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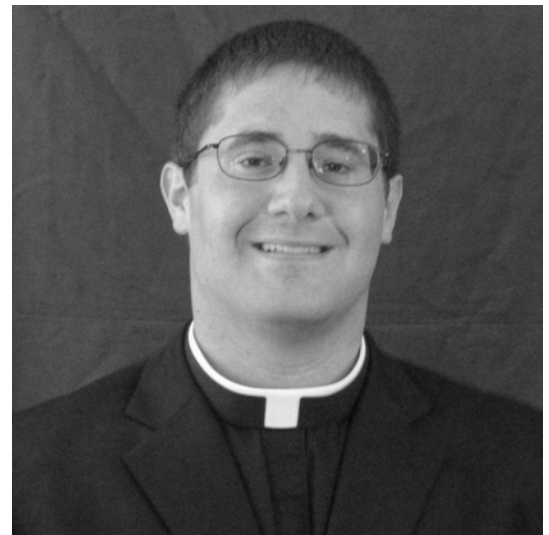
Seminarian David Violi Shares His PB Experience

by Joe Cochran and David Violi

This past summer Most Precious Blood Parish had the pleasure of hosting a young seminarian by the name of David Violi. David spent ten weeks getting to know parishioners, working on various projects and assignments and experiencing, to some degree, the life of a parish priest. We caught up with David and asked him to share some things about himself and his experience at PB.

Would you please tell us about your experience at Most Precious Blood Parish?

After meeting with Fr. Joe, I was introduced to the parish, met many wonderful people, and was able to be involved with a variety of activities. Within my first few weeks, I had the opportunity to talk to almost every class at the school about vocations and how God is calling each of us to a life of holiness. Throughout the rest of the summer, my duties included assisting at the Masses, giving weekly reflections at daily Mass, helping around the offices, visiting parishioners in the hospital, and getting to know the many great people. I was also able to be involved with training for the Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Lectors. Through the guidance of Fr. Joe, I was also permitted to provide several short lecture series on the Mass and the New Translation of the Mass, as well as working on several projects to improve the Church and parish grounds, including the new reliquary near the Baptismal font, the historical pictures hanging in the narthex, and spreading mulch on a hot summer day. I also enjoyed participating in Fun Fest and spending time with parishioners. I had quite a tremendous experience this summer. It was a very blessed time which allowed me to make many friends, many memories, and experience much growth in my own discernment towards the priesthood of Jesus Christ.



What is the most valuable thing you learned and how might you use it in your future ministry?

I believe my entire stay at Most Precious Blood will prove very useful to me in my future ministry. I experienced many firsts this summer, including the living situation typical for a parish priest, as well as the many different responsibilities in their care. I think that, most of all, seeing the family-oriented nature of the parish, both as a parish as a whole and within the individual families interacting together, I have gained great insight into how to interact within a parish and help meet the specific needs of each family. We are truly working together to bring each other to Jesus Christ and His eternal Kingdom.

Tell us about your decision to become a priest. What was that journey like?

I grew up in a normal Catholic family, attending Mass weekly and occasionally praying together. I was very blessed to have parents who, through great personal sacrifice, ensured that my brother, sisters and I attended Catholic school. My family was always very

(See Violi, page 2)

Violi *(continued from page 1)*

involved with our parish and school and I was able to see how our parish priests lived out their priesthood. Because of the joy I saw in their lives, the priesthood was something I considered when I was younger, but often ignored.

. . . I knew that God would guide me if I was willing to trust in Him.

It wasn't until I was approaching high school graduation that I began to consider the priesthood and bit more seriously. After much prayer, I decided that I would go to college and, if after 4 years, I still considered the priesthood something God might be calling me to, I would pursue it. The thought

remained with me throughout college and although I did enjoy my studies (earning a degree in Biology from Purdue and participating in their undergraduate research program), I came to the realization that God was calling me elsewhere. And again, after much prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament and with guidance from my Spiritual Director, I decided that I could no longer deny God's call. While I did enjoy what I was doing and was afraid to make such a drastic change, I knew that God would guide me if I was willing to trust in Him.

