



THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF HAYS

THOMAS MORE PREP-MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL



HOLY FAMILY ELEMENTARY

Thomas More Prep-Marian receives largest bequest gift in school history, establishes Jean Ross Society for planned giving.

The estate of Fred James (Jim) Neu, who attended and graduated from St. Joseph's College and Military Academy from 1944-1945, has given \$855,000 through a bequest to Thomas More Prep-Marian High School. The gift is the largest one-time bequest in the 100-year history of the school. Neu, who resided in Des Moines, IA was an employee of Bankers Trust. Mr. Neu was a lifelong active member of the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Des Moines.

In a joint decision among the Salina Diocese, the TMP-Marian Endowment Foundation and TMP-Marian High School, the gift will be placed in an Endowment fund to relieve past debt and to provide opportunity for growth in the future. Bob Wolf, President of the Endowment Foundation for Thomas More Prep-Marian stated, "This gift from the Fred James Neu estate is very beneficial to the school at this time. This gift, in addition to bequests from other estates, memorials received, and help from our benefactors, alumni and others such as the Dreiling Trust, will continue to secure TMP-Marian's financial stability."

The gift coincides with the establishment of the Jean Ross Society. The Jean Ross Society has been created to recognize individuals that have developed an estate plan or deferred gift arrangement with Thomas More Prep-Marian High School, Holy Family Elementary School, the TMP Endowment Foundation or TMP Alumni Association. Jean Ross devoted ten years to the success of Thomas More Prep Marian High School. As president of the school, Ross led TMP-Marian through years of financial instability and did so without receiving a paycheck. Her spiritual leadership and dedication to the success of the Catholic Schools of Hays represents the long-term giving philosophy of the Society.

The gift comes at a time for progressive change for the Catholic Schools of Hays, Thomas More Prep-Marian High School and Holy Family Elementary. In December of 2006, Meitler Consultants of Wisconsin conducted a comprehensive study of the Catholic Education in the Heartland Parishes. A recommendation of the Meitler Study was the creation of a unified board to oversee system-wide policies, funding and marketing for TMP-Marian and Holy Family Elementary. The new board commenced operations in July of 2008.

Facility changes are taking place at both the high school and elementary school. TMP-Marian is near completion of the first capital campaign in school history. The renovations included in the \$1.5 million campaign have already begun with the completion of the new floor in the TMP-Marian cafeteria. Renovations to locker rooms in Billinger Fieldhouse are scheduled to begin in April and electrical and mechanical operations in the Administrative building and Billinger Fieldhouse are being planned. The new worship space for the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish will create new educational space for Holy Family Elementary.