

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT ON ST. JOHN SCHOOL



- St. John School: A Mission of Ss. Francis & John Catholic Parish
- 106 Military St., Georgetown, Kentucky 40324 | 502-863-2607
- Pastor: Rev. Mary Peter Linh Xuan Nguyen
- Principal: Mr. Daniel J. Mardell
- Students: 159 | Teachers/Staff: 18

St. John School is a great mission of Ss. Francis and John Catholic Parish. St. John School provides an educational setting with Christ at the center of all we do: we are, first and foremost, a Catholic school. The model for our school is to integrate Cardinal Newman's vision, and create a truly innovative Catholic Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics P-8 education program which provides an integral and universal approach to knowledge and faith. STREAM education places human knowledge in its proper relationship to faith, and in service to humanity, human dignity, and creation. Academics and high expectations are important. Through acts of faith, such as weekly Mass, Adoration, parish-wide children's Mass, and acts of service and justice, our students are well grounded. We strive to instill character and moral values in our students, and lead students to a fuller understanding of the mysteries of God, as they encounter authentic Catholic teaching in all content areas.

St. John School employs an educated and compassionate group of teachers and staff. Our professionals are attentive to helping students achieve academically, and they know that teaching Catholic identity, accountability, and mutual respect is equally important. Our parent community is like no other. Parent participation represents a strong commitment to Catholic education and contributes to the overall success of St. John School. Our parish support is invaluable, and parishioners volunteer to help with everything from facility maintenance to judging speech contests and science projects.

Our students love St. John School, and they are happy to share about their experiences! "We are a small school, but we're a big family with big hearts" (Jasmya, Grade 8). "The best word I have for our school is love. I love the way we treat each other like family. Really, that's the definition of this school: One big family" (Joe, Grade 8). "I love going to church every Tuesday, and watching how each class leads the Mass" (David, Grade 8). "This school is full of excitement. The teachers and the principal are very excited to teach. The principal is very wonderful and the priests are full of God. When I get to school, I see people helping each other" (Damien, Grade 8). "We have great teachers and a loving staff. although our school may be small, we have a lot of love, and even more to give" (Sydney, Grade 7).

Every day at St. John School is a great day where we all work together to help mind and spirit grow. As a great mission of our parish, the Catholic formation and education of our children is making a lasting impression, and hopefully, an everlasting one, too.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for former Lexington pastoral services director, Sr. Helen Maher Garvey, BVM

DUBUQUE, IA. Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Helen Maher Garvey died Aug. 6 in her community's Marian Hall in Dubuque. She was 82.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 17 in the motherhouse chapel. Burial was in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Sr. Garvey was born in Hempstead, NY, Jan. 17, 1935, to Clarence and Ruth Maher Garvey. She entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary congregation on Sept. 8, 1952, from St. Martha Parish, Uniondale, NY. She professed first vows on March 19, 1955, and final vows on July 16, 1960.

In her early ministries, Sr. Garvey taught elementary school in Chicago and Antioch, IL; Fort Dodge, IA; and West Hempstead, NY. She served as principal in Bellerose and Hempstead, NY.

From 1992 until 2004, Sr. Garvey served the Diocese of Lexington as director of pastoral services. (See *Father Paul Prabell's Q & A, Page 11.*)

Sr. Garvey served on her congregation's leadership team, 1976-1992, and during this time, she was elected president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

(LCRW). She was organizational consultant and director of the "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" traveling exhibit, which was made into a documentary film (2011), narrated by journalist Cokie Roberts. She also served on the board of the *National Catholic Reporter* newspaper. In

addition, she ministered as facilitator for various religious communities and was active in many congregational ministries.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Thomas and Robert; and a sister, Ursuline Sister Eugenia Garvey. She is survived by brothers Joseph (Warwick, NY), and Eugene (Tinton Falls, NJ); sisters Therese Fox (Brecksville, OH) and Kathleen (James Kearny) Garvey (Warwick, NY); sister-in-law Pat Garvey (East Marion, NY); nieces, nephews; and her congregation. ■



Sister Helen M. Garvey, BVM

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