After graduation from Purdue, I was accepted by our Diocese to enter formation for the Priesthood. For the past year and a half, I have been studying at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. It has been the most joyful and insightful time of my life.

Entering a seminary does not necessarily mean you will become a priest. It is an acknowledgement on your part that you think God might be calling you to the priesthood and that you can no longer discern it by yourself. Instead, you are willing to give your time to God by entering the formation process and trusting that whatever He is calling you to do, He will provide for you. A moment is never wasted when you are earnestly trying to fulfill God's will. As seminarians, we receive many blessings that strengthen our commitment to our discernment of the Priesthood, such as the wonderful experiences I had with you at Most Precious Blood.

If anyone would like information about seminary life or would like to ask for prayer requests, feel free to contact David Violi at dvioli@gmail.com.

Karen Lohmuller Receives 2011 Light of Learning Award



Mrs. Karen Lohmuller received the 2011-12 Light of Learning Award at the 1st quarter assembly in November. This award is presented annually to one teacher in each Catholic school in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Teachers are nominated by parents, students and fellow teachers. Recipients are honored at a luncheon attended by the Bishop. Mrs. Lohmuller has taught 5th grade at PB for 21 years and is in her second year teaching 4th grade. Congratulations, Mrs. Lohmuller!



Come Let Us Adore Him

Most Precious Blood's Presidential Connection

by Steve Bailey

Since our Parish has undergone such a successful renewal over the past years, many may not know or remember that Most Precious Blood once had a Presidential visit. On Tuesday, March 16, 1982, while returning to Washington D.C. and with very little notice, President Ronald Reagan stopped briefly in Fort Wayne to see first hand the destruction caused by that year's flood waters. Then Associate Pastor Reverend Richard Friebe remembers spending the previous day working at filling and placing sandbags. Father Rick recalls the disbelief the Parish secretary at the time, Helen Phillips had when the call came that evening from the White House. Father Rick knew it was real when three hours before the visit he was showing the Secret Service the school facilities. After landing at the airport, the motorcade proceeded to the levee at Herman Street and Sherman Boulevard to the southwest of the Parish.

Although later criticized by some for the expense of visiting Fort Wayne, many young sandbaggers will remember the President actually getting in the mud and briefly helping shore up the levee. The Precious Blood gymnasium was already being used as a Red Cross shelter for displaced flood victims, and this was the next stop for the Presidential motorcade. President Reagan entered the building at the Spring Street entrance and proceeded down the hall and into the gym where he stood on top of a lunch table to address a couple hundred people gathered. President Reagan spent most of the remaining time signing autographs, then departed. The event is remembered as a phenomenal experience from a very respectful President. It also shows the important part Most Precious Blood played and continues to play in our city and community.

Most Precious Blood Welcomes New Teachers and Staff

After many years with few changes to the core faculty, Most Precious Blood School said goodbye to veteran teachers Mrs. Jessie Bloom, Mrs. Marsha Loney, and Mrs. Ann Baker. While it was hard to see these beloved teachers leave, these vacancies allowed PB to welcome several new teachers and staff this year.

Preschool – Mrs. Amy Schiltz **Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Mary McLaughlin**

Mrs. Schiltz was a Teaching Assistant in our Preschool for several years. She brings creativity and a great energy to our Preschool classroom.

Mrs. McLaughlin comes to us with teaching assistant experience from within the Diocese.

First Grade – Mrs. Nicole Federspiel **Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Ellen Stauffer**

Mrs. Federspiel taught in our Resource Room last year. She brings much knowledge of Special Education and Differentiated Instruction to her room this year. (See more on page 4.)

Mrs. Stauffer comes to us with teaching assistant experience from within the Diocese.

