousands visit the school on Thursday and Friday evening to bid on the donated items, and 500 people attend the formal dinner auction on Saturday.

The Monroe Foundation, Inc. now sponsors HIPOW. Incorporated in 1976, its primary purpose is to provide much-needed funds for the operation of ICS and Monroe and to ensure the growth of Catholic education in Alaska.

Planning and preparation for the 39<sup>th</sup> annual auction, October 9, 10, and 11, is in full swing. Last year, 2007, HIPOW auctioned 2,500 items and raised over \$540,000. The success of the auction is vital to keeping the yearly budget balanced. Tuition and fees represent only 70% of the true costs associated with the education of students and keeping facilities operational.

HIPOW would not be possible without the help of countless volunteers. Donations too are necessary for the success of the auction and come in all shapes and sizes. "We would like to offer a little bit of everything,"

*When you walk into the Catholic Schools you feel like part of a huge, loving family. My daughter receives hugs from not only her peers but from teachers and upperclassmen alike. My daughter loves school and what a testimony for the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks.*

*--Sue Barnum,  
ICS Parent*



*What I like about the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks is celebrating Mass every week because it brings my school together to worship and pray as one family. I also enjoy getting to know the different parish priests and studying about my faith. --Michael Balko, 8th grader, Monroe Junior/Senior High School*

*"We are blessed to have so many supporters who make our work possible. I want to especially thank those of you who remember us in your prayers. Donations provide tangible benefits, but the power of prayer and the Lord's grace is our bedrock. Thank you with all our hearts."*

*--Bishop Donald J. Kettler*

says Development Director, Darrell Clark. *“We are mindful of what items make it to the auction floor. Our goal is to provide variety and value to each day of the auction.”* Popular items to donate are new electronics, power tools, jewelry, collectibles, home decor items, new toys, and fine art. HIPOW also offers a Personal Shopper Program. Donors are able to send in a cash donation and instruction to what type of item they would like purchased in their name.

Perhaps the very children that we work so hard to procure a Catholic education for today will in fact be the missionaries, teachers, priests,



*I have more opportunities to learn and study here because of the individual attention we receive from our teachers. It's just one of the reasons why I love going here.*

*--Amy Helmbrecht, Monroe Catholic High '08  
Attending Colorado University in the fall.*



*At Immaculate Conception School's end of year Mass, Maximo DePalma (in tie) and his Kindergarten class bid a special farewell to the Senior High graduating class of 2008. During this final Mass the five-year-olds sing a blessing to their role models, asking God to watch over them. Photo By Darrell Clark*

sisters, brothers, and lay leaders of tomorrow. This is our prayer and our hope. It is with that possibility that we must ask, most sincerely, *“Won't you help us to continue the tradition in excellence and provide a Catholic Education for the children of northern Alaska?”*

*--Patty Walter*



*“Our Catholic schools can be a primary tool for evangelization and catechesis. My goal is to see that this in fact happens here in Fairbanks.”*

*—Bishop Donald Kettler*

# ***Monroe Catholic High School Class of 2008***

*The Class of 2008, 25 members, were offered a combined total of \$526,000, over four years, in scholarship money.*

*Where are the grads going?*

**Geoffrey Bowder**  
St. Benedicts

**James Burglin**  
Undeclared

**Christine Butcher**  
University of New Mexico

**JoAnna Carpluk**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Jessica DeBano**  
University of Oregon

**David Duncan**  
University of Alaska Anchorage

**V. Cosmo Fantazzi**  
Mesa Junior College

**Katherine Ganley**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

**Cali Gavora**  
University of Southern Idaho

**Michelle Harr**  
St. Martin's University

**Ceon Harris**  
Preparatory School of  
United States Military Academy  
West Point

**Amy Helmbrecht**  
Colorado University

**Travis Holmes**  
University of Alaska Anchorage

**Lubomir Kratochvil**  
University of Iceland

**Hanna LaBelle-Hamer**  
University of Denver

**Kyle Maines**  
Undeclared

**Nolan Raapana**  
U.S. Marine Corps

**Mattie Ringstad**  
University of Alaska Anchorage

**Kristine Sanderson**  
University of Colorado

**Brigitte Simmons**  
Undeclared

**Stephanie Swaim**  
California Institute of the Arts

**Alexandra Trevino**  
Eastman School of Music

**Theresa Wallace**  
Western Washington

**Micah Weggel**  
New Mexico Institute of  
Mining & Technology

**James Young, Jr.**  
University of Alaska Anchorage

## ***2008-2009 Catholic Schools of Fairbanks Tuition***

*This year, the tuition gap dollar amount is \$1,860. The tuition gap is the difference between tuition charged by Catholic Schools of Fairbanks and the actual cost of education per student.*

	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b><i>Pre-Kindergarten</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,230</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,090</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,860</i></b>
<b><i>Kindergarten-6th</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,530</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,390</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,860</i></b>
<b><i>7th and 8th grade</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,210</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,070</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,860</i></b>
<b><i>9-12th grade</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,845</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,705</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,860</i></b>



*The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks offers an After-School Program. Here, Madison Hrinko, now a 1st grader, prepares to go home by putting on her winter boots. Photo By Kim Stokes*

*The education of children and young people continues to be of fundamental importance in the Church's mission and for civil society itself. Therefore it is right that Christian parents continue to claim and support the right to a Catholic education which is truly free, in which a true religious education can be imparted, and in which the rights of the family will be properly respected and safeguarded.*

**—POPE JOHN PAUL II**

*Thank you so much for your generous first class stamp donations.  
First class stamps increased to 42¢ in May 2008.*