Third Grade – Miss Kathryn McIlwain

Miss McIlwain is experiencing her first year teaching with us. She brings originality and a great use of Resources into her Third Grade Classroom. (See more below.)

Sixth Grade – Mrs. Maggie Javins

Mrs. Javins is also a first year teacher. She has experience volunteering in the Junior High at St. John the Baptist School, where her children attend. Mrs. Javins has brought a great mathematical background and spirituality to her Junior High program.

Resource – Ms. Sara Becker

Ms. Becker comes to us with several years of teaching experience from within the Diocese – most recently at Bishop Luers High School.

Art – Mr. Garry Rudd

Mr. Rudd taught with us a few years ago, and we are excited to bring him back to PB. Mr. Rudd is an active member of the FAME organization for the Fine Arts.

Secretary – Mrs. Karen Roesler

Mrs. Roesler comes to us with school experience from within the Diocese, and a business background.

Counselor – Mrs. Nancy Howe

Mrs. Howe has worked at St. Jude as a school counselor for several years, and we are blessed that she is able to share her time with us this school year!

We are very excited to share the talents of our new staff members with the students of our school!

Meet Miss Kathryn McIlwain

by Gwen Hefty

Among the new staff this year is Miss Kathryn McIlwain, a 2011 graduate of the University of Dayton's Early Childhood Education program. Miss McIlwain is responsible for thirty very lively 3rd graders at Most Precious Blood School. Of her initial classroom experience, she tells us, "My students are what

I enjoy most... I am very lucky to have a group with great camaraderie, and it is fun to watch the way they positively interact with one another. My students are respectful, humorous, and intelligent. I have enjoyed watching the progress many have already made, both academically and socially."

Miss McIlwain was born in Massachusetts, where she lived for just a few years before her family moved to Fort Wayne. She attended St. Vincent de Paul during grade school and graduated from Bishop Dwenger High School. Her parents still reside in Fort Wayne and are members of St. Vincent de Paul parish. Kathryn has one brother, who is currently a sophomore at Indiana University. Miss McIlwain's extended family is spread out between North and South Carolina, New Jersey, and California.

Kathryn chose education as a profession after volunteering at a community center while in high school. "I had many positive interactions while serving as a tutor, and I knew it was what I would love to continue doing in my future," she explained.

Miss McIlwain attended the University of Dayton where she earned her Pre-Kindergarten – grade 3 teaching credentials and a minor in Spanish. She feels that the university did a great job of getting prospective teachers out into the field; Kathryn had opportunities to observe teaching practice in many different grade levels in both urban and suburban settings.

"If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans."

Miss McIlwain completed her student teaching in a public school near the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The school's location gave her the opportunity to work with many military families. Of her unique student teaching experience, she says, "It was challenging with the constant coming-and-leaving of the students, but I learned so much from the experience. I will never forget being able to witness the

(See McIlwain, page 4)



Meet Mrs. Nicole Federspiel

by Jill Bowyer

Introduced to Most Precious Blood School in 2010 as a part-time Resource Teacher, Mrs. Nicole Federspiel (Nikki) is glad to be in a full-time classroom setting and is enjoying settling into her role as our 1st grade teacher. "I love PB!" she says. "It feels like home, the staff is awesome and the kids are fun." She enjoys the staff the most. "It is easy to ask them questions and everyone works together like a family."

Before coming to PB, Nikki taught Special Education for two years in the DeKalb School District. She also did some substitute teaching in Michigan where she lived for nine months. Nikki loves school and has always wanted to teach. She remembers "playing school" with her sister as young as age 5. She grew up in Woodburn where she attended Woodburn Elementary School. When she was 12, her family moved to Ohio where she finished high school before returning to Indiana and The University of Saint Francis for college. Nikki double majored in Elementary Education and Special Education, with an endorsement in K-12 Special Education. She received her Master's Degree this past August.

Her Catholic faith is very important to Nikki. Growing up, her family at-



tended Mass weekly and was involved in parish activities including the Youth Group. Nikki and her husband are carrying on this tradition with their own family which includes daughters Alyssa (age 2) and Kaitlyn (age 4) who is in Mrs. Schiltz's Preschool class here at PB.

In her free time, Nikki enjoys reading and tailgating at Michigan football games. We warmly welcome Mrs. Federspiel to our Most Precious Blood School family.

McIlwain

Continued from page 3

reunion of one of my students and his father in my classroom when the father surprised his son by coming home early from deployment."

Miss McIlwain was hired as PB's 3rd grade teacher in July. She is enjoying a warm welcome in her first year of teaching at PB. She says that back in August all of the current staff stopped by her room to introduce themselves, giving well-wishes and offers of help. She feels valued and respected at PB, and while everyone is always willing to help or answer one of her questions, she especially appreciates that other staff members welcome her contributions and do not treat her as a first year teacher.

Kathryn felt comfortable at PB almost immediately as parents, even those without 3rd graders, stopped by her classroom to meet her, wish her luck, and let

her know that she was in their prayers. Using the support she receives from her fellow staff members along with her own training and experience, Kathryn plans to jump right in, setting high goals for both herself and her students this year.

If you'd like to introduce yourself and welcome Miss McIlwain to the Most Precious Blood family, you will often find her at the 5 pm Saturday Mass at PB. She shares, "My faith is important to me. I've always liked the quote, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." As I've grown up, I have learned to trust the Lord with my plans and my future. God is someone who I look to for guidance and support, and I have faith that He will guide me through the possible and impossible."

We welcome Miss McIlwain to Most Precious Blood School and pray that she finds her experiences this year to be rewarding and fruitful.

Teachers' Wish List

Preschool

Hot Dots Cards and Pens	\$128
Snap & Play Building Blocks.....	\$40
Weather Graphing Chart.....	\$30
Kidfetti	\$47
SmartBoard w/ Projector	\$3,000
Mailbox Organizer	\$220
VCR/DVD Player	\$120

Kindergarten

Headphones (8).....	\$120
CD Player (5).....	\$125

Grade 1

Koss Headphones (4)	\$100
Reading Center Kits	\$200
Replacement Disks (4)	\$20

Grade 2

Catholic Children's Bibles (30)	\$800
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Grade 3

Reading Rods.....	\$40
Three-Shelf Bookcase	\$20
Rubbermaid 12 Compartment	\$90
Standard Game Pawns.....	\$5
Swiffer Sweeper.....	\$25
Core Membership	\$35
Hot Dots	\$90
Brain Quest - Gr. 3 Reading.....	\$15
Novel Classroom Set (30)	\$30

Grade 4

Indiana Studies Weekly (set).....	\$150
Koss Headphones (4)	\$100

Grade 5

Koss Headphones (4)	\$100
US Wall Map Set.....	\$225

Junior High

Koss Headphones (4)	\$100
Headphone Splitters.....	\$100
Accelerated Reader Awards.....	\$135
Reading Night Sponsorship	\$200
Misc. Science Materials.....	\$30
Social Studies Materials	\$195
Stop Watches.....	\$75
US History Warm Ups	\$30
Density Cube Set.....	\$35
Vision Series Book Set	\$205
St. Thomas Book Set	\$275
St. Ignatius Book Set	\$275
St. Therese Book Set.....	\$275
St. Joan Book Set	\$275
Bernadette Book Set	\$275
St. Isaac Book Set.....	\$275
Lay Siege to Heaven Set	\$500

Art

FAME Visiting Artist	\$240
Electric Pencil Sharpeners (2)	\$150

Music

Boombox w/ Ipod dock.....	\$300
Resource Room	
Sissle Seats (4)	\$150

Where Are They Now?

by Jill Bowyer

Millie (Hohman) McAfee PB Class of 1931

"Where are they now?" That is a good question. And for Millie McAfee the answer is "right where she's always been." I mean that in a good way. Millie has lived most of her life within walking distance of PB and currently lives in the family home where she was born and where she lived until she married. She has been a parishioner of Most Precious Blood Church her entire life (except for about a year when she first married and lived in an apartment near another parish) and a blessing to many.

Millie was born in 1917, the youngest of 11 children and raised in a devout Catholic family. She attended Most Precious Blood School from 1st through 8th grade. At that time, the school was located at Andrew & 4th Streets where the parking lot is today. The current school building was completed just before her 8th grade year, so her 1931 graduating class was the second to graduate from the new school.

Millie feels she got a good education at Most Precious Blood School. There were 30-40 students in a classroom at that time (very large by today's standards). All teachers were Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Millie remembers them being strict but very kind and good to the students. In addition to their studies, students attended daily mass and had the opportunity to play sports. Millie played basketball (women played half-court back then) and tennis. Did you know PB had a tennis court on the

corner of Andrew & Spring? PB's biggest rival was St. Jude's.

For high school, Millie attended St. Augustine's Academy. It was run by the Sisters of Providence and was located downtown where the Chancery Office now stands. Millie's transportation to and from school was by street car.

After high school, Millie entered the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing. She worked in a doctor's office for four years, then in 1942 married Charles McAfee and started a family which included 5 girls and 4 boys. (Millie's caring way was apparently a strong influence as all five daughters and one son followed in their mother's footsteps and became nurses. One son is also a doctor.) All attended Most Precious Blood School. Millie returned to nursing in 1958 after their youngest child started school and worked until her retirement in 1984.

Millie was involved in the school while her children attended and has always been active in the parish. She became a Eucharistic Minister when lay ministry was first instituted and took Communion to the homebound until she stopped driving. She has been an active member of the Rosary Society for longer than she can remember organizing funeral lunches, working craft shows and rummage and bake sales, and serving as secretary for 11 years. Millie has been leading the Rosary before daily mass for the past 5-6 years and says will continue to do that as long as she can. Her corporal and spiritual works extend well beyond Most Precious Blood Parish. Millie saves coupons and purchases cereal for the local food bank and prays for clergy and seminarians with the Widows of Prayer, a group that meets weekly at St. Mary's.



A story about Millie McAfee would not be complete without mentioning her breads. When Charles passed in 2000, after almost 60 years of marriage, Millie began baking sweet breads between writing thank you notes to family and friends. . . . and she never stopped. If our calculations are correct, Millie has baked about 600 loaves of bread per year for the past 11 years. You can sample these mini-loaves at any of the five Rosary Society bake sales held at PB every year.

Millie is a devout Catholic, a lovely person inside and out, and an inspiration to all who know her. She is loved by her Most Precious Blood family as well as her own 9 children, 23 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren (number 30 is on the way).

If you would like to suggest a former student for this column, please e-mail jmbowyer@frontier.com.

It All Adds Up . . .

Most Precious Blood School collects:

- Box Tops for Education
- Campbell's Soup labels
- Tyson Project A+ labels
- Aunt Millie's School Spirit bread labels
- Old cell phones
- Empty toner/ink cartridges
- Used copy paper (clean on one side)

We also earn money every time you use Goodsearch.com for a web search or make purchases at Goodshop.com and frenchtoast.com.

Check out these sites to learn more:

www.boxtops4education.com
www.campbellsoup.com
www.goodsearch.com
www.goodshop.com
sunnyd.com/bookspreet
frenchtoast.com



Where did you go?

We are trying to find former students of Most Precious Blood School. If you know the whereabouts of former classmates or students, please share this information with us. You may contact the church or school office or e-mail jmbowyer@frontier.com or gironluley@yahoo.com. We would like the following information:

- Name
- Current Address
- E-Mail Address
- Year of graduation

The 2011 4th Grade Saints



This newsletter is also available for download at www.preciousblood.org.